

***Biology 340***  
***Comparative Embryology***  
***Lecture 2***  
***Dr. Stuart Sumida***

# Phylogenetic Perspective and the Evolution of Development

“Evo-Devo”

So, what is all the fuss about  
“phylogeny?”

PHYLOGENETIC SYSTEMATICS allows  
us both define groups and their  
relationships.

However, those definitions MUST be  
careful, rigorous, and testable. (If they  
aren't testable, they aren't science.)

Biologically valid groups must be defined on the basis of SHARED, DERIVED characteristics.

In other words: a biologically valid group is defined on the basis of features that are found in ALL members of the group, and ONLY in members of that group.

These SHARED, DERIVED characters are known as “SYNAPOMORPHIES.\*”

\*Singular: Synapomorphy

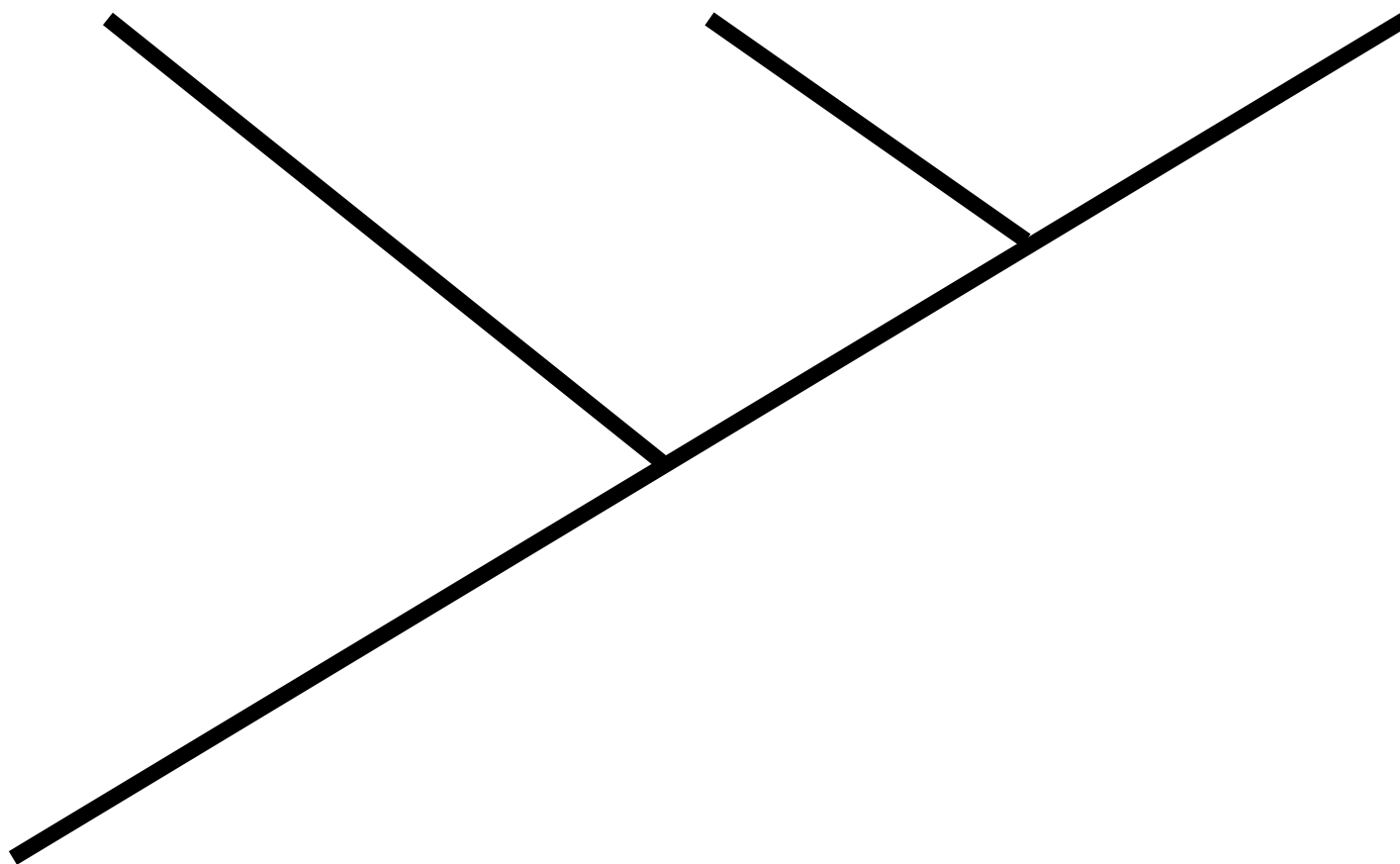
The degree of relatedness of groups is dependant on WHAT synapomorphies are shared, and at what level...

What is a shared, derived character at one level, will NOT be a shared derived character at another level.

Bacteria

Archaea

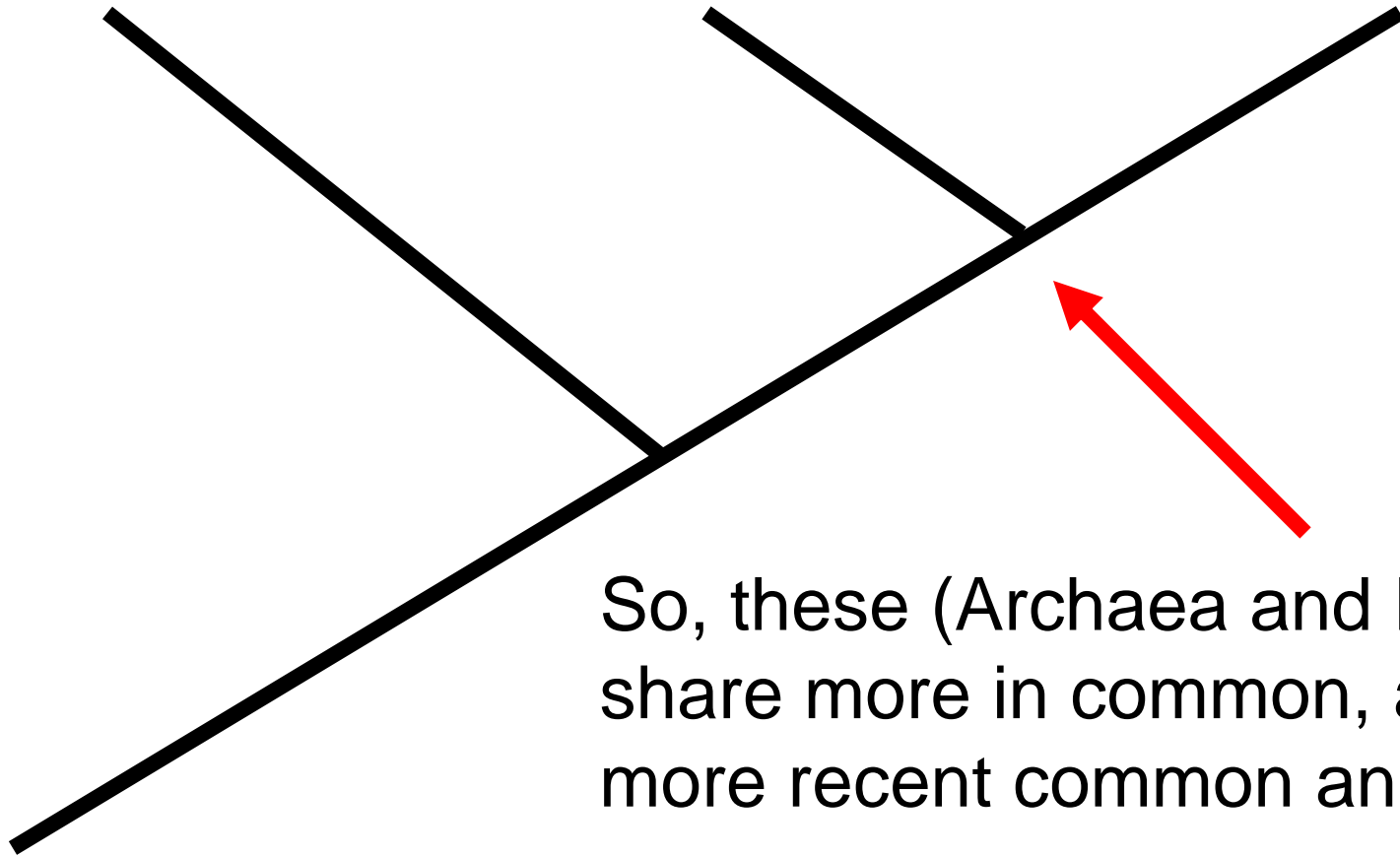
Eucarya



Bacteria

Archaea

Eucarya



So, these (Archaea and Eucarya)  
share more in common, and a  
more recent common ancestor.

What kind of features can be used to generate phylogenetic trees?

They must be **HOMOLOGOUS CHARACTERS**. That is, they must be structures or features inherited from a common structure in a common ancestor.

