

Rozprávanie o latimérii

„Beseda o podivnom starom štvornožcovi“.





Colour dark grey black. (uniform)

Length. $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

depth of body 18 inches

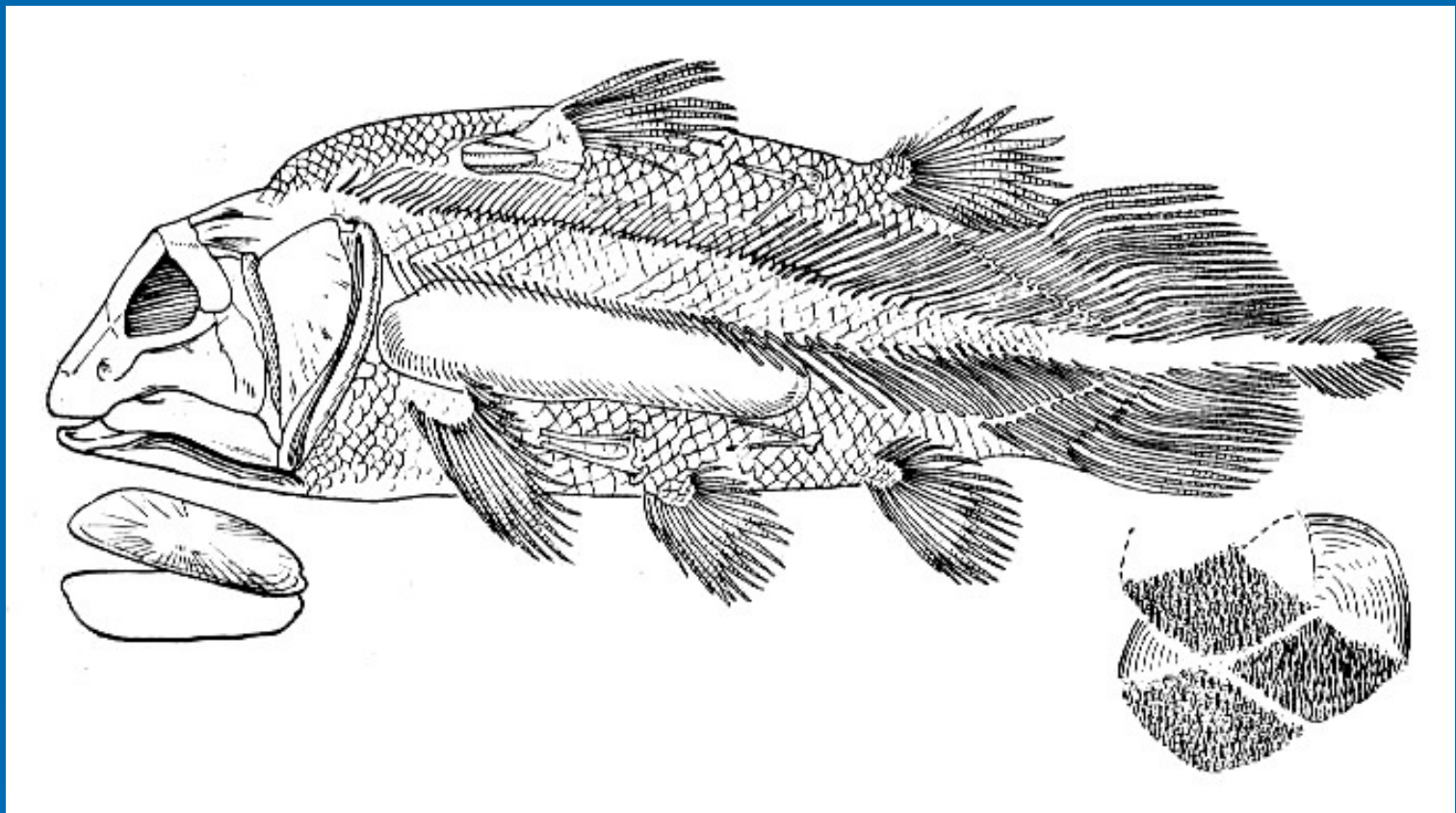
depth of tail 12 inches.

length of fins. spinous dorsal. 8"

Soft dorsal	9"
Pectoral	12"
Pelvic	5"
ANAL	12"



Oncorhynchus tshawytscha (Quinn 1838)
Malesco
Largest Trout of the Pacific Ocean. Length 43 inches
Taken 22 December 1838
Captured by George H. H. H. H.
Presented to the U.S. National Museum by the U.S. Fish Commission, who secured the specimen for science.

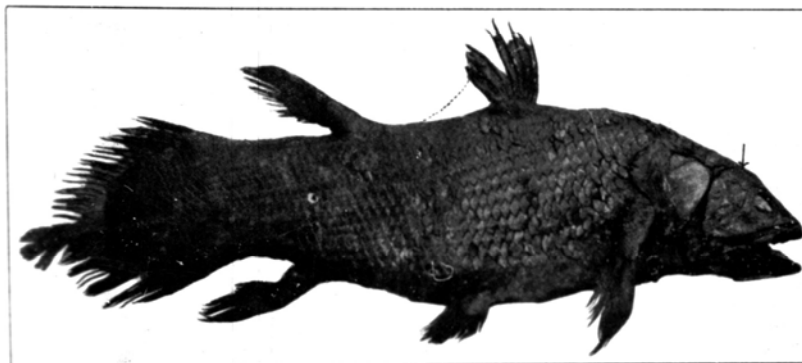


A Living Fish of Mesozoic Type

By Dr. J. L. B. Smith, Rhodes University College, Grahamstown

EX Africa semper aliquid novi. It is my privilege to announce the discovery of a Crossopterygian fish of a type believed to have become extinct by the close of the Mesozoic period. This fish was taken by trawl-net at a depth of about 40 fathoms some miles west of East London on December 22, 1938. It was alive when caught, and shortly after it died it was handed over to Miss Courtenay-

mounted specimen, a responsible citizen-angler of East London stated that about five years ago he had found precisely such a fish, only considerably larger (*sic*), partially decomposed, cast up by the waves on a lonely part of the shore east of East London. When he returned with assistance, the monster had vanished with a risen tide. With regard to the present specimen, fortunately both



COELACANTHID FISH FROM EAST LONDON, SOUTH AFRICA.

The small arrow shows the position of the spiracle, and the dotted line indicates the position of a membrane behind the first dorsal fin.

Latimer, curator of the East London Museum. Miss Latimer wrote to me, enclosing a sketch and brief particulars of the specimen. Owing to the seasonal disorganization of the postal services, the letter did not reach me at Knysna, some four hundred miles away, until ten days later. It was obvious from the sketch and notes that the fish was of a type believed long extinct. Immediate telephonic communication with the East London Museum revealed that, owing to lack of preserving equipment at that Institution, the putrefied body had been disposed of beyond any hope of redemption, and the fish had been mounted by the local taxidermist.

Since the fish was unquestionably alive when caught, there is at least a possibility that this ecological tragedy may be ameliorated by the capture of another specimen. This is not so remote as might appear. After careful inspection of the

Miss Latimer and the taxidermist were drawn to observe details of the carcass very closely, so that exhaustive independent questioning has left me with at least some definite information about the missing parts. Fortunately also, the terminal caudal portion of the vertebral column and part of the pectoral girdle remain. The skull is of course intact.

The specimen is 1,500 mm. in total length, and weighed 127 lb. when caught. The colour was a bright metallic blue, which has faded to brown with preservation.

In major characters this remarkable specimen shows close relationship with the Mesozoic genus *Macropoma* Agassiz, of the family Coelacanthidae, order Actinistia. The gephyrocercal tail with protruding axial supplement, the normal first dorsal, the obtuse lobation of the remaining fins, the ganoin tubercle ornamentation on the scales and on some of the dermal bones of the head, the

REPRINT FROM THE

Granatstown,
South Africa.

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA.

VOL. XXVIII.

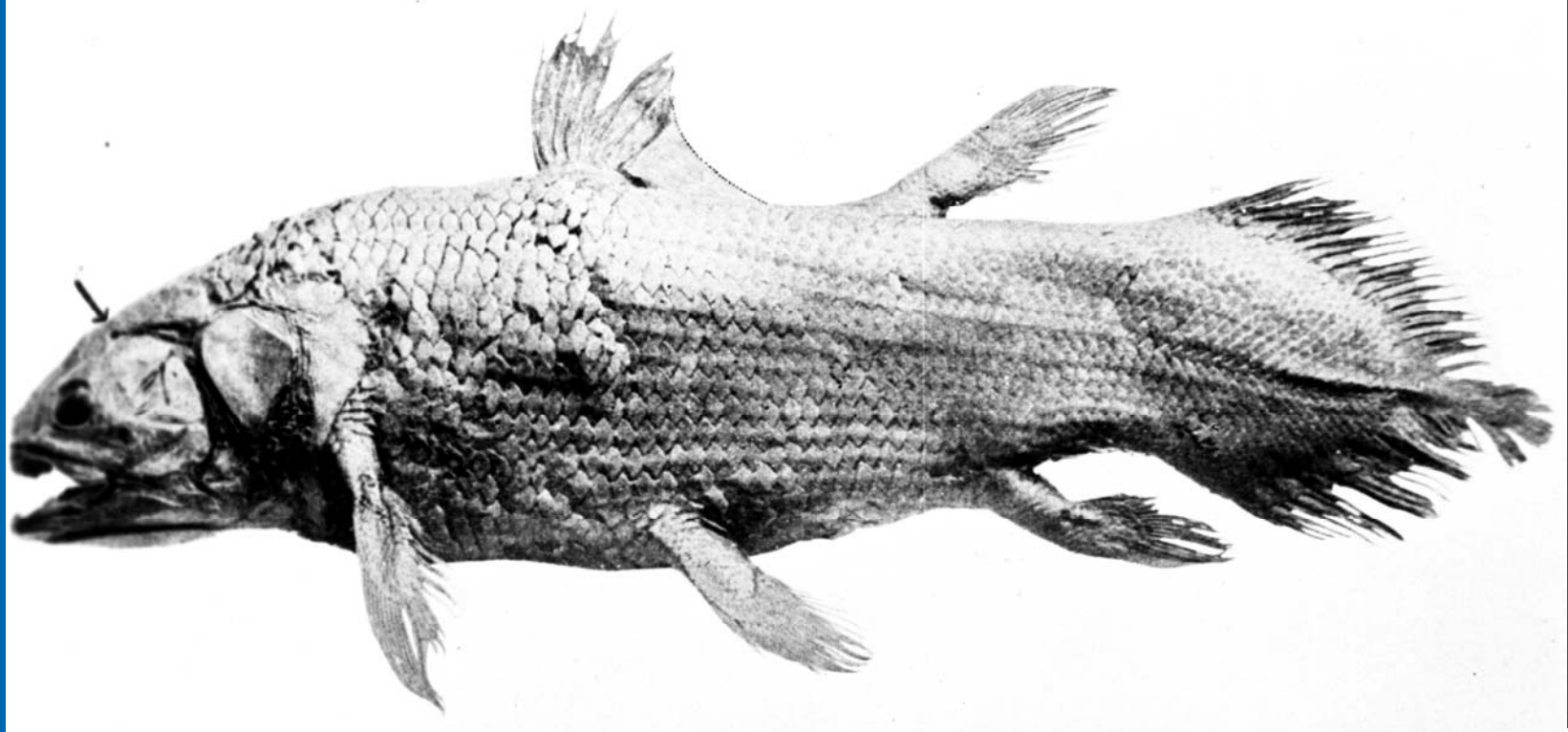
PART I.

A Living Coelacanthid Fish from South Africa.

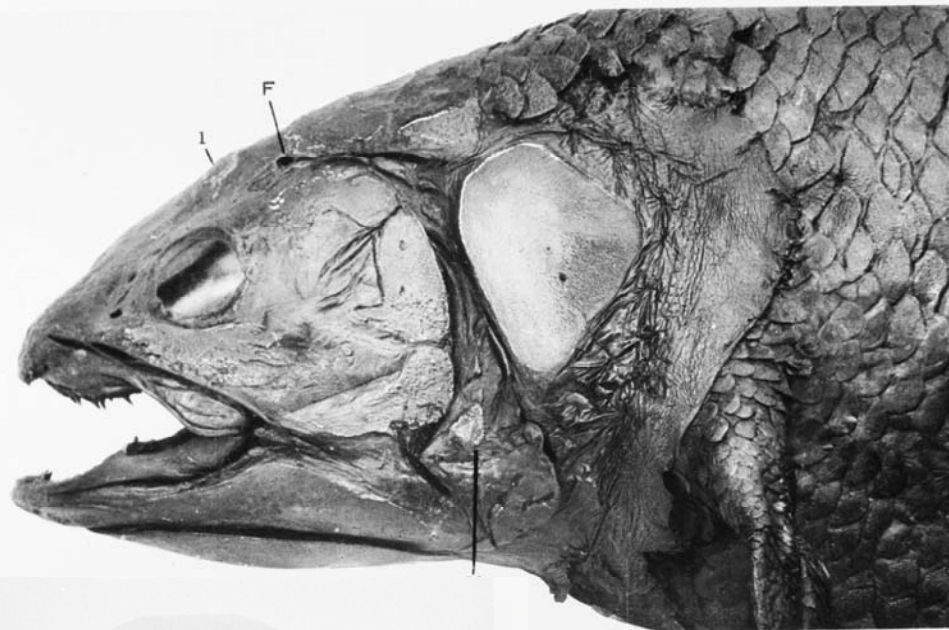
By J. L. B. Smith.

CAPE TOWN.
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

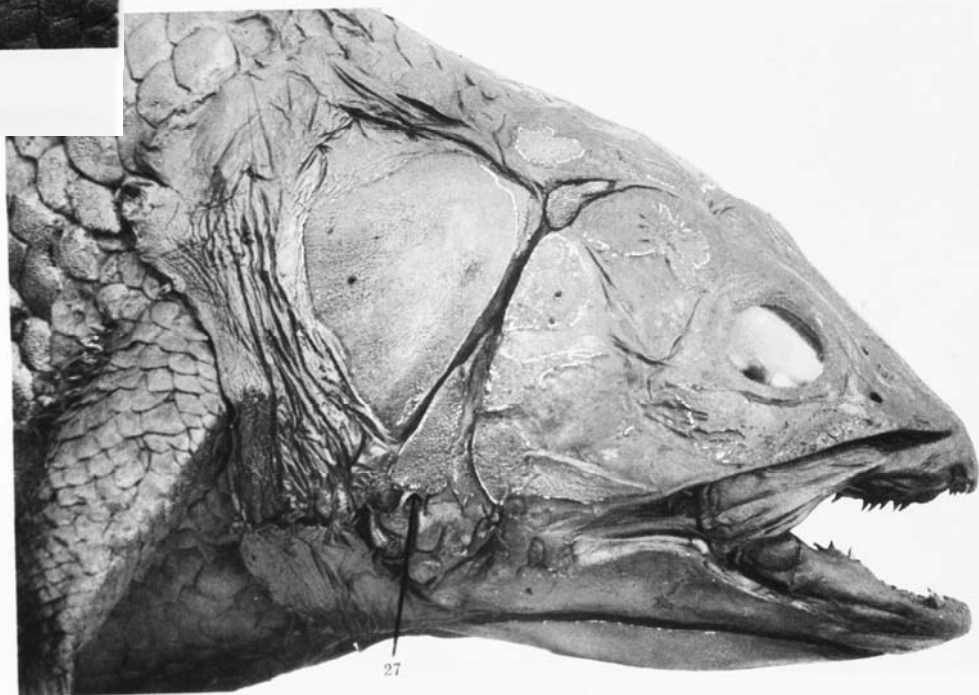
—
1939.



