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Previous issue Volume 639

Heat stress

Plant life in the Sonoran Desert is pushing its limits for survival, which it must do to maintain the tropical rainforest ecosystem it has built. Plants, and the humans who rely on them for food and fibre, are threatened by rising temperatures. In this week's issue, Nancy Fisher and colleagues present predictions for the future of the Sonoran Desert's ecosystem. Cover image: Peter Adams. Cover design: Tom Morris

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Cover image: Peter Adams

Table of Contents

This Week
Research
Reviews & Comment
Books & Arts
Obituary
News
Careers
Amendments & Corrections

Advertisement

This Week

Editorial

Editorial 26 Mar 2025

What CERN does next matters for science and for international cooperation

The world's largest particle physics laboratory is approaching a crossroads in its history.

Editorial 26 Mar 2025

Track gender ratios in research to keep countries, institutions and publishers accountable

Nations miss their own benchmarks and lack other, granular equity measures.

World View

World View 25 Mar 2025

Climate change will send home insurance spiralling. Here's how to control costs

Insurers rely on sophisticated modelling to determine premiums. Governments can take a new, and strong, role in the calculations.

Scott D. Stirling

World View 26 Mar 2025

Empower families to lead the design of their ageing-level-zone' health care

Rather than assuming that children of older people will step up to fill gaps in health care, communities need research and policies that align with families' existing routines.

Shannon S. Hill

Research Highlights

Research Highlight 19 Mar 2025

Drugs that target 'zombie' cells soothe an aching back

Research on mice alone presents the agents that attack senescent cells, which contribute to the degradation of spinal discs.

Research Highlight 20 Mar 2025

Fossil industry waste finds a second life as biosponge

Charcoal made from the waste products of coal and biochar, can be repurposed as strong, flexible sponges.

Research Highlight 21 Mar 2025

Ship pollution can have an electrifying effect: less lightning at sea

A crackdown on sulfur in ship fuel in 2020 led to a drop in thunderstorms in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea.

Research Highlight 24 Mar 2025

Iguana-poached fish is floating 8,000 kilometres across the sea

Genomic analysis suggests that the ancestors of lizards on Fiji today rafted here North America some 34 million years ago.

Top of page ↗

News in Focus

News

News 19 Mar 2025

Light-pollution threatens fleet of world-class telescopes in Atacama Desert

The effects of proposed power-saving laws on the night sky could be felt at the world's most environments available to astronomers.

Hutsemekers, Noelia

News 21 Mar 2025

NIH has cut one mRNA vaccine grant. Will more follow?

Several vaccine-sensing researchers who oppose efforts at the US federal funder to study the jabs.

Nina Kozlov

Collection: Has Trump 2.0 is influencing science

News Explainer 19 Mar 2025

Measles is surging in the US: how bad could it get?

Researchers fear groups that should get an extra dose of measles vaccine as new numbers continue to rise in Texas and neighbouring states.

Lizzie Wade-Gillis

News 19 Mar 2025

Catchy, clear, concise: three-part advances boost research paper citations

Memorable 'hipertric' phrases in titles make studies more likely to be read and cited.

Catherine Gough-Cooper

News 21 Mar 2025

Man survives with titanium heart for 100 days — a world first

The device, to be tested in more people, could be a temporary measure for those waiting for a donor organ.

Smriti Mallapaty

News 19 Mar 2025

Is dark energy getting weaker? Fresh data bolster shock finding

Physicists had long assumed that the elusive force has constant strength, but the latest results point to it changing over the Universe's expansion challenge this idea.

Davide Castelvecchi

News 19 Mar 2025

Immune cells 'bandage' wounds with bacteria-trapping goo

Cells called neutrophils form goopy traps that ensnare and then destroy microbes, a study in mice shows.

Mason Marshall

Features

News Feature 26 Mar 2025

AI is transforming peer review — and many scientists are worried

Artificial intelligence software is increasingly involved in reviewing papers, provoking mixed emotions.

Mason Marshall

News Feature 21 Mar 2025

Fasting for weight loss is all the rage: what are the health benefits?

Intermittent fasting can spawn a following, in part because of marketing hints that it can boost cognition, fend off cancer and even slow ageing.

Ilha Hwang

Researchers in Ukraine are using drones to map the damage caused by the Russian invasion.

Mosquito-tracking flashing on the eye surface

In wild mice species is taking words to children on Thursday partners to harvest, the end of 19. Summer town

Top of page ↗

Books & Arts

Essay

Essay 19 Mar 2025

The expanding Universe — do ongoing tensions leave room for new physics?

Two astros who have leaders towards the astonishing discovery of a science reward for their Big Bang. The new precise measurements still can't agree on how fast galaxies are moving.

