Unique Fossil Ear Bones

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Unique fossil ear bones intrigue scientists, as described in *Nature*, vol. 425, p65, 4 September 2003. Scientists at museums in Cambridge and London (UK) have studied the skulls of an extinct tetrapod (four legged) vertebrate named Ichthyostega, which is often described as a transitional form between fish and land animals. Using computerised X-ray studies of the braincase and ear region they concluded that the creature had a "highly specialised ear, probably a hearing device for use in water." They go on to state "This represents a structurally and functionally unique modification of the tetrapod otic (ear) region, unlike anything seen in subsequent tetrapod evolution."

Editorial Comment: This study is good evidence Ichthyostega was not a primitive half formed creature evolving into land dwelling animal. Its unique ear bones indicate it was a specialised creature well designed for its environment, i.e. they are good evidence for special creation, and provide no evidence for evolution. (Ref. Ichthyostega, ear, fossil)