

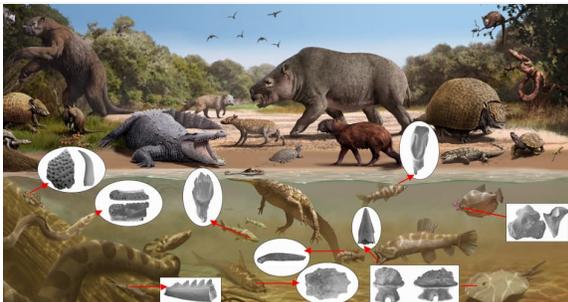
## Open PhD position on Neotropical Fish Palaeontology and Systematics

We invite applications for a PhD position at the Evolutionary Morphology and Palaeobiology of Vertebrates group in the Department of Palaeontology of the University of Zurich. The PhD candidate will work on a Swiss National Science Foundation supported project in the research group around Prof. Dr. Marcelo Sánchez-Villagra ([www.msanchezlab.net](http://www.msanchezlab.net)). The PhD concerns the fossil record and evolutionary history of freshwater fishes, particularly the catfish and cichlid clades. It will involve taxonomic and systematic work, as well as studies of faunal dynamics in deep time. The comparative anatomical work will involve CT- and surface scanning for 3D modelling; there are fieldwork opportunities in South America associated with the project.

The ideal candidate will be a highly motivated student of Life- or Earth Sciences with a zoological or palaeontological background. Excellent writing skills in English are required. Knowledge of at least the basics of systematics, vertebrate anatomy and statistics are much desired. The prospective student is expected to have received a master's degree or equivalent by the start of the PhD and will hopefully have published or be about to publish on her/his Masters. The student is to enrol in the evolutionary biology graduate programme ([www.evobio.uzh.ch/en.html](http://www.evobio.uzh.ch/en.html)).

The University of Zurich is one of the top research institutions in Europe and offers an exceptional academic environment for research and study. The Department of Palaeontology has state-of-the-art research facilities in an international and stimulating academic environment. The Natural History Museum of the University is closely tied to our department; it offers opportunities to participate and develop skills in scientific outreach activities. The city of Zurich, in close proximity to the Alps, with a lake and river in which to swim in the summer, offers conditions for an excellent quality of life. We offer a vibrant, collaborative work environment and high-quality supervision. All former PhD students graduated with excellent publication records and almost all have consecutively moved on to postdoc positions at renowned academic institutions. Our group has hosted PhD students from many countries across the world.

Those interested should consult our website for publications and current research projects. Find here some key publications related to the project:



Modified from Carrillo-Briceño et al. 2021b. *Swiss J Palaeontol*

Albert JS *et al.* 2020. Diversification of Neotropical freshwater fishes. *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics* 51:27–53

Ballen GA *et al.* 2022. A fossil fish assemblage from the middle Miocene of the Cocinetas Basin, northern Colombia. *Papers in Palaeontology* 8: e1405.

Carrillo-Briceño JD *et al.* 2021a. A historical vertebrate collection from the Middle Miocene of the Peruvian Amazon. *Swiss Journal of Palaeontology* 140:26.

To apply, please send a letter of motivation including information on previous scientific work and publications if available (maximum of 2 pages), a CV, and contact details of two referees. Please ensure that all those parts are combined into a single PDF-file. Together with an electronic copy of the Masters-thesis, please send your application to Alexandra Wegmann ([alexandra.wegmann@uzh.ch](mailto:alexandra.wegmann@uzh.ch)). Deadline for applications is 17th January 2025, but applications will be considered until the position is filled. Applicants should be prepared to be interviewed in February 2025 and start in the Spring (northern Hemisphere) of 2025. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact us ([www.msanchezlab.net](http://www.msanchezlab.net); [m.sanchez@pim.uzh.ch](mailto:m.sanchez@pim.uzh.ch)).