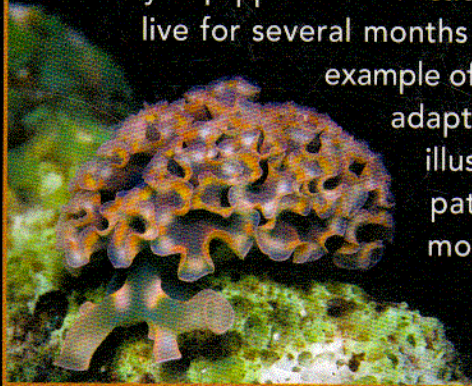


ON THE COVER

THE INTERACTIONS AND DIVERSITY OF LIFE

Elysia crispata is one of several sea slug species that can fuel their metabolism using chloroplasts captured from the algae they eat. The ingested chloroplasts enable the sea slugs to harvest energy from the sun through photosynthesis—a remarkable feat for an animal! The photosynthesizing slugs have also captured the associated algal genes necessary for chloroplasts to function normally. Equipped with functional chloroplasts, these animals can live for several months without feeding. This fascinating example of species interactions, physiological adaptation, and genetic recombination illustrates one of many evolutionary pathways that have led to the enormous diversity of life on Earth.

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