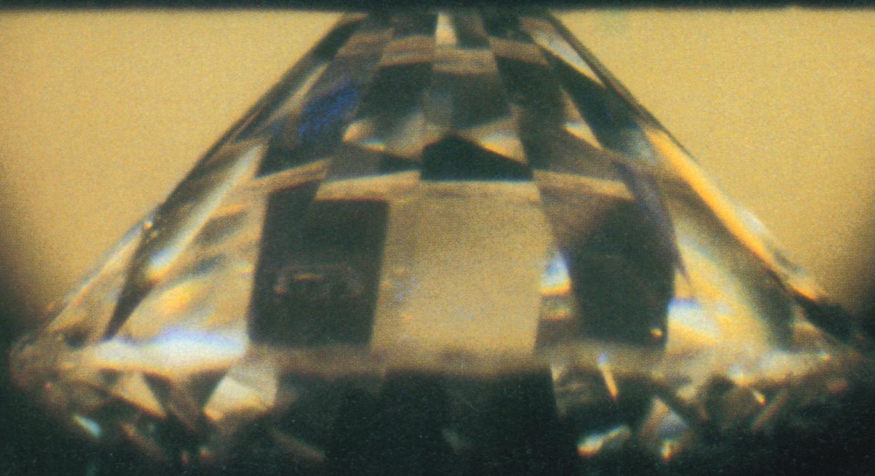
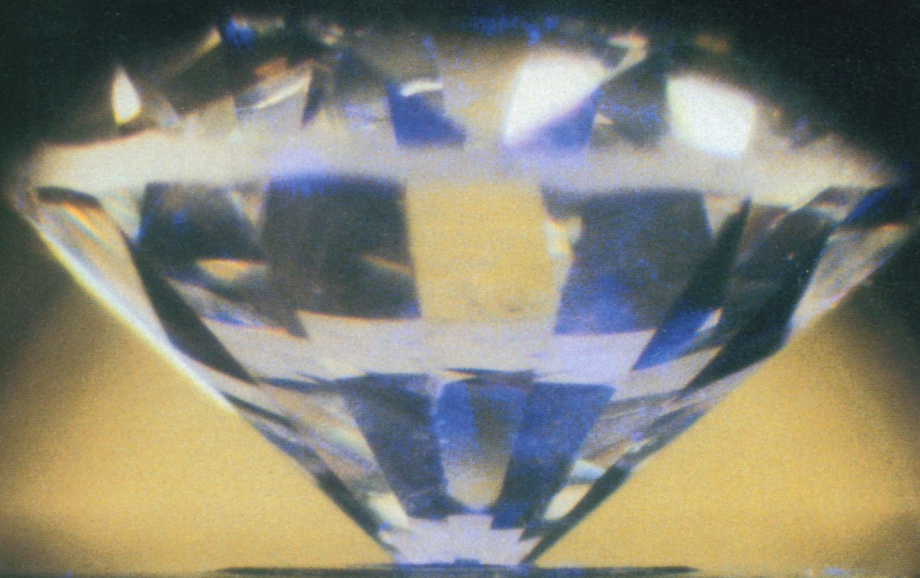


The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

# SCIENCE NEWS

April 9, 1994  
Vol. 145, No. 15  
Pages 225-240



**Impersonating Earth's Interior**



Befriend a bug? Welcome a weed? Admire a snake?

Yes! says nature writer Des Kennedy. This fascinating book of facts and anecdotes is proof that many of the creatures we have learned to loathe are really our allies.

Take bats. Thanks to their voracious appetites, our summer population of insects is reduced. And, contrary to popular belief, bats *won't* get trapped in your hair!

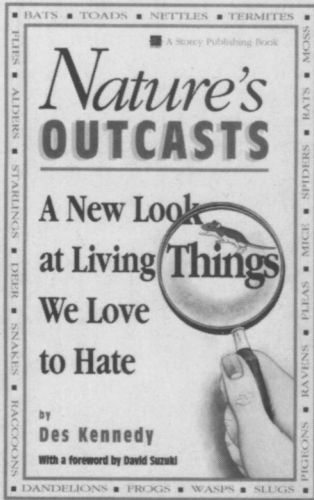
How about slugs? They may be the connoisseurs of slime — but researchers are now studying the se-

cretions for clues for a cure for cystic fibrosis.

And dandelions, bane of the perfect lawn, have also been a source of food and healing for thousands of years.

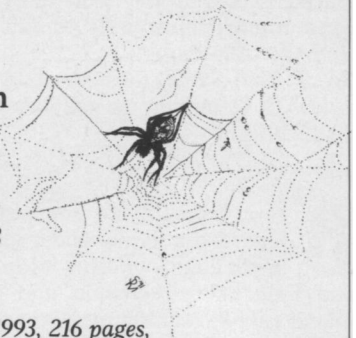
Entertaining and fact-filled, this book takes a fresh look at the natural world — and invites us to reconnect with those parts we may have come to fear.

—from Storey Communications



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Storey Communications, Inc., 1993, 216 pages,  
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"Biophilia" is the term coined by Edward O. Wilson, author of *The Diversity of Life* to describe what he believes is our innate affinity for the natural world. In his landmark book *Biophilia*, he examined how our tendency to focus on life and lifelike processes might be a biologically based need, integral to our development as individuals and as a species.

