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This red squirrel's hands display tiny nail-bearing thumbs, alongside large claw-bearing digits. A survey of hand morphologies and feeding behaviors reveals that the combination of thumbnails and dexterous food-handling is prevalent among living rodents. This likely dates back to their earliest ancestors, linking the evolution of the hand and thumb with that of the teeth and jaw. See page 1049. Photo: sduben/iStock



ON THE PODCAST

Finding HIV's last bastion in the body, and playing the violin like a cricket

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