



# Phylogenetic Bayesian Inference and Geometric Morphometrics in Neotropical Sea Catfishes: New Species, Support for Miocene Closure of the Panamanian Isthmus, and Conservation of Skull Shape

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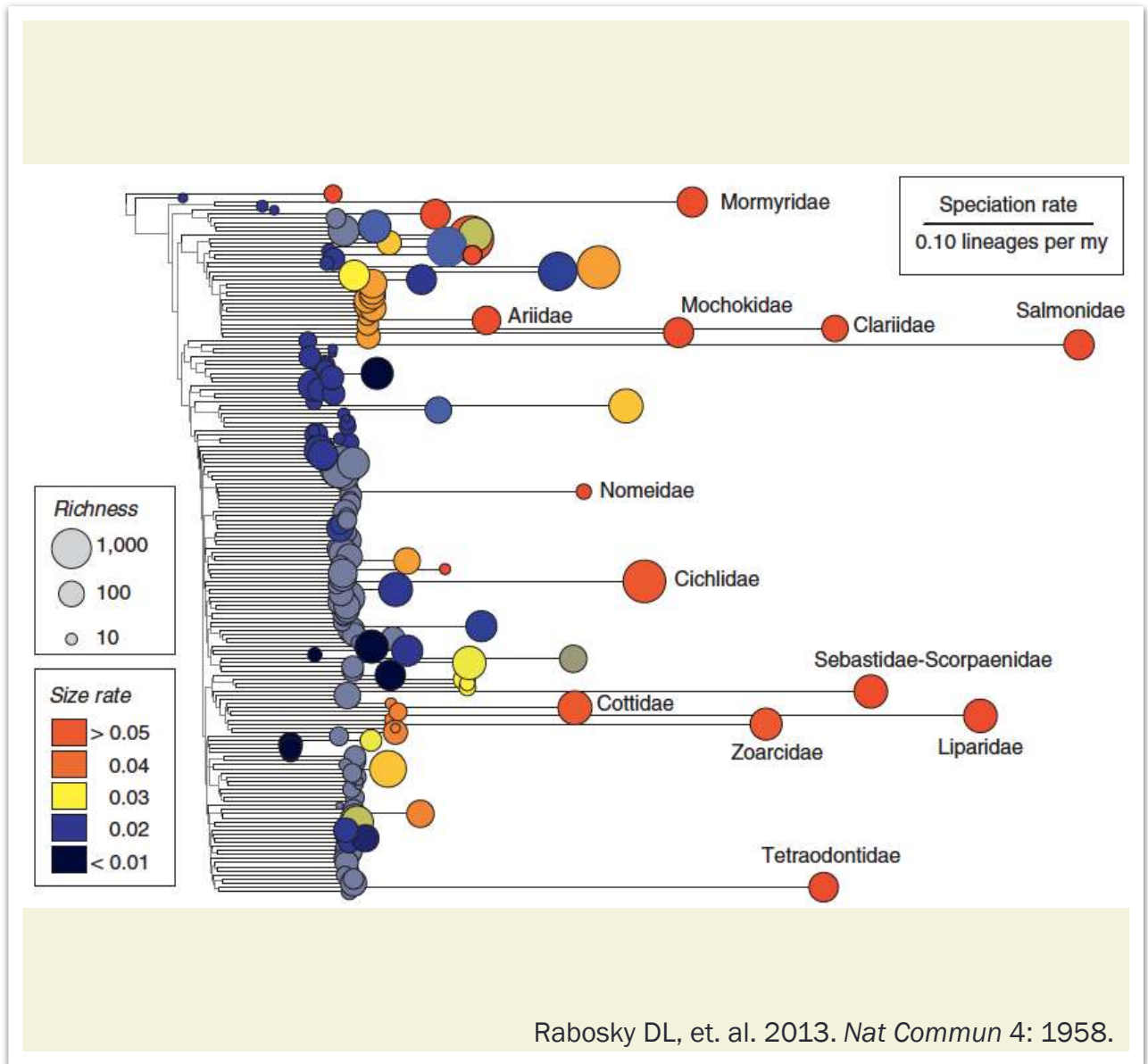
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<sup>3</sup>Zoological Institute, University of Basel, Switzerland



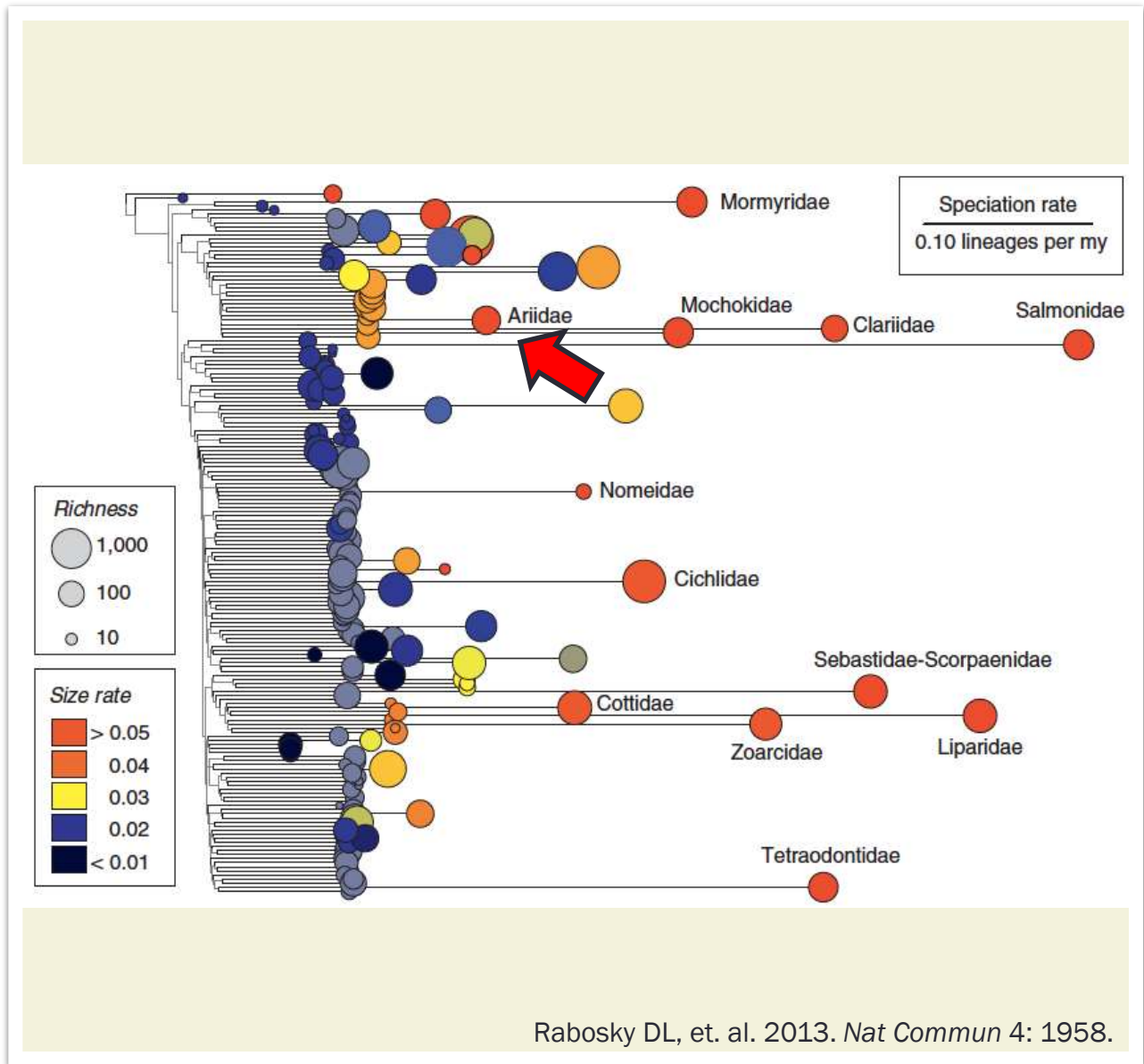
Elevated rates of speciation and phenotypic evolution