*The Biophilia Hypothesis* brings together the views of some of the most creative scientists of our time, each attempting to amplify and refine the concept of biophilia. The various perspectives — psychological, biological, cultural, symbolic, and aesthetic — frame the theoretical issues by presenting empirical evidence that supports or refutes the hypothesis. Numerous examples illustrate the idea that biophilia and its converse, biophobia, have a genetic component:

- people develop fear and even full-blown phobias of snakes and spiders with very little negative reinforcement
- people would rather look at water, green vegetation, or flowers than built structures of glass and concrete
- the development of language, myth, and thought appears to be greatly dependent on the use of natural symbols, particularly animals

The biophilia hypothesis, if substantiated, provides a powerful argument for the conservation of biological diversity.

—from Island Press

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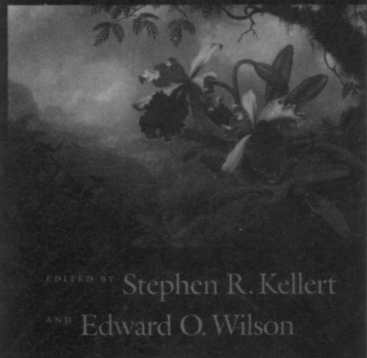
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## The Biophilia Hypothesis



Island Press, 1993, 484 pages,  
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HarperPerennial,  
 1994, 142 pages  
 5 1/4" x 8", paperback, \$10.00

**Updated, revised and expanded from the original edition**

**Did You Know . . .**

- ☞ An average head wind (10 miles per hour) can turn a 400-foot home run into a 370-foot out?
- ☞ A curve ball that seems to break over 14 inches never actually deviates from a straight line by more than 3 1/2 inches?
- ☞ There is no such thing (except in softball) as a rising fastball?
- ☞ That a batted ball should be able to travel no farther than 545 feet?

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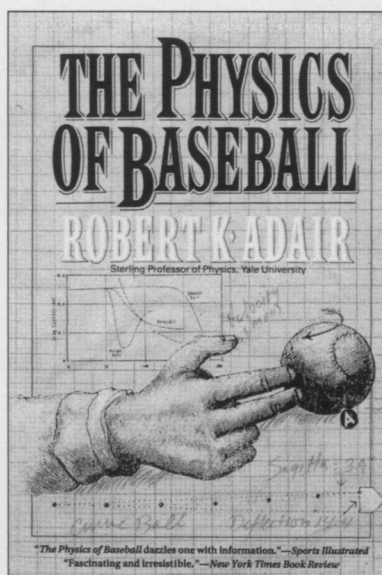
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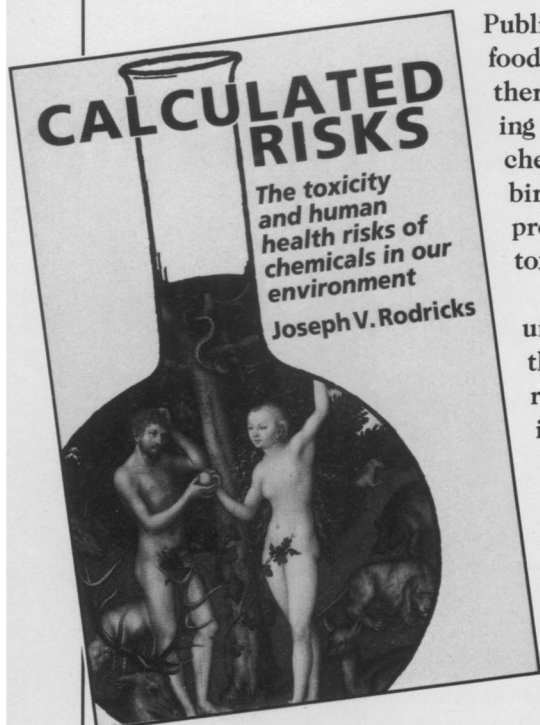
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Blending scientific facts and sports trivia, Robert Adair examines what a baseball does when thrown or batted under certain conditions — and why. This completely revised edition of *The Physics of Baseball* contains new information about baserunning, long home runs, shagging flies, and how the higher altitudes in Denver (home of the Colorado Rockies) affect batted and pitched balls. Complete with understandable charts and graphs, baseball lore, and entertaining anecdotes about various players and incidents, *The Physics of Baseball* will delight and entertain baseball fans and physics enthusiasts and provide a whole new perspective on the game. —from HarperPerennial



Public concern regarding environmental pollution and chemicals present in foods, consumer products, and the work place is at an all-time high. Whilst there is widespread awareness, confusion still reigns, aggravated by conflicting reports concerning carcinogens in food and drinking water, or about chemicals present in medicines and household products that may cause birth defects. The effort to understand how these pollutants and chemical products may harm human health is led by scientists in the disciplines of toxicology, epidemiology and risk assessment.

The central purpose of this book is to describe how scientists come to understand the toxic properties of such chemicals and the health risks they may pose. Rather than attempting to expose governmental and corporate ignorance, negligence or corruption, this book explores the underlying scientific issues. It presents a practical and balanced clarification of the scientific basis for our concerns and uncertainties. It should serve to refocus the debate. —from Cambridge University Press

Cambridge University Press, 1994, 256 pages, 6" x 9", paperback, \$13.95

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