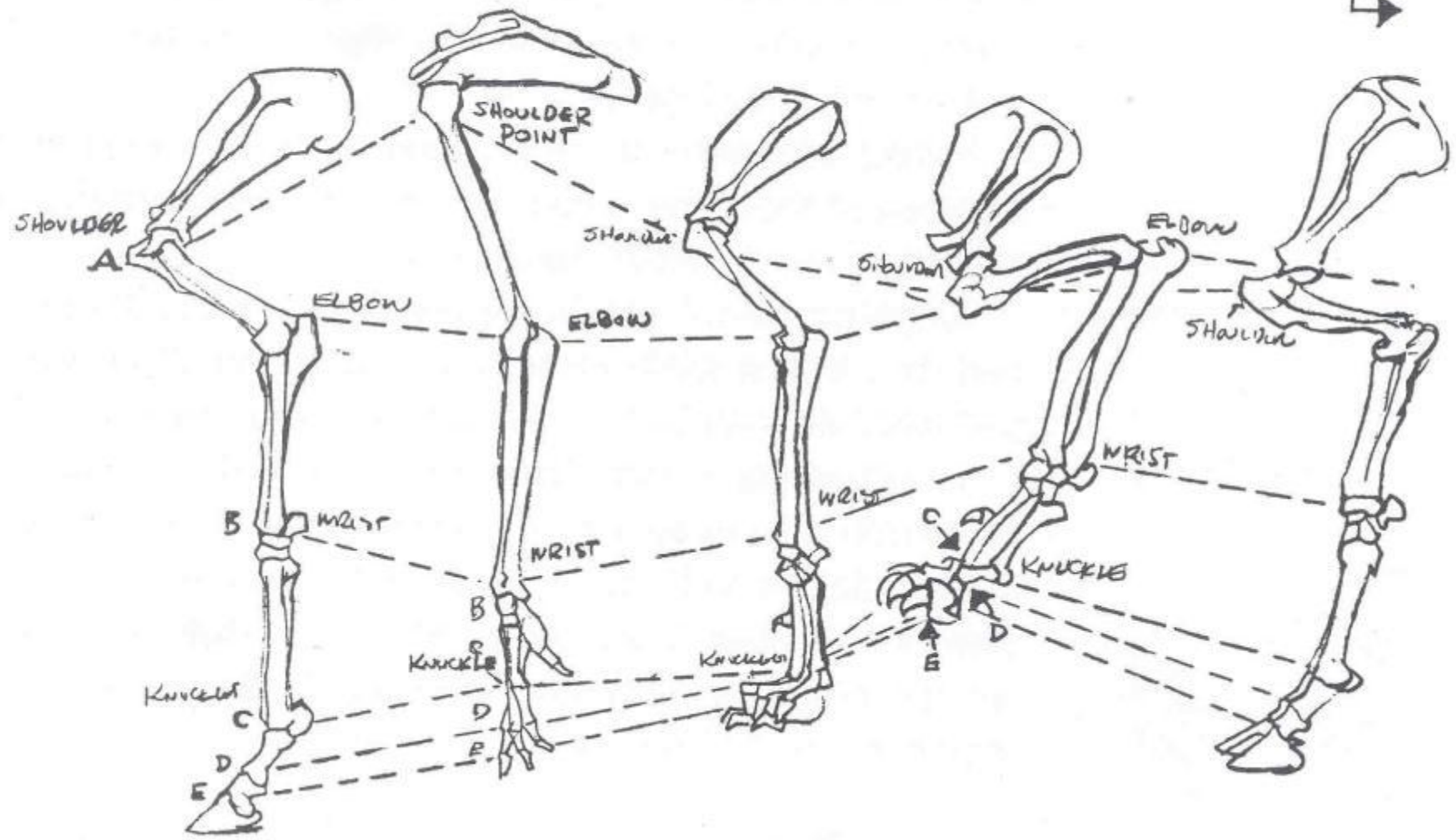
HORSE

MAN

DOG

CAT

ETC  
↓

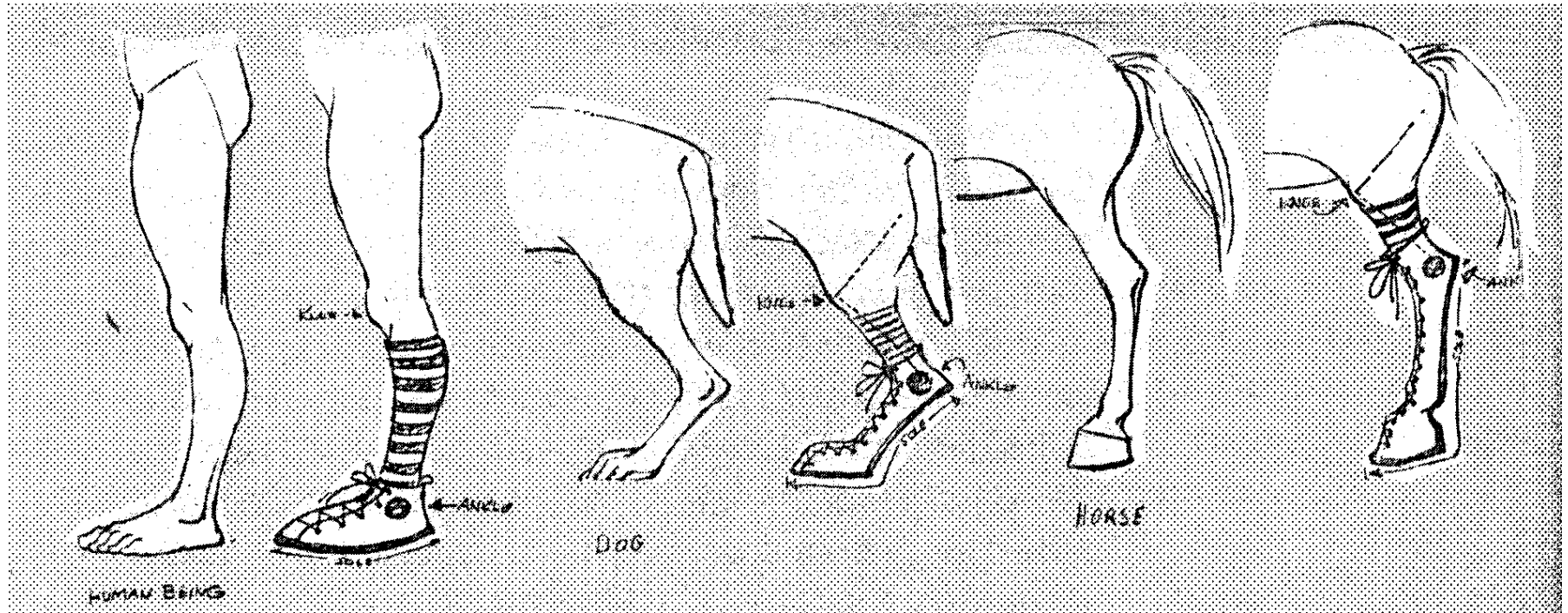




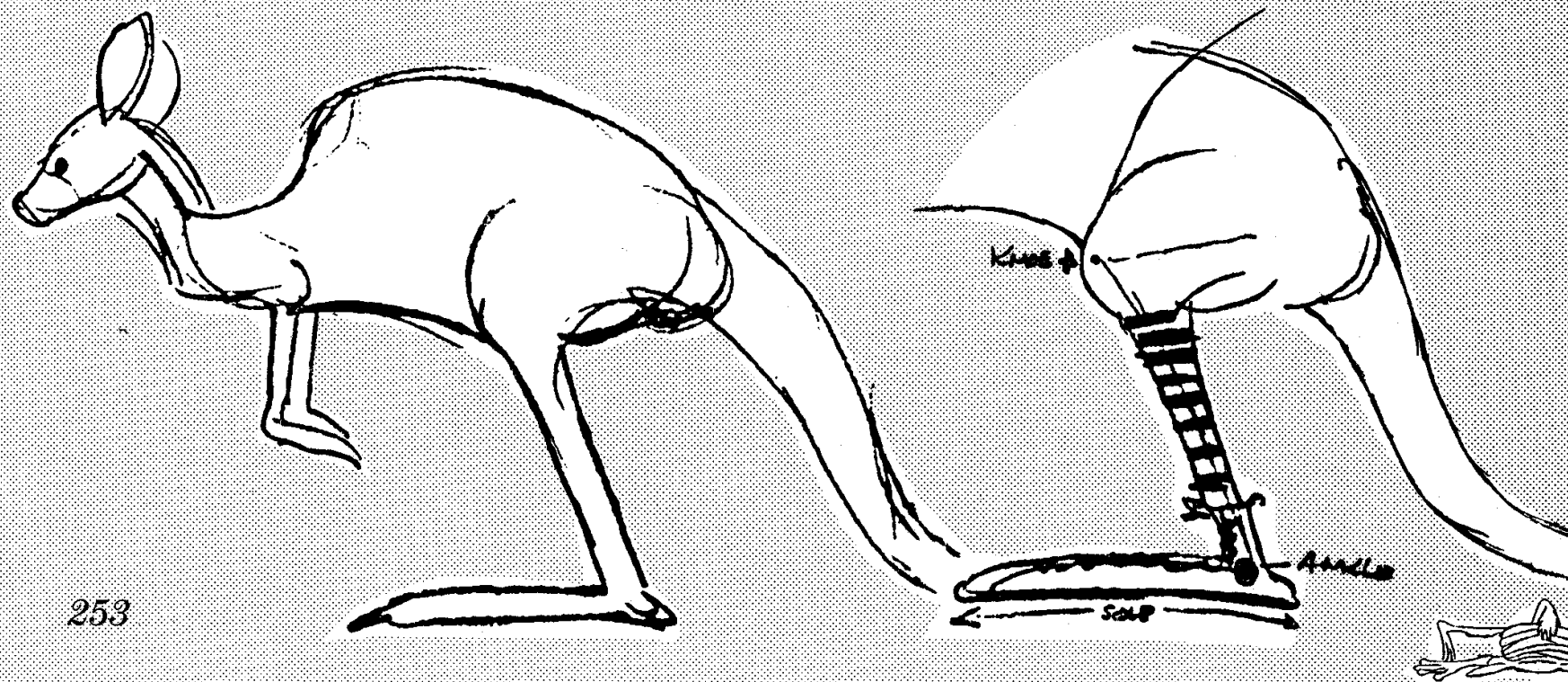
# Criteria for Anatomical Homology:

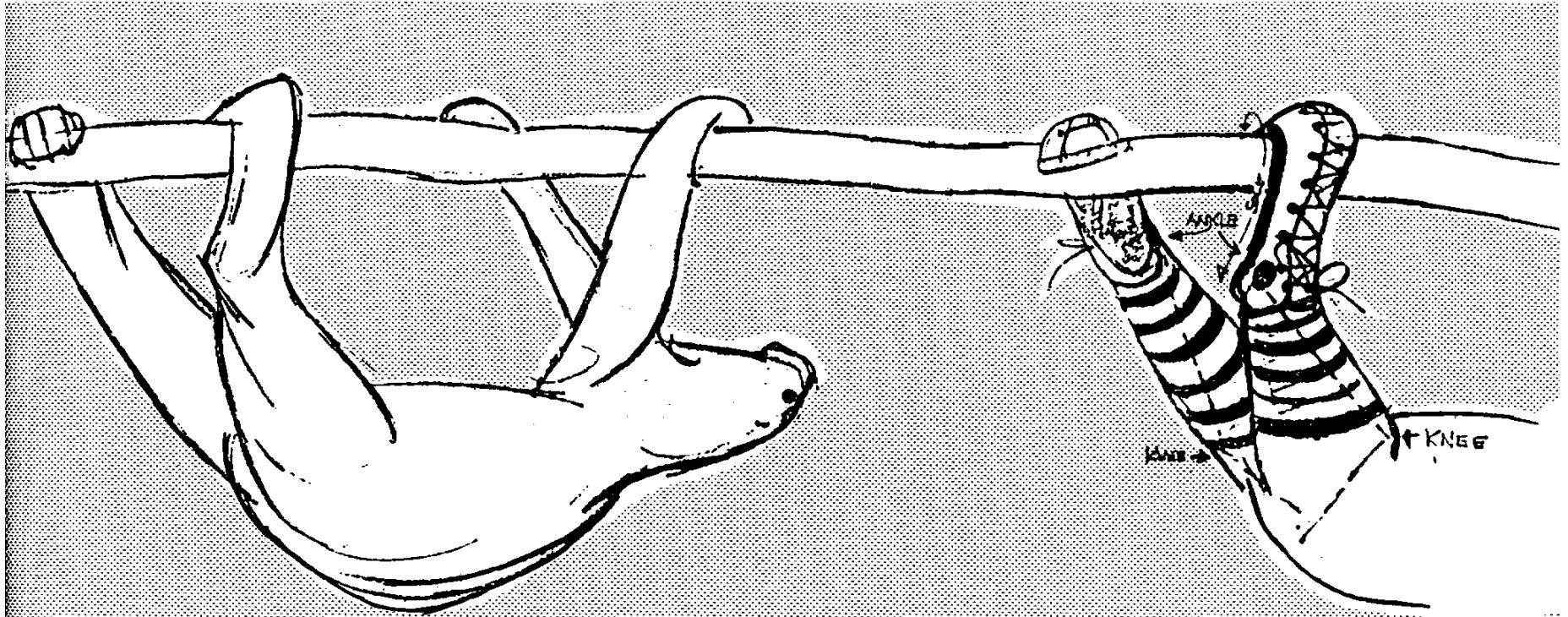
- Same Anatomical Position
- Same Embryological Material
- (In animals) Supplied by Same Nerve

Function is NOT a good criterion  
(because functions can change over  
time...)



From: ***Chuck Amuck*** by Chuck Jones, Farrar Straus Giroux Publishers, New York, 1989.

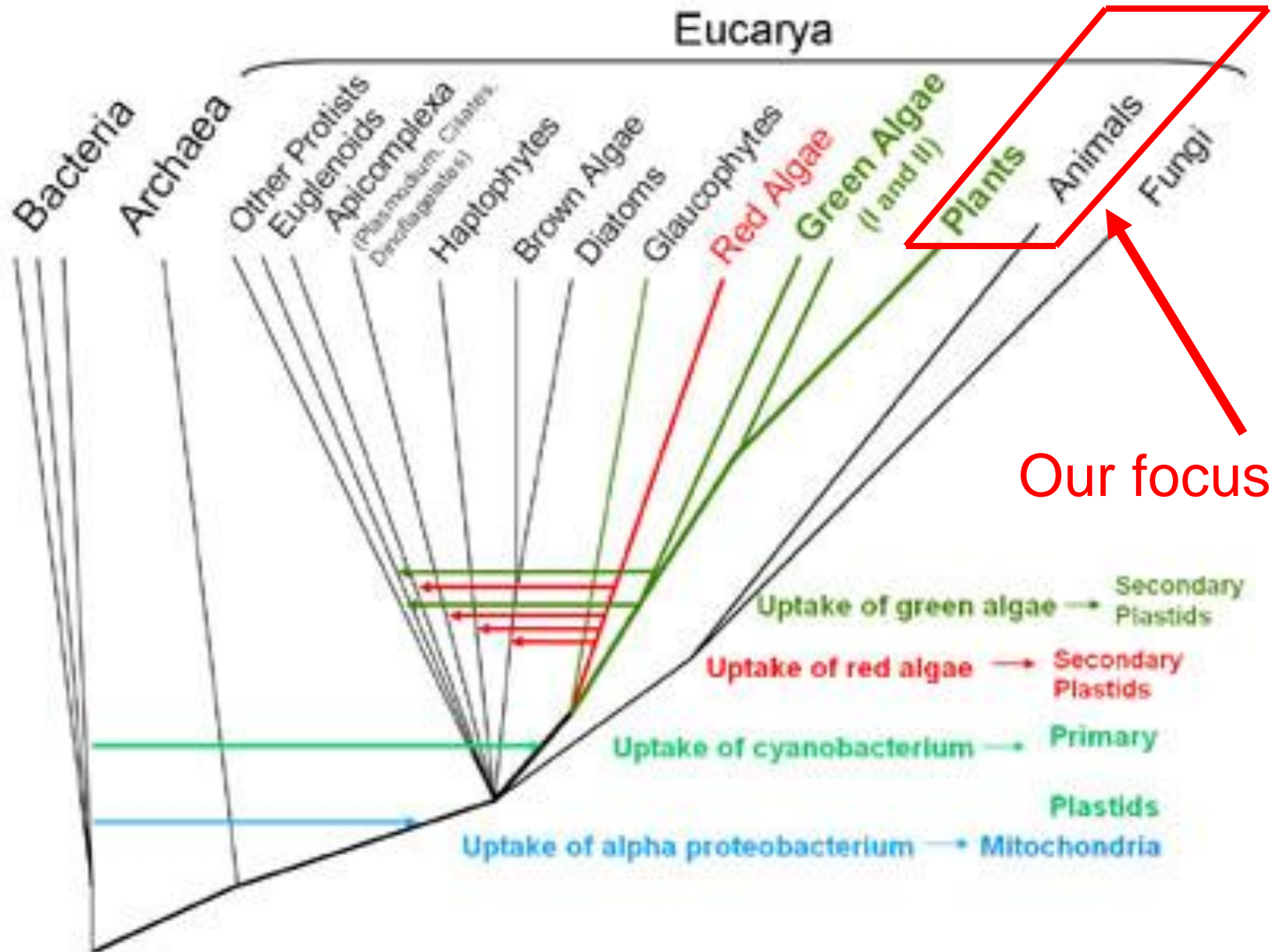




Knowing the relationships of organisms allows us to consider certain other concepts:

**CONVERGENT EVOLUTION** – the acquisition of similar features due to similar environmental pressures.

**PARALLEL EVOLUTION** – (a special case of convergence) when convergent evolution takes place between very closely related lineages.