Ariidae among the fastest evolving 10% of extant teleost families



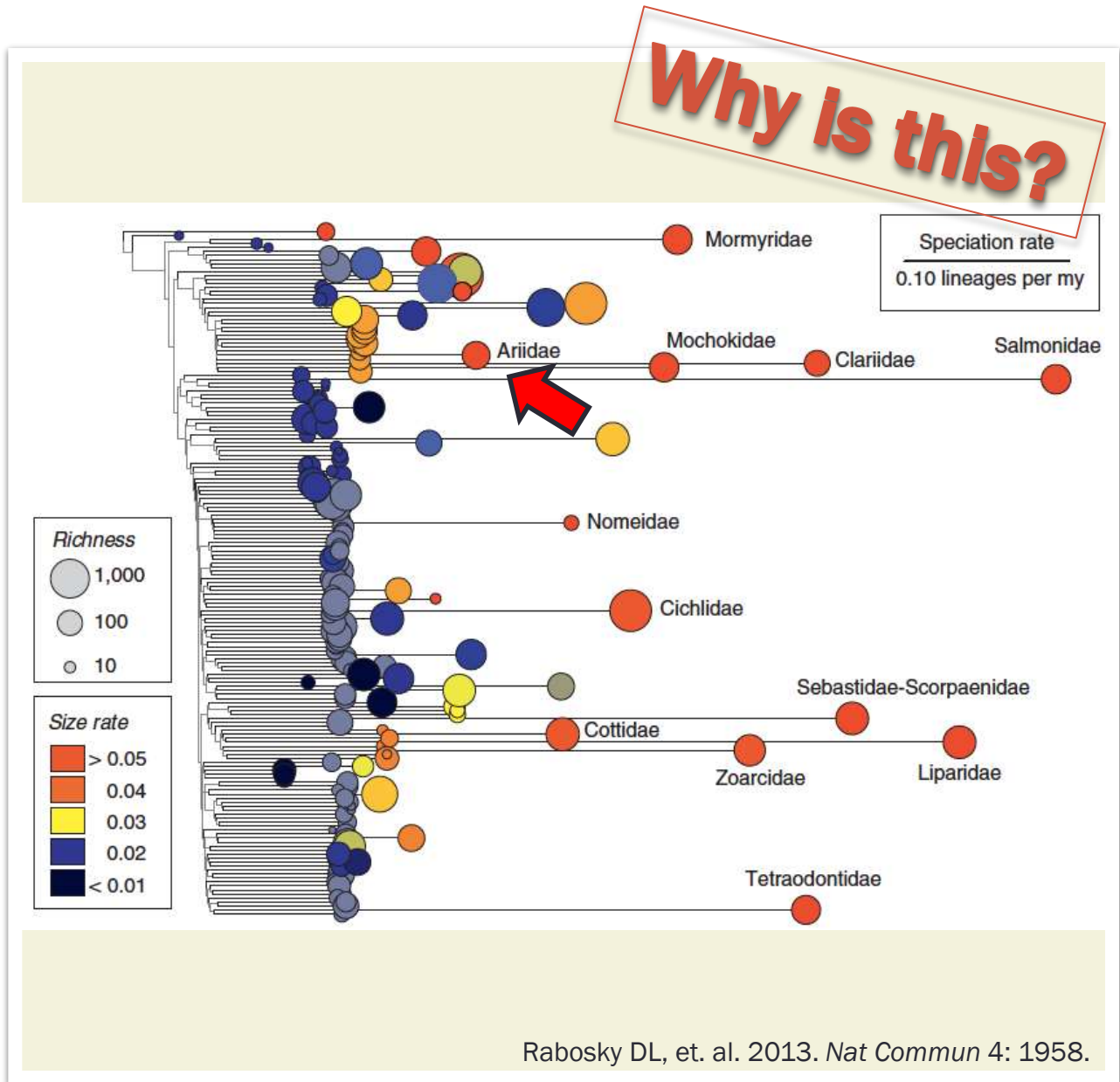
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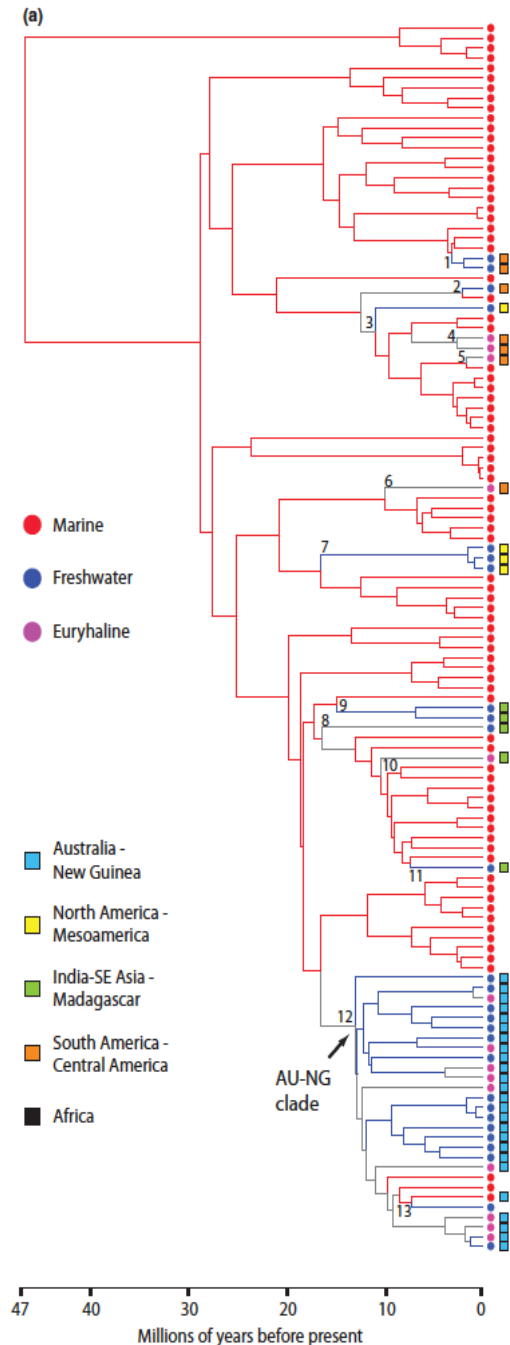
Elevated rates of  
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Betancur-R. R, et. al. 2012. *Ecol Lett* 15: 822–830.



