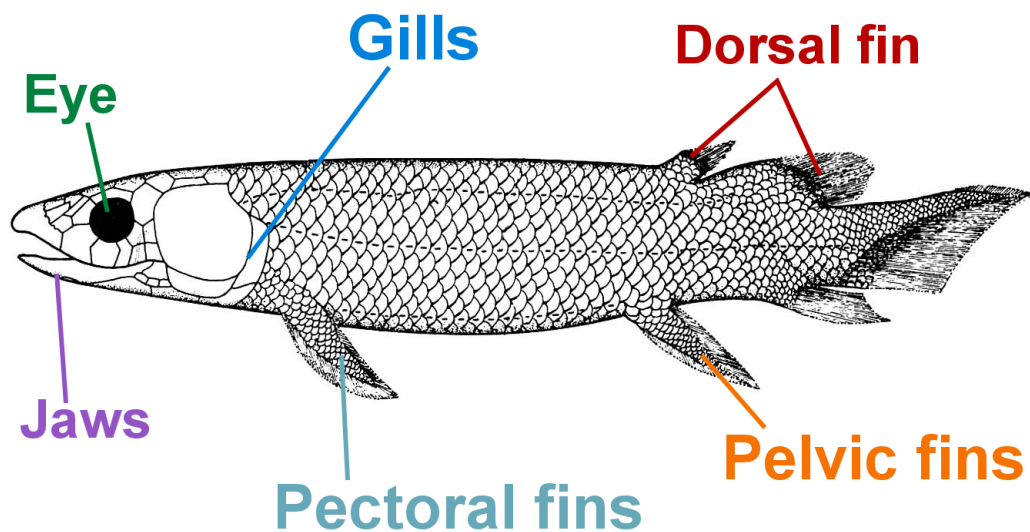


# Dipterus

Dip-ter-russ

*Dipterus* is a **lungfish** from the Devonian (420 to 360 million years ago) of Scotland - this makes it a **lobe-finned fish**, a group which also includes *Osteolepis*. There are only **three species of lungfish left alive today**: one each living in South America, Africa, and Australia, all of which have big crushing teeth for eating hard shelled prey. In the Devonian however lungfishes came in **far many more shapes and sizes**, including pike-like predators with sharp teeth!



## Fossil facts

- As well as taking oxygen from water with their gills like other fishes, living lungfish are able to breathe air like land vertebrates (this is why they are called lungfish). *Dipterus* could probably do the same.
- Living lungfishes are also odd in that they can aestivate when the water they live in dries up: this means that they dig a hole and seal themselves in, shutting their body down until the water comes back. We don't know if *Dipterus* could do this.