GERM LAYERS

and

SEGMENTATION

# Eumetazoa has:

Germ Layers

Endoderm

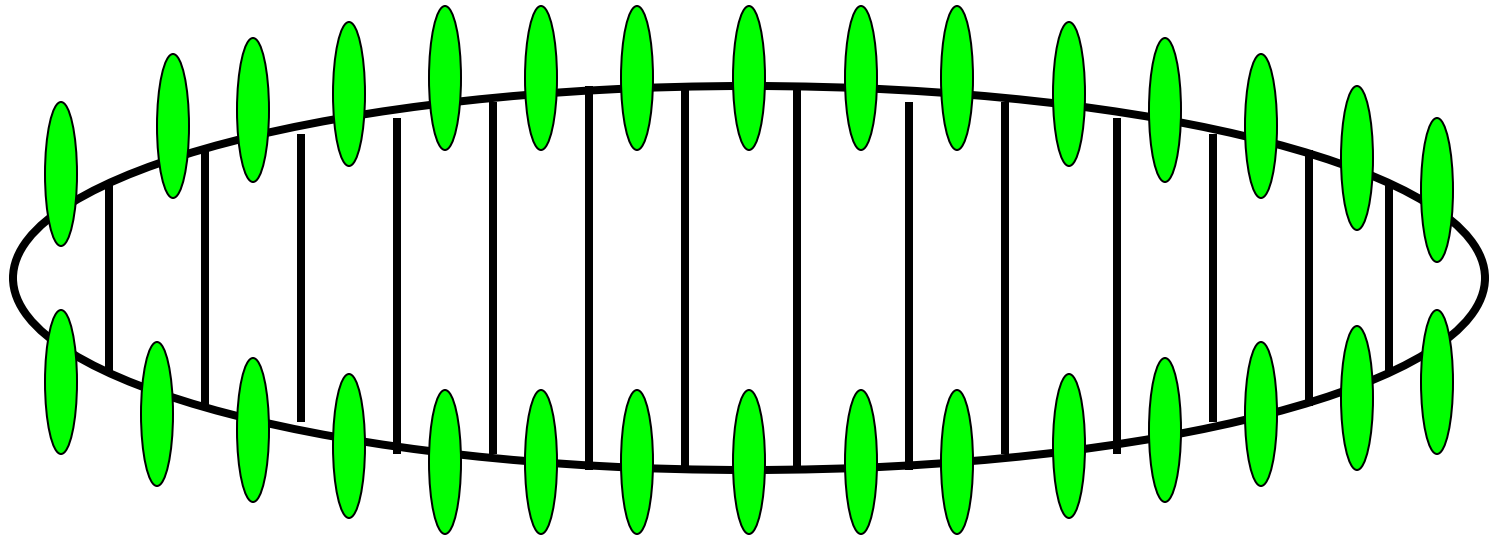
Ectoderm

Tissues

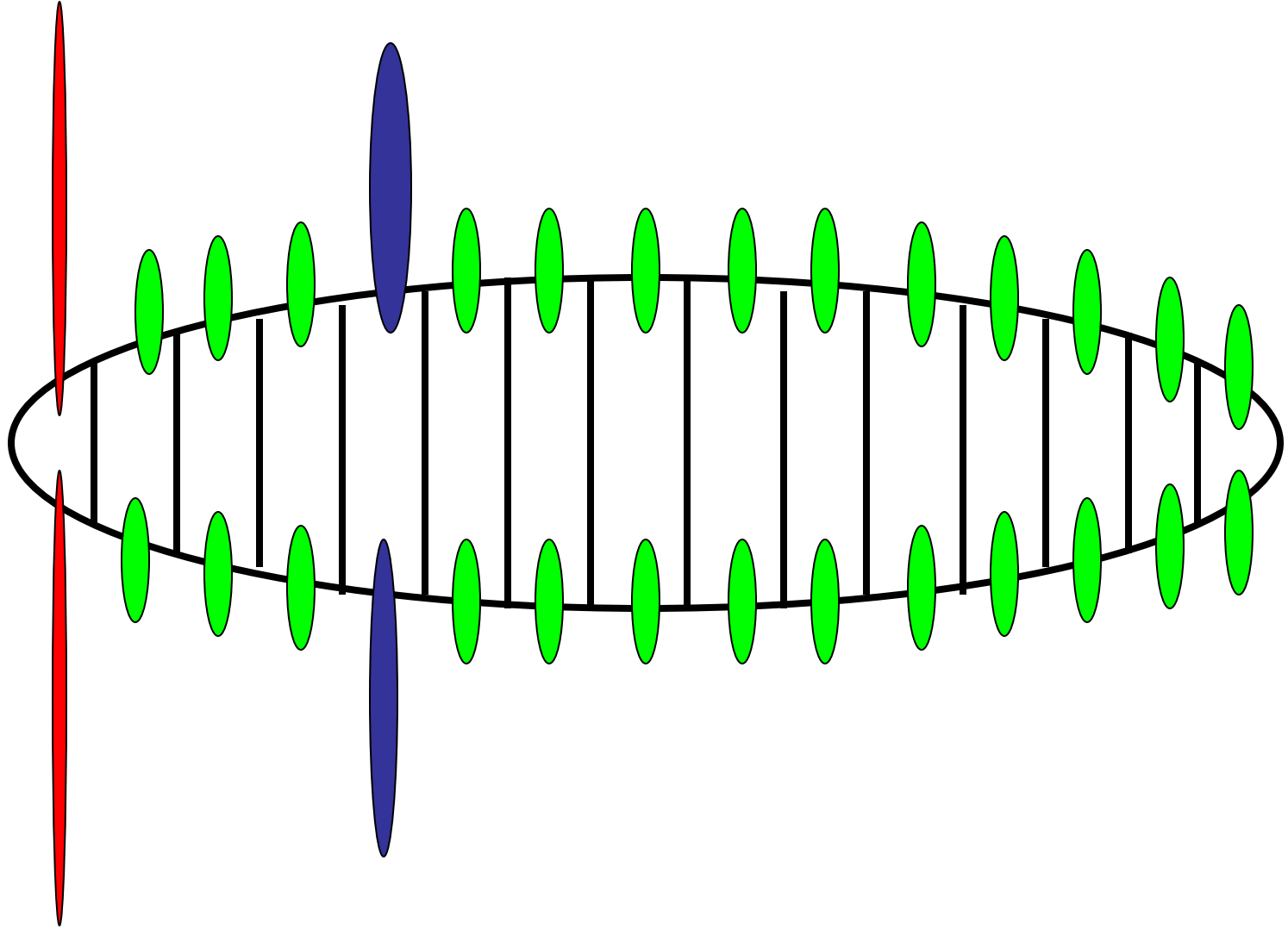


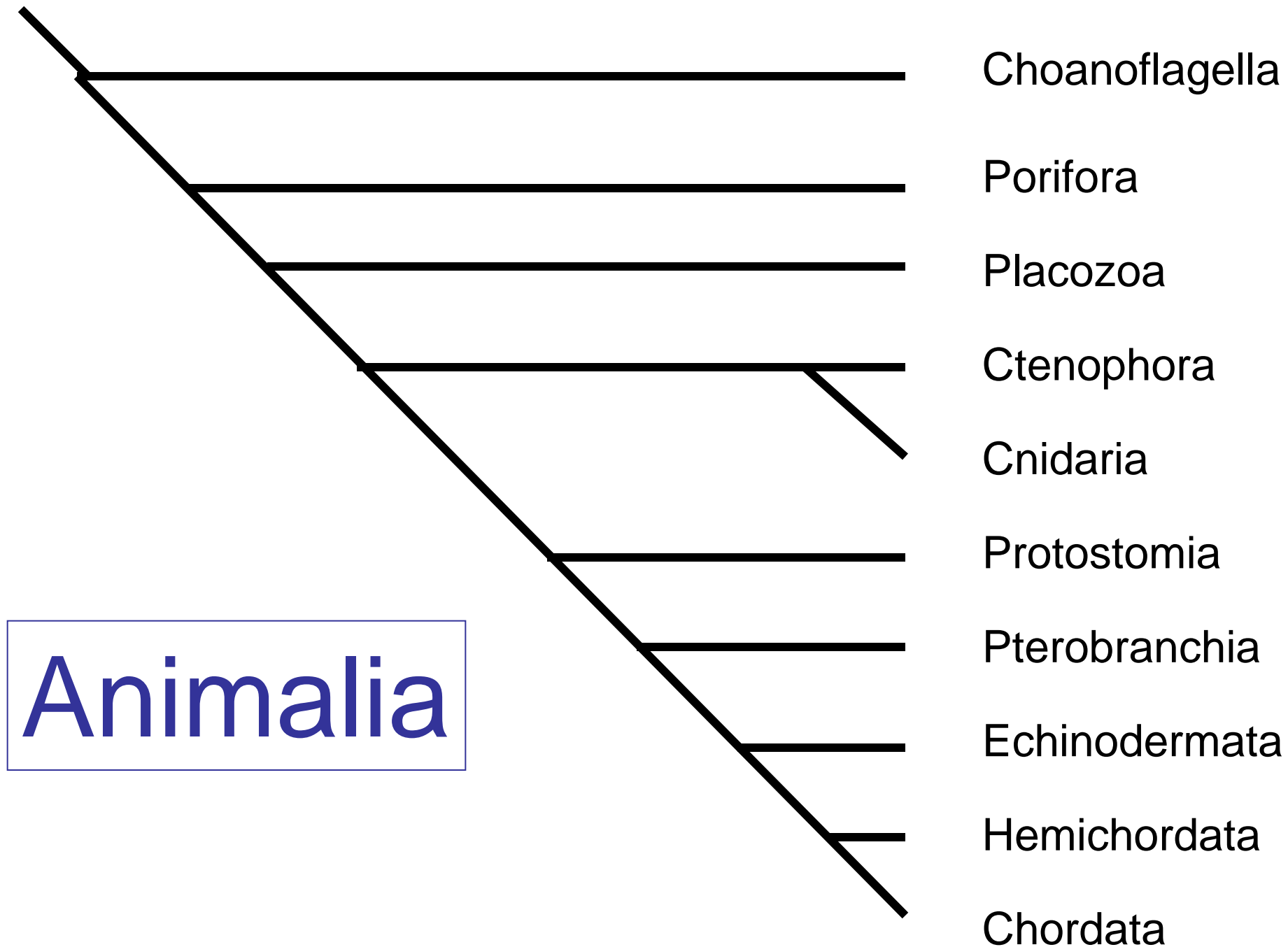
Segmentation: an example:

A simplified arthropod larva with multiple segments, each with appendages, or the genetic ability to develop appendages.

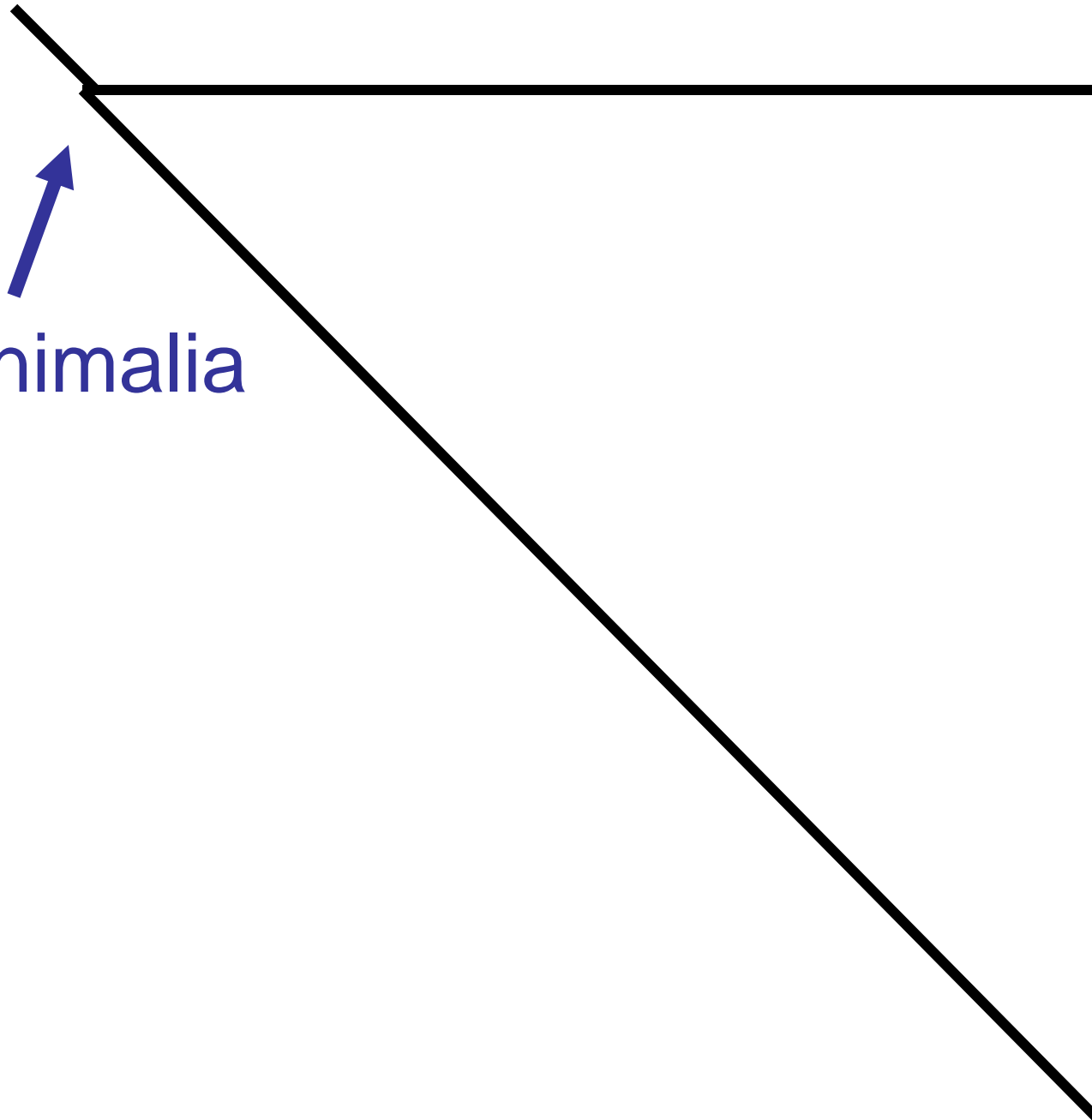


Different kinds of arthropods can elaborate upon different segments and appendages. This provides an enormous versatility.