Latimeria chalumnae Smith. $\times 0.125$.
The small arrow shows the position of the spiracle.



Smith.
lanation see Folder-page I at end.



Latimeria chalumnae Smith. Head, right side. $\times 0.45$. For explanation see Folder-page I at end.





*D. Miley (ad autorem)
2.2.1954*

THE SECOND CŒLACANTH

By PROF. J. L. B. SMITH

South African Council for Scientific and Industrial
Research, Fellow in Ichthyology, Rhodes University,
Grahamstown

IT is my great privilege to announce the discovery of a second Cœlacanth. There are few biologists who do not remember the amazement engendered by the appearance of *Latimeria* Smith, 1939, as well as the acute disappointment in learning that all the soft parts of the fish had been lost.

For these various reasons it became a self-appointed task to endeavour to find a complete specimen, and for almost fourteen years I have constantly pursued that aim. There was overwhelming evidence that the fish was a stray, so that the first essential was to attempt to trace the habitat.

The only overseas scientist to venture an opinion on this matter was E. White, of the British Museum, whose statement that it was "almost certainly" from "the deeper parts of the sea, to which its kind have retreated in the face of fierce competition with the more active modern types of fish", scarcely took into account that numbers of successful modern fishes, some quite numerous, appear less well equipped for survival than the Cœlacanth, and a fish from the depths so well armoured would from our present knowledge indeed be a phenomenon.

From my study of fishes the Cœlacanth appeared to be a denizen of moderately deep water, living in and about rocks, presumably in an area not easily fished or commonly fished with efficiency.

My studies led me to regard the Mozambique channel about Madagascar as the most likely area, and plans for an expedition to search for more were well advanced, but fell through. I then decided on another method, and a leaflet, in English, French and Portuguese, was prepared, giving a brief account, and a photograph of the Cœlacanth, as well as offering a reward of £100 for each of the first two specimens caught.

By co-operation of the respective authorities, thousands of these leaflets were distributed throughout the coastal regions of the Western Indian Ocean, in such fashion that they reached and were explained to the native fisherfolk in even the most remote parts. During the past six years my wife and I have carried out expeditions along a considerable part of the East African coast, covering many otherwise



The £100 Fish!

This large female Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar*, was caught in the River Ure, Yorkshire, in 1891. It was the largest salmon ever caught in the river and was sold for £100. The fish was caught on 10th September 1891, and was the largest salmon ever caught in the river. It was sold for £100, which was a record at the time. The fish was caught by a local fisherman, and was sold to a local dealer. The fish was then sold to a local dealer, and was then sold to a local dealer. The fish was then sold to a local dealer, and was then sold to a local dealer.

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Old Fourlegs

THE STORY OF
THE COELACANTH

BY

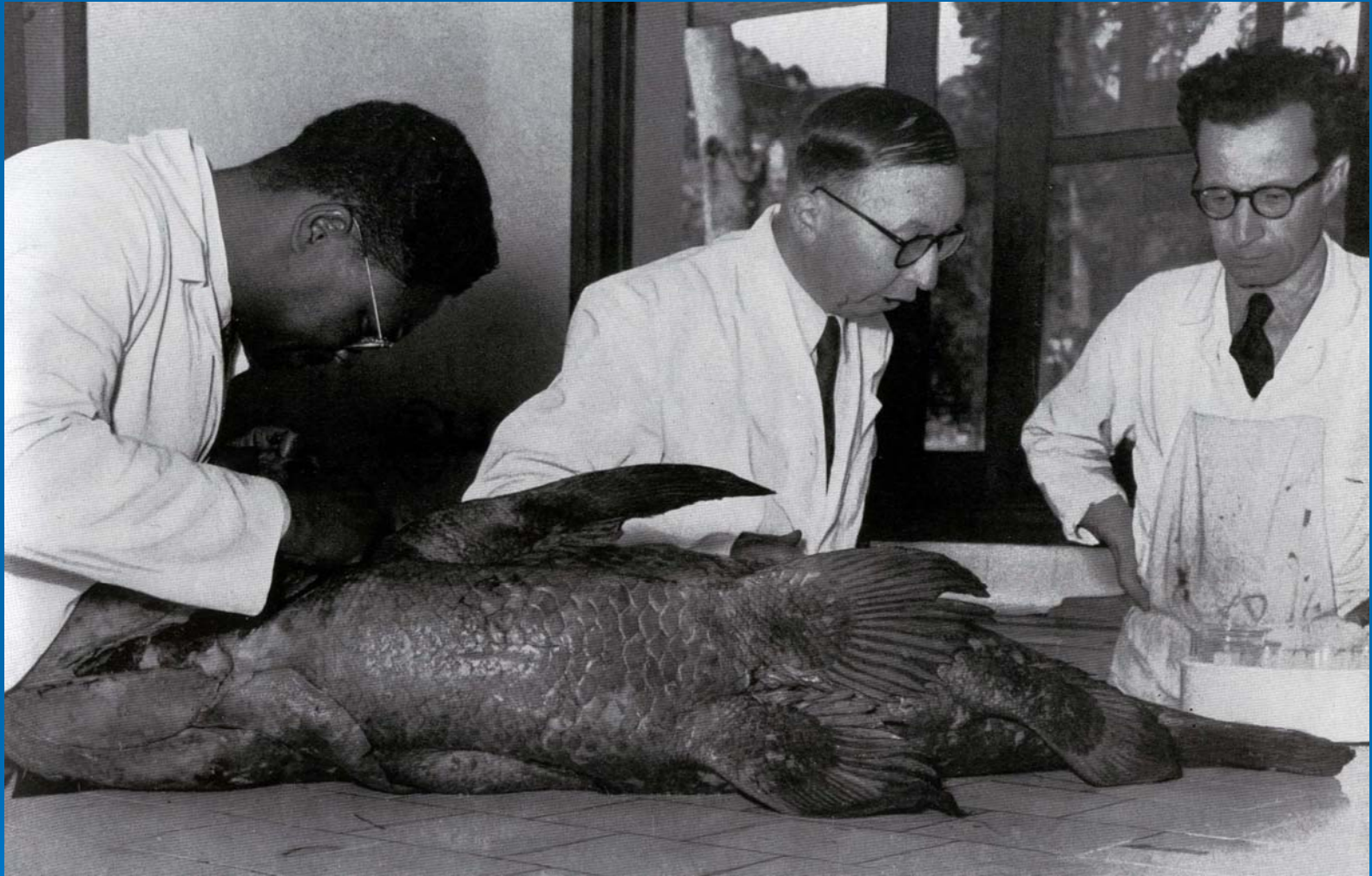
J. L. B. SMITH

Compliments




LONDON 1957
READERS UNION
LONGMANS, GREEN







*A Monsieur Karol Hensel,
en souvenir de son passage - trop bref - au Laboratoire
d'Anatomie Comparée du Muséum*

J. MILLOT ET J. ANTHONY

J. Anthony
fin

Anatomie de
LATIMERIA CHALUMNAE

TOME I

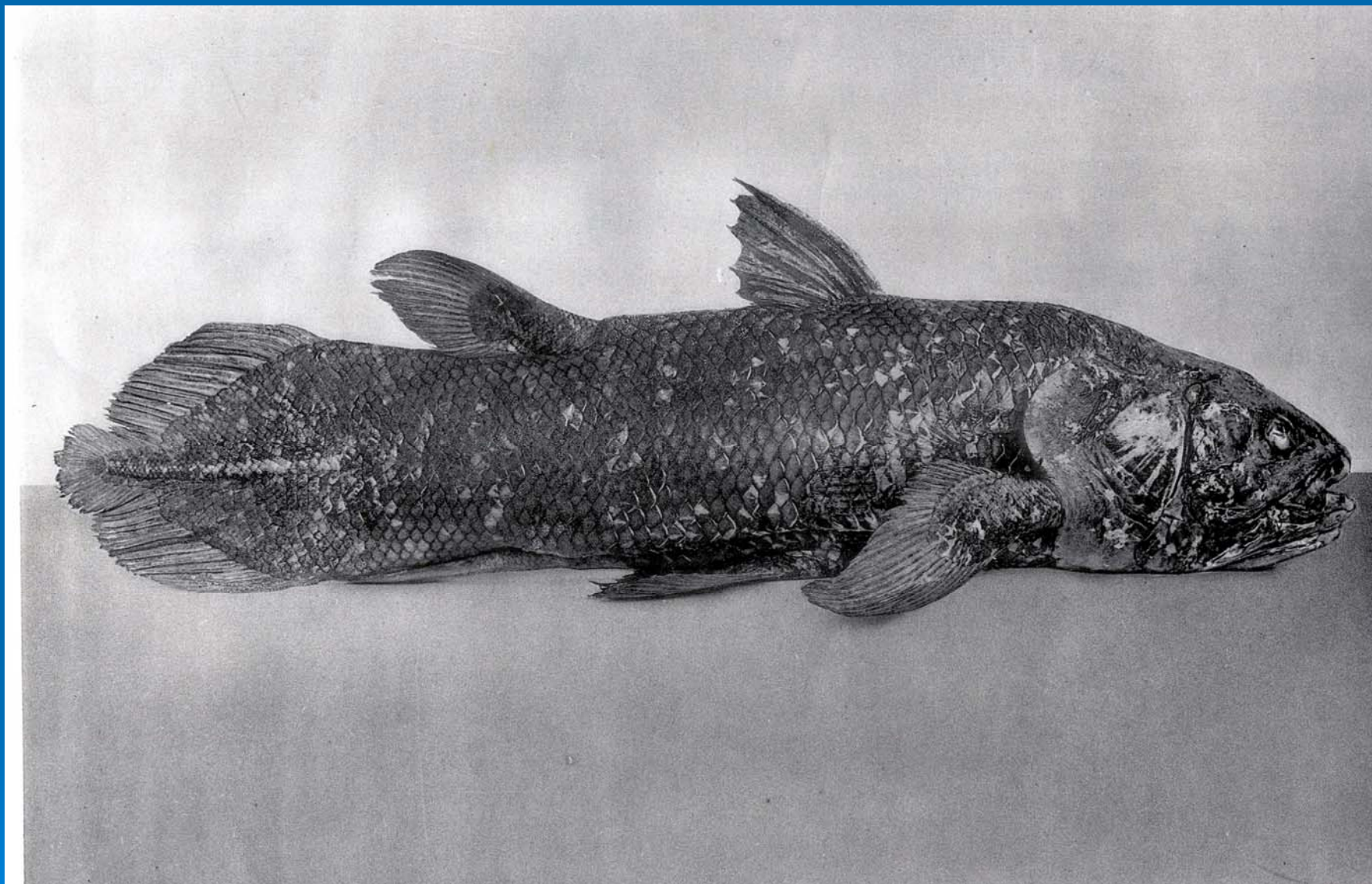
Squelette, Muscles et Formations de soutien

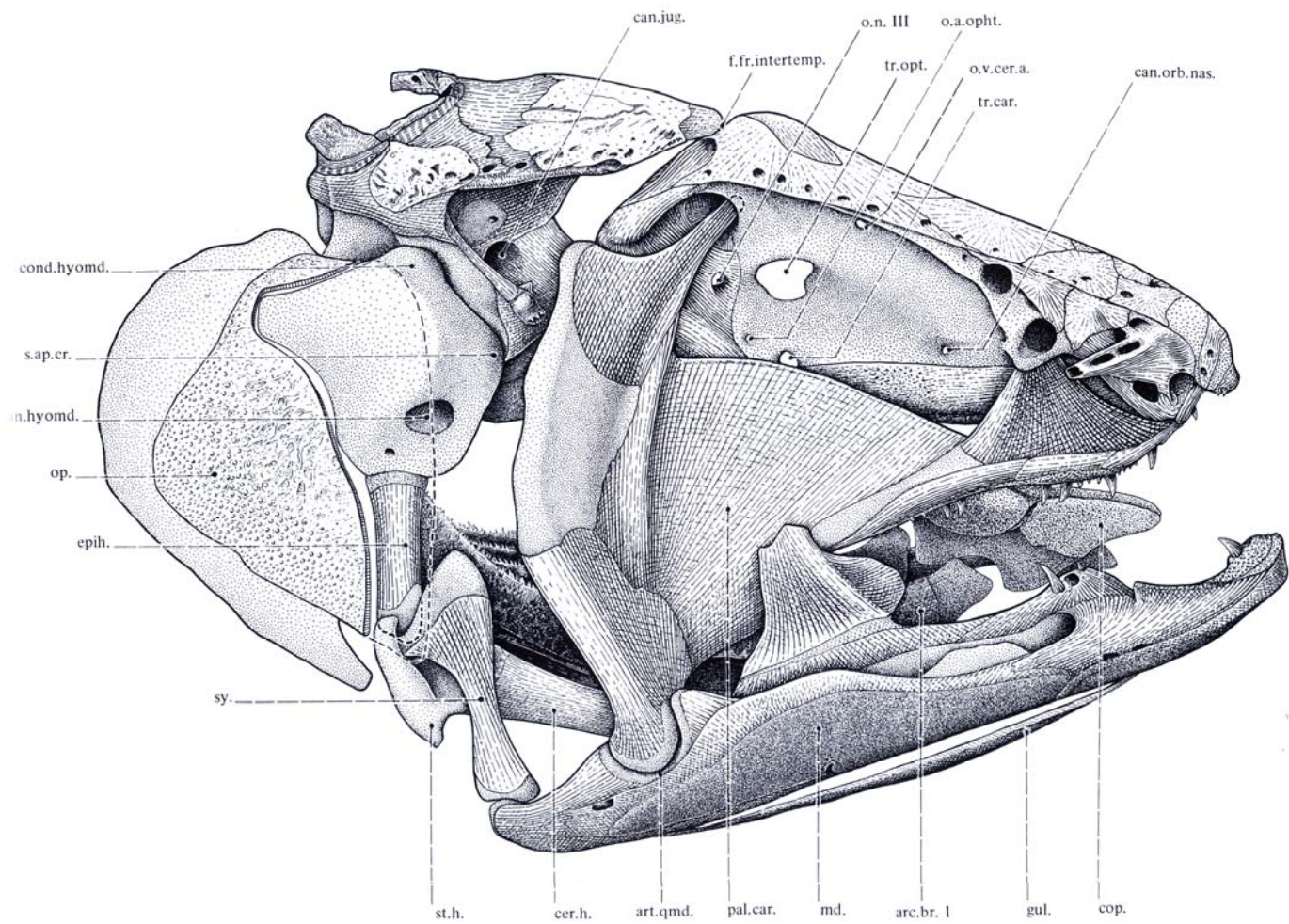
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Publié avec le concours
de l'INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE DE MADAGASCAR
TANANARIVE

