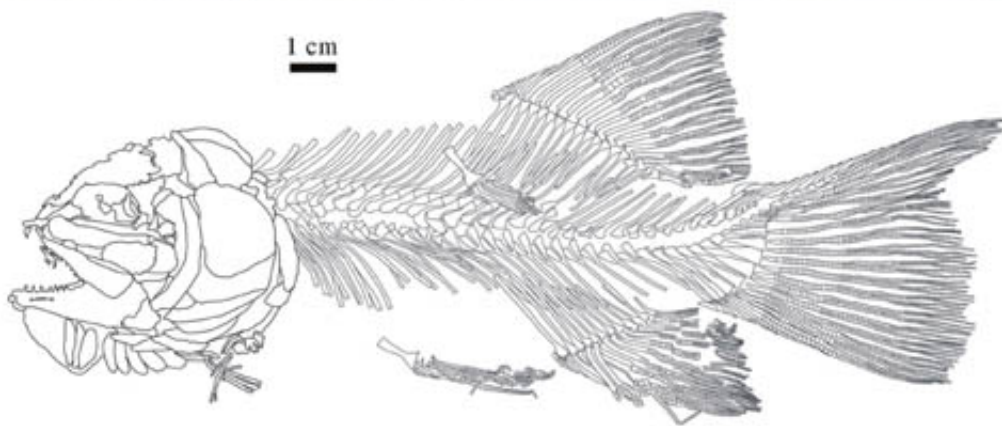


New materials of caturoid fish discovered in China

February 4 2013



Gymnoichthys inopinatus Tintori et al., 2010, a new specimen (IVPP V 16354) and its line drawing. Credit: TAN Kai

In a newly published articles, researchers from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology describe new materials of caturoid fish—*Gymnoichthys inopinatus*, from the Middle Triassic Guanling Formation at the Dawazi Village, Luoping County, Yunnan Province, China. *Gymnoichthys inopinatus* is not only the first caturoid found in China, but also the earliest caturoid in the world, which is 40 million years earlier than the European and North American caturoids. Researchers re-identified its systematic position and reported in the latest issue of *Vertebrata Palasiatica* 2013(1).

Previously, caturoids were only discovered in the Jurassic of Europe and North America, and its recognized forms included *Liodesmus*, the only genera of the family *Liodesmidae*, and *Caturus* and *Amblysemius* of the family *Caturidae*. *Gymnoichthys inopinatus* was initially described by Tintori et al. in 2010, and regarded as a basal neopterygian.

G. inopinatus has only one supramaxilla and its symplectic is likely jointed with the articular, which are the identifying characters of Halecomorphi. Moreover, *G. inopinatus* has no scales, its vertebral centra are not ossified, and the structure and relationship of the neural arches and neural [spines](#), as well as the shape of teeth and ural haemal spines in *G. inopinatus* are quite like that of the caturoids. Hence, it is suggested to consider *G. inopinatus* as a basal form of the superfamily *Caturoidea*.

More information: www.ivpp.cas.cn/cbw/gjzdwxb/xb...0131405693816448.pdf

Provided by Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology

Citation: New materials of caturoid fish discovered in China (2013, February 4) retrieved 20 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-02-materials-caturoid-fish-china.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.