Animalia



Choanoflagella

# Animalia

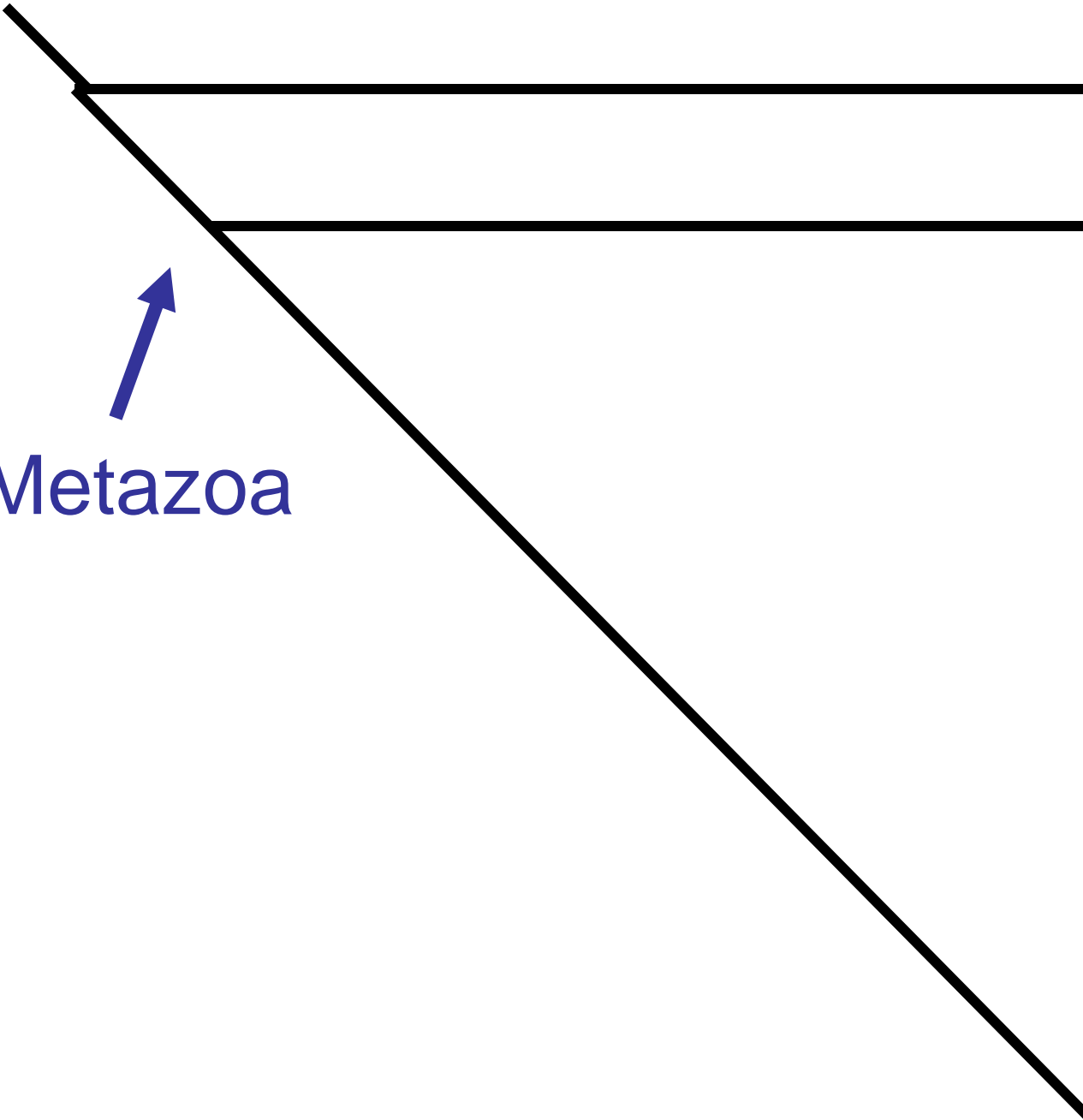
**Multicellular  
heterotrophs**

Metazoa



Choanoflagella

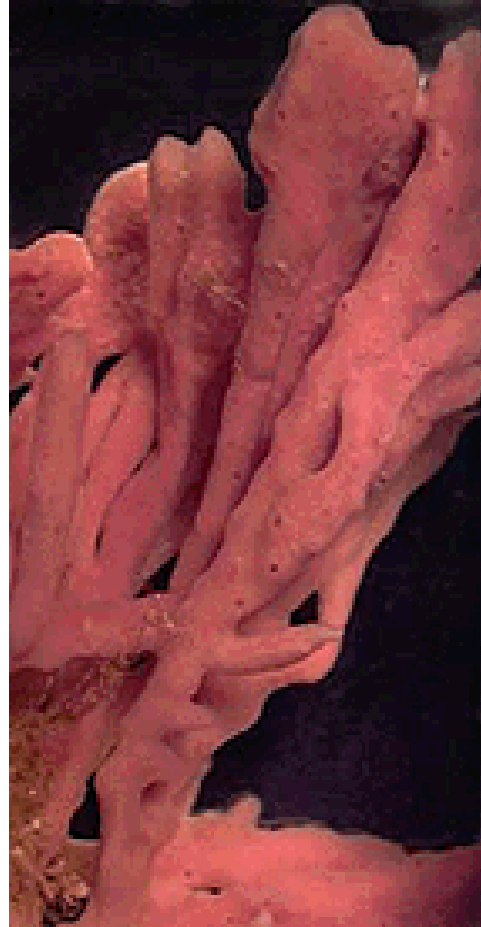
Porifora



Porifera (Sponges):

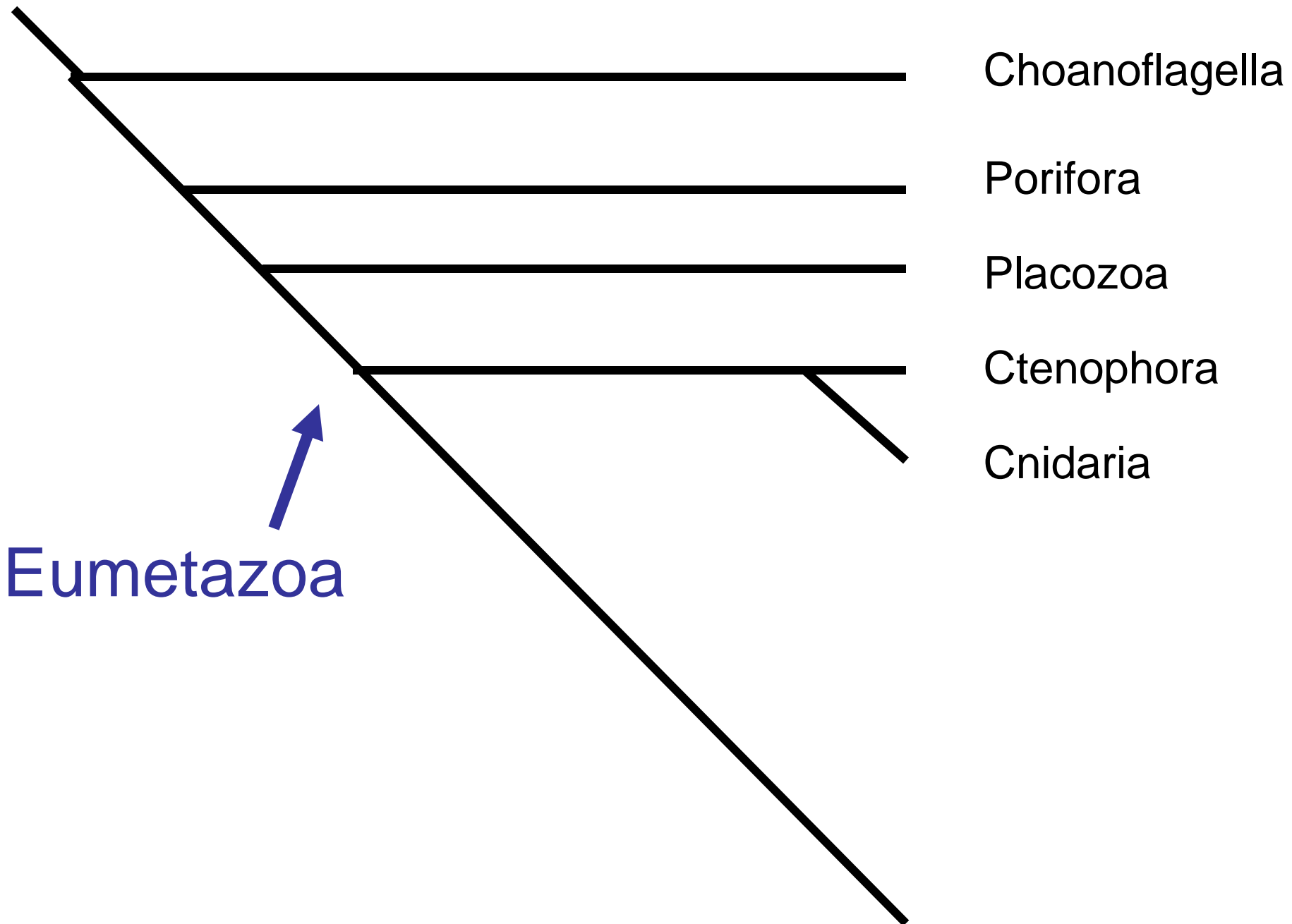
Known as far back as  
PreCambrian

600 million years ago.