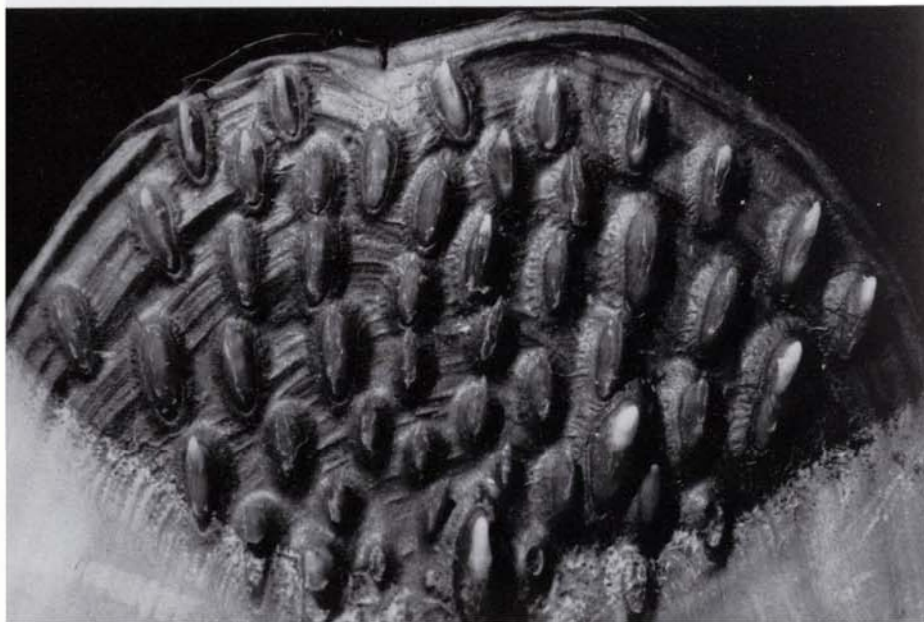
par les

ÉDITIONS DU CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE
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PARIS-VII*

