



**MAMMALIAN KIDNEY** The vascular system of the kidney of a desert rodent, the jird (*Meriones*). The arteries and capillaries have been injected with silicone rubber, and the glomeruli can be seen as numerous tiny, beadlike dots in the outer layer (the renal cortex). The renal papilla in the jird is longer than in rodents from less arid habitats; this enhances the concentrating ability of its kidney. [Courtesy of Lise Bankir, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale, Paris]