

New Year, New Administration, New Opportunities

Author: Colwell, Rita R.

Source: BioScience, 58(11) : 1003

Published By: American Institute of Biological Sciences

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1641/B581101>

BioOne Complete (complete.BioOne.org) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/terms-of-use.

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

PUBLISHER
Richard T. O'Grady

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Timothy M. Beardsley

SENIOR EDITOR
Donna Daniels Verdier

PRODUCTION MANAGER / ART DIRECTOR
Herman Marshall

PEER REVIEW / EXTERNAL RELATIONS
Jennifer A. Williams

MANUSCRIPT EDITOR
Laura C. Sullivan

Editors: Eye on Education: Cathy Lundmark (educationoffice@aibs.org); Feature articles: Cathy Lundmark (features@aibs.org); Washington Watch: Robert E. Gropp (publicpolicy@aibs.org).

Editorial Board: Agriculture: Sonny Ramaswamy; Animal Behavior: Janice Moore; Animal Development: Paula Mabey; Botany: Kathleen Donohue; Cell Biology: Randy Wayne; Ecology: Scott Collins, Daniel Simberloff; Ecotoxicology: Judith S. Weis; Education: Gordon E. Uno; Environmental Policy: Gordon Brown, J. Michael Scott; Evolutionary Biology: James Mallet; Genetics and Evolution: Martin Tracey; History and Philosophy: Richard M. Burian; Invertebrate Biology: Kirk Fitzhugh; Landscape Ecology: Monica Turner; Microbiology: Edna S. Kaneshiro; Molecular Biology: David Hillis; Molecular Evolution and Genomics: David Rand; Neurobiology: Cole Gilbert; Plant Development: Cynthia S. Jones; Policy Forum: Eric A. Fischer; Population Biology: Ben Pierce; Professional Biologist: Jean Wyld; Sensing and Computation: Geoffrey M. Henebry; Statistics: Kent E. Holsinger; Vertebrate Biology: Harvey B. Lillywhite.

Editorial Correspondence: 1444 I Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005; telephone: 202-628-1500; fax: 202-628-1509; e-mail: bioscience@aibs.org. Instructions for preparing a manuscript for *BioScience* can be found at www.aibs.org/bioscience/resources/Info_for_contribs.pdf.

Advertising: For display advertisements, contact Colin MacKenzie; telephone: 604-726-4294; fax: 510-642-9917; e-mail: colin.mackenzie@ucpress.edu. For classified advertisements, contact Jennifer A. Williams; telephone: 202-628-1500, ext. 209; fax: 202-628-1509; e-mail: jwilliams@aibs.org.

BioScience (ISSN 0006-3568) is published monthly except July/August combined by the American Institute of Biological Sciences. To subscribe, call 1-800-992-2427, ext. 29. Individual membership: sustaining, \$90/yr; individual, \$70/yr; family, \$90/yr (includes \$36 for *BioScience*); emeritus, \$50/yr; K-12 teacher/administrator, \$45/yr (includes \$22 for *BioScience*); graduate and postdoctoral students, \$40/yr (includes \$21 for *BioScience*); undergraduate and K-12 students, \$20/yr (includes \$15 for *BioScience*); lifetime, \$1400 (one-time fee). Institutional subscriptions: domestic, \$367/yr; foreign, \$440/yr. Single copies: \$14 plus shipping and handling for up to 20 copies; volume discounts available for more than 20 (call 1-800-992-2427, ext. 29). Subscription renewal month is shown in the four-digit year-month code in the upper right corner of the mailing label.

© 2008 American Institute of Biological Sciences. All rights reserved. Periodical postage paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *BioScience* Circulation, AIBS, 1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402, McLean, VA 22101. Printed in USA. AIBS authorizes photocopying for internal or personal use, provided the appropriate fee is paid directly to the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923; telephone: 978-750-8400; fax: 978-750-4744; Web site: www.copyright.com. To photocopy articles for classroom use, request authorization, subject to conditions thereof, from the Academic Permissions Service at CCC. Each copy must say "© [year] by the American Institute of Biological Sciences." Statements and opinions expressed in *BioScience* are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the editors, the publisher, or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated. The editors, publisher, and AIBS disclaim any responsibility or liability for such material.

BioScience

Organisms from Molecules to the Environment
American Institute of Biological Sciences

New Year, New Administration, New Opportunities

The economy took a nose-dive in the fall of 2008, with all indicators showing a free fall: inflation at nearly 6 percent—its highest level in 17 years—unemployment at 6 percent, no net job growth in the private sector for most of 2008, plummeting housing prices, and record losses in the banking industry. Public investments in technology, a major component of which is the Internet, have reaped huge benefits for the economy in the past. Remember, however, that it is science that supports the technology we need to keep America great in the 21st century.

Within a few short years, an estimated seven billion people will populate the planet, and all of them will need food, shelter, and water. Natural resources are dwindling, and the challenges of achieving energy security, assuring good quality of life in old age, securing safe water to drink, finding workable responses to climate change, and protecting public health will loom large. None of these challenges can be met without developing and employing new technologies.

