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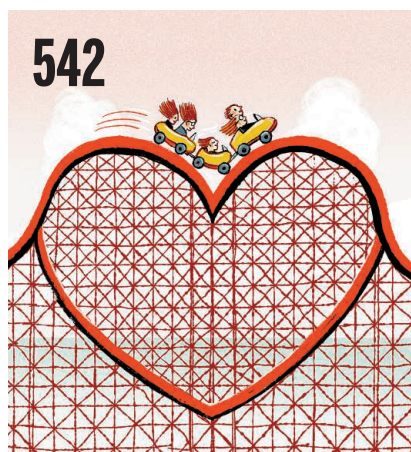
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## ON THE COVER



Earthworms are major components of our world's soils and drive important ecosystem services. However, the main factors affecting their global diversity and abundance have been largely unknown until

now. Climate is the main environmental factor driving earthworm biodiversity patterns, with higher local diversity and abundance occurring in temperate regions. Despite the lower local diversity in the tropics, across the entire region there may be more species overall. See pages 425 and 480.

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