Nature

Magazine Research Record



15 October 1998. Volume 395, Issue 6703. The cover feature "Snake charms physiologists" corresponds to research on extreme physiological regulation in pythons.

Publication Identification

Field	Information
Country	United Kingdom
Publisher	Macmillan Magazines Ltd. (1998 bibliographic identification)
Publisher address	Pending research update. Historical publishing location documented as London, United Kingdom.
Magazine title	Nature
Publication status	Active; continuing scientific journal
Publication run	First published 4 November 1869; continues to present
Editor	Pending research update
Printer	Pending research update
Print ISSN	0028-0836
Language	English
Publication type	International weekly scientific journal
Publication frequency	Weekly
Collection coverage	One issue: Volume 395, Issue 6703 (15 October 1998)
Earliest issue represented	Volume 395, Issue 6703 (15 October 1998)
Latest issue represented	Volume 395, Issue 6703 (15 October 1998)
Represented issue	15 October 1998
Volume and issue	Volume 395, Issue 6703
Cover price	$10.00, as printed on the represented copy
Primary snake related cover feature	"Snake charms physiologists"
Research article tied to the cover	Stephen M. Secor and Jared Diamond, "A vertebrate model of extreme physiological regulation," Nature 395, 659 to 662 (1998), DOI 10.1038/27131.
Represented physical set	One issue

Preservation Significance

This issue has unusually strong preservation value because the snake material is not a hobbyist feature placed inside a general interest magazine. It is the principal cover subject of one of the world's major scientific journals. The cover places a large python photograph behind the headline "Snake charms physiologists," documenting a moment when snake physiology was presented as scientifically important enough to lead an international weekly research journal.

The associated paper by Stephen M. Secor and Jared Diamond examined juvenile pythons as a model of extreme physiological regulation. The authors emphasized the dramatic changes that occur when infrequently feeding snakes process very large meals, including rapid increases in metabolism, secretion, enzyme and transporter activity, and tissue growth. The paper argued that these animals offered an unusually powerful vertebrate model for studying physiological regulation. The article has continued to be cited in later work on python digestion, organ growth and evolutionary physiology.

Within a preservation collection centered on snakes, this issue is particularly useful because it demonstrates the scientific importance of snakes outside the specialist herpetoculture press. It records a point at which python biology was being used to answer broad questions in vertebrate physiology, giving the issue both herpetological and wider scientific historical significance. Unlike fear-oriented popular portrayals, this cover foregrounds snakes as valuable scientific research subjects and emphasizes their importance to broader vertebrate physiology.

Publication Metadata and Masthead Documentation

Field	Information
Publication	Nature
1998 publisher	Macmillan Magazines Ltd.
Historical address	London, United Kingdom; exact 1998 street address unverified
ISSN, print	0028-0836
Frequency	Weekly
Cover price	$10.00 (represented copy)
Associated research	Secor and Diamond, Nature 395, 659–662 (1998), DOI 10.1038/27131
Masthead limitations	Pending research update

International Distribution

Nature describes itself as an international weekly scientific journal. The represented cover identifies an international science readership, but the supplied photograph does not establish the specific national distribution channels, sales totals, or subscription arrangements operating in 1998.

Issues Represented in the Collection

Field	Information
Issue represented	Volume 395, Issue 6703
Date	15 October 1998
Number of physical issues documented	One
Principal snake feature	"Snake charms physiologists"

Represented Issue and Cover Evidence

Field	Information
15 October 1998	Cover photograph of a python. Lead cover line: "Snake charms physiologists." Other cover lines concern gamma ray bursts, mantle simulations and Alzheimer's disease, making the prominence of the snake physiology feature especially notable.

Research Context

PubMed identifies the paper as Nature volume 395, issue 6703, pages 659 to 662, published 15 October 1998. Nature's own record gives the same date, volume and page range. The paper focused on pythons as a vertebrate model of unusually large and reversible physiological responses following feeding.

Nature's historical record shows that in 1998 the journal was still published within Macmillan before the creation of Nature Publishing Group in 1999. Independent bibliographic records from the period identify Macmillan Magazines Ltd. as the publisher of Nature and the print ISSN as 0028-0836.

Website Category Placement

Field	Information
Primary section	Magazine Preservation
Country grouping	United Kingdom
Publication title	Nature
Represented date	15 October 1998
Primary preservation emphasis	Snake physiology in mainstream scientific publishing; python research; history of vertebrate physiological research

Source Notes

Field	Information
Physical cover	Primary evidence for date, cover price, cover image, cover wording and the prominence of the snake physiology feature.
Nature article record	Confirms Stephen M. Secor and Jared Diamond, "A vertebrate model of extreme physiological regulation," Nature 395, 659 to 662 (1998), DOI 10.1038/27131.
PubMed	Confirms 15 October 1998, volume 395, issue 6703, pages 659 to 662 and DOI 10.1038/27131.
Nature history and 1998 bibliographic records	Support Macmillan ownership and Macmillan Magazines Ltd. publication during the represented period.

Additional Verification for Standardization

Nature's journal history confirms first publication on 4 November 1869, and its current journal information establishes continuing publication and weekly frequency. The U.S. National Library of Medicine catalog lists the journal as published in England, with print ISSN 0028-0836. Historical bibliographic evidence identifies Macmillan Magazines Ltd. in London; a street address specific to October 1998 could not be verified. Sources: nature.com/nature/history-of-nature; nature.com/nature/journal-information; ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog.

Research Cautions

The cover wording "Snake charms physiologists" is a magazine cover line and is not the formal article title. The formal article title is "A vertebrate model of extreme physiological regulation."

The represented record concerns this single 15 October 1998 issue. Publication details should not automatically be applied to all historical periods of Nature because its corporate publishing structure changed later.