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Turning the new year, here come the editors' picks for annual stars of fundamental research at CAS.

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Cover story:

The cover depicts a tiny primate whose genetic makeup is an intricate mosaic crafted by human innovation. This chimeric monkey is the result of a meticulous biological choreography, where naive embryonic stem cells were precisely injected into an early-stage embryo, synchronized to the developmental rhythm to evade elimination.

The chimera is more than a scientific curiosity; it stands to rewrite the playbook on modeling human diseases and therapeutic development.

To find more, please turn to page 210.

# BCAS

www.bcas.cas.cn

December 2023

Vol.37 No.4

Pages 193 – 256

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Sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Published by Science Press  
Printed by Beijing Reach Mine Printing Co., Ltd.

Domestic subscription (1 year): 400 yuan.  
Domestic and overseas distribution: Science Press

Launched in 1987, the *Bulletin of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (BCAS, ISSN 1003-3572)* is a quarterly published every March, June, September and December. Copyright © 2023 by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Please note that the views expressed in *BCAS* are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of the Academy or the editors. For subscription, please contact Science Press at +8610 64017032, mazhiyong@mail.sciencep.com.

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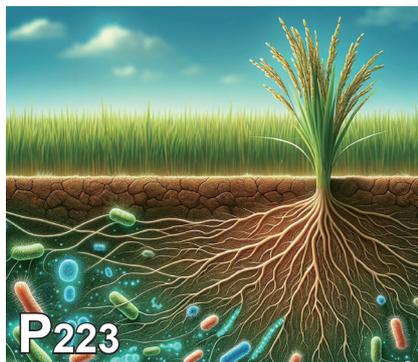
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