

California's fog is far more polluted than acid rain, according to research described by Leslie Roberts in the November 1982 *BioScience* (Vol. 32 No. 10, pp. 778-9). Roberts tells of research done by environmental engineers at the California Institute of Technology (CIT), showing that fog tends to be "far more acidic than rain . . . often acidic enough to corrode metal." According to Roberts, the CIT research team speculates that "pre-existing smog aerosol forms the seed for the formation of acid fog. Furthermore, SO_2 and NO_x are converted to sulfuric and nitric acids within the fog droplets."

The Nov. 12, 1981 issue of *Science* (pp. 677-9) carries a technical description of the findings — "Chemical composition of Acid Fog" — authored by Prof. Michael R. Hoffmann and the CIT students who ran the study with him. The work was done from the W.M. Keck Laboratories at CIT, Pasadena, CA 91125. The pH of the fog water was reported to range from 2.2 to 4.0.

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A condensed but highly inclusive article, "The Acid Precipitation Phenomenon and Its Ecological Consequences," by Ellis B. Cowling and Rick A. Linthurst in the October 1981 *BioScience* (pp. 649-53) contains a section of summary statements describing the general status of knowledge about acid precipitation and its ecological consequences as of December 1980. They are synthesis of observations and inferences derived from "many independent investigations," and abbreviated from the more complete and referenced statements by E.B. Cowling in a 1981 research report entitled "An historical resume of progress in scientific and public understanding of acid precipitation and its biological consequences." As of October 1981, the Cowling report was in press.

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