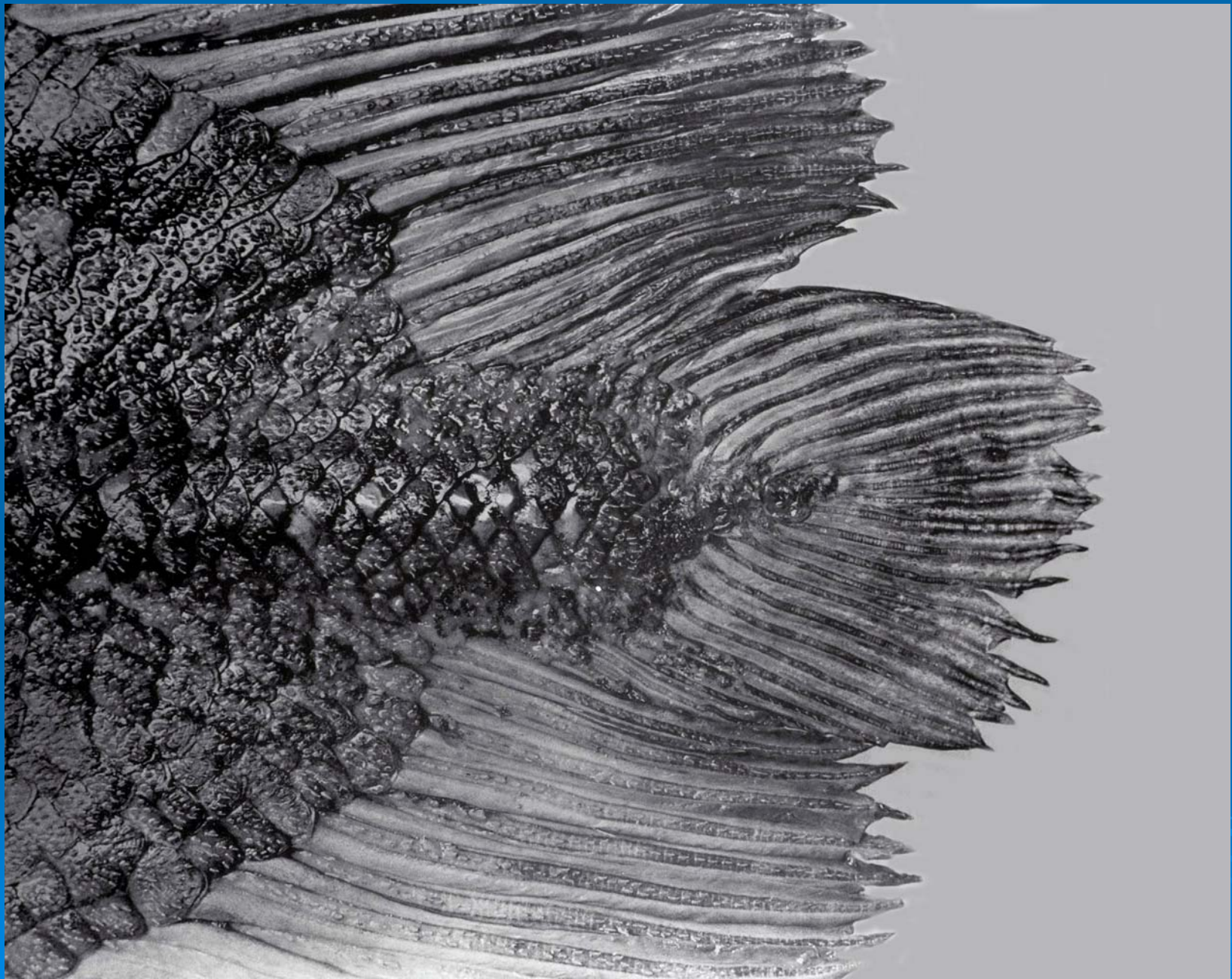


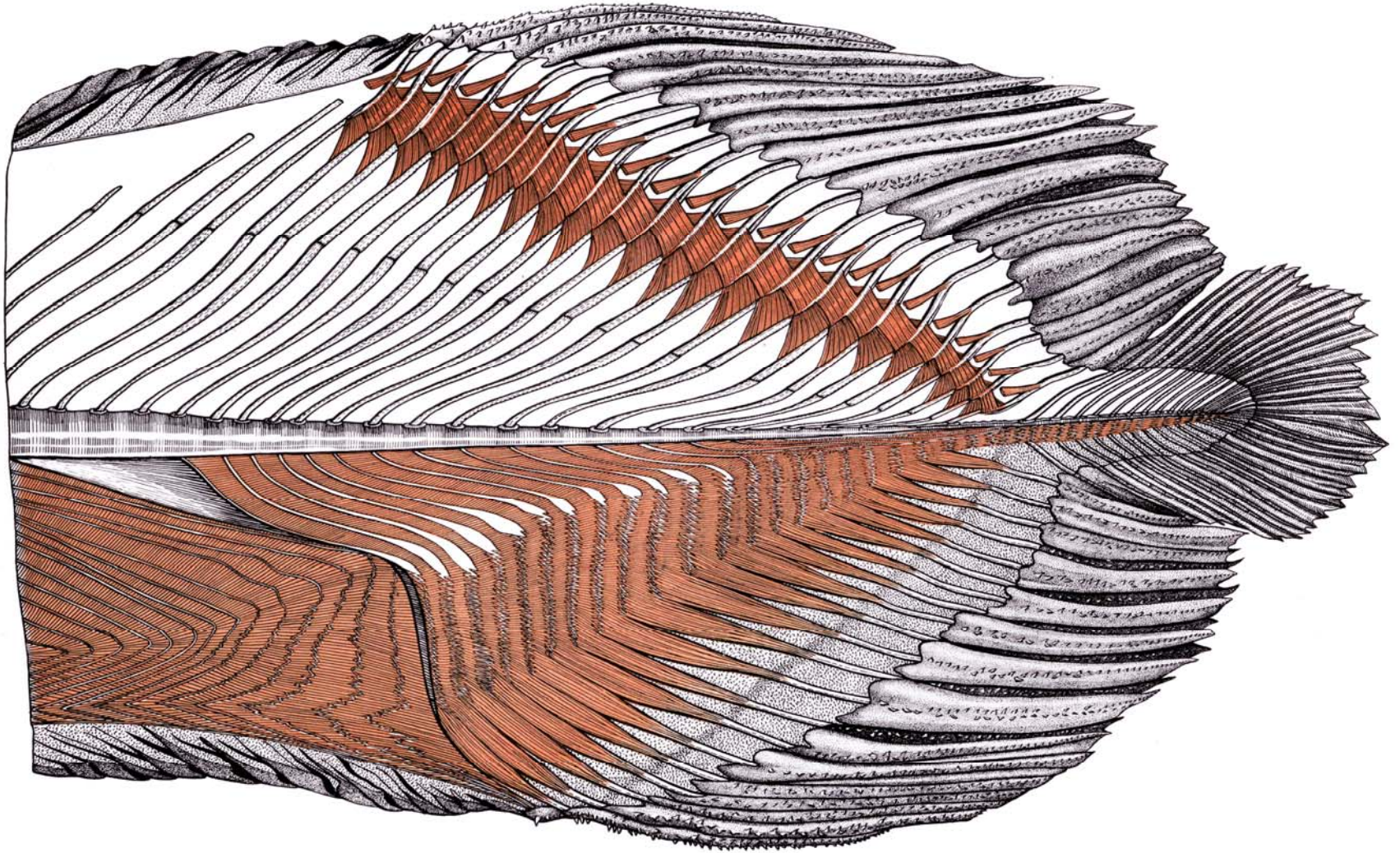


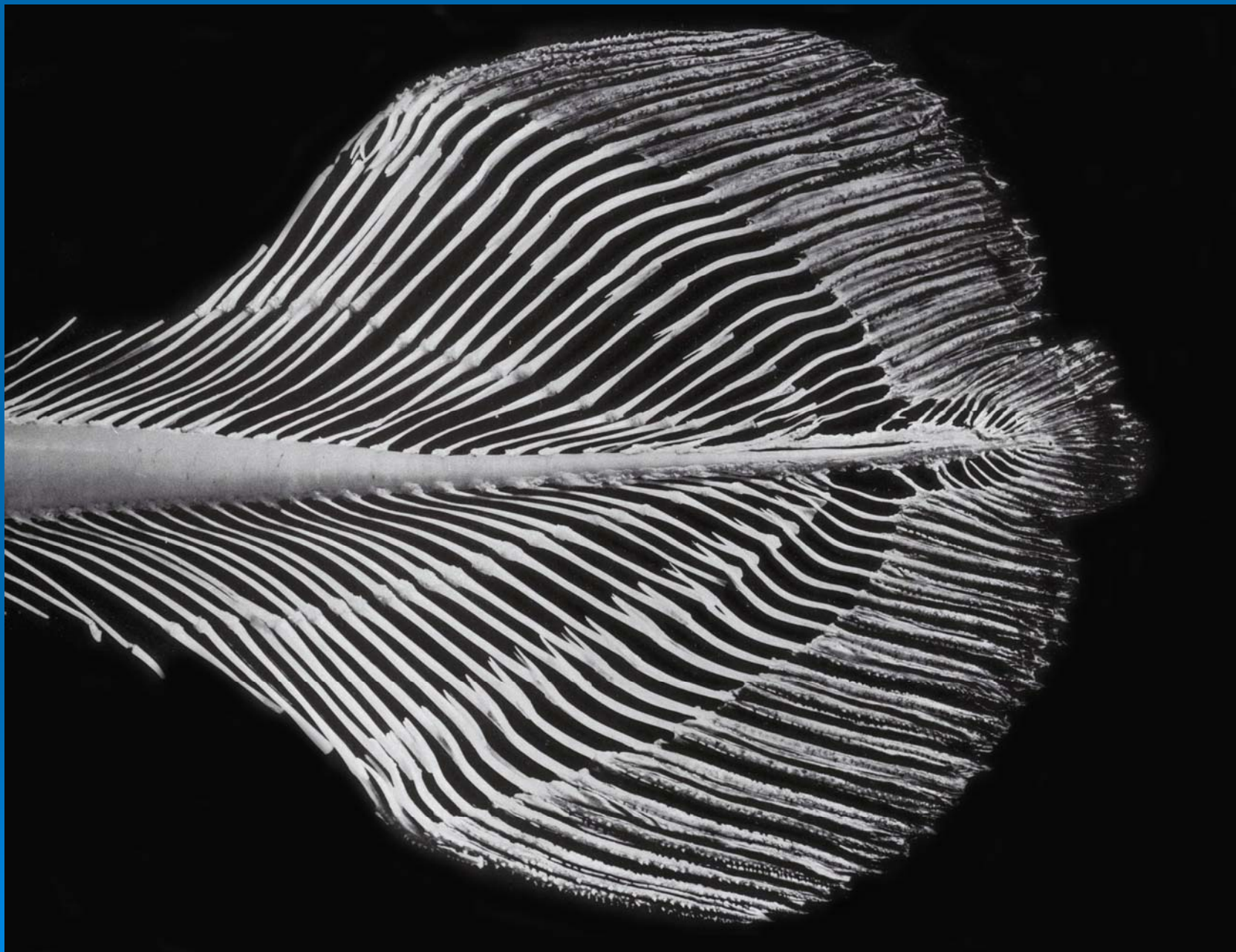


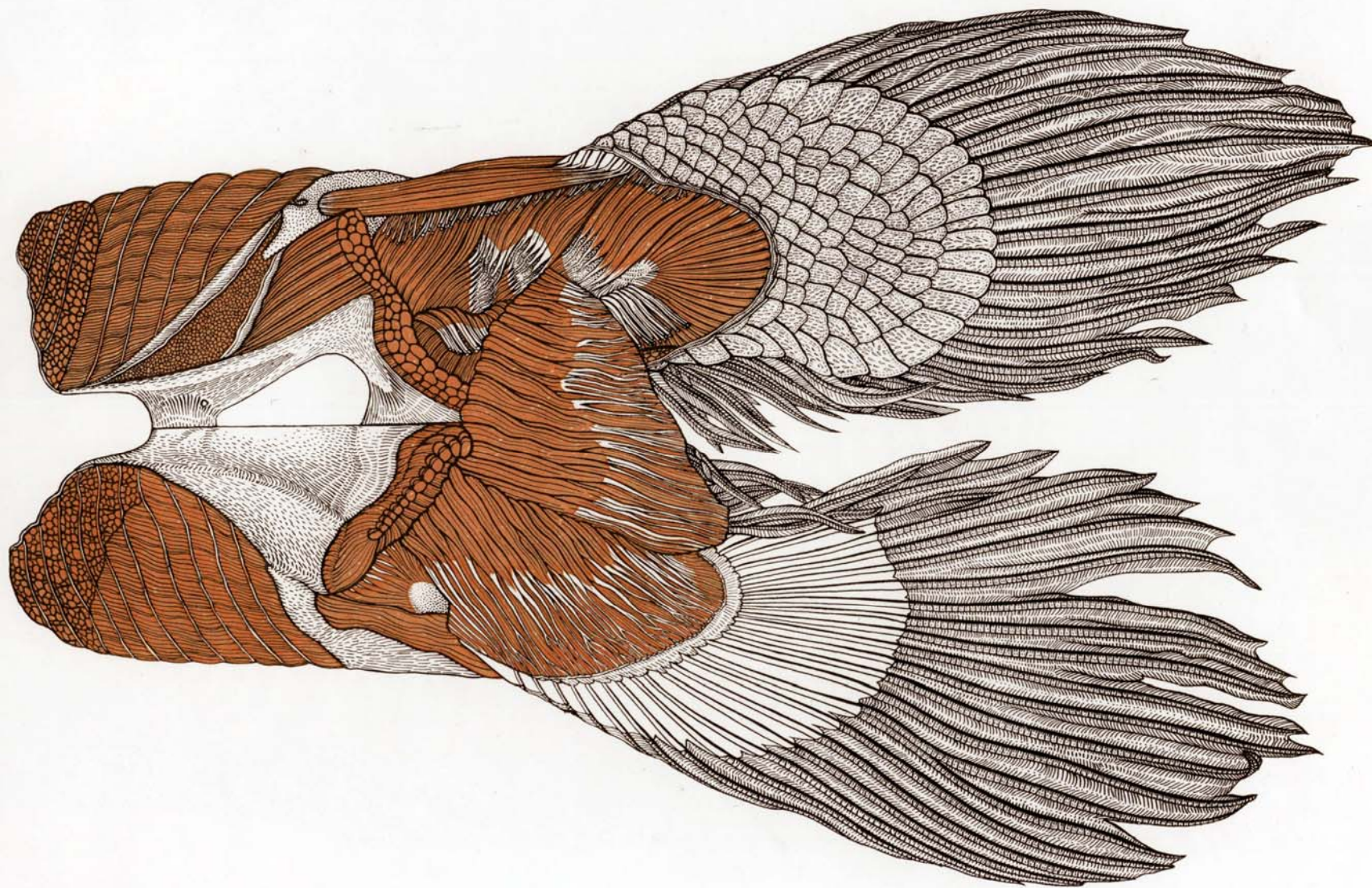


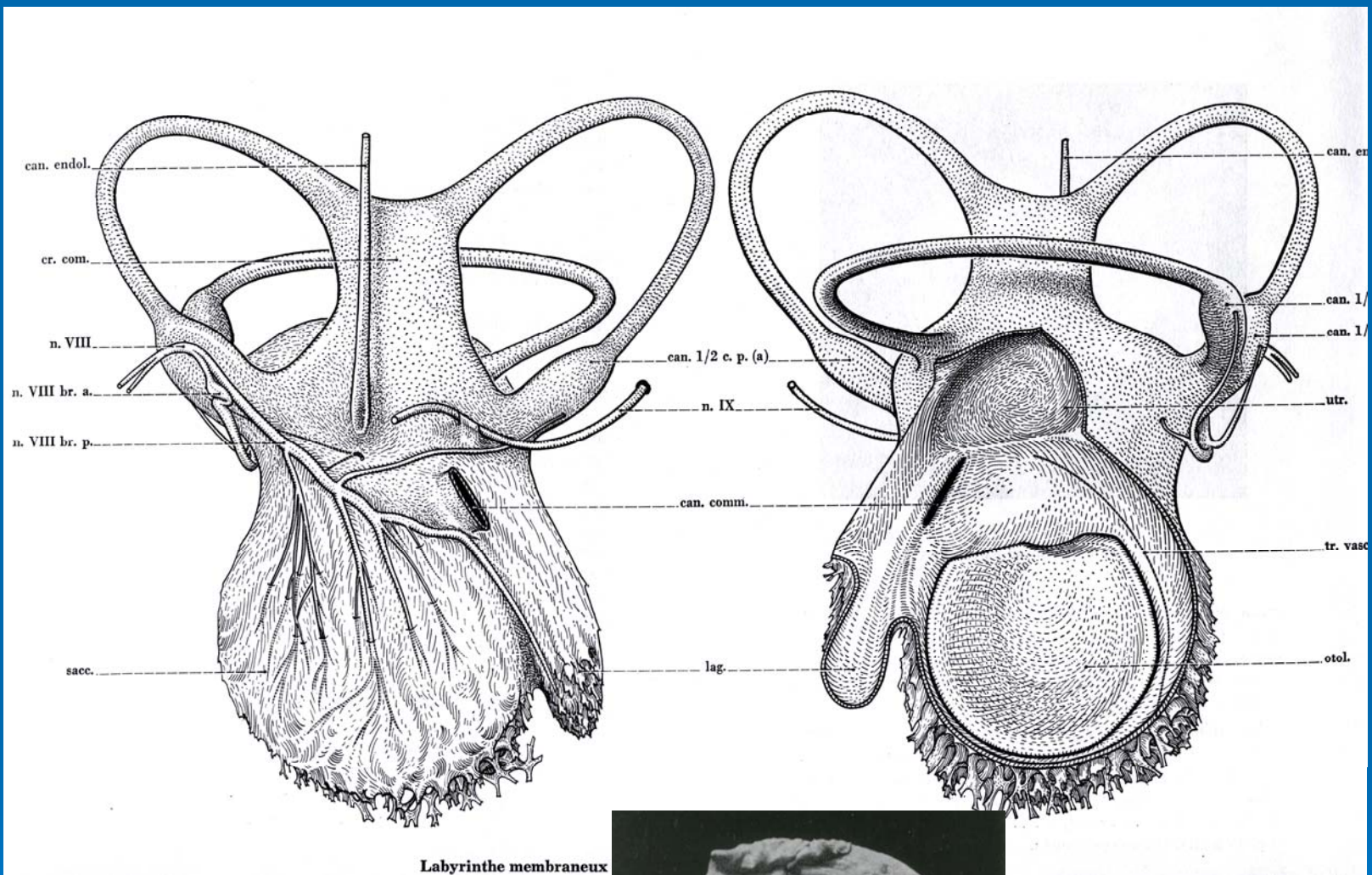




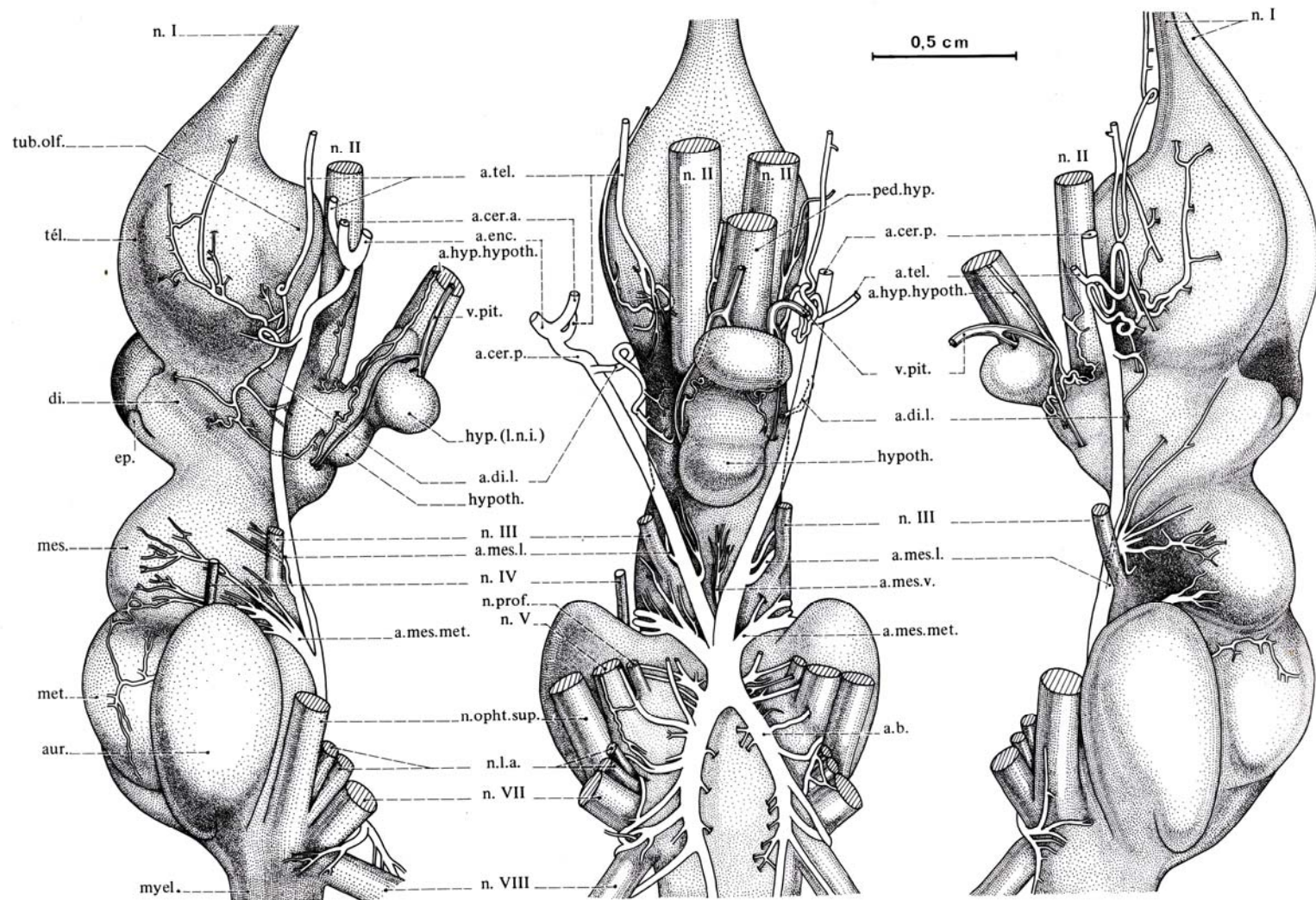


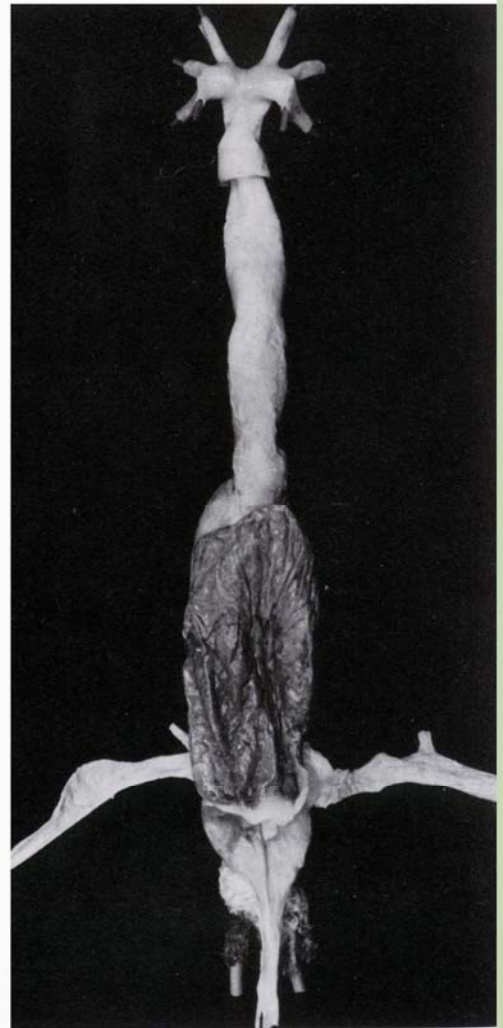
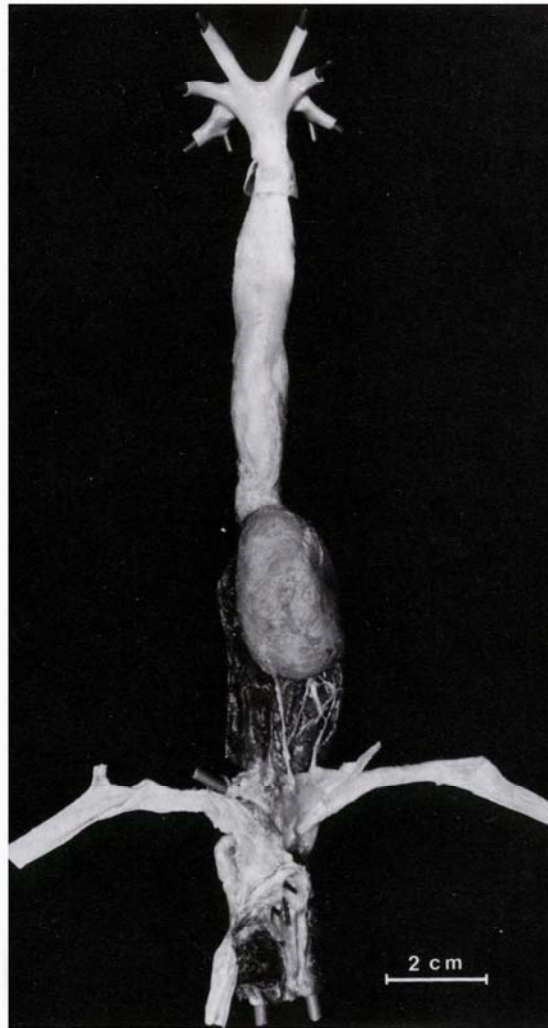
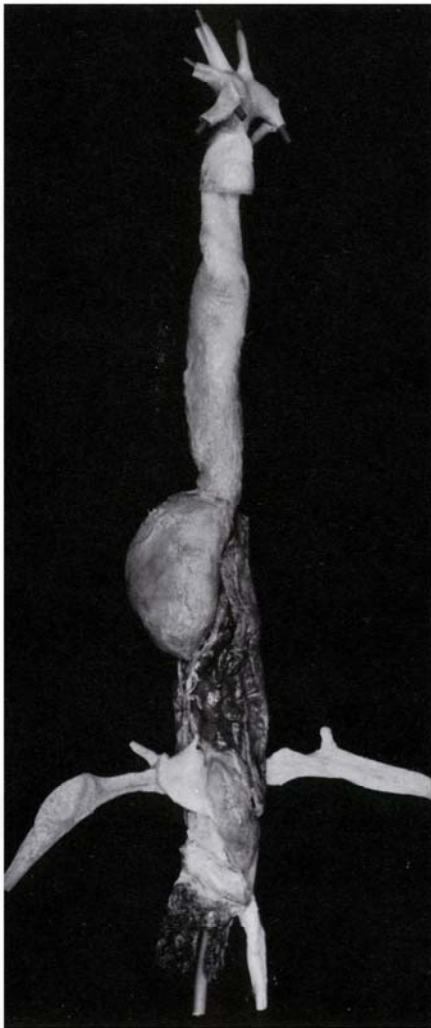