Example: Porifera (Sponges): No true germ layers or tissues





# Eumetazoa

Germ Layers

Endoderm

Ectoderm

Tissues

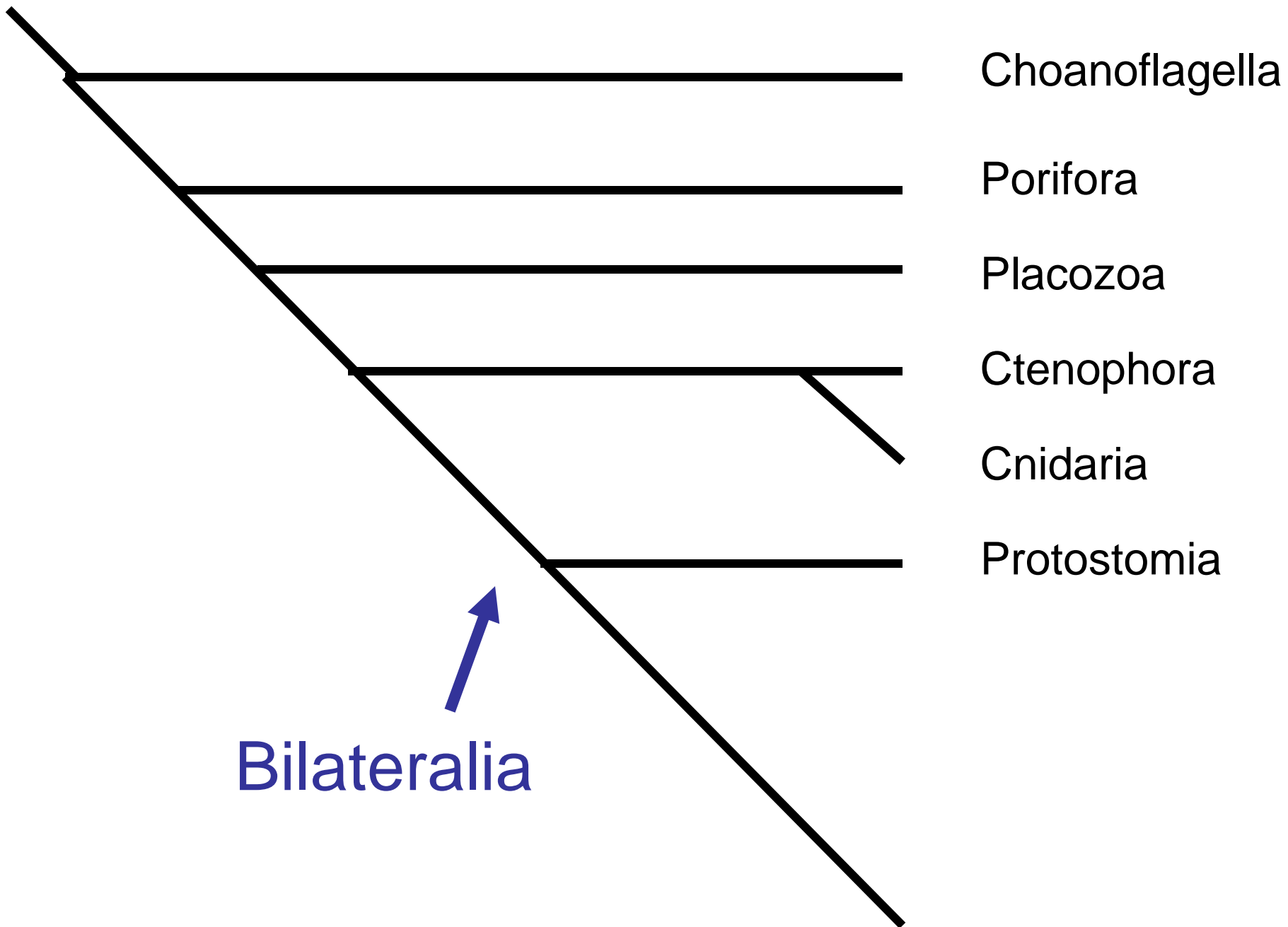
# Ctenophores and Cnidarians

Known as far back as PreCambrian  
“Ediacarian Faunas”.

- Two germ layers – ectoderm and endoderm
- Only one opening into gut.

# Ctenophores and Cnidarians

Known as far back as  
PreCambrian “Ediacarian  
Faunas”.



# Bilateria

Bilaterally symmetrical at some point during ontogeny

Three germ layers: ectoderm, endoderm, mesoderm.

# Bilateria

Includes two great groups of animals:

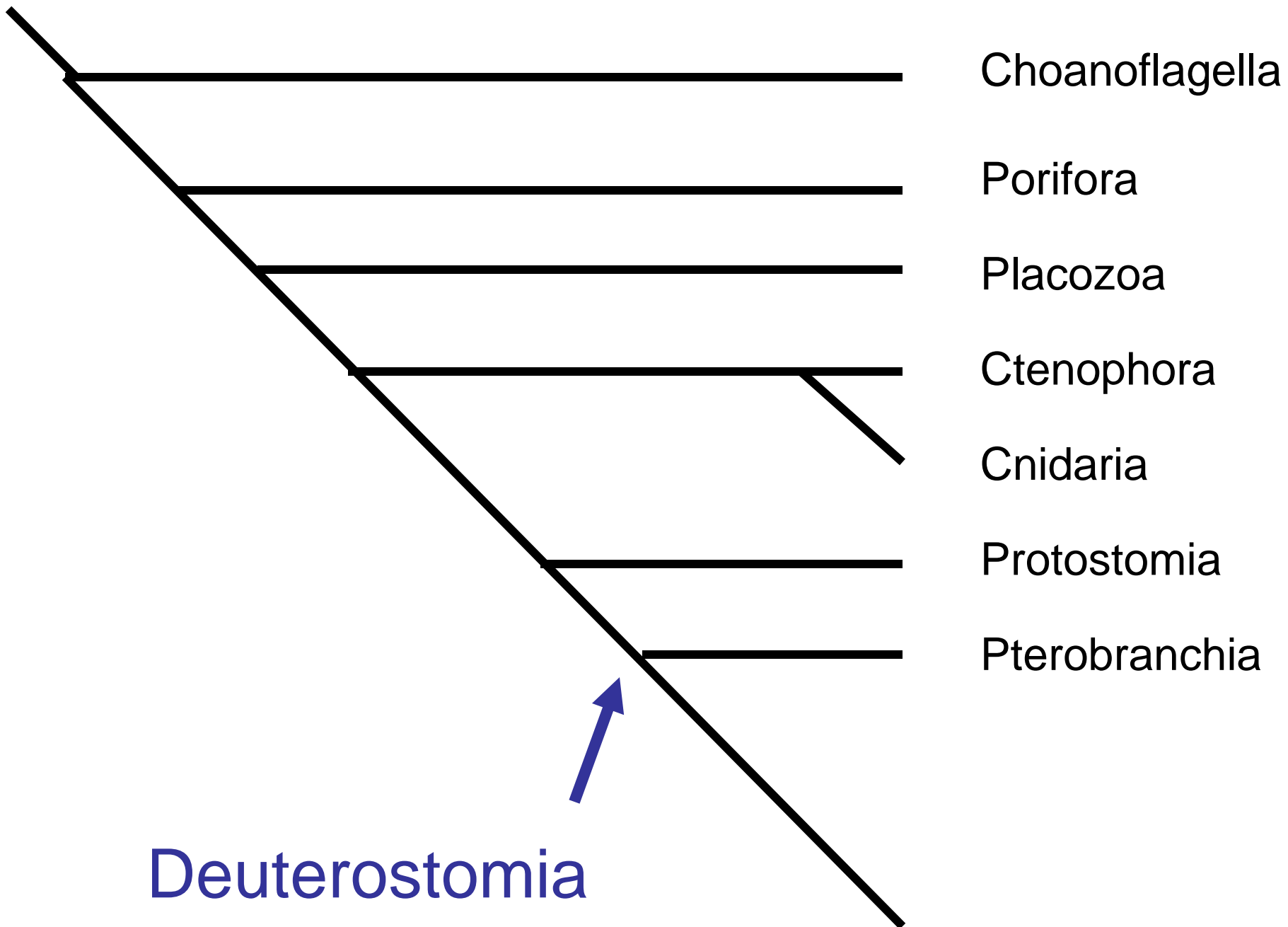
Protostomia (means 1<sup>st</sup> mouth)

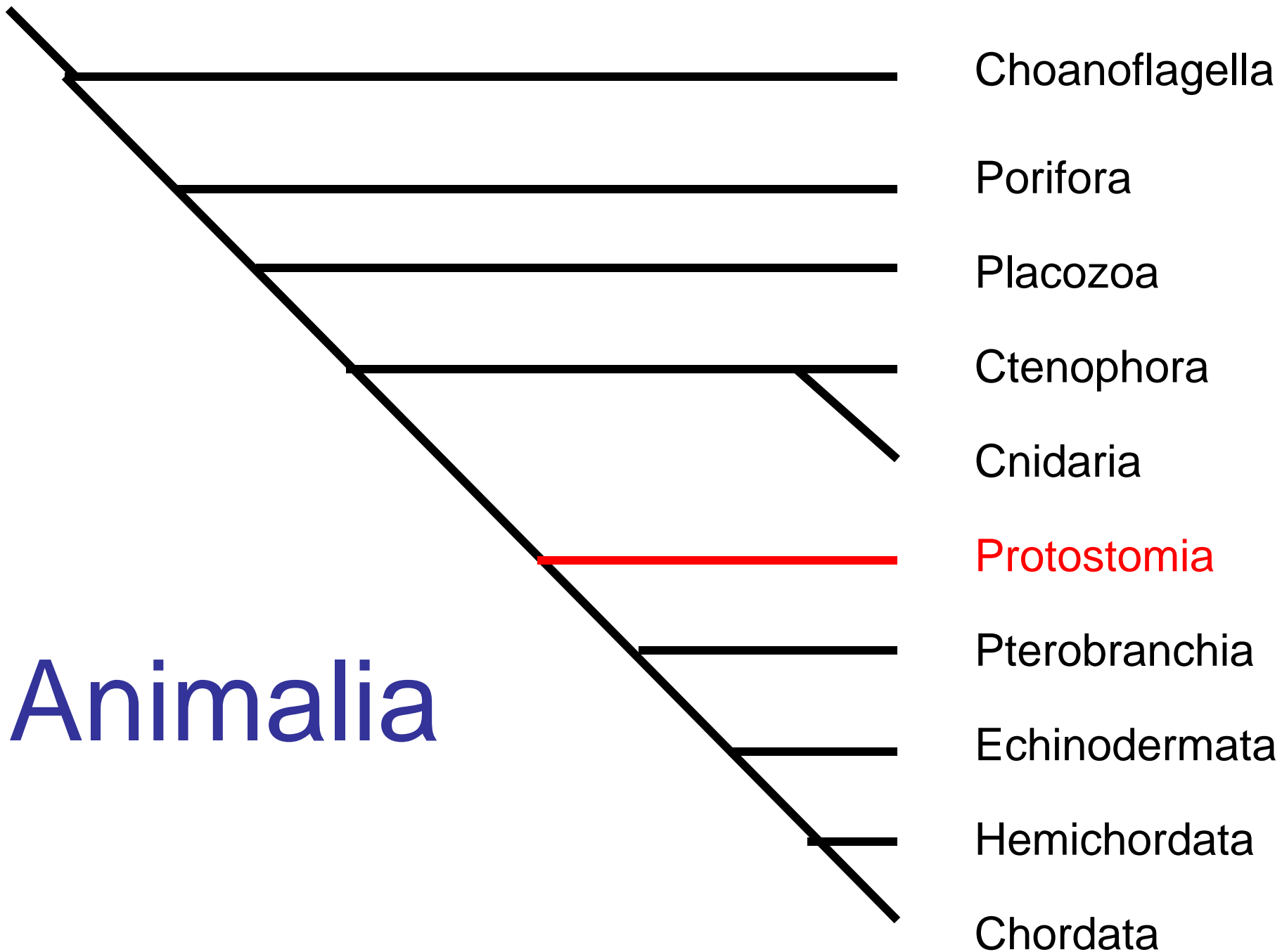
Deuterostomia (means 2<sup>nd</sup> mouth)

