# SCIENCE NEWS

# **CONTENIDO**

# **VOLUME 178 No. 5, AUGUST 2010**

## IN THE NEWS

# 5 Story One.

• Cash register receipts deposit worrisome chemical in fingers.

### 7 Molecules.

- Online gamers beat computer at protein-folding task.
- Sniffing out hidden graves.

## 8 Genes & Cells.

- Genes support sponges' spot at base of animal family tree.
- Cellular suicide plays dual role in cancer growth.

# 9 Body & Brain.

- Violent dreams presage brain's decline.
- Termite hors d'oeuvres beef up gut bacteria.

#### 10 Life

- Marine census documents oceanic diversity.
- Original marsupial hailed from South America.
- Contraceptives may make female lemurs less attractive.
- Duck genitals grow longer with competition.

## 12 Atom & Cosmos.

- Moon may be parched, after all.
- Dark matter's favorite galaxy.

#### 13 Earth

- Solar flare warning signals.
- Brazilian deforestation diminishes.
- Chinchilla droppings could help gauge desert rains.

#### **FEATURES**

## 14 Scour Power.

COVER STORY: Scientists take to the air and peer underwater to see how hurricanes have sculpted coastlines. *Sid Perkins*.

## 18 Cancer's Little Helpers.

When tiny hairpin molecules known as microRNAs go awry, cells can turn cancerous.

Tina Herman Saey.

# 22 Mining for Missing Matter.

Physicists build detectors in underground lairs to hunt for the dark stuff that makes up most of the universe's mass.

Ron Cowen.

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## **COVER**

Breakwaters on Louisiana's Raccoon Island Have failed to stop erosion of the island's shores, which are in the line of fire from seasonal storms. *Robert Caputo/Getty*