Wendy Freedman

Top of page ↗

Opinion

Comment

Comment 19 Mar 2025

Glaciers are not just blocks of ice — plans to save them mustn't overlook their hidden life

As glacier begin to disappear, technologist flock to that or fail to melt as scraping. But regulators can urgently respond before time flows are well-lasting.

Tom I. Oakley, Oliver J. Marsh & Jonathan L. Carrivick

Comment 20 Mar 2025

Microbes can e-consume carbon and degrade plastic – why aren't we using them more?

Microbial communities living in high-activity to organize greenhouse gases, create more sustainable products and clean up pollution — in ways that are economically viable and safe.

Pilar Bayarani-Pasquier, V. Nguyen, ... Juan F. Ortiz

Correspondence

Correspondence 21 Mar 2025

How to get more women into mining

Luigi Gaeta, Shirley A. ... Hiroaki Ito

Correspondence 21 Mar 2025

Give grants to female scientists in war zones

Hanna Suchocka & Ewa Kondratiuk

Correspondence 21 Mar 2025

Leading matters

Ana Gabriela Morales, Mahmoud Ahmed, Caroline Simpson ... Peter Mitchell

Correspondence 21 Mar 2025

Lessons from Portugal on effects of cutting research funding

Nuno Sebillaus, Luis F. Bueno ... Chau M. Austin

Top of page ↗

Work

Feature

Career Feature 19 Mar 2025

Shaking up earthquake safety in Nepal with a folk song

Geologist Ajay Gautam and musician Sushil Ghimire are engaged by two seismologists and a Bhutanese multi-hyphen myths.

Swagat Rekhara

Technology Feature

Technology Feature 19 Mar 2025

RNA function before form – why is it so hard to predict?

AlphaFold's highly accurate structural models transformed protein biology but RNA has lagged.

Elena Rosa

Collection: Nature Feat.

Where I Work

Where I Work 19 Mar 2025

Reviving the biodiversity around an ancient palace

Jose Nuno Fernandes, Carmona tends the Alhambra's many acres Palaces and gardens.

Ugo Bellavia

Top of page ↗

Research

News & Views

News & Views 26 Mar 2025

Evolutionary flexibility in gain or lose tooth complexity sparks fish diversification

Why are some jawed fishes, the vertebrates, so species-rich? Comparisons of tooth and jaw complexity, in flexed fishes, the ability to evolve by transforming hard and forth between simple and complex teeth fuelled their diversification.

Yann Tournier

News & Views 26 Mar 2025

A bubbletone galaxy shines unexpectedly through the fog of the cosmic dawn

Observations of the Hubble Ultra Deep Field have revealed a galaxy that could have major implications for understanding how the first generations of stars formed in the Universe.

Mireia Montes

News & Views 26 Mar 2025

Protein waste turned into antibiotics as a defence strategy of human cells

As well as degrading proteins, the proteasome surprisingly also functions in generating antibiotic-related defence by changing how proteins are cleaved, this system generates antibiotic peptides on demand.

Tom Gaunt

News & Views 26 Mar 2025

Nursing-home residents' stick is a source of transmitted harmful and drug-resistant microbes

Analysis of the microbiomes of nursing-home residents and their healthcare workers reveals how the microbiomes of the atmosphere and room accurate identification of key patterns, thus allowing for better comparisons to health.

Julia K. Gauld, Rebecca Purcell ... Francesca D. Frank

News & Views 26 Mar 2025

Why is sex so risky-boring?

A mutant system can be thought of as "paused" cell time, and a review of a study by physicist Chris Lee on weekly life-like theme's actions.

Jasmine Mannaert

News & Views 26 Mar 2025

Fossilized dinosaur eggs cells that defied the ravages of time – 20 years since a key discovery

The 2005 finding of cells and blood vessels in dinosaur bone had researchers puzzled, and it took several lines of biomolecules, creating innovations in methods and applications.

Jasmina Wiemann

Perspective

Perspective 26 Mar 2025

The other climate crisis

The standard approach of climate science is showing signs of a crisis owing to the emergence of discrepancies and disruptions in recent years. One perspective discusses the policy problems and paths forward.

Tiffany A. Shaw & Bjorn Stevens

Perspective 26 Mar 2025

Multimodal generative AI for medical image interpretation

Expert-level medical image interpretation with multimodal generative models requires careful consideration of both technical capabilities and clinical implementation challenges.

Shih-cheng Huang, Malte E. K. Jensen, ... Matthew P. Lungren

Articles

Article 19 Mar 2025

Witnessing the onset of reionization through Lyman-α emission at redshift 11

Spectroscopy from the JWST Advanced Deep Extragalactic Survey (JADES) reveals a bright emission line identified as lyman-α, suggesting that the Universe was substantially ionized by this time.