Protostomia includes many phyla, including:

- Arthropoda
- Mollusca
- Annelida (segmented worms)
- Many others

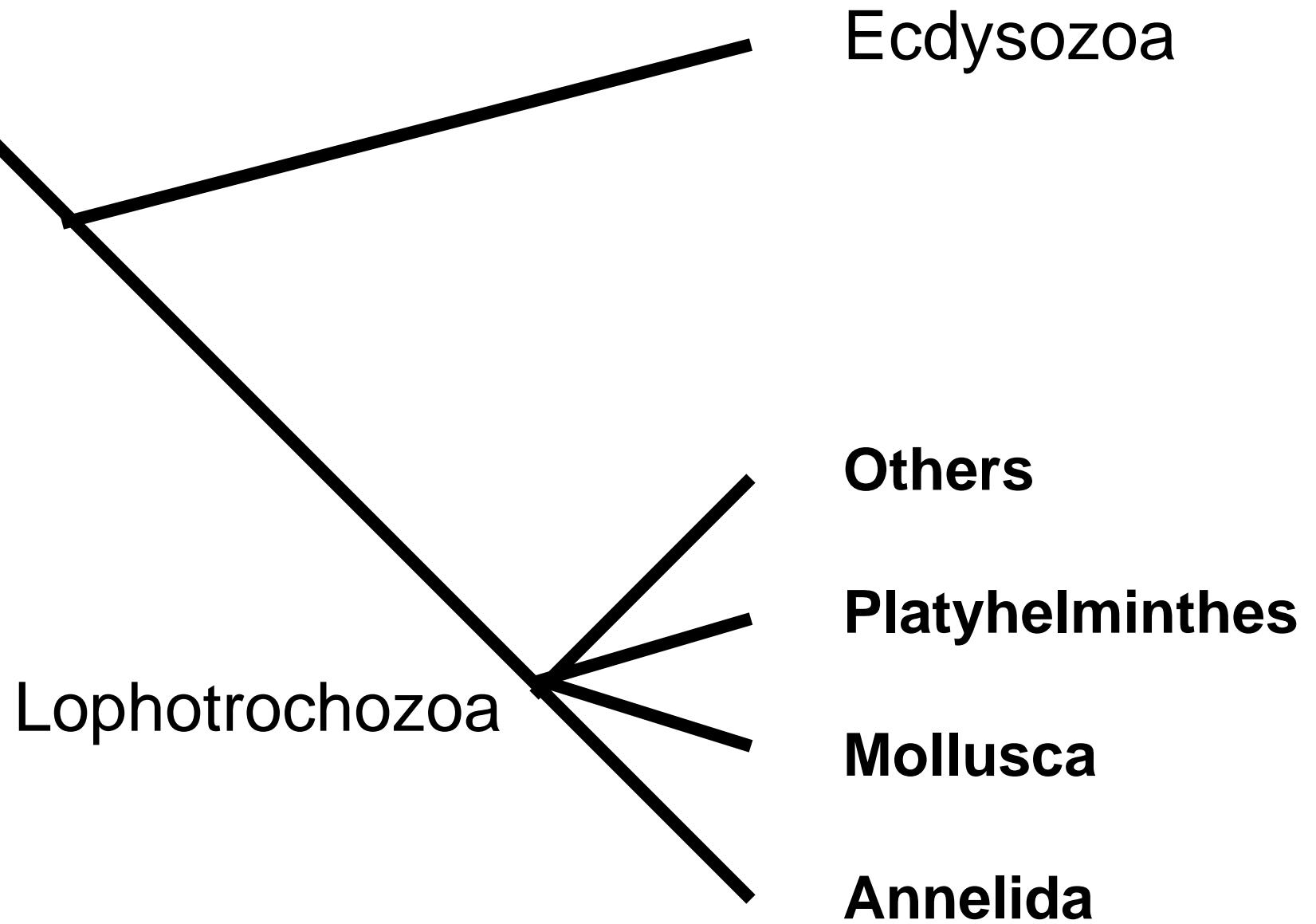


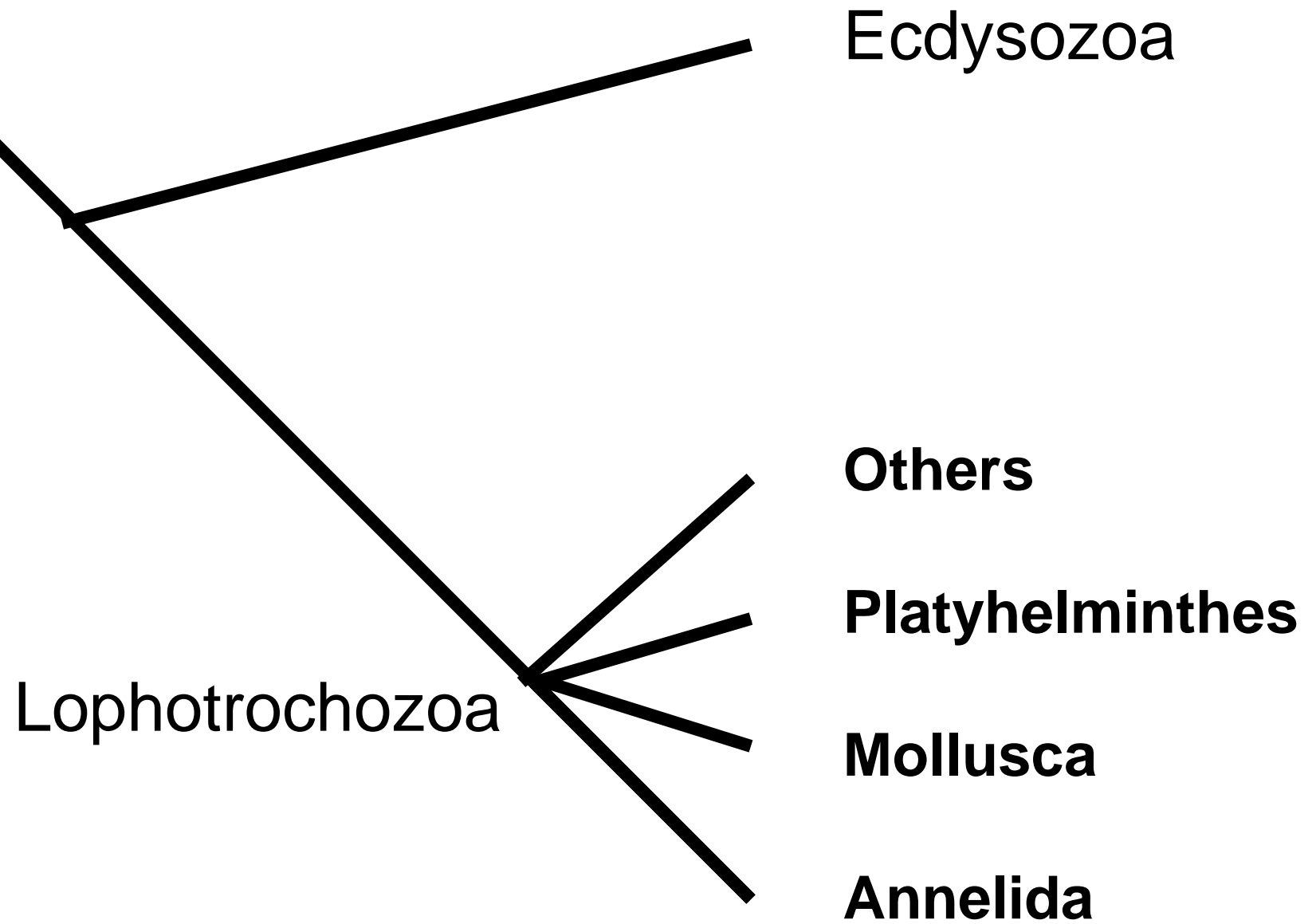




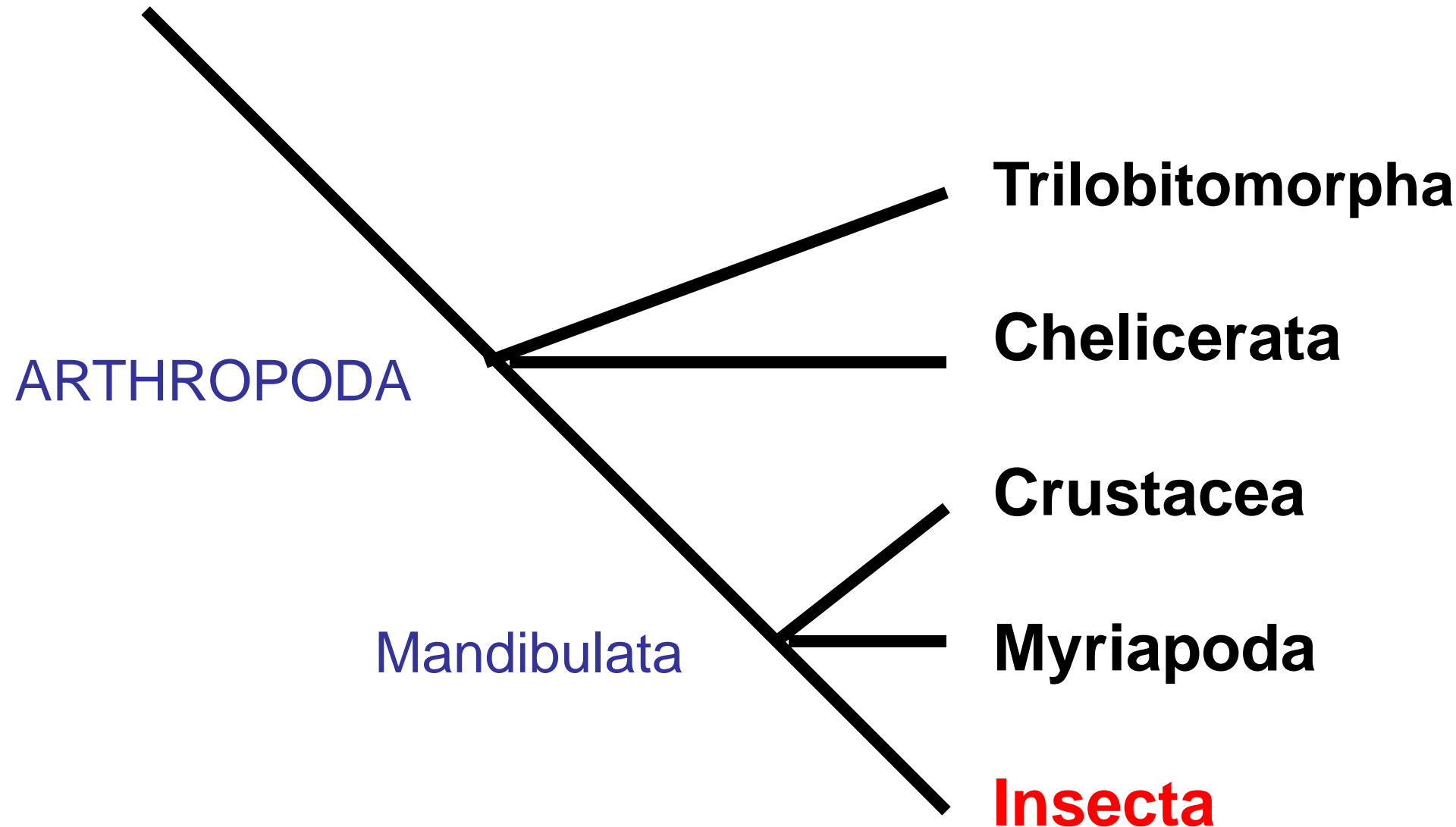
Protostomia includes many phyla, including:

