

Abstract

Developmental modification of the bauplan of quadrupeds were studied in detail in a number of groups, whether snakes or cetaceans. Fish, however, still remained aside (except of some species), although they represent about half of all vertebrates. It is possible to find various deviations from the bauplan due to the body's adaptation to the often diverse environments such as extension of the body, various modifications of paired and median fins, reduction of ossification, or even a modification of the body axis. The aim of this paper is to summarize the current knowledge about this issue from the perspective of evolutionary and developmental biology and identify species suitable as model systems for the future study of developmental changes in body plan in vertebrates.