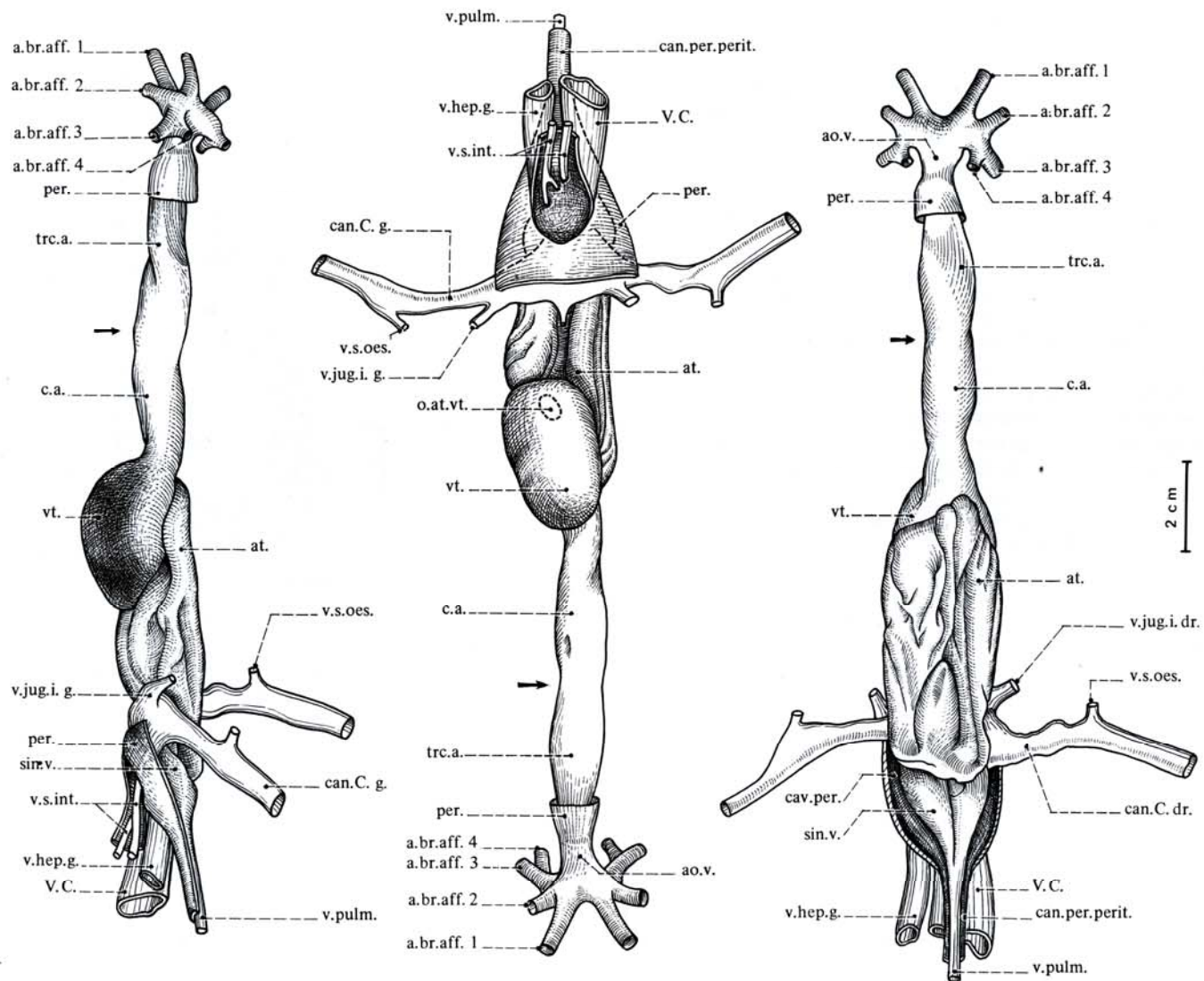




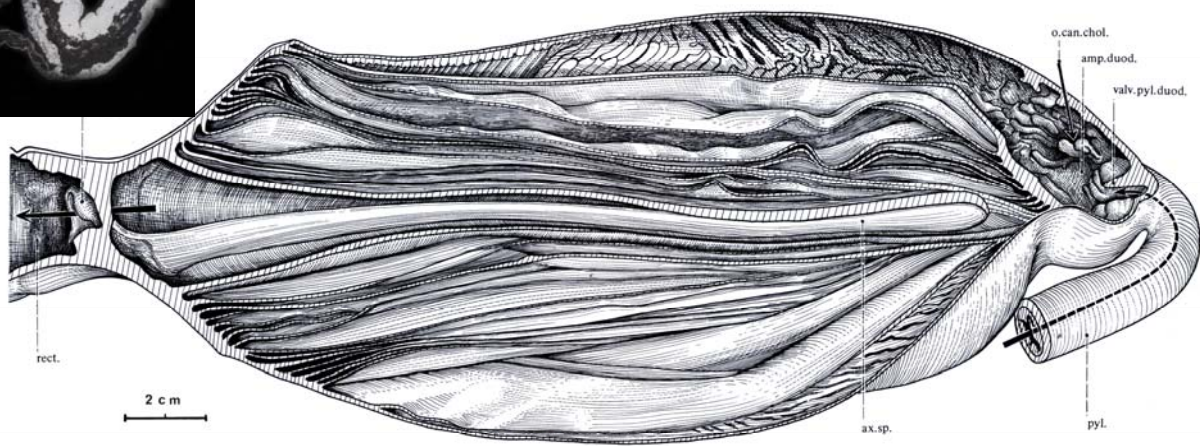


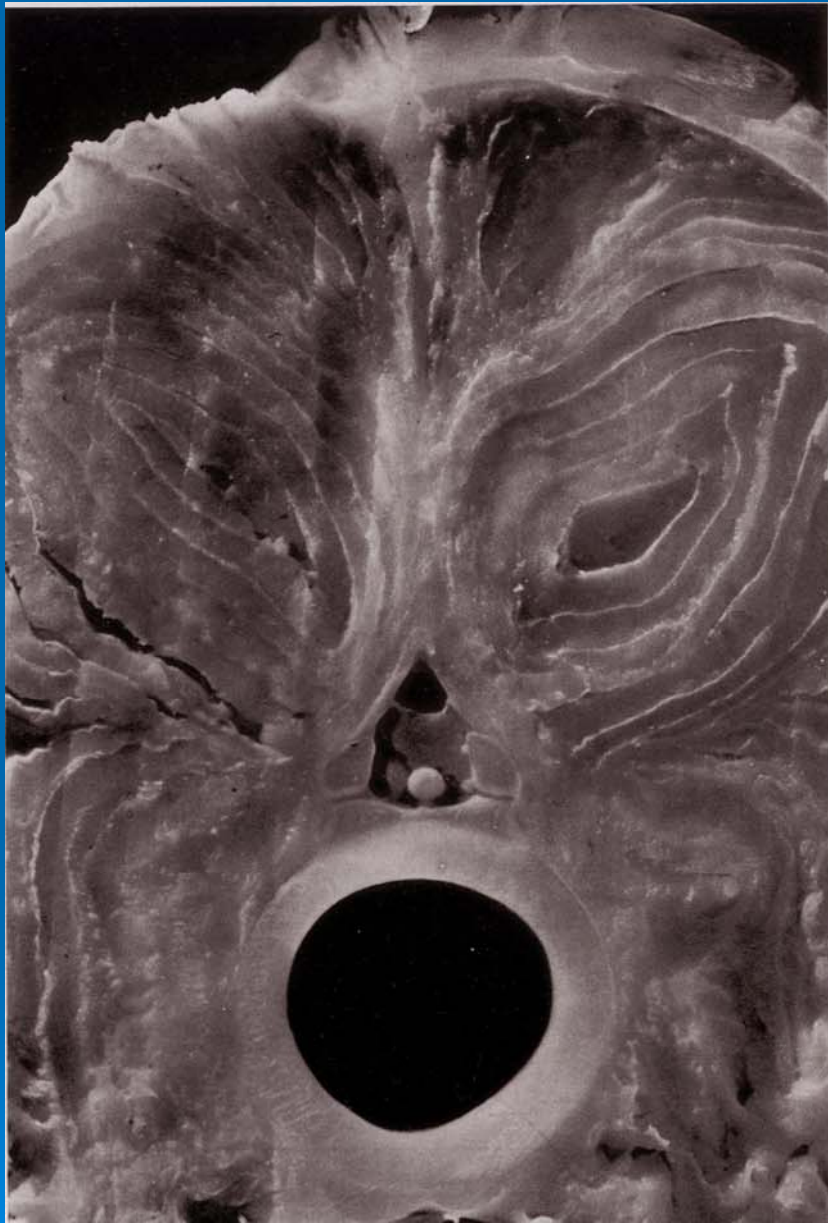


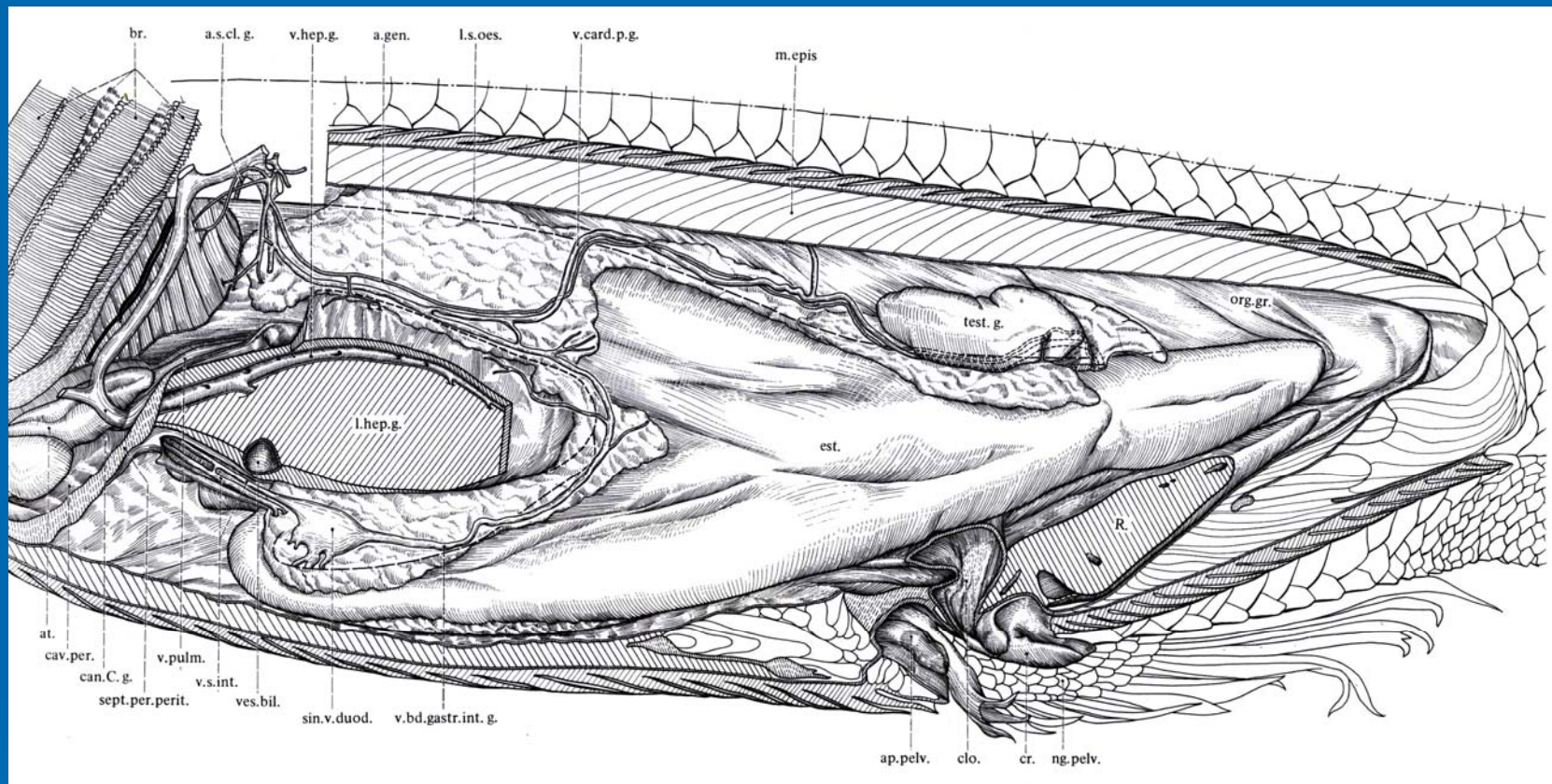


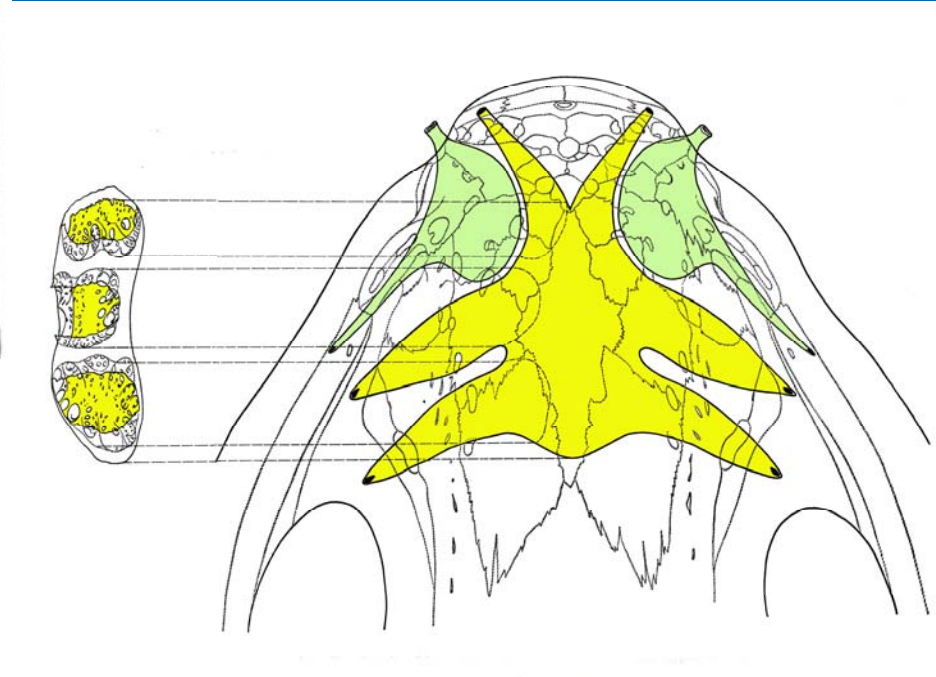
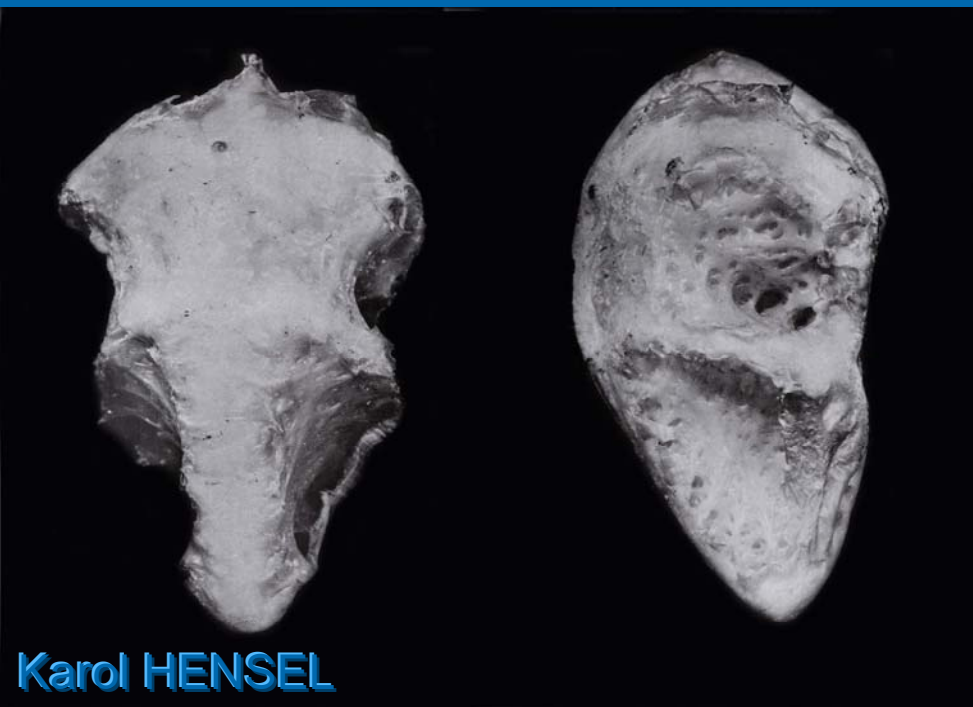
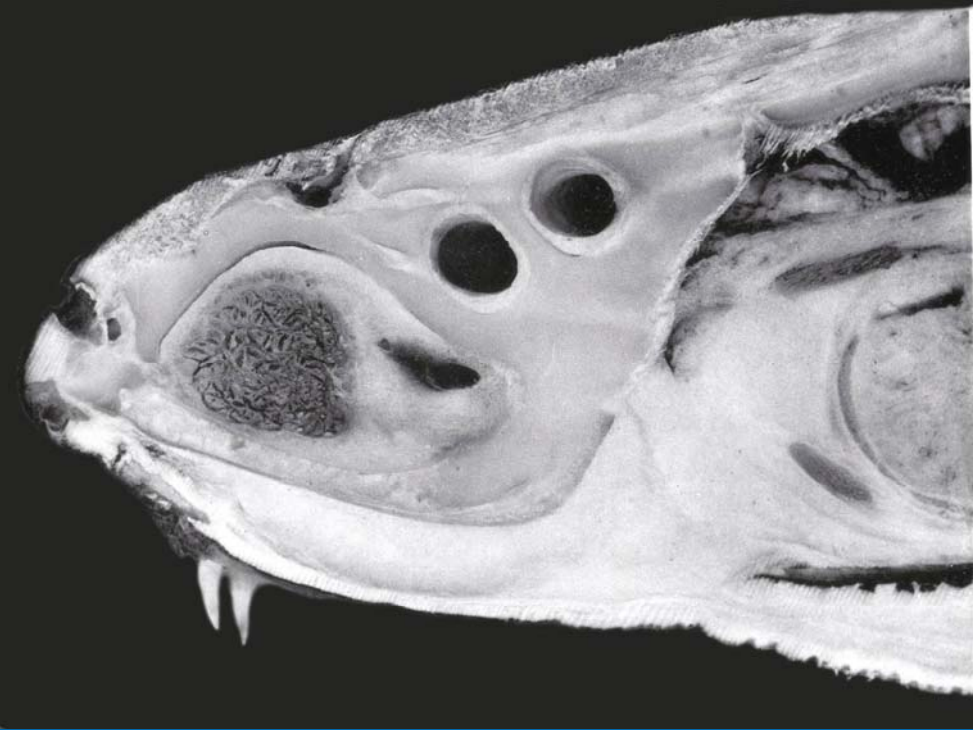