Again, remember: science fuels technology through creative inspiration and innovation. Strengthening the science enterprise in the United States will ensure this country's continued leadership in the global community. But this cannot happen unless integrity is restored to US science policy, significant investments are made in fundamental research, a national commitment is made to science education—from K-12 to our research universities—and the public's understanding and appreciation of the nature of science and its contributions to the quality of life are fully realized. Academic research depends on the support of the government and the general public alike, in coordination with government policies that stimulate the creation of new companies, ensure healthy markets, and mitigate risks and barriers.

A US intelligence report for the next president, previewed in a speech by analyst Thomas Fingar, predicts that US dominance will diminish as the world is reshaped by globalization, battered by climate change, and destabilized by regional upheavals over shortages of food, water, and energy (www.dni.gov/speeches/20080904_speech.pdf). Another report issued by the National Academies (National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine), *Science and Technology for America's Progress: Ensuring the Best Presidential Appointments in the New Administration* (www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12481#toc), indicates that "the nation is in need of exceptionally able scientists, engineers, and health professionals to serve in executive positions in the federal government." Approximately 80 high-level science and technology appointees will be critical to advising the new president on issues from energy to health care to economic growth.

The message and action plans for America are clear: fund basic research well and appoint outstanding talent to critical posts in government to guide and nurture science, engineering, and technology. Scientific disciplines and associations must break through their traditional walls and work together to help meet this challenge. The American Institute of Biological Sciences stands ready to join forces with other like-minded parties in this crucial effort. The needs are clear and the mantra of the forces we are struggling against is all too familiar. Let us see that the message is heard and needed actions are taken.

RITA R. COLWELL
President, AIBS

doi:10.1641/B581101
Include this information when citing this material.

2008 Officers and Board of Directors

President

Rita R. Colwell
University of Maryland

President-Elect

May Berenbaum
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Immediate Past-President

