

# ***AMERICAN SCIENTIST***

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## **THE COVER**

*In 2008, a deep-sea imaging system deployed by a New Zealand government research vessel, the Tangaroa, observed this new species (on the cover) of stalked crinoids, Ptilocrinus amazianei. Known popularly as sea lilies, the marine animals are passive suspension feeders. These were observed 500 meters below the surface of the Ross Sea in Antarctica. As Craig McClain explains in "An Empire Lacking Food" (pages 470-477), the deep sea may be cold, dark and food poor, but it is rich in examples of diverse organisms adapting to extreme environments. (Photograph courtesy of David Bowden at the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research in New Zealand.)*