

ASTRONOMY

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ENVIRONMENT

Looming Security Threat: Climate Change

HEALTH

The Fog of Agent Orange

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Rise of the Mammals

Our ancestors began to flourish long ago

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Long before an asteroid wiped out their dinosaur overlords, mammals were laying the foundation of their rise to world domination.

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Some fish species turn out to be surprisingly good problem solvers. At times, they even use tools.

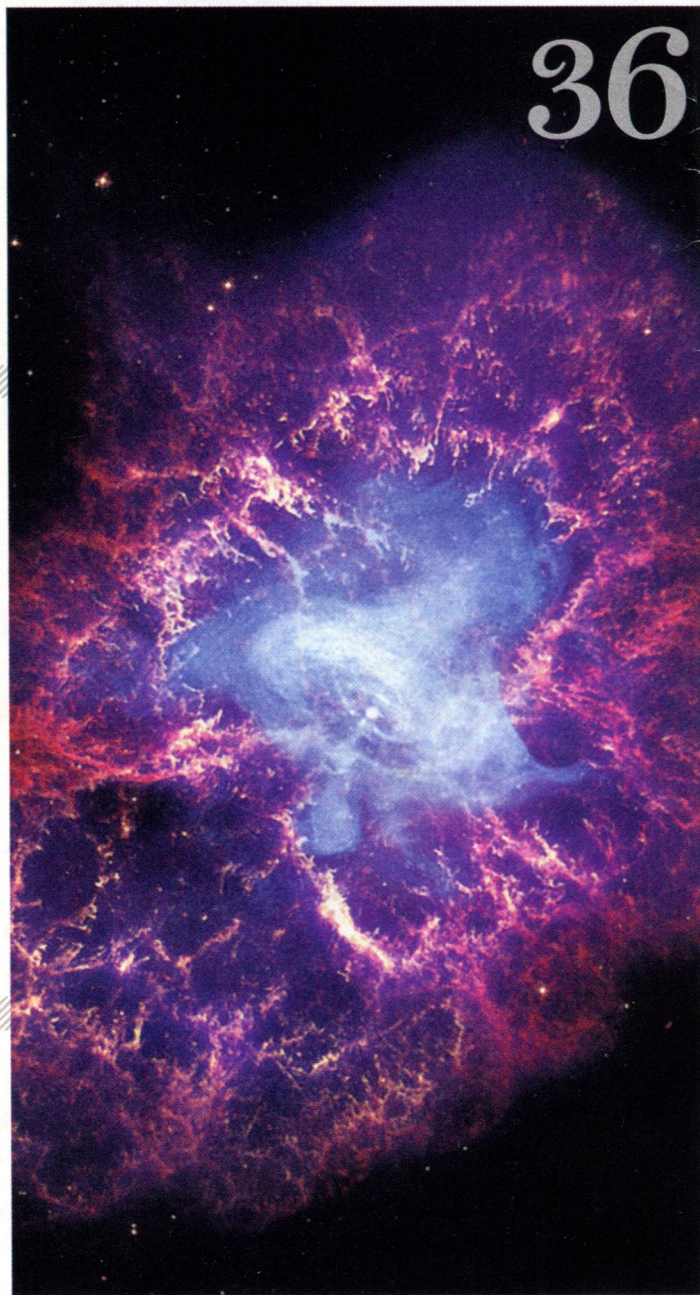
By Jonathan Balcombe

HEALTH

70 The Fog of Agent Orange

Vietnam claims that children today suffer from the effects of the infamous defoliant sprayed by U.S. forces decades ago. Scientists are undecided.

By Charles Schmidt



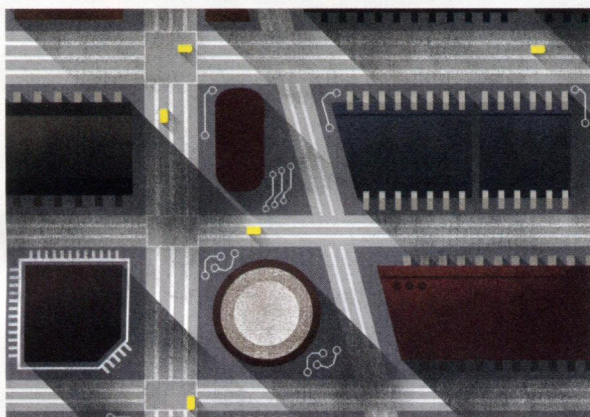
ON THE COVER

Early mammal *Volaticotherium* is known from a fossil from China dating to around 160 million years ago. The fossil preserves an impression of a membrane that stretched between the arm and leg, which would have allowed the animal to glide from branch to branch like a modern-day flying squirrel. *Volaticotherium* is one of a number of species that show that mammals diversified to a surprising degree long before the dinosaurs died out. **Image by James Gurney.**

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Go to www.ScientificAmerican.com/jun2016/zika

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