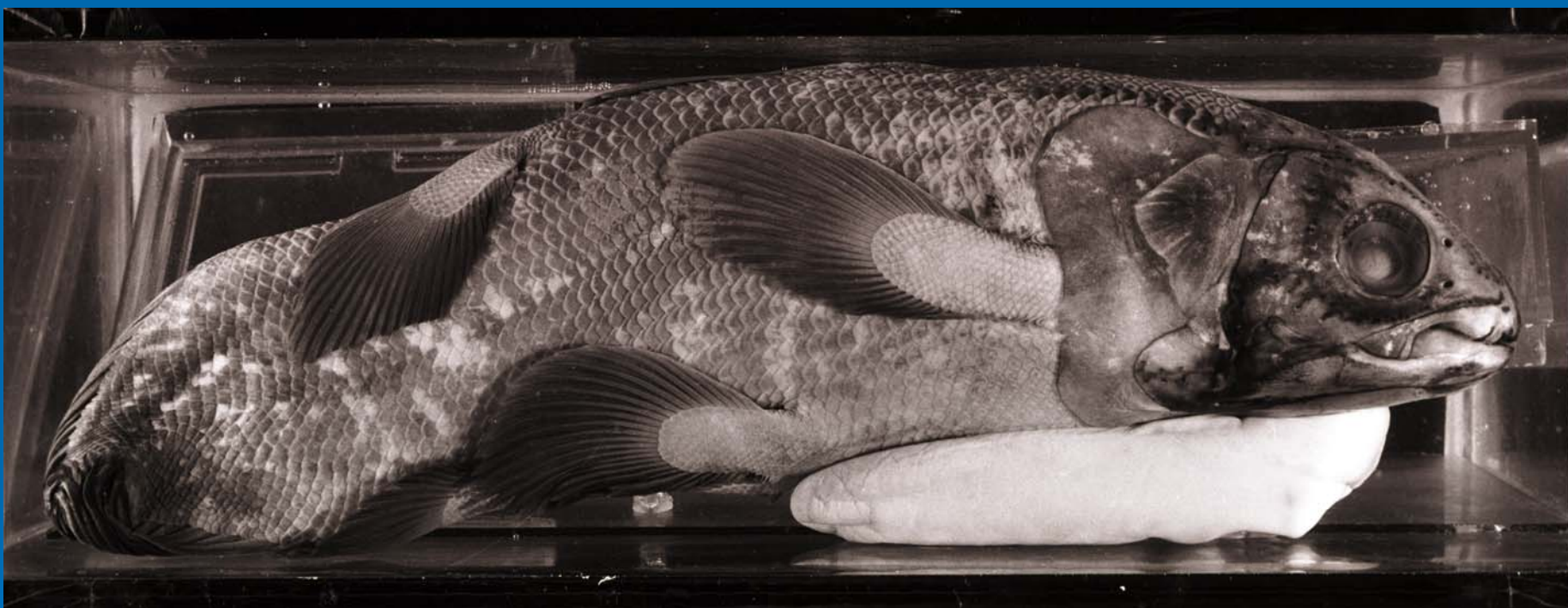




Karol HENSEL









Latimeria chalumnae no. 29/2











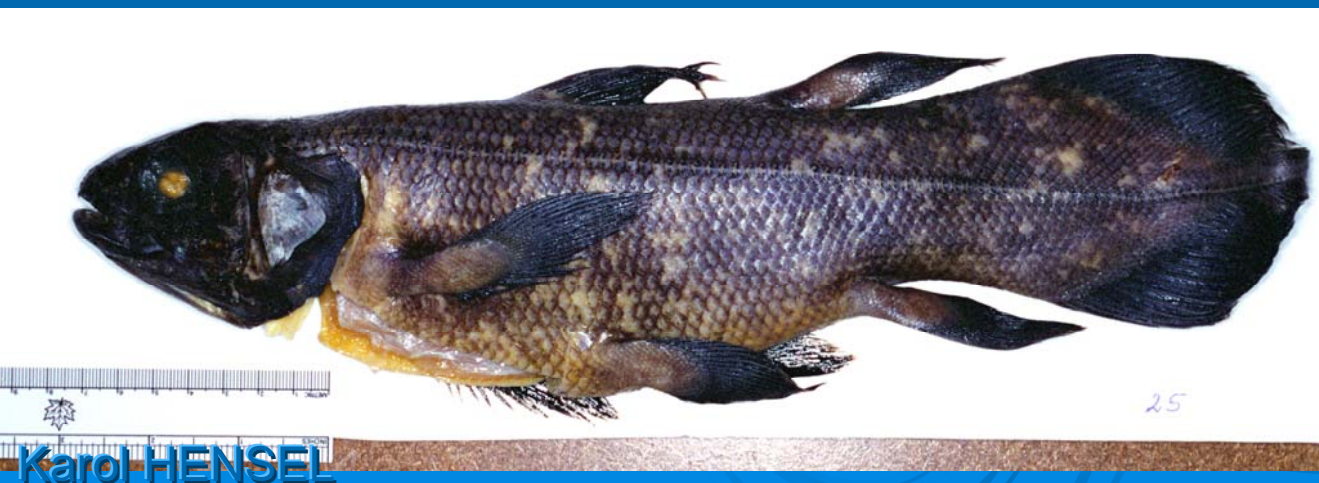


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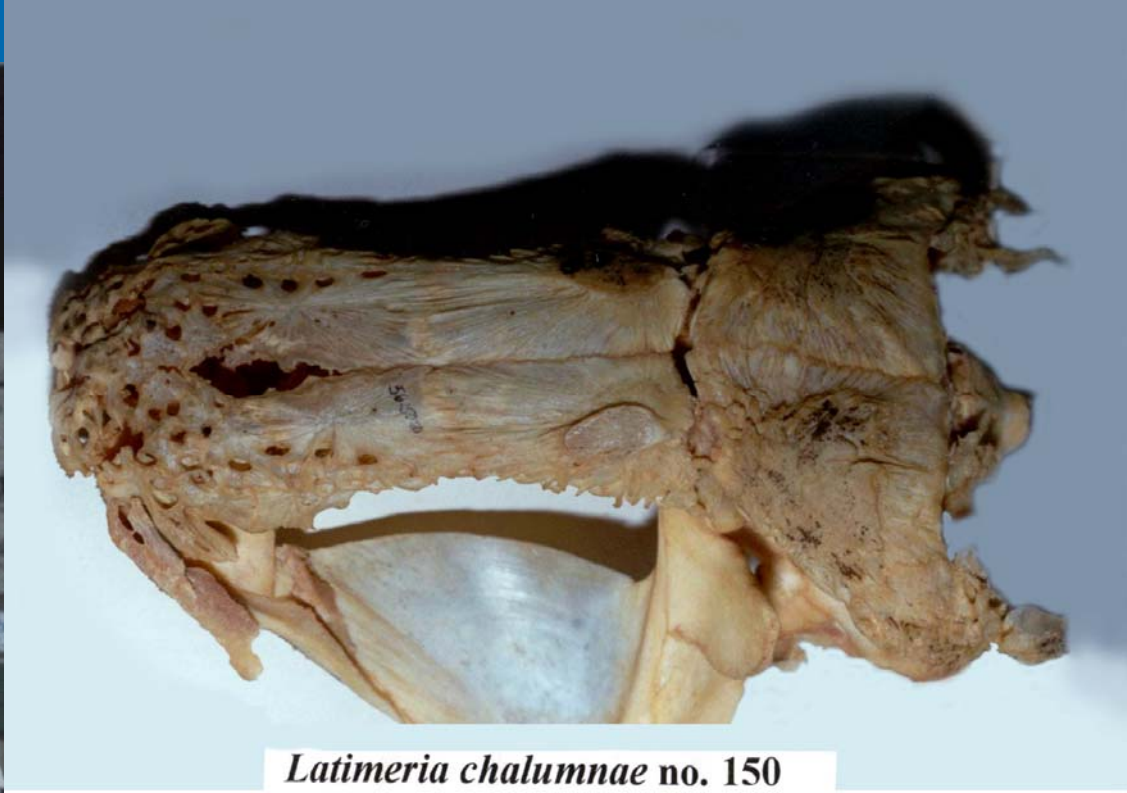
Karol HENSEL