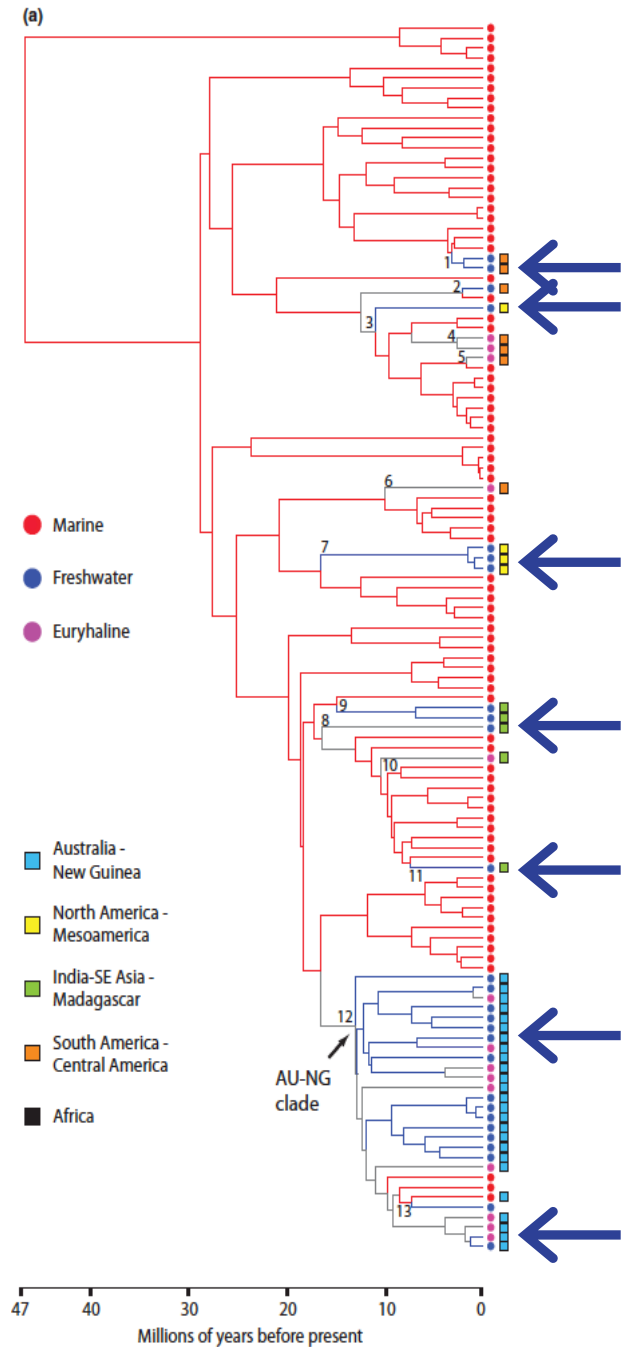
Ariidae are adapted to **marine** environment



repeated secondary colonisation of **freshwater** habitat



image courtesy of Peter Chadwick



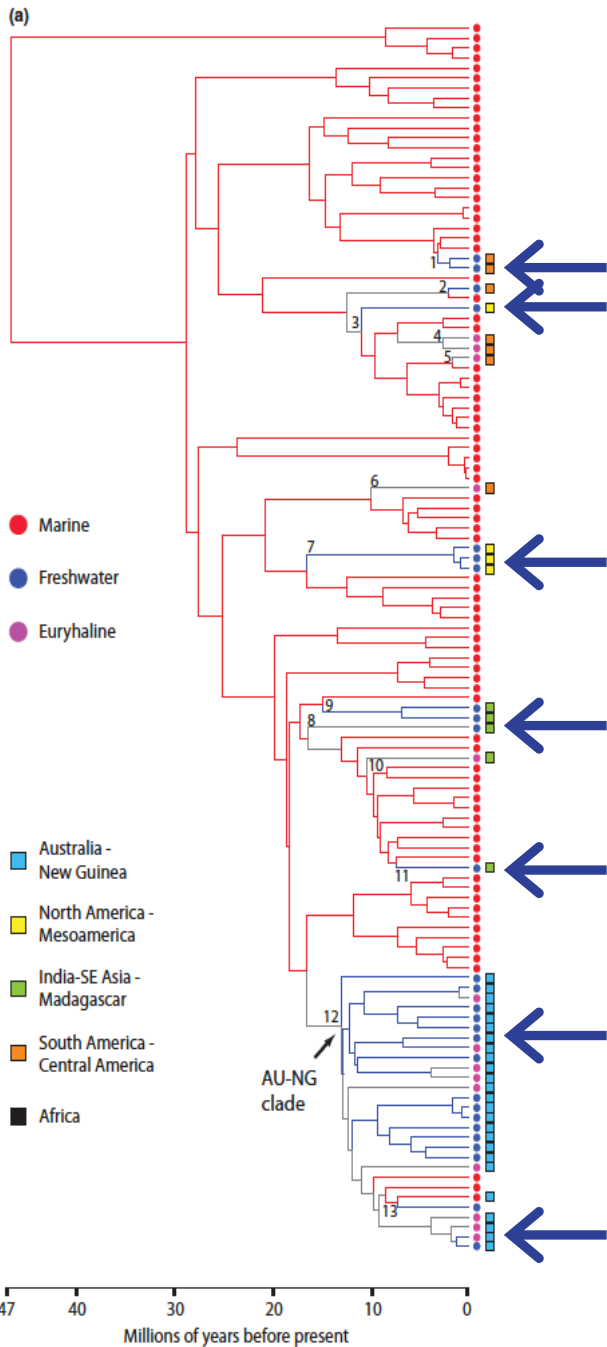
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**Macrohabitat transitions as drivers of speciation**



