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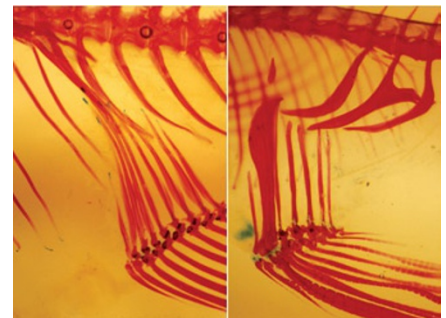
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## Caring for your jird

The fat-tailed jird is a small gerbilline rodent found in North Africa. As its name suggests, it has a distinctive blunt tail, which has recently been shown to be an effective site for the development of cutaneous leishmaniasis. Felt *et al.* describe the process by which they raised a jird research colony from wild stock in Cairo, Egypt, providing information on the biology, breeding, husbandry and diseases of this species. [See page 256](#)

## A 'teacher' of sexual dimorphism

The western mosquitofish has a prominently sexually dimorphic anal fin and is a convenient model for sexual dimorphism in vertebrates. Because sexual differentiation occurs postnatally, mosquitofish are also useful for the study of the neural circuits associated with this process and may shed light on fundamental principles of the nervous system. Rosario-Ortiz *et al.* present the mosquitofish as a model for research and describe the breeding and husbandry practices at their facility, where a mosquitofish colony has been maintained for 15 years. [See page 263](#)



## One dose or two?

With the goal of refining analgesia dosage requirements in rats, Cooper *et al.* carried out two experiments that compared ketoprofen regimens used in numerous research institutions. To identify the preferred dosing schedule, they compared the effects of one preoperative dose of ketoprofen with those of two perioperative doses. In a second experiment, they compared the effects of two different dosages of ketoprofen. The authors evaluated rats' responses to the analgesia by comparing post-surgical weight loss and food and water consumption. [See page 271](#)