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On the Cover: Conifers, which include species of spruce (*Picea* spp.) and pine (*Pinus* spp.), dominate some of the world's largest native and planted forests, providing essential local and global ecosystem services for biodiversity, stabilization of climate, clean air, and water. They are the foundation for many of the world's traditional and modern forestry economies, and they hold considerable value as a renewable feedstock for bioproducts and biofuels produced from lignocellulose or oleoresin hydrocarbons. With environmental change, conifer forests are increasingly challenged by outbreaks of insect pests and pathogens, the majority of which can be resisted by healthy trees with physical and chemical defenses. Conifers have evolved a major chemical defense known as oleoresin (pitch), a complex mixture of hundreds of specialized metabolites that consists mostly of diterpene resin acids (rosin) and volatile monoterpenes (turpentine). The chemical diversity of oleoresin is produced by terpene synthases and cytochrome P450s. In this issue, Hamberger et al. (pp. 1677–1695) report on a recently discovered, apparently conifer-specific P450 subfamily, CYP720B, for diterpene resin acid biosynthesis. A CYP720B4 enzyme from Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) contributes to the formation of multiple diterpenoids, including dehydroabietic acid, which is associated with insect resistance. Photo credit: Jörg Bohlmann, Vancouver. Picture of Sitka spruce taken on the Haida Gwaii Islands, British Columbia, Canada.

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