Ariidae are adapted to **marine** environment



repeated secondary colonisation of **freshwater** habitat

# Convergent evolution during adaptive radiations

- **sticklebacks (marine-fresh)**



- **independent lake populations express the same opercle shape** (Kimmel CB, *et al.* 2012. *Evol Dev* 14: 326–337)

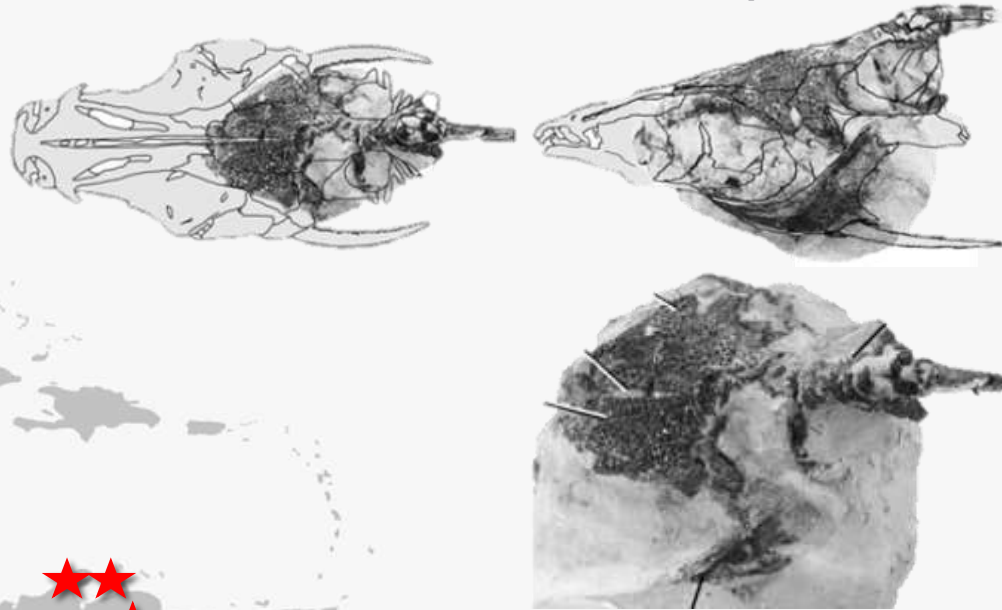
- **cichlids (lake-lake)**



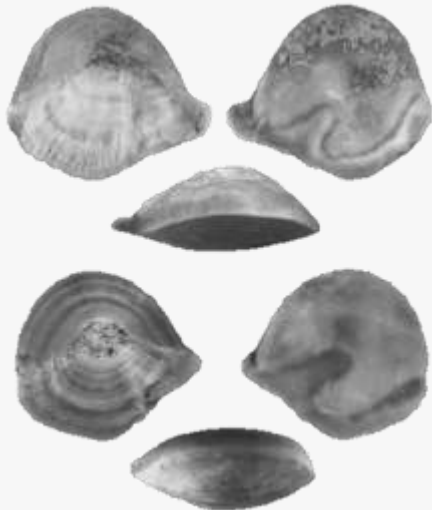
- **visual system in Midas cichlids** (Torres-Dowdall J, *et al.* 2017. *Mol Biol Evol*, ahead of print)
- **overall shape among LT and Malawi cichlids** (Kocher TD, *et al.* 1993. *Mol Phylogenet Evol* 2: 158–165.)



neurocrania and dorsal spines



otoliths (ear stones)



## Ariidae in general provide...

- elevated rate of morphological evolution
- repeated occurrence of macrohabitat transitions (sea → fresh water) in different genera with the occurrence of intermediate (brackish) species

## Northern Neotropical Ariidae provide...

- species assemblage that was affected by the formation of the Panamanian Isthmus
- revised systematics and taxonomy
- a well-dated Miocene (23-5 million years ago, Ma) fossil record



**1) Do northern Neotropical Ariidae support a Miocene closure of the Panamanian isthmus?**

**2) Do northern Neotropical Ariidae exhibit convergence in shape in similar habitats?**



**Sciades**



**Notarius**



**Bagre**



**Ariopsis**



**Cathorops**

333 specimens (including fin tissues, skeletal features)  
size range (SL): 10.5 – 79.0 cm, median 28.5 cm

# Species identification



# Species identification



*Notarius kessleri*



*Notarius biffi*

# Species identification

reference *ATPase 8/6* dataset  
of 129 worldwide distributed  
ariid species

(Betancur-R. R. 2009. *BMC Evol Biol* 9: 175.)



+ 263 *ATPase 8/6* sequences  
(this study)



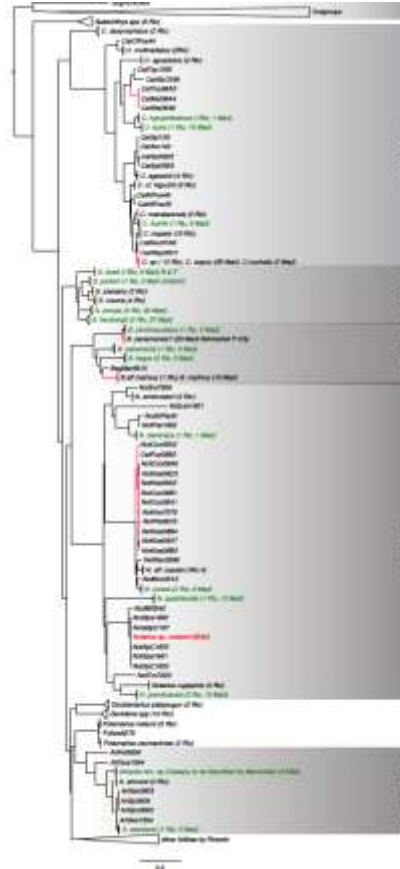
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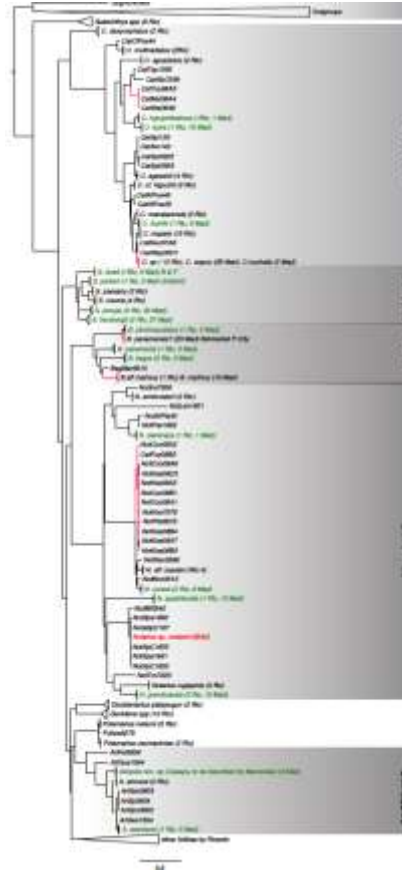
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+ 263 *ATPase 8/6* sequences  
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- most of the sequences clustered accordingly, or identity was corrected
- confirmed the occurrence of *Notarius biffi* in Central America, South of El Salvador
- two sequence clusters within *Sciades herzbergii*
- two sequence clusters within *Bagre pinnimaculatus*



