

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF
International Center for Biotechnology
Osaka University

Vol. 26, 2003

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The Annual Report is published to record the activity of the International Center for Biotechnology (ICBiotech) and issued once in each fiscal year. It contains scientific articles, progress reports, letters, and announcement from the Center. The editor welcomes the submission of appropriate articles from all persons who are concerned with the activity of the Center. All the contributions, however, will be reviewed by editors before their acceptance. The scientific paper herein should be treated as personal communications and not treated as original publications. The Annual Report is distributed upon request to the International Center for Biotechnology, Osaka University, 2-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan (e-mail: info@icb.osaka-u.ac.jp). The editors are very grateful to Ms. Fumiko Sawazumi for her technical help.

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