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Cover: Burrowing is energetically expensive and requires substantial interaction with soil to dislodge and transport it. True moles (Talpidae) have extraordinary forelimb morphologies and a unique ability to dig in loose as well as compact soils, yet we know little of how moles coordinate their forelimb joint kinematics to dig. Lin et al. (jeb182436) used marker-based XROMM to study forelimb kinematics of eastern moles (*Scalopus aquaticus*) and demonstrated that the combination of stereotypic movements of the shoulder joint and flexibility in elbow and carpal joints makes moles extremely effective diggers in both loose and compact substrates. Photo credit: Yi-Fen Lin.

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