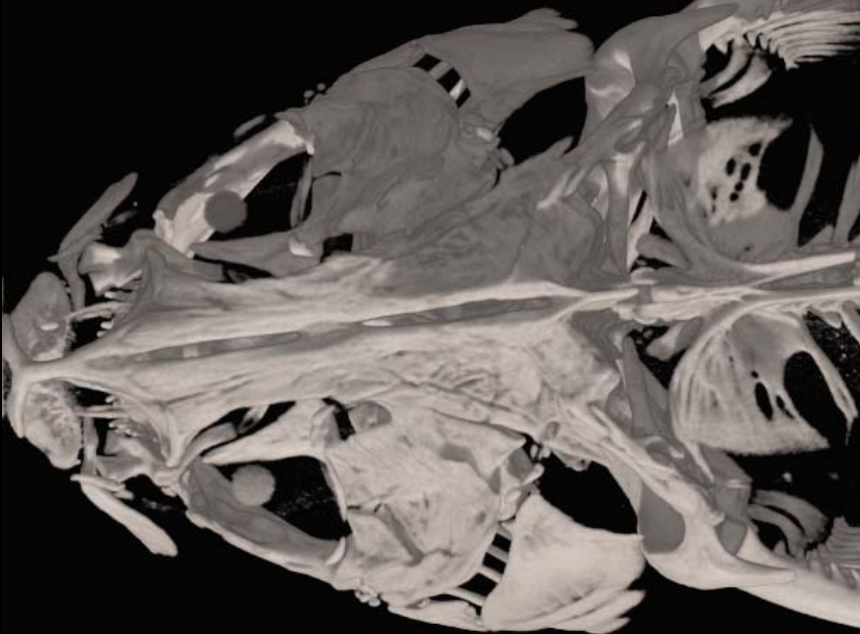


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## Evolution of Ostariophysan Fishes



The ostariophysan fishes include about 75% of the world's freshwater fishes. They are remarkably diverse, ranging from the tiny tetras of the aquarium trade, to electric eels and giant catfishes. This project aims to discover features in the skeleton which will help us to understand how some groups of these fishes are related. With that knowledge we will be able to piece together aspects of their historical ecology and distributions in the distant past. We will be using a new technology, high resolution computed tomography (HRCT) to examine the skeletons of selected species. This means that we will be “virtually” dissecting the specimens with computers, viewing the images in 2 and 3 dimensions. The research also will involve some dissections of actual specimens.