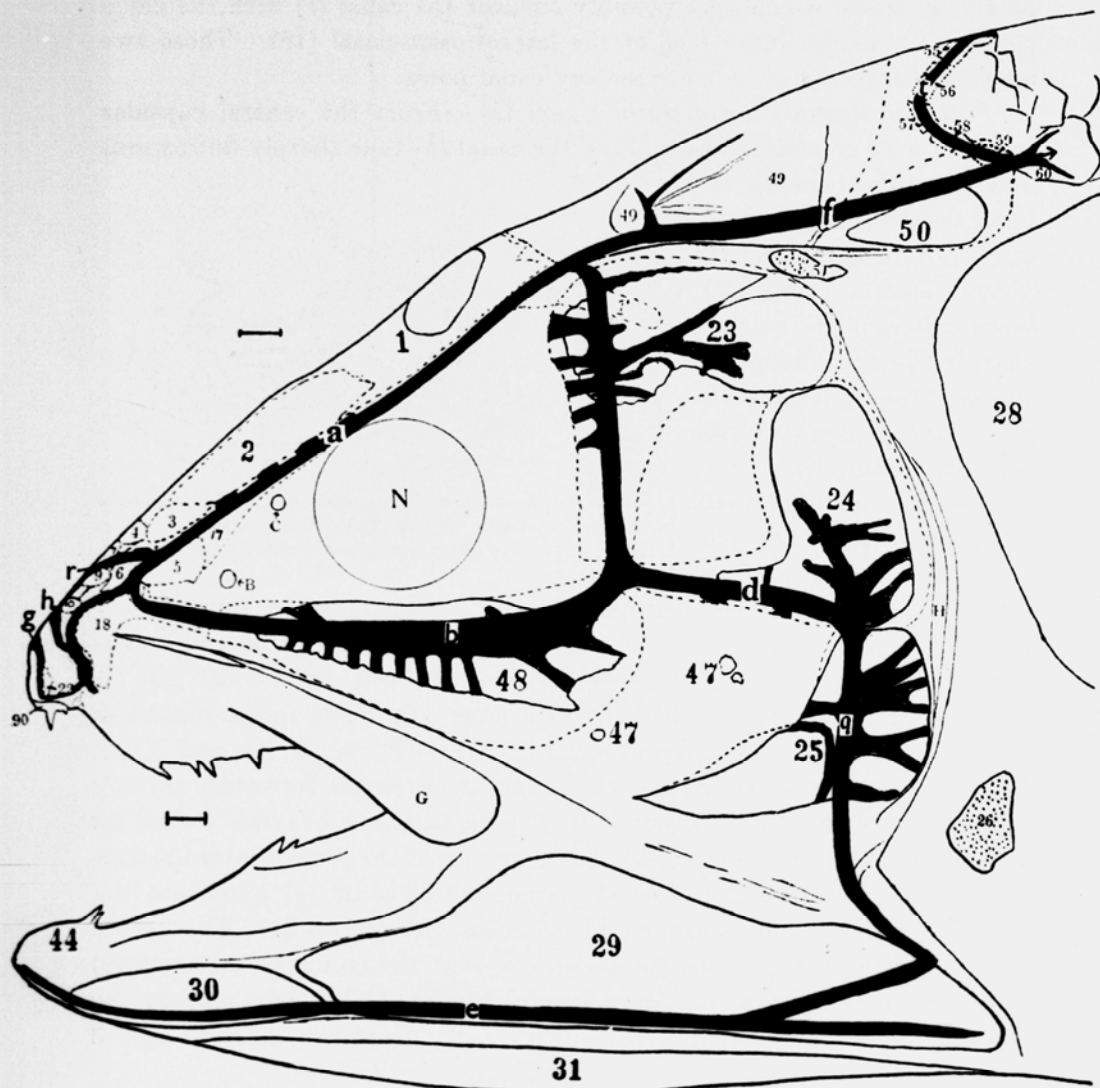








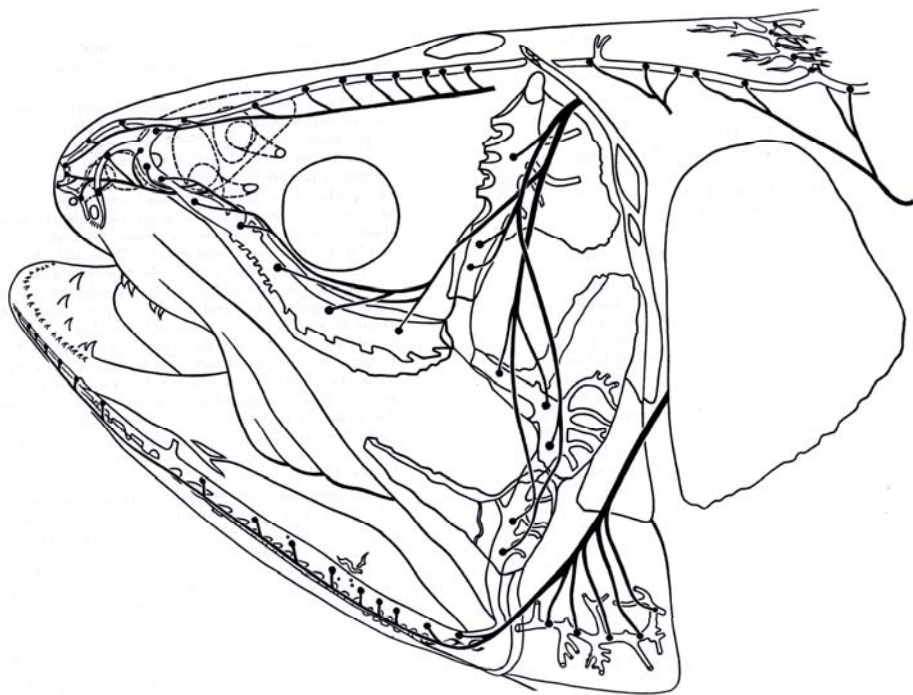
Latimeria chalumnae no. 150

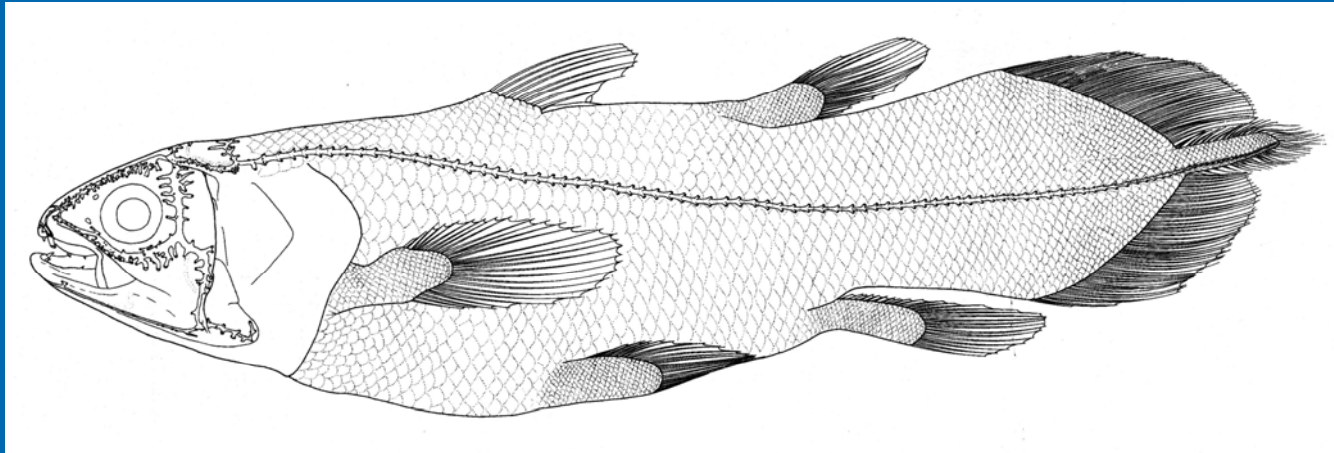


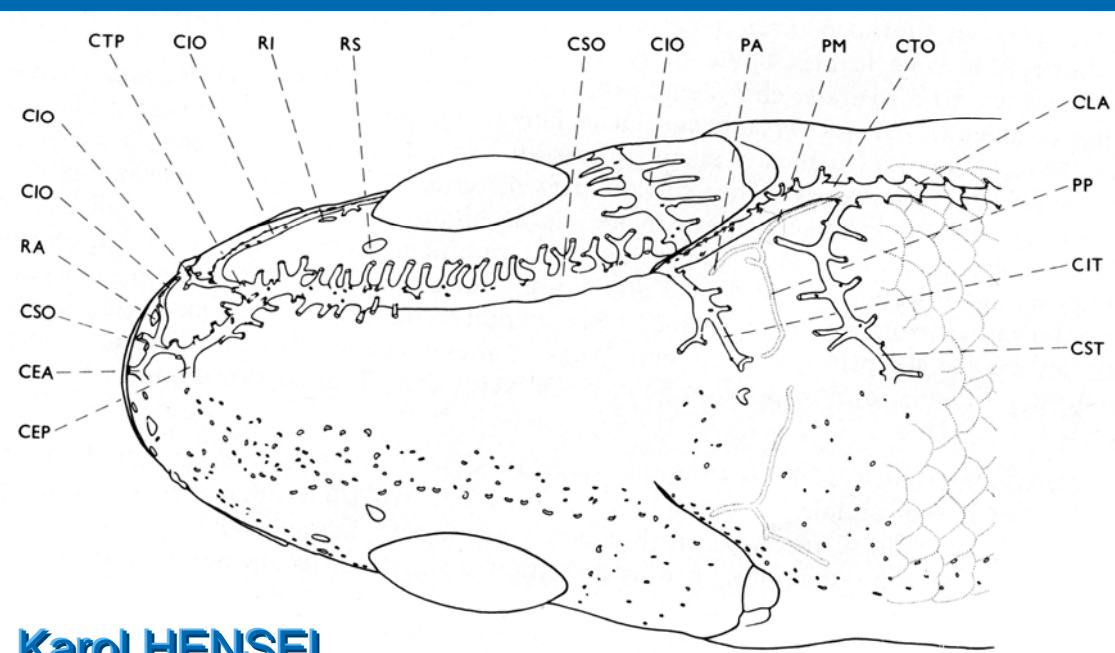
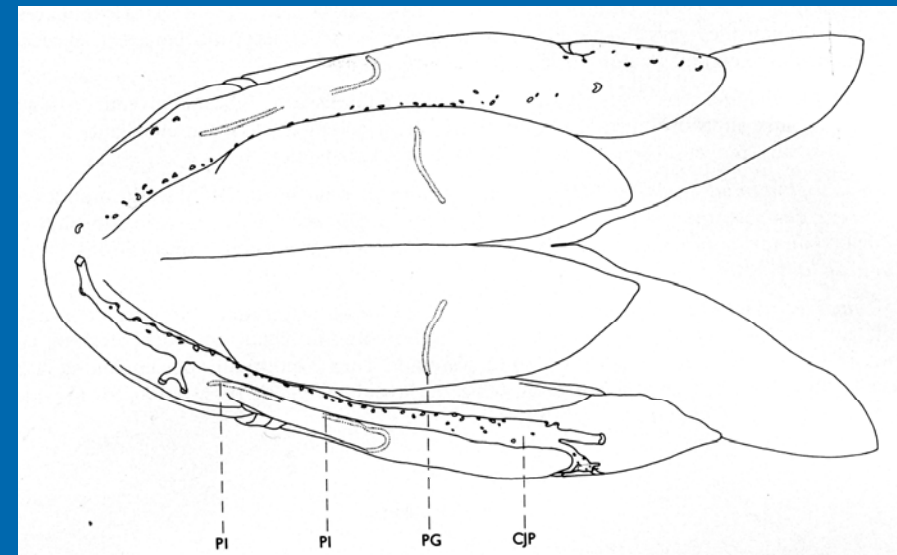
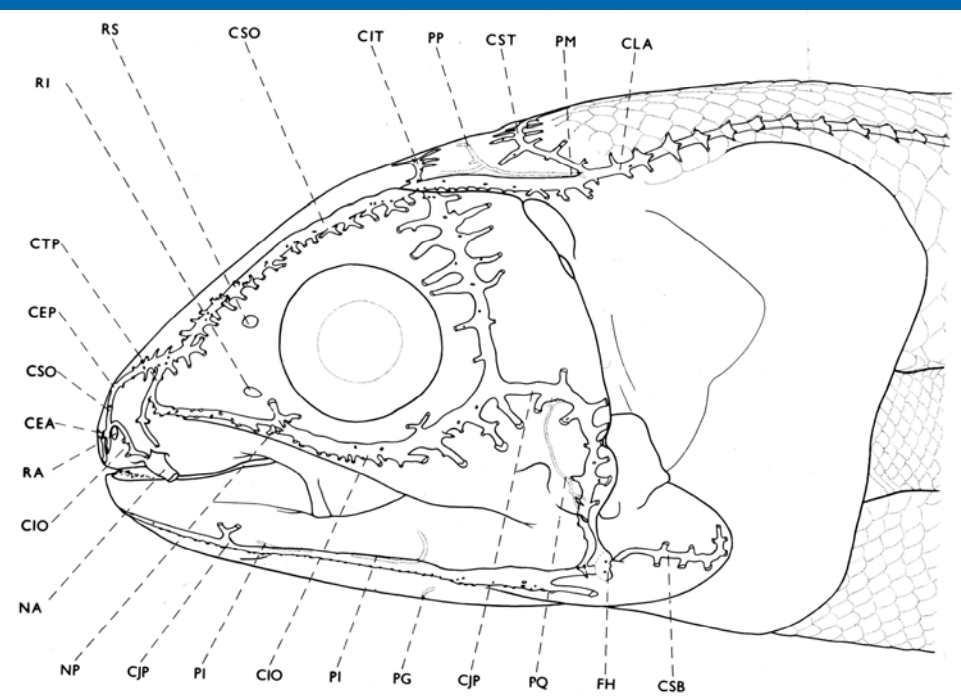
TEXT-FIG. 5.—*Latimeria chalumnae* Smith. Left side of head showing main sensory canals in black. Bone surface above the skin outlined by unbroken lines, that beneath the skin by broken lines. Canals within bones not accurately to scale for size. The line represents 1 cm. For explanation see Folder-page I at end.

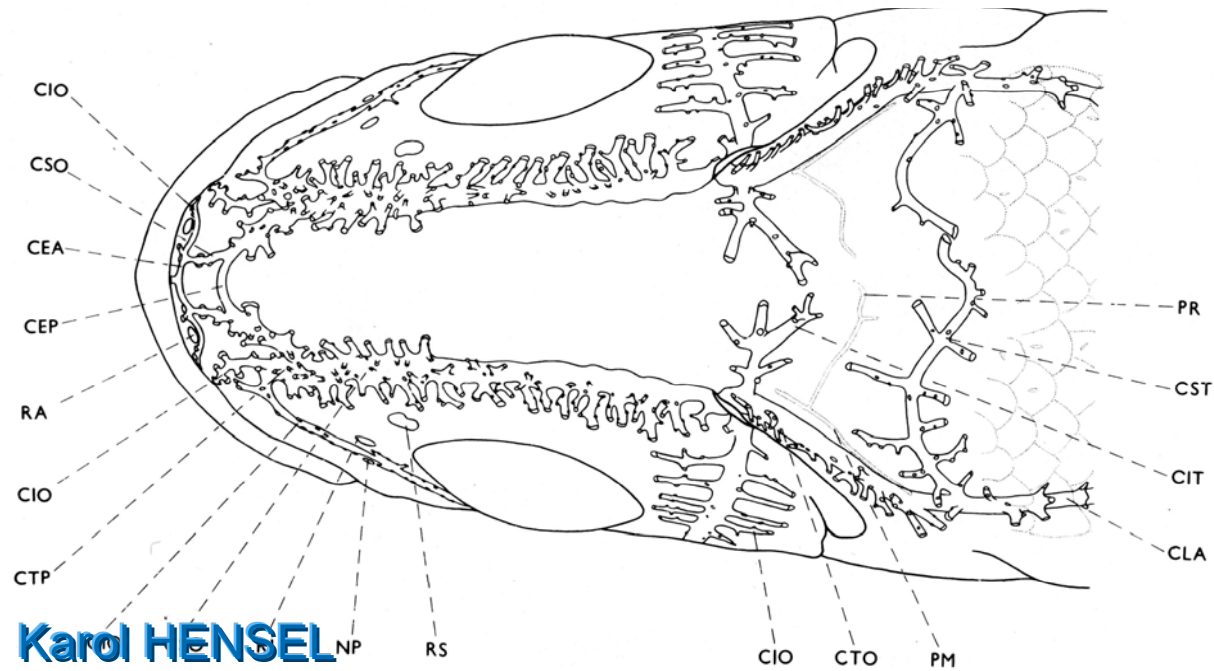
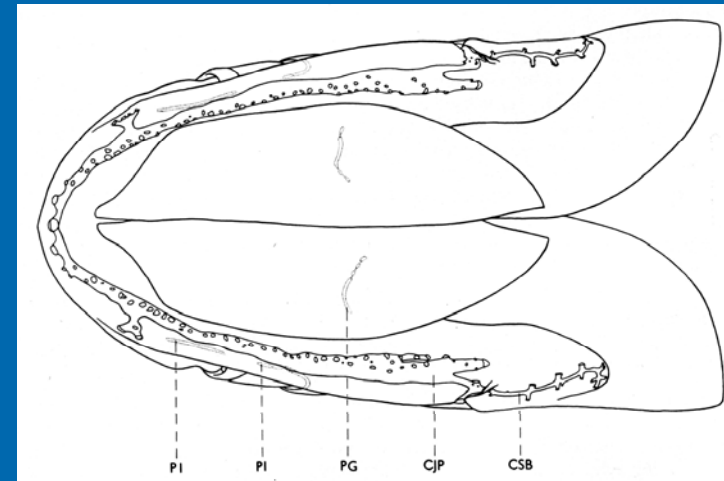
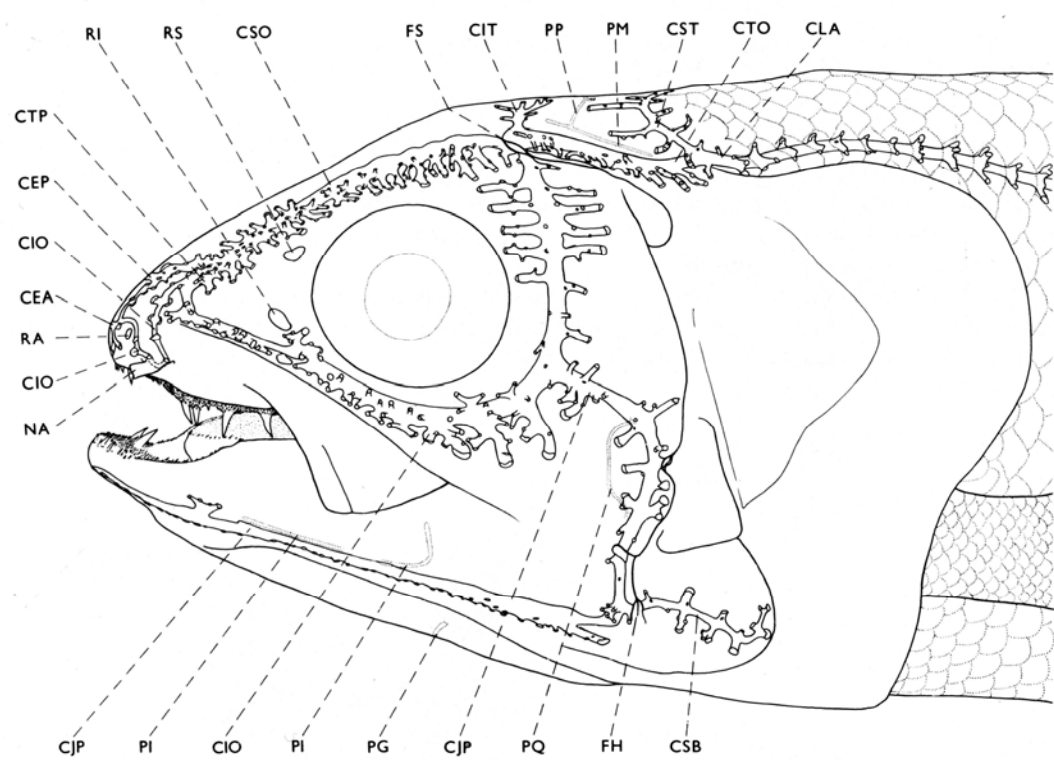


