

the study of the legume-derived implants, made by LipoMatrix Inc. The soy-oil implant will be the first implant a mammogram can see through. It will also be the first new implant technology studied since the FDA banned silicone-gel implants in 1991.

(Thanks to Lisa Herschbach for bringing this to our attention.)

Items that merit a trip to the library

"The Uncombable Hair Syndrome with Pili Trianguli et canaliculi," A. Dupre and J. L. Bonafe, *Archives of Dermatological Results*, vol. 261, 1978, pp. 217-18.

(Thanks to James Rose and numerous other readers for bringing an entire body of related literature to our attention.)

"Geographic Tongue During a Year of Oral Contraceptive Cycles," J. Waltimo, *British Dental Journal*, vol. 37, no. 3-4, August 10-24, 1991, pp. 94-96.

"Neurologic Function 7 Years After Crowbar Impalement of the Brain," J. Ordia, *Surgical Neurology*, vol. 32, no.2, Aug 1989, pp. 152-55.

(Thanks to Vern Paxson for bringing this to our attention.)

"Acute Nutmeg Intoxication," M. K. Abernathy and L. B. Becker, *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*, vol. 10, no. 5, Sept., 1992, pp. 429-30.

We welcome your suggestions for this column. Please enclose full citations. If possible, please enclose a photocopy of the paper.

Dim Photography in a Caribbean Coral Reef



This photograph demonstrates a new technique for underwater silhouette photography. Using only ambient light, Dr. Daniel Pauly, director of the International Center for Living Aquatic Resource Management in Manila, the Philippines, has been able to reliably capture images of fish under unfavorable conditions. The fish seen here are Caribbean coral reef snappers. Note that the author is left-handed.

Items that merit a trip to the library

"The relationship between facial hair whorls and milking parlor side preferences," M. Tanner, et al. Abstract #797 from the *Journal of Dairy Science*, vol. 77, Annual Meeting Abstracts, 1994.
(Thanks to C. Robert Campbell for bringing this to our attention.)

"Operation of the laws of sympathetic magic in disgust and other domains," P. Rozin, L. Millman, and C. Nemeroff, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, vol. 50, 1986, pp. 703-12.
(Thanks to Adam J. Fein for bringing this to our attention.)

We welcome your suggestions for this column. Please enclose full citations. If possible, please enclose a photocopy of the paper.

Pollution, Population, and the 'Red Light' District in Hong Kong

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Recent scientific studies have linked nitric oxide (NO) to penile erection in rats¹ and have found further that NO is necessary for proper copulation.² This note presents non-experimental empirical evidence on the relationship between the concentration of nitric oxide, population density and the 'red light' district in Hong Kong.

Rusco and Walls³ report that, in the dense urban canyons of Hong Kong, most nitric oxide emissions are attributable to goods vehicles. These high concentrations, of course, are due to the quality of the diesel fuel burned in this type of vehicle.

The district with the highest concentration of nitric oxide, Mong Kok, also has by far the highest population density of any district in Hong Kong: 116,531 persons per square kilometer in 1991.⁴ This population density is more than double that of the next most densely populated region, Kwun Tong. Mong Kok is widely known to have the largest number of brothels of any district. This combination likely explains the high population density.

References

1. "Nitric oxide: A physiologic mediator of penile erection," A. L. Burnett, C. J. Lowenstein, D. S. Bredt, and T. S. K. Chang, *Science*, July 17, 1992, p. 404.
2. "Annual Digest of Statistics," Hong Kong Government. Government Printer, 1994.
3. "An important but neglected function of nitric oxide (NO)," X. P. Mental, *Annals of Improbable Research*, preprint.
4. "Clearing the Air: Vehicular Emissions Policy for Hong Kong," F. W. Rusco, and W. D. Walls, The Chinese University Press, Hong Kong, forthcoming.

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The first 75 readers who mail us the exact number of typographical errors appearing in this issue will receive