



EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

Marvels of Madagascar

SPECIES ARGUMENT: Leaf-tailed geckos native to Madagascar are among the species of reptiles and amphibians whose slowing rates of evolution may indicate the end of an evolutionary heyday for the African island. A new study by Daniel Scantlebury, a PhD student in biology, offers further proof of Darwin's theory that adaptive processes slow as the evolutionary niches available to species are filled in. (Clockwise from top left: mossy leaf-tailed gecko, *Uroplatus sikorae*; Henkel's leaf-tailed gecko, *Uroplatus henkeli*; mossy leaf-tailed gecko, *Uroplatus sikorae*; and cork-bark leaf-tailed gecko, *Uroplatus pietschmanni*.)

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