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# SCIENCE

First Hand

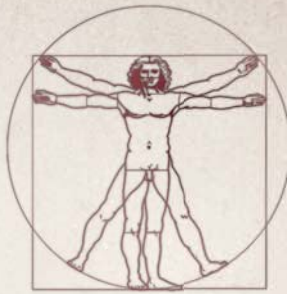
SPECIAL FEATURE:

*NATURE was  
the “first genetic engineer”*

Genetic engineering is one of the most outstanding but at the same time disputable achievements of the present. The “Hypotheses and Facts” section considers transgenosis as a natural and evolutionary significant process that humans borrowed from Nature



A Journal  
for Inquisitive People



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#### English Version Prepared by

Svetlana Knyazeva, Galina Kuprina, Tatyana Perepelova,  
Vladimir Filonenko, Marina Kiseleva, Galina Chirikova,  
Lyudmila Krasilnikova, Lisa Baranov

*“The desire to know is natural  
to good men”*

Leonardo da Vinci

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#### Address:

4, Prosp. Akademika Koptyuga, Novosibirsk  
630090, Russia  
Tel. +7 (3832) 332698, 356361  
Fax: +7 (3832) 332698  
e-mail: zakaz@infolio-press.ru  
sofia@infolio-press.ru

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Dear readers,

This issue is focused on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), with an emphasis on the genetic engineering of plants. This is a response to the wide discussion of biosafety issues concerned with foodstuff obtained from transgenic plants.

You can learn how transgenic plants ‘come into the world’; familiarize yourselves with natural genetic master — agrobacteria; get an insight into the unexplored area of production of ‘edible’ vaccines and plants synthesizing pharmaceutical proteins; set out in search of the wild ancestors of the transgenic soybean to the Far East, together with scientists. Our authors — well-known Russian geneticists — will clarify some GMO-related issues, which are often accompanied by rumors and myths, or ignorance. Many materials are prepared with the support of Academician V. Shumny, whose contribution to this issue and to research in plant genetics can hardly be overestimated.

It is impossible to cover all the achievements and problems of present-day gene biotechnology in one issue. But we deliver the message: transgenesis is natural, wide spread, and moreover, an evolutionary significant process, because Nature itself was the ‘first engineer’...

Academician Nikolai DOBRETsov,  
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