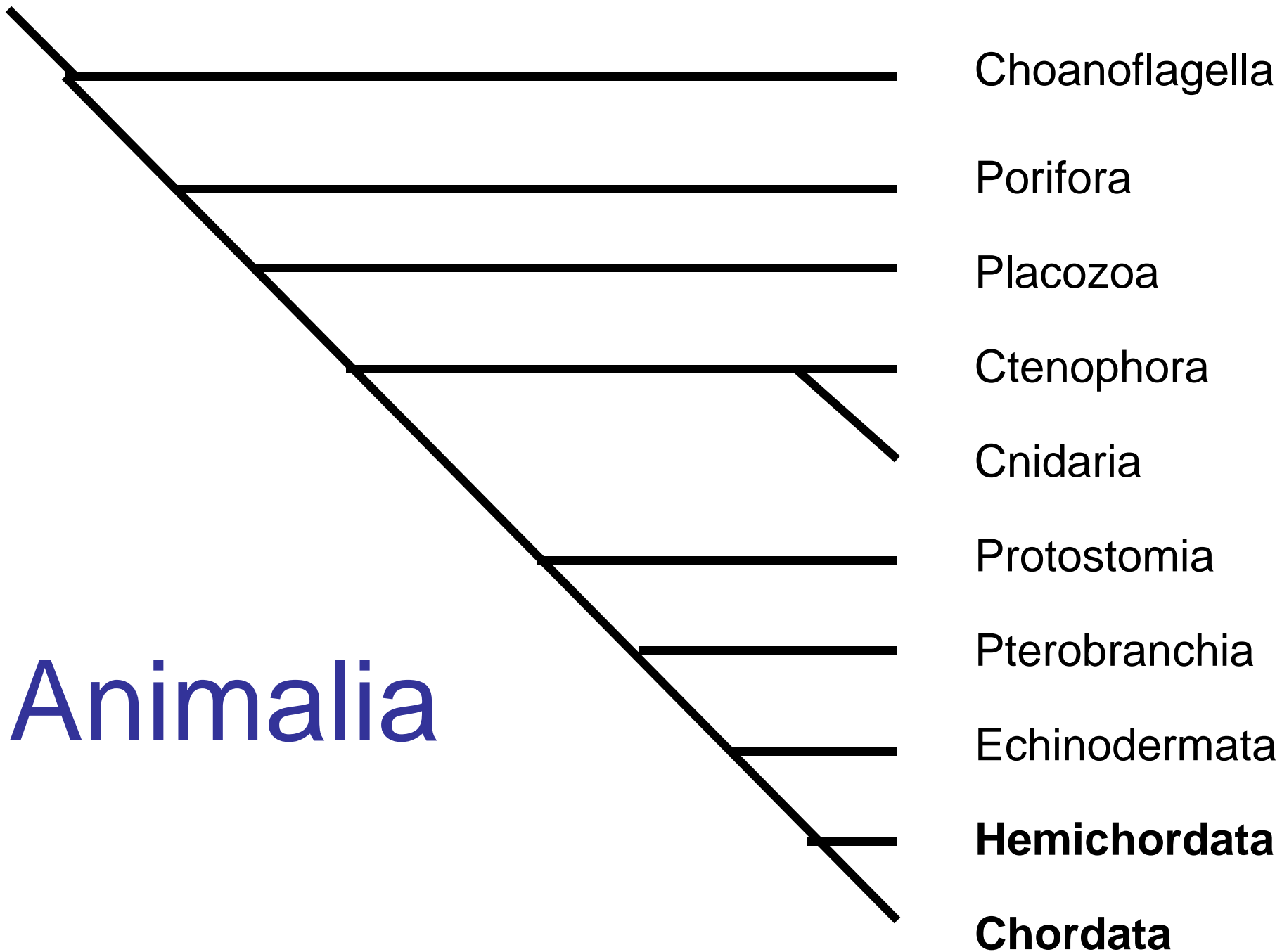
- Arthropoda
- Mollusca
- Annelida (segmented worms)
- Many others





# Ecdysozoa



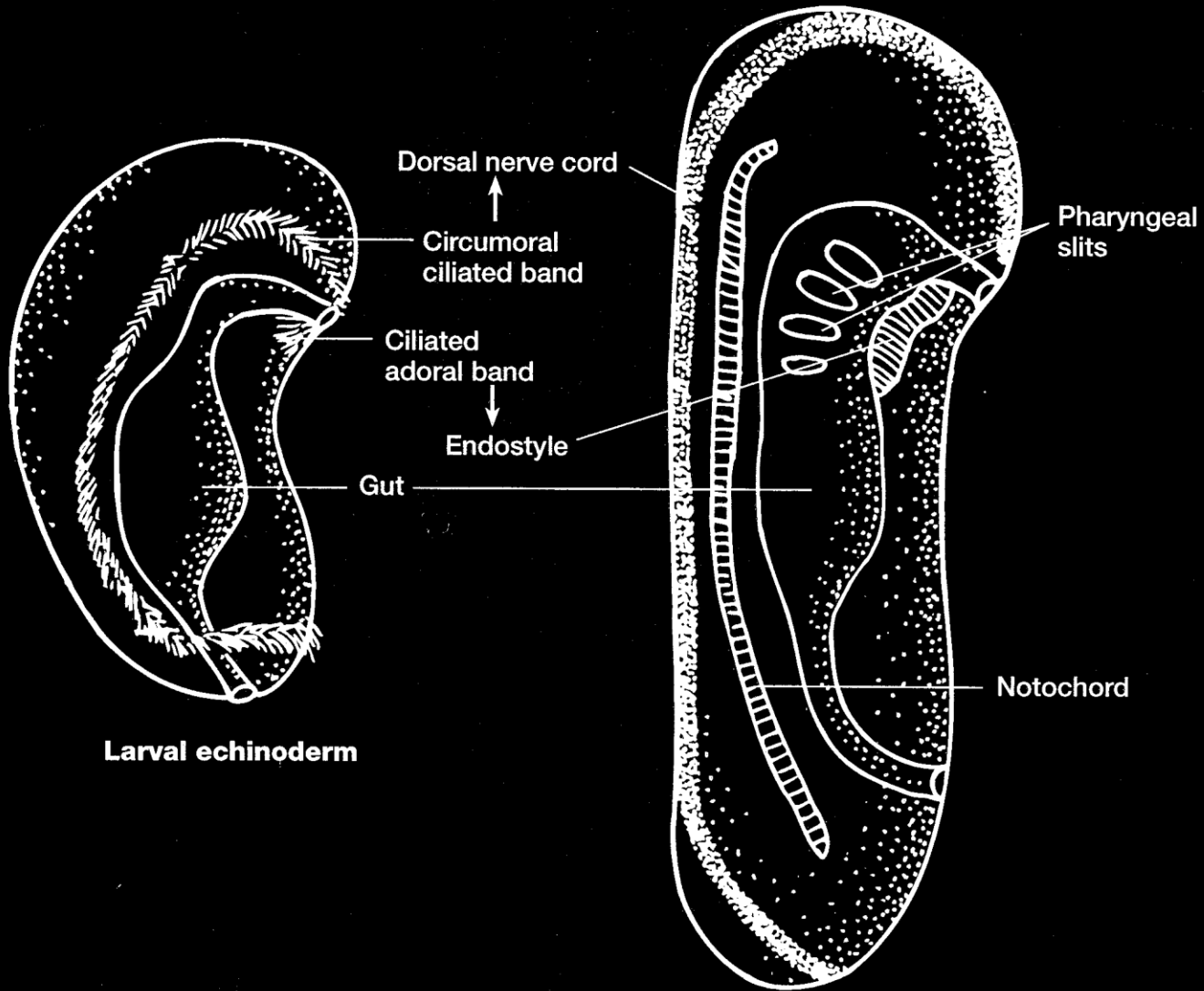


# Recall Bilateralia

Protostomia (means 1<sup>st</sup> mouth)

Deuterostomia (means 2<sup>nd</sup> mouth)