*Notarius biffi* in Central America, South of El Salvador

- two sequence clusters within *Sciades herzbergii*
- two sequence clusters within *Bagre pinnimaculatus*



*Notarius biffi* in Central America, South of El Salvador

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two morphotypes in *B. pinnimaculatus*



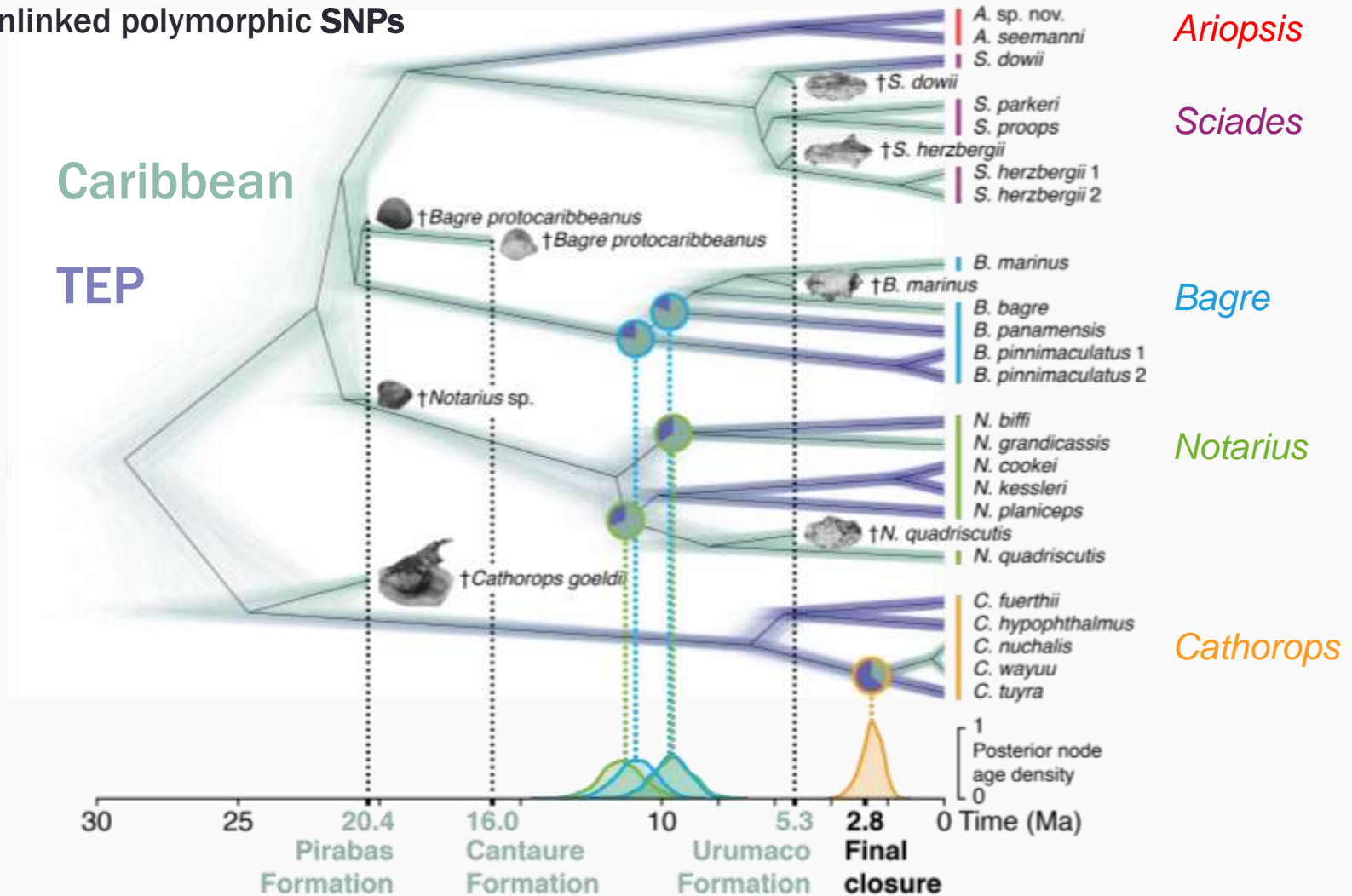
**Do northern Neotropical Ariidae support a  
Miocene closure of the Panamanian isthmus?**

# Divergence-Time Estimation of Species-Trees

- **Concatenation approach**
  - assumes no recombination
  - results in potentially misleading branch lengths and divergence times
- **Multispecies coalescent (MSC)**
  - accounts for incomplete lineage sorting (ILS)
  - BUT ignores within-locus recombination if based on sequences
  - computationally demanding for time calibration if based on sequences
  - time calibration based on SNPs has not been tested
- **Novel approach: SNAPP (based on MSC), run with SNPs, combined with fossil or biogeographic constraints**

# Bayesian Divergence-Time Estimation with SNPs

1768 unlinked polymorphic SNPs



## Take home message - Bayesian Divergence-Time Estimation with SNPs

a solid phylogenetic hypothesis for northern Neotropical Ariidae...