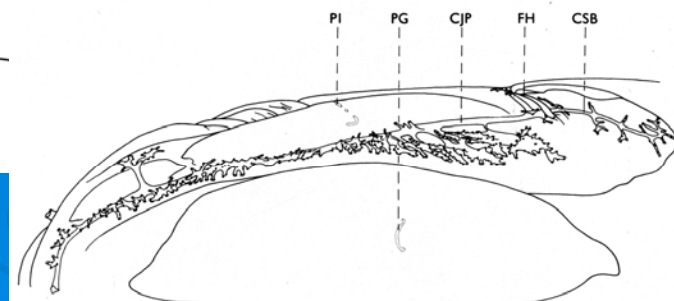
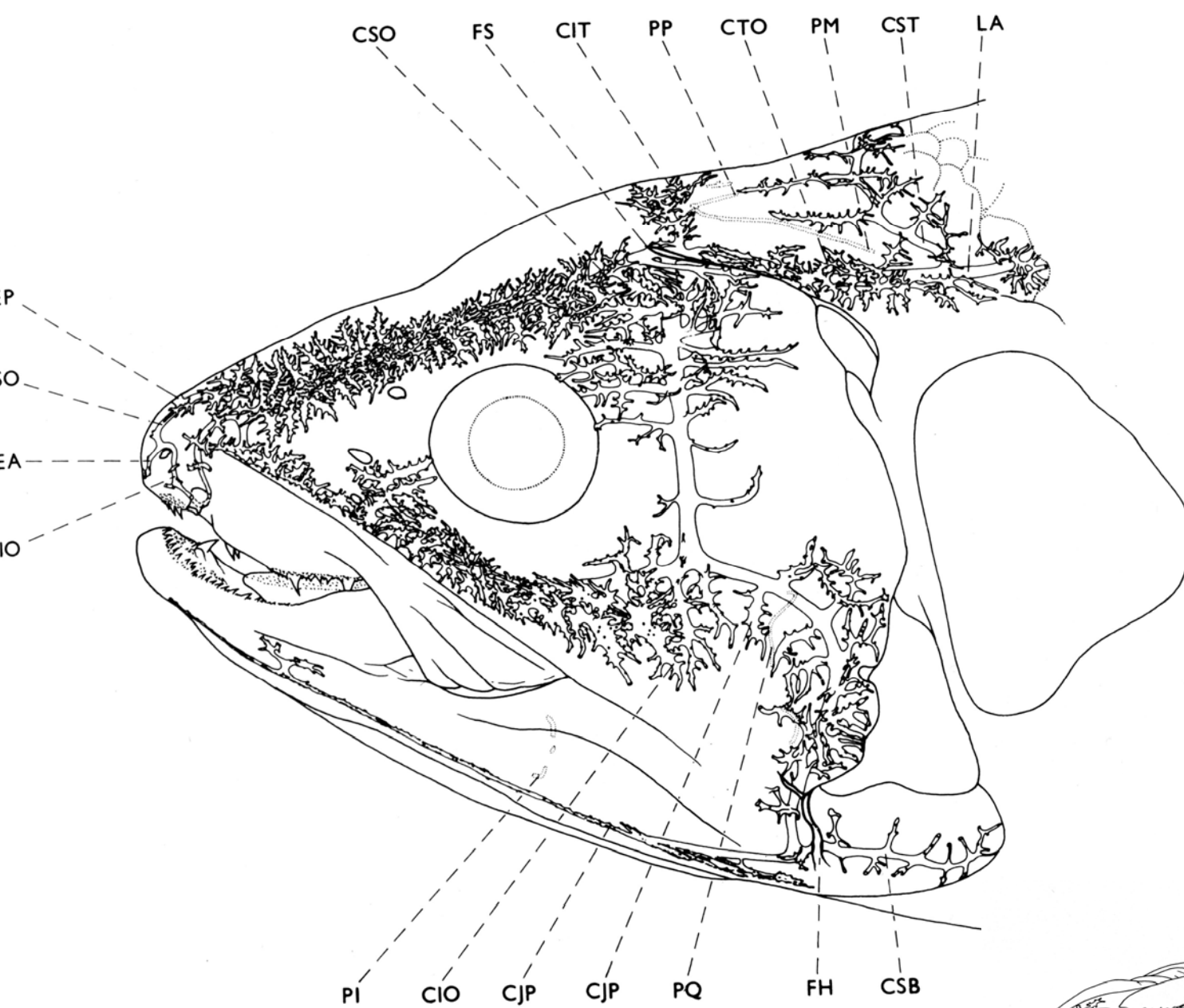
TEXT-FIG. 4.—*Latimeria chalumnae* Smith. Sensory canals of rostrum shown by dotted courses. About natural size. For explanation see Folder-page I at end.

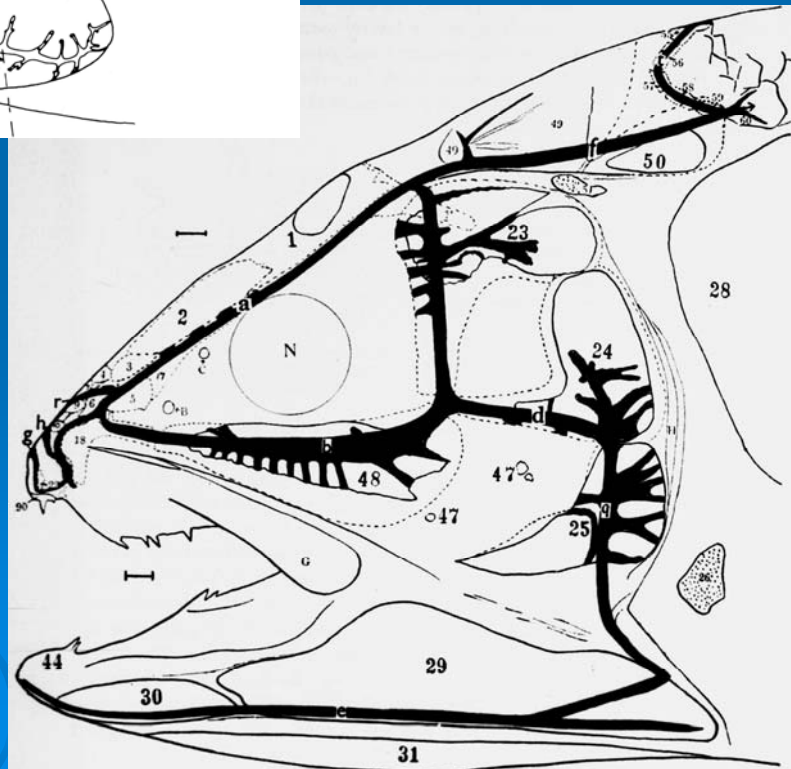
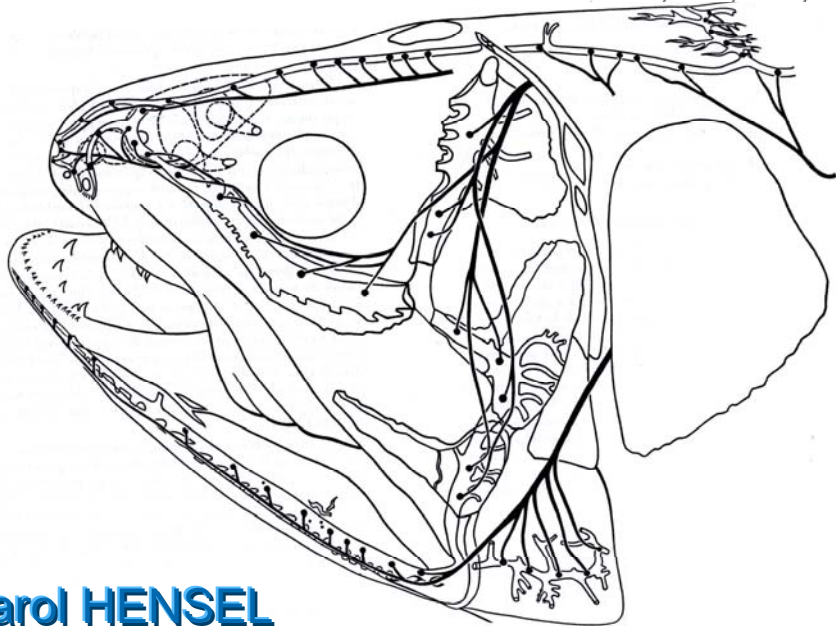




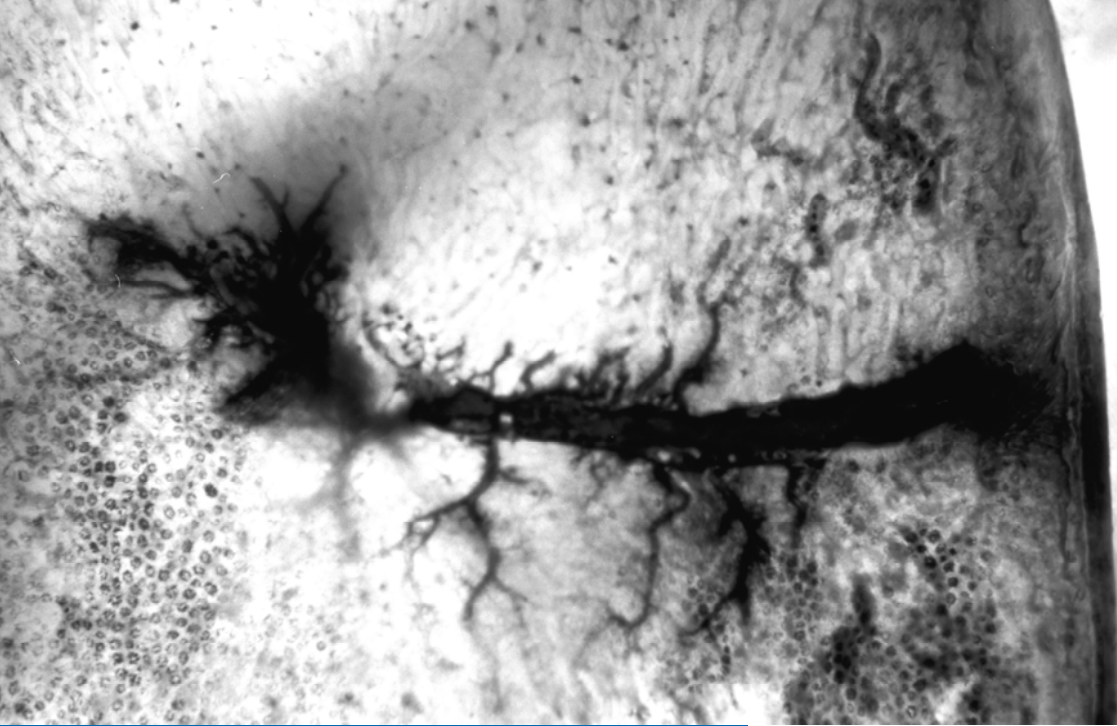












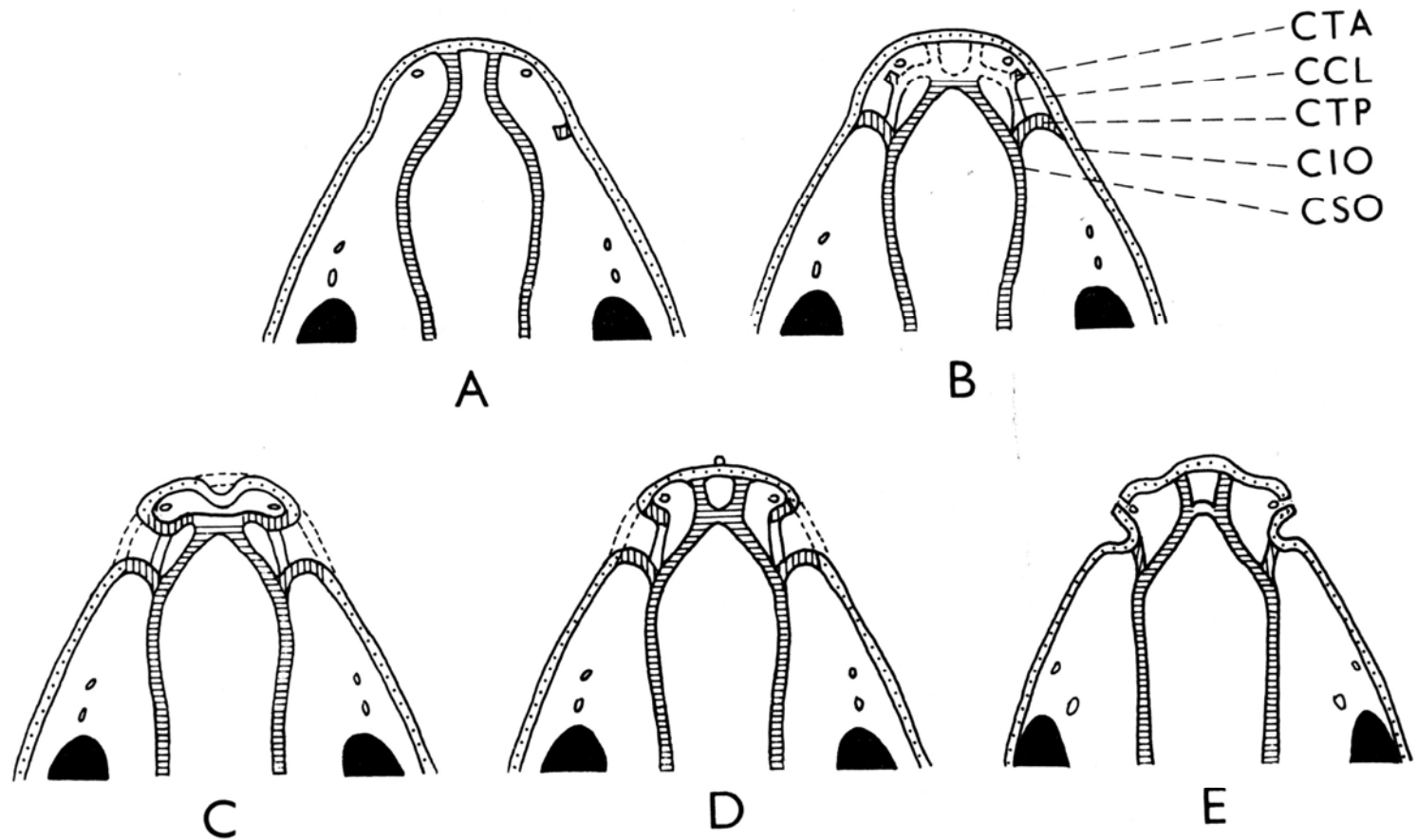


FIG. 7. — Schéma des canaux sensoriels dans la région ethmoïdienne chez les Crossoptérygiens Cœlacanthi-formes : A, formes dévoniennes (JARVIK, 1942) ; B, Cœlacanthe indéterminé du Trias (JARVIK, 1942) ; C, *Latimeria* (JARVIK, 1942) ; D, *Latimeria* (MILLOT et ANTHONY, 1958) ; E, *Latimeria* (sur la base des résultats de cette étude).



Karol HENSEL

RSA 30c



A.McBride A24 1989
Ontdekkers van die Selakant, 1938 J.L.B. Smith - M. Courtenay-Latimer

RSA 16c



A.McBride A14 1989
Die lewende Selakant - *Latimeria chalumnae*

RSA 50c



A.McBride A44 1989
Coelacanth marine research

RSA 40c



A.McBride A34 1989
J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology, Grahamstown

