

Different aspects of variability of bones of fishes from the family *Trichiuridae* (order *Perciformes*) from Oligocene deposits of Paratethys

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Fishes from the family *Trichiuridae* (order *Perciformes*) are represented in the fossil record by genera *Anenobelum* Blainville, 1818 and *Lepidopus* Gouan, 1770. They occur numerous in deposits of Palaeogene and early Neogene of Paratethys and Mediterranean seas. The region rich about trichiurid fishes remains are Western Carpathians (south-eastern Poland). There are outcrops containing whole profile of Oligocene there, and the fossils of *Trichiuridae* are present in almost every layer with ichthyofauna remains. It gave opportunity to analyse changes of skeletal construction of the group during 12 millions years. During the investigations the significant individual variability was observed, which concerned specimens of the same age (from one layer of deposits), but also it has a character of differences between the skeletons of specimens from the layers from different parts of the profile. It's typical e.g. for the bones of jaws (*dentale*, *praemaxillare*, *articulare*) and for dentition of them. General trend to reduction of elements of the skeleton of trichiurid fishes can be

regarded as a result of adaptation to night and day migrations observed in the case of recent fishes from the family. Trends to decrease size and significance of caudal fin and to increase of height of caudal body section were noticed as well. It is connected to development of dorsal muscles and taking over by dorsal fin the function of moving forward the body.

A result of comparison of trichiurid fishes remains from different localities of Paratethys (Alps, Carpathians, Caucasus) was assertion of geographic variability of the specimens that belong to the species *Anenobelum glarisianum* Blainville, 1818. It concerns mainly number of vertebrae and body proportions. On the large area of Oligocene Paratethys, as result of tectonic activity, numerous divisions could arise that divided the basin periodically and influenced change of environmental conditions. These processes were changing the ichthyofauna composition, and could influence variability of local populations of widely distributed species *Anenobelum glarisianum*.