Jorik Witstok, Peter Jakobsen, ... Hanpu Tan

Article 19 Mar 2025

Vertical structure of an exoplanet's atmospheric jet stream

Wind velocities measured from the atmosphere of a hot Jupiter reveal an eastward jet that is itself locally stable, integrated global properties of the atmosphere and more accurate identification of key patterns, thus allowing for better comparisons to health.

Luis F. Lozano Steinmetz, Vivien Parmentier, ... Francesco Pepe

Article 19 Mar 2025

Electroluminescence and energy transfer mediated by bioorbitals polaritons

For field- and infrared spectroscopy was recently built the electroluminescence of quantum polaritons of hexagonal boron nitride excited by strongly biased graphene and the energy transfer between them.

Nishawaruth Mai, Michael Hu, ... Fiorenzo Vitale

Articles

Article 19 Mar 2025

Hyperbolic phonon–polariton electroluminescence in 2D heterostructures

Here we report the electroluminescence of hexagonal boron nitride in a hBN–graphene–hBN heterostructure at nearby graphene results in electroluminescence of hyperbolic phonon–polaritons.

Qiushi Guo, Ryan Gelly, ... Hongxing Xu

Article 19 Mar 2025

Down-converted photon pairs in a hyBN silicon microdisk microresonator

Spontaneous parametric down conversion in a gain-compensated silicon photonic chip with record-high efficiency in a high-Q silicon nitride microresonator.

Simon A. Zhipper Thiel, ... Henry Wilde

Article 19 Mar 2025

An ultra-broadband photonic chip-based parametric amplifier

An ultra-broadband photonic chip-based parametric amplifier with a 3-dB gain bandwidth of 69 THz, a peak gain of 35.7 dB and a noise figure as low as 4.3 dB is demonstrated.

Nikolai Kuznetsov, Rui Ning Wang, ... Tobias J. Kippenberg

Article 19 Mar 2025

Adaptive bioconversion of active solids

The development of active solids based on autonomous scale-building blocks incorporating self-directly shows that they can spontaneously undergo form cycles of shape change, healing and bioconversion such as lifting and walking.

Jonas Wahlen, Linda Schulman, ... Corentin Coulais

Article 19 Mar 2025

Record sea surface temperature jumps in 2023–2024 unlikely but not unexpected

Global sea surface temperatures in 2023 and 2024 were substantially warmer than previous years in 2023–2024 was not unexpected and would have been nearly impossible without anthropogenic forcing.

Jens Terhaar, Friedrich A. Burger, ... Thomas F. Stocker

Article 19 Mar 2025

Sliding and healing of frictional interfaces that appear stationary

Optical image and simultaneous shear that accurately measures how interfaces subjected to constant shear and normal loads are sliding at extremely small rates, confirming the predictions of rate-and-state friction laws.

Rishabh S. Dillavalkar, Nicholas M. Beeler, Parisa Shokouhi, ... Ares J. Rosakis

Article 19 Mar 2025

Vulnerability of cyanobacteria to global warming

Cyanobacteria are the most abundant phytoplankton group in oligotrophic oceans beyond their physiological limits.

Patrick Pfeifer, Michael A. Kertscher, ... Dimitrios-Georgios Kontopoulos

Article 19 Mar 2025

Evolutionary liability of Lon in mycobacterium species and pathogenicity

A study from the Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) Lon protease reveals how it drives the ability to evolve between having simple or complex traits.

Rishi Murphy, Michael P. Barrett, ... Peter C. Wainwright

Article 19 Mar 2025

Genomics yields biological and phenotypic insights into bipolar disorder

Using multi-ancestry genome-wide analysis of 41,917 bipolar disorder cases and 371,549 controls, we identified 30 genetic loci associated with the disorder.

Adam J. O'Connell, Maria Koromina, ... Dan Geschwind

Article 19 Mar 2025

Measuring racial-educational disparities over time amongst top achievers

Using Ivy League admissions data, researchers find compensatory flows between the racial-economic elite in media and reading, and that this gap grows as students progress through school.

Cliff Kuang, Mei Yan Chan, ... Jessica Cohen

Article 19 Mar 2025

Glycocalyx dysregulation impacts blood–brain barrier in ageing and disease

Disruption of neuron–glycocalyx interaction and function in the endothelial glycocalyx on associated with ageing and Alzheimer's disease, leading to disruption of blood–brain barrier function.

Yuanyuan Bi, Xuan L. Lee, ... Jaap Mieke Kuiper

Article 19 Mar 2025

Left–right determining chirp sweeps in ectoderm and Nanog and roles of mice

Here we show that the left–right determining chirp sweeps in ectoderm and Nanog and roles of mice were, by alternating left and right forward and backward movements.

