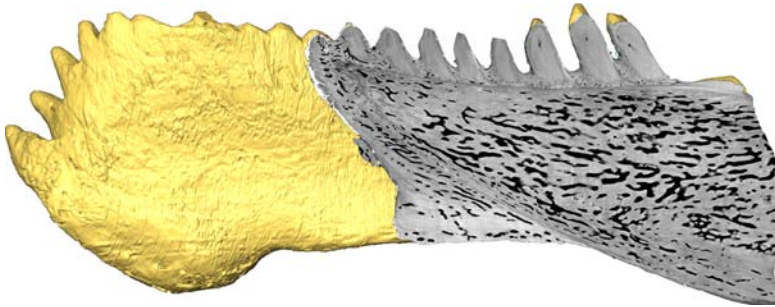


The evolutionary origins of our pretty smile

Until recently, it was not clear whether the earliest vertebrates (animals with a backbone) which had jawbones already possessed teeth or not.



Now, an international research team has shown that the jaws of the prehistoric fish *Compagopiscis* already had teeth. This demonstrates that teeth appeared at the same evolutionary time as jaws – or at least shortly afterwards.

The leaders of this project were scientists from the University of Bristol, England, who carried out their decisive experiments at the SLS at the Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland, where they were able to actually look inside *Compagopiscis* fossils. The results of this research have just been published in the latest edition of the journal *Nature*

More: <http://www.psi.ch/media/the-evolutionary-origins-of-our-pretty-smile>