Douglas J. Futuyma
State University of New York

Secretary

Gordon E. Uno
(2008–2010)
University of Oklahoma

Treasurer

Richard B. Norgaard
(2007–2009)
University of California–
Berkeley

Board Members

Charles Berry
(2008–2010)
South Dakota State University

Carol Brewer
(2008–2010)
University of Montana

Ellen J. Censky
(2008–2010)
University of Oklahoma

Robert R. Christian
(2008)
East Carolina University

Louis J. Gross
(2008–2010)
University of Tennessee–
Knoxville

Eric S. Nagy
(2006–2008)
University of Virginia

Steward T. A. Pickett
(2007–2009)
Cary Institute of Ecosystem
Studies

Alan H. Savitzky
(2007–2009)
Old Dominion University

Richard T. O'Grady
(ex-officio)
AIBS Executive Director

**To find out more about
AIBS and its member
societies and organizations,
go to www.aibs.org.**

Member Societies and Organizations

- Academy of Natural Sciences
American Arachnological Society
American Bryological and
Lichenological Society
American Fern Society
American Fisheries Society
American Malacological Society
American Mosquito Control
Association
American Museum of Natural
History
American Ornithologists' Union
American Phytopathological Society
American Public Gardens
Association
American Society for Gravitational
and Space Biology
American Society for Photobiology
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Ichthyologists
and Herpetologists
American Society of Limnology and
Oceanography
American Society of Mammalogists
American Society of Naturalists
American Society of Parasitologists
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Society of Plant
Taxonomists
American Type Culture Collection
Animal Behavior Society
Arkansas State University, Depart-
ment of Biological Sciences
Association for Politics and the Life
Sciences
Association for Tropical Biology and
Conservation
Association of College and
University Biology Educators
Association of Ecosystem Research
Centers
Association of Southeastern Biolo-
gists
Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum
Berkeley Natural History Museums
Biological Sciences Curriculum
Study
BioQUEST Curriculum
Consortium
Bishop Museum
Botanical Research Institute of Texas
Botanical Society of America
Brigham Young University
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Cactus and Succulent Society of
America
California Academy of Sciences
California Botanical Society
Carnegie Museum of Natural
History
Cell Stress Society International
Center for the Environment, Cornell
University
Charles R. Connor Natural History
Museum
Chicago Botanic Garden
Cleveland Museum of Natural
History
Coastal and Estuarine Research
Federation
Coastal Education and Research
Foundation
College of William and Mary,
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Cooper Ornithological Society
Cornell University, Department of
Plant Biology
Council of Science Editors
Crop Science Society of America
Crowley Davis Research, Inc.
Delaware Museum of Natural
History
Denver Museum of Nature and
Science
Duke University, Sarah P. Duke
Gardens
Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Entomological Society of Canada
Field Museum
Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services, Division of
Plant Industry
Freshwater Mollusk Conservation
Society
Georgia Museum of Natural History
GreenGrass Holdings, Inc.
Harvard Museum of Comparative
Zoology
Helmintological Society of
Washington
Herpetologists' League
Human Anatomy and Physiology
Society
Hunt Institute for Botanical
Documentation
Illinois Natural History Survey
Illinois State Museum
Instituto de Geología, UNAM
International Association for Bear
Research and Management
International Association for
Landscape Ecology, US Division
International Society for Ecological
Modelling
International Society of
Protistologists
Kansas (Central States)
Entomological Society
Long Term Ecological Research
Network
Lorain County Community College,
Division of Science, Mathematics,
and Distance Learning
Louisiana Museum of Natural
Science
Louisiana State University,
Arthropod Museum
Louisiana State University
Herbarium, Department of
Biological Sciences
Miami University, W. S. Turrell
Herbarium
Michigan State University Museum
Mississippi Museum of Natural
Science
Missouri Botanical Garden
Monte L. Bean Museum of Life
Sciences
Morton Arboretum
Museum of Nature and Science,
Dallas, Texas
Mycological Society of America
National Association of Biology
Teachers
National Association of Marine
Laboratories
National Evolutionary Synthesis
Center
National Museum of Natural
History
National Shellfisheries Association
National Tropical Botanical Garden
Natural Areas Association
Natural History Museum of LA
County
Natural Science Collections Alliance
NatureServe
New Mexico Museum of Natural
History and Science
New Mexico State University, Center
for Natural History Collections
New York Botanical Garden
New York State Museum
North American Benthological
Society
North Carolina Botanical Garden
North Carolina Museum of Natural
Science
North Carolina State University
Insect Collection
Northwest Missouri State Univer-
sity, Biological Sciences
Occidental College, Moore
Laboratory of Zoology
Ohio State University, Museum of
Biological Diversity
Ohio University, Department of
Environmental and Plant Biology
Oklahoma State University
Organization for Tropical Studies
Organization of Biological Field
Stations
Orthopterists' Society
Paleontological Research Institution
Phi Sigma Biological Sciences
Honor Society
Phycological Society of America
Pinellas County Department of
Environmental Management,
Environmental Lands Division
Poultry Science Association
Purdue University, Entomology
Environmental Lab
Radiation Research Society
San Bernardino County Museum
San Diego Natural History Museum
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural
History
Sarah P. Duke Gardens
Science Museum of Minnesota
Society for Behavioral
Neuroendocrinology
Society for Conservation Biology
Society for Economic Botany
Society for In Vitro Biology
Society for Industrial Microbiology
Society for Integrative and Compar-
ative Biology
Society for Mathematical Biology
Society for Northwestern Vertebrate
Biology
Society for Range Management
Society for Sedimentary Geology
Society for the Study of Amphibians
and Reptiles
Society for the Study of Evolution
Society of Environmental
Toxicology and Chemistry
Society of Ethnobiology
Society of Nematologists
Society of Systematic Biologists
Society of Wetland Scientists
Soil Science Society of America
South Dakota State University,
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries Sciences
Southern Appalachian Botanical
Society
Southern California Academy of
Sciences
Southwestern Association of
Naturalists
Sternberg Museum of Natural
History
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University, College of
Agriculture and Human Sciences
Texas A&M University, Department
of Entomology
Texas A&M University, Department
of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
Texas Tech University, Department
of Biological Sciences
The Wildlife Society
Tofino Botanical Gardens
Torrey Botanical Society
Tulane University, Museum of
Natural History
US Federation for Culture
Collections
US Fish and Wildlife Service,
Ecological Services and Fisheries
Resource Office
University of Alaska Fairbanks,
Alaska Cooperative Fish and
Wildlife Research Unit
University of Alaska Museum
of the North
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Berkeley,
Department of Integrative Biology
University of California, Davis, R.
M. Bohart Museum of Entomology
University of California, San Diego,
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
University of California, Santa
Barbara, Center for Biodiversity
and Ecological Restoration
University of Connecticut,
Department of Ecology and
Evolutionary Biology
University of Florida, Florida
Museum of Natural History
University of Iowa, Department of
Geoscience
University of Kansas, Natural
History Museum and Biodiversity
Institute
University of Michigan, Museum of
Zoology
University of Minnesota, Bell
Museum of Natural History
University of Nebraska State
Museum
University of New Mexico, Museum
of Southwestern Biology
University of Oklahoma, Sam Noble
Oklahoma Museum of Natural
History
University of Puget Sound, Slater
Museum of Natural History
University of Southern Mississippi,
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
University of Texas at El Paso, The
Centennial Museum
University of Texas, Austin, Texas
Memorial Museum
University of Washington, Burke
Museum of Natural History
University of Wisconsin Zoology
Museum
US Bureau of Reclamation,
Environmental Resource
Management Division
US Society for Ecological
Economics
Utah Museum of Natural History
Virginia Museum of Natural History
Washington State University
Weed Science Society of America
Western Society of Naturalists
Yale University, Peabody Museum of
Natural History