拉蒂迈鱼

分类： 脊椎动物 肉鳍鱼类 空棘鱼类
时代： 现生
属性： 浸制标本

空棘鱼类唯一现生代表

拉蒂迈鱼是空棘鱼类目前唯一存活至今的代表，属于肉鳍鱼类，现存一属两种。1938年，科学家在非洲东海岸首次发现活体拉蒂迈鱼，此前人们曾认为空棘鱼类已在白垩纪末灭绝，这一发现改变了对该类群演化历史的认识。拉蒂迈鱼保留了许多与古代空棘鱼类化石相似的形态特征，例如肉质偶鳍和特殊的身体结构，因此常被称为“活化石”。它为研究肉鳍鱼类演化以及鱼类向四足动物演化前后的形态变化提供了重要线索。

Latimeria

Classification: Vertebrata Sarcopterygii Actinistia
Age: Recent
Status: Fluid-preserved specimen

The Only Living Representative of Coelacanths

Latimeria is the only surviving representative of coelacanths, a group of lobe-finned fishes, with one living genus and two extant species. In 1938, a living coelacanth was discovered for the first time off the east coast of Africa. Before this discovery, coelacanths were thought to have become extinct at the end of the Cretaceous, and this finding transformed our understanding of their evolutionary history. *Latimeria* retains many morphological features similar to those of ancient coelacanth fossils, including fleshy paired fins and distinctive body structures, and is therefore often referred to as a “living fossil.” It provides important insights into the evolution of lobe-finned fishes and morphological changes associated with the transition from fishes to tetrapods.