ON THE COVER

As they allow efficient pollination by insects (illustrated here by a pollen-coated grasshopper emerging from the depths of an hibiscus), flowers represent a major innovation in land plant evolution. Molecular genetic analyses have established that the LEAFY transcription factor plays a key role in flower development of many species, including Arabidopsis, snapdragon, petunia, and many crop plants. Moyroud et al. (pages 1293–1306) have developed a predictive model for LEAFY DNA binding that facilitates exploring the evolutionary relationship between LEAFY and its target genes based on a direct analysis of any plant genome sequence. Such an approach opens novel avenues for understanding the origin and evolution of flowers. Photo taken by Eugenio Gómez Minguet.

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CORRECTION


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