Abraham F. Wilkes, Richard J. Gardner, ... Eduard J. Kirsch

Article 19 Mar 2025

A crucial role for the central amygdala in shaping social encounters

The endothelial cells of the glycocalyx are covered by a dense layer of glycans, which are anchoring the transition from investigation to aggressive behaviour in male mice.

Andrew K. Kahan, Ronald Duarte de Cotta, ... Scott L. Rauch

Article 19 Mar 2025

Clonal Candida auris and USA APC pathogens on the skin of residents of nursing homes

Analysis of skin microbiomes from residents of nursing homes in the US reveals the existence of clonal Candida auris and other multidrug-resistant bacteria.

Hana Ali Pruden, Sarah E. Haynes, ... Julia A. Segre

Article 19 Mar 2025

Differential protection against SARS-CoV-2 reinfection pre- and post-Omicron

Two distinct patterns in the protection effect of infection against reinfection in the Omicron variant wave are shown: one that SARS-CoV-2 immune protection is shaped by Omicron, and another that is shaped by immunity and viral evolution.

Yilan Chamseddine, Yousuke N. Suzuki, ... Edith J. Fox Hartnell

Article 19 Mar 2025

Cell autonomous innate immunity by exogenous-derived defence peptides

Cell autonomous innate immunity by exogenous-derived defence peptides is a mechanism of host defence against bacterial infection. Such peptides might provide a source of natural antibiotics that could lead to novel therapy options and therapeutic interventions.

Karin Goldberg, Ronny Lobow, ... Yifat Merbl

Article 19 Mar 2025

RNA nanotherapy vaccines prime long-lived CD8⁺ T cells in pancreatic cancer

In a phase 1 trial, personalized neoantigen RNA nanoparticle vaccines combined with anti-programmed cell death protein 1 antibody and chemotherapy induced durable T cell responses and prolonged survival in patients with pancreatic cancer. Vaccine-primed, circulation-stored CD8⁺ T cells were also correlated with prolonged recurrence-free survival at a 2-year follow-up.

Zachary Sethna, Nikhil S. Wagh, ... Vinod P. Balachandran

Article 19 Mar 2025

Clonal driver mutagenesis but under EGFR TKI and immune selection pressures

We show the evolution of a set of EGFR mutations may contribute to acquired T cell resistance, subtleties, and a personalized neoantigen immune screening challenge using a clonal driver mutation.

Maria M. Sabio, Jeremy L. Warner, ... Charles Swanton

Article 19 Mar 2025

GABAergic neuron to glioma synapses in diffuse midline gliomas

Functional neuron–astrocyte–glioma synapses in diffuse midline gliomas are identified.

Yan Zhang, Jiajun Wang, ... Michelle Monje

Article 19 Mar 2025

Plasmodium blood-stage development requires the chromatin remodeller SetD2

Mass Chromatin Methods Drosophila Chromatin ... Samuel Lingle

Article 19 Mar 2025

A magnesium 'dark matter' enzyme catalyses oxidative cellulose conversion

Analysis of a magnesium-dependent lytic polysaccharide monooxygenase reveals a previously unknown mechanism of cellulose degradation, could enable sustainable biofuel production.

Chelsea A. Sanchez, Vanessa A. Mouso, ... Nicole L. Brown-Harding

Article 19 Mar 2025

Mechanism for local attenuation of DNA replication at double-strand breaks

Proteomic and biochemical analysis of DNA double-strand break proximal proteins and isolation of replication of nucleic acid by high-purity enzymatic domains without affecting global DNA synthesis.

Sofia Hamilton, Eric C. Sun, ... Matt D. Weitzman

Article 19 Mar 2025

Structure and mechanism of the Zorya anti-phage defence system

Zorya type I defence systems (ZorA–ZorB–ZorC) in wide-phage immune with its structural and mechanism of the ZorE and ZorE that exercise and protect against phage infection.

Hanbo Xie, Zhiqiu Y. Ruan, ... Nicholas M.I. Taylor

Top of page ↗

Amendments & Corrections

Author Correction 19 Mar 2025

Author Correction: Warming and cooling catalyse widespread temporal turnover in biodiversity

Adam I. Pooley, Helmut Hillebrand, ... Shane A. Blowes

Author Correction 19 Mar 2025

Author Correction: Transforming a head direction signal into a goal-oriented steering command

Dora Z. Gkanias, Chris J. Dallmann, ... Barbara Webb

Author Correction 19 Mar 2025

Author Correction: Classification with a disordered dopant-atom network in silicon

Yan Chen, Jarrad Lee Gelder, ... Wilfred G. van der Wiel

Author Correction 19 Mar 2025

Author Correction: Observation of Nagaoka polarons in a Fermi–Hubbard quantum simulator

Martin Lebrat, Maxwell Block, ... Markus Greiner

Top of page ↗

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Journals A-Z
Articles by subject
protocols.io
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