EDITOR'S CHOICE

Figures appearing in the EDITOR'S CHOICE are those arising from materials research which strike the editor's fancy as being aesthetically appealing and eye-catching. No further criteria are applied and none should be assumed. When taken out of context, such figures often evoke images beyond and unrelated to the original meaning. Submissions of candidate figures are welcome and should include a complete source citation, a photocopy of the report in which it appears (or will appear), and a reproduction-quality original drawing or photograph of the figure in question.

There is an adage admonishing us to avoid grass growing under our feet, but it says nothing about growth on the walls of our crucibles. Appearing more like undergrowth than growth, the grasslike structures in this issue's EDITOR'S CHOICE figure are far from the family *Gramineae*. The electron micrograph actually shows crystals of zinc unintentionally formed as the metal volatilized, from a precursor citrate/formate mixture calcined above 900°C to form manganese zinc ferrite, and condensed on cooler regions of the crucible wall. Naturally, the researchers who grew these (P. Sainamthip and V. R. W. Amarakoon, *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.* 71 (2) 1988, p. C92— C95) subsequently altered their process to produce a ferrite powder without the loss of zinc.

MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY

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