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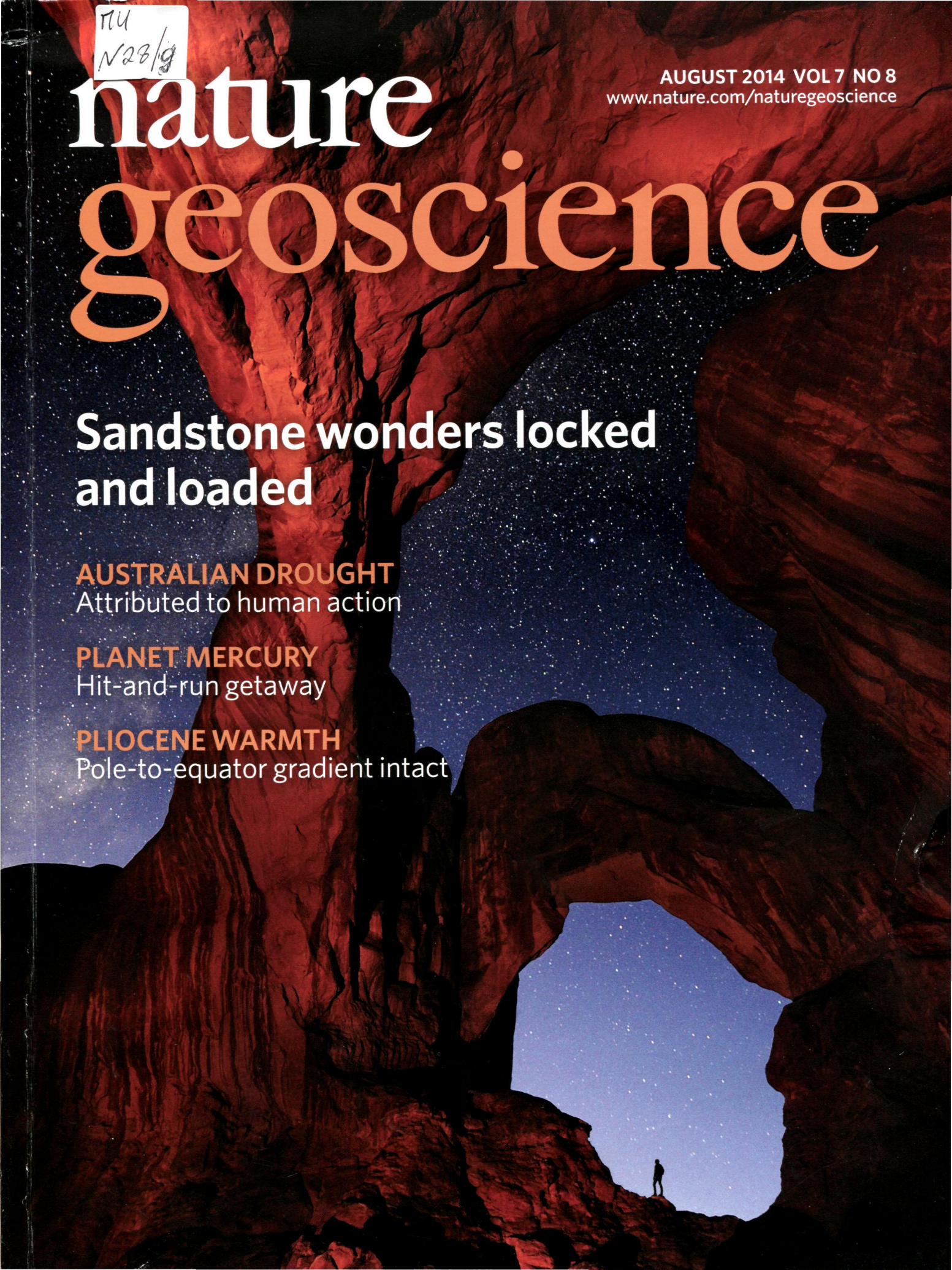
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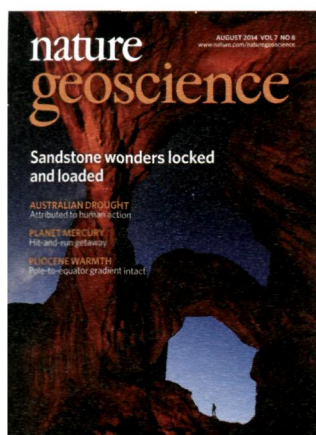
Sandstone wonders locked and loaded

AUSTRALIAN DROUGHT
Attributed to human action

PLANET MERCURY
Hit-and-run getaway

PLIOCENE WARMTH
Pole-to-equator gradient intact



**COVER IMAGE**

The formation and preservation of sandstone landforms such as pillars and arches are enigmatic. Experiments and numerical modelling show that load-bearing material weathers more slowly, and thus the internal stress field can shape and stabilize sandstone landforms. The image shows Double Arch at Arches National Park in Utah, USA at night. Letter p597; News & Views p552

IMAGE: MARSEL VAN OOSTEN

COVER DESIGN: DAVID SHAND

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Australian drought
Attributed to human action
Letter p583; News & Views p551

Planet Mercury
Hit-and-run getaway
Letter p564

Pliocene warmth
Pole-to-equator gradient intact
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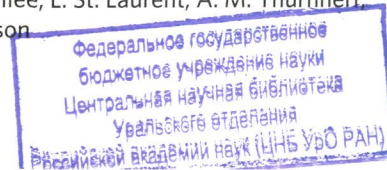
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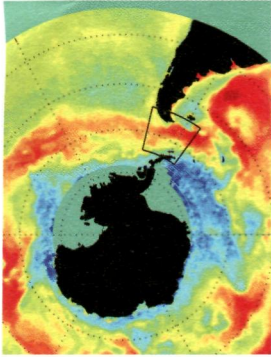
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In the Southern Ocean, deepwater masses of the world ocean upwell to the surface and subsequently sink to intermediate and abyssal depths in two overturning cells. Observational evidence relates changes in abyssal mixing — a key influence on the lower cell — to oceanic eddy variability. Letter p577; News & Views p554



Despite the role that calving plays in Greenland mass loss, the mechanisms of calving are poorly constrained. Observations of Greenland's Helheim Glacier suggest that buoyant flexure at the glacier terminus leads to the propagation of basal crevasses and iceberg calving. Letter p593

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