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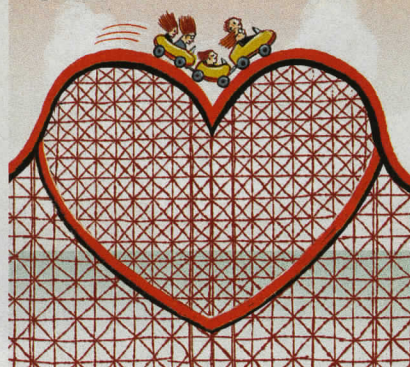
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Earthworms are major components of our world's soils and drive important ecosystem services. However, the main factors affecting their global diversity and abundance have been largely unknown until

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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SCIENCE (ISSN 0036-8075) is published weekly on Friday, except last week in December, by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Periodicals mail postage (publication No. 484460) paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices. Copyright © 2019 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The title SCIENCE is a registered trademark of the AAAS. Domestic individual membership, including subscription (12 months): \$165 (\$74 allocated to subscription). Domestic institutional subscription (51 issues): \$1971. Foreign postage extra: Mexico, Caribbean (surface mail) \$55; other countries (air assist delivery): \$98. First class, airmail, student, and emeritus rates on request. Canadian rates with GST available upon request. GST #125488122. Publications Mail Agreement Number 1069624. Printed in the U.S.A. Change of address: Allow 4 weeks, giving old and new addresses and 8-digit account number. Postmaster: Send change of address to AAAS, P.O. Box 96178, Washington, DC 20090-6178. Single-copy sales: \$15 each plus shipping and handling; bulk rate on request. Authorization to reproduce material for internal or personal use under circumstances not falling within the fair use provisions of the Copyright Act can be obtained through the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), www.copyright.com. The identification code for Science is 0036-8075. Science is indexed in the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and in several specialized indexes.