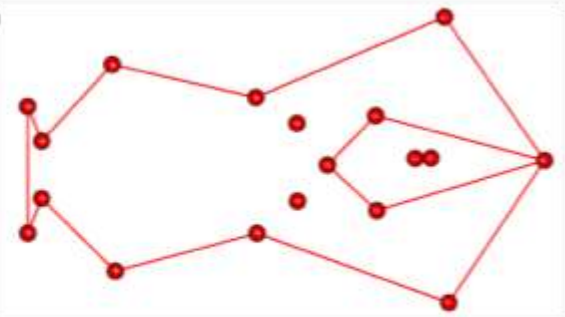
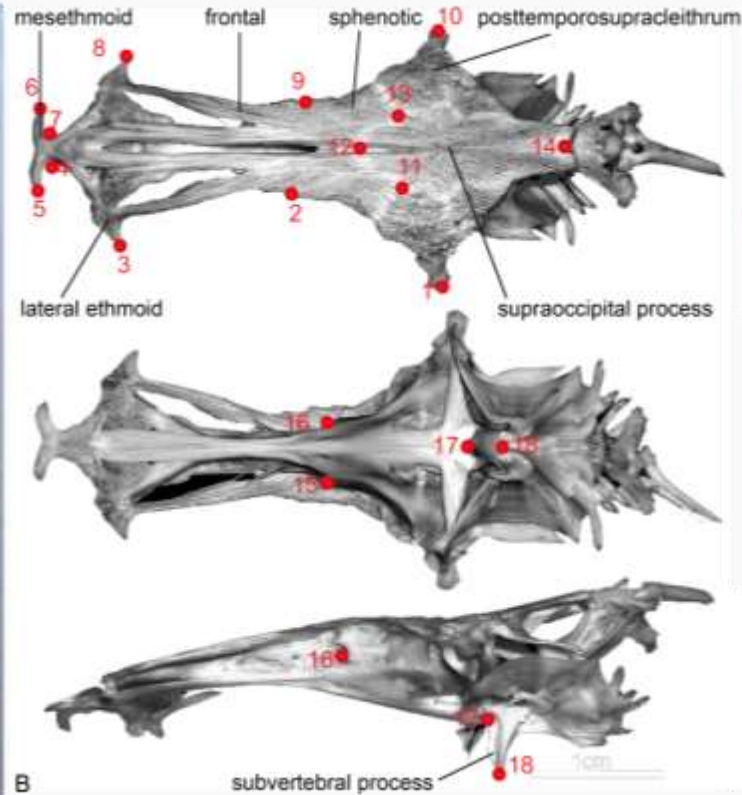
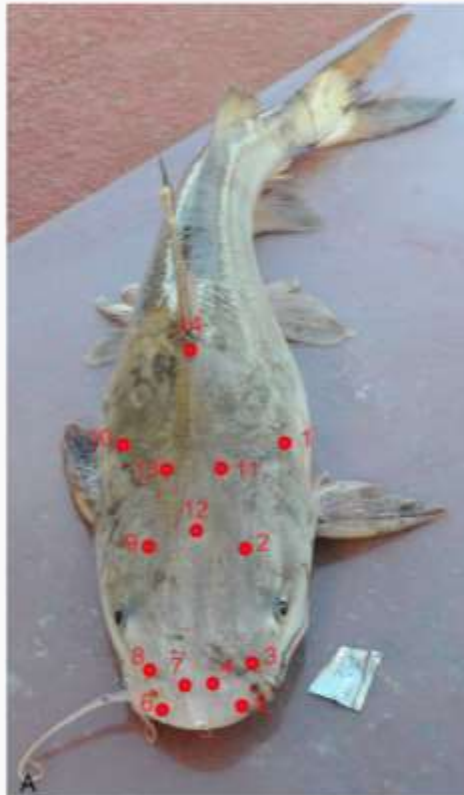
- support cryptic species (*B. pinnimaculatus*, *S. herzbergii*)
- provide the first molecular evidence of *C. nuchalis* and *C. wayuu* being molecularly distinct
- does not support to raise *Bagre* to family status
- adds strong support for the hypothesis of Miocene isthmus closure

# Did sea catfishes develop similar shapes in similar habitats?



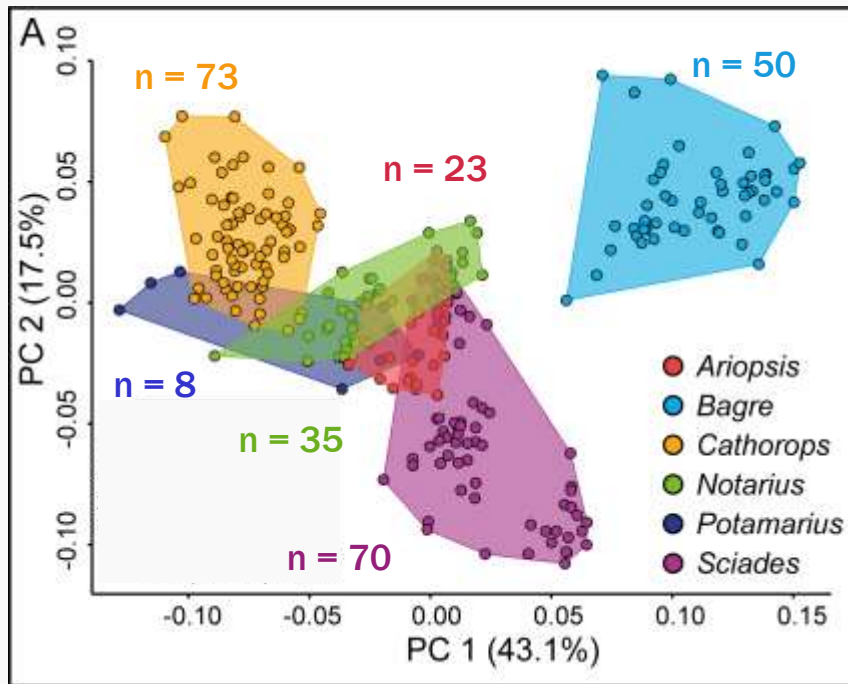


# 3D Geometric Morphometrics

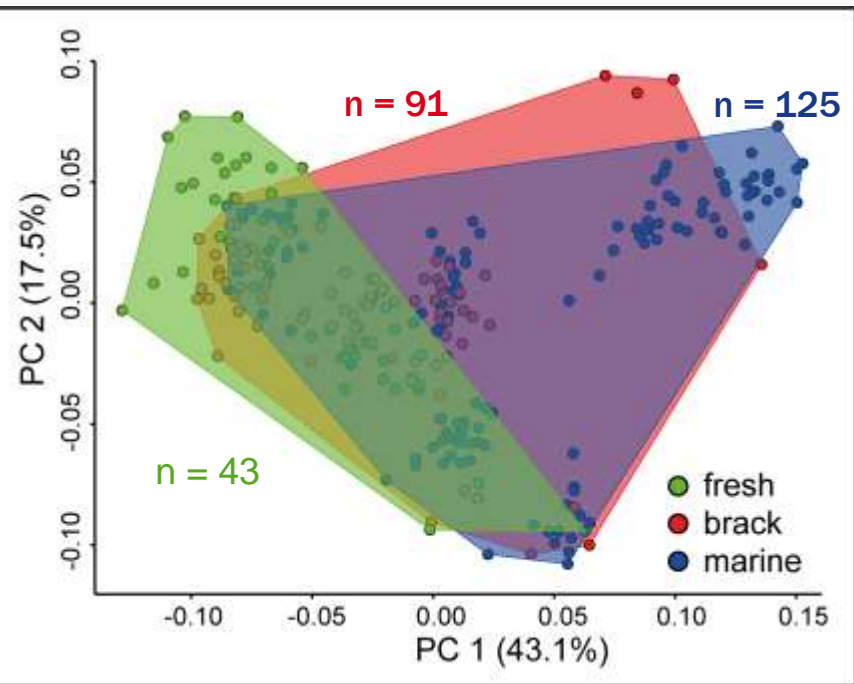


# Morphospace analysis

genus



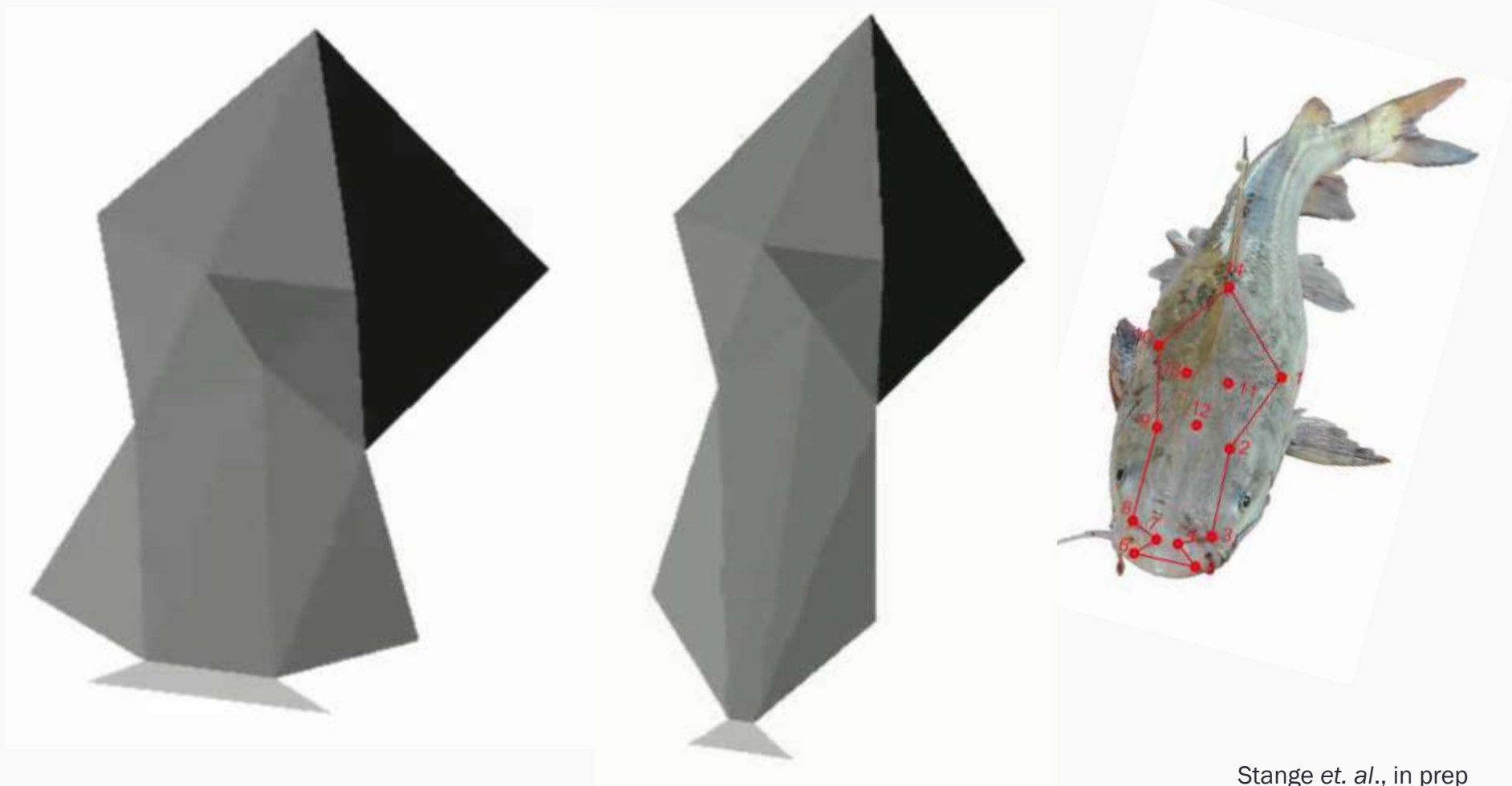
habitat



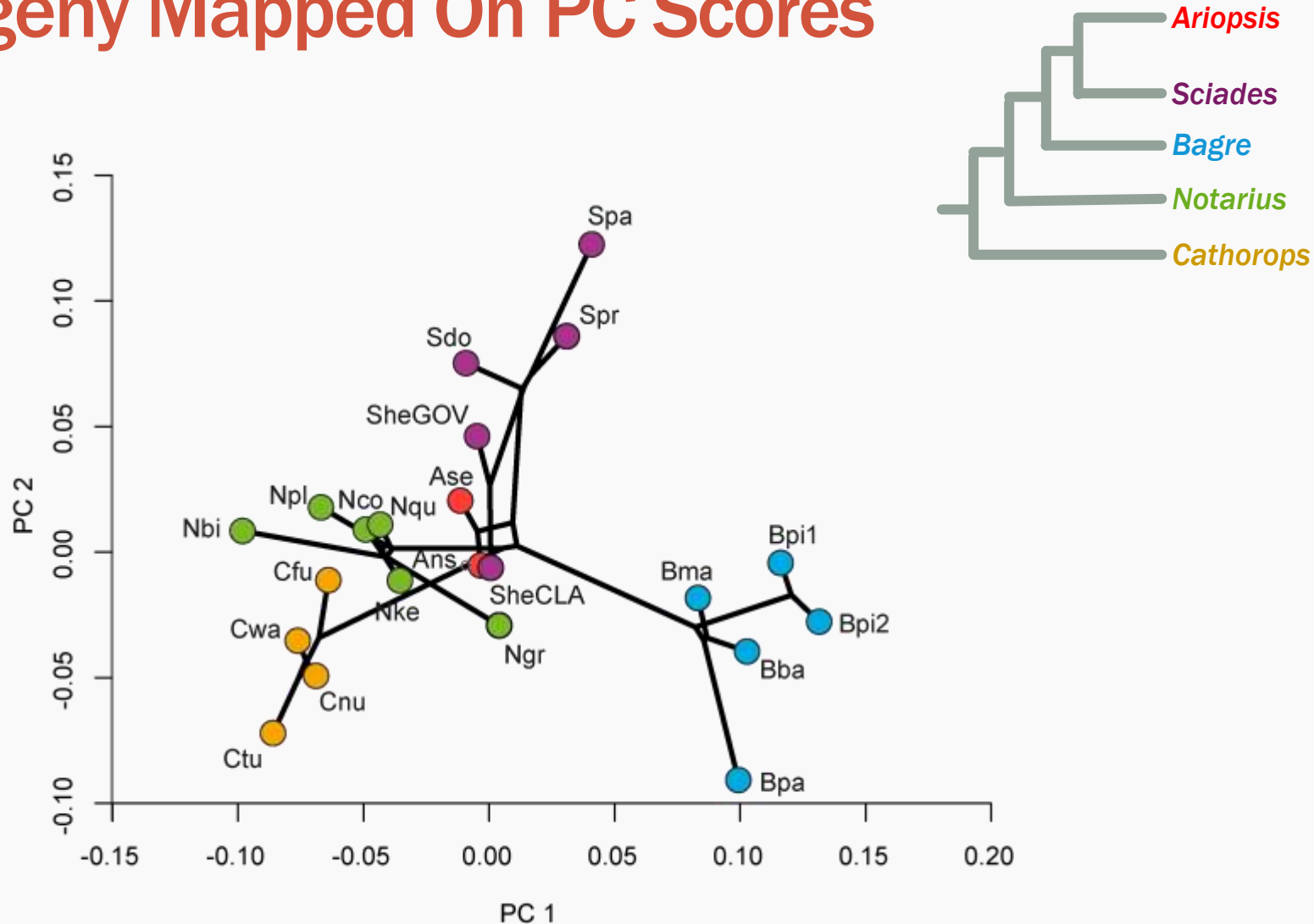
Principal Component Analysis (PCA), 259 specimens, 28 species



# Skull Shape Changes from sea to fresh water in PC1/2 shape space



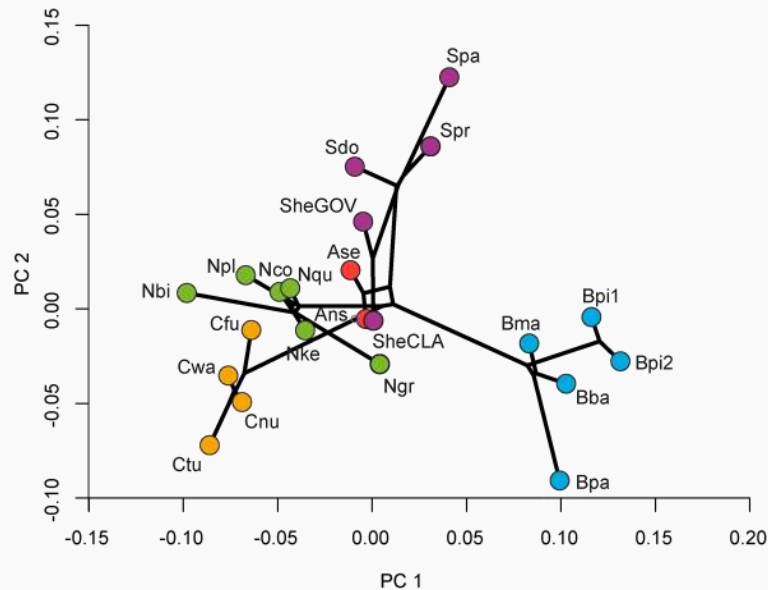
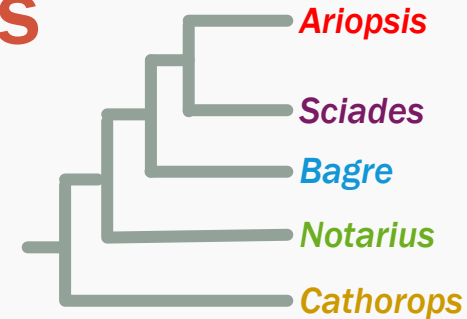
# Phylogeny Mapped On PC Scores



# Phylogenetically Informed Analyses

## Shape variation in PC1 and PC2 is explained by phylogeny

- observed phylogenetic signal in shape data:  $K=0.6854$ ,  $P = 0.001$   
in PC1:  $\lambda=1$ ,  $P = 1$   
in PC2:  $\lambda=0.81$ ,  $P = 0.14$
- no significant differences among skull shapes of different habitats (phylogenetic ANOVA)



# Take Home Message – Neotropical Ariidae

- taxonomic richness is not fully explored
  - cryptic species identified by mtDNA, nuclear SNP dataset, + either skull morphology (*B. pinnimaculatus*) or GM (*S. herzbergii*)
- *Bagre* is a taxonomic unit within other ariid genera (determined by SNP data) and it is not justified to be raised to family status (as claimed by morphological studies)
- skull shape is, opposed to many other phenotypically diverse and species-rich teleost species, primarily determined by phylogeny
- dating of lineage splitting events between Caribbean and TEP species provides additional biological evidence for a temporary closure of the Panamanian Isthmus

# Acknowledgments

SNF Sinergia project granted to W. Salzburger & M. Sánchez-Villagra (CRSII3-136293)

ERC grant (CoG “CICHLID~X”) awarded to W. Salzburger, supported M. Matschiner

Forschungskredit of the University of Zürich granted to M. Stange (FK-15-092)

## Venezuela:

Cathy Villalba

Universidad del Zulia:

Tito Barros & Gilson Rivas

## Panama:

Smithsonian Tropical Research

Institute:

Richard Cooke, Aureliano Valencia,  
Máximo Jiménez, and Carlos Jaramillo

## Switzerland:

University of Zürich:

Jorge Carrillo-Briceño, Alexandra Wegmann, Thodoris Argyriou

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**Thank you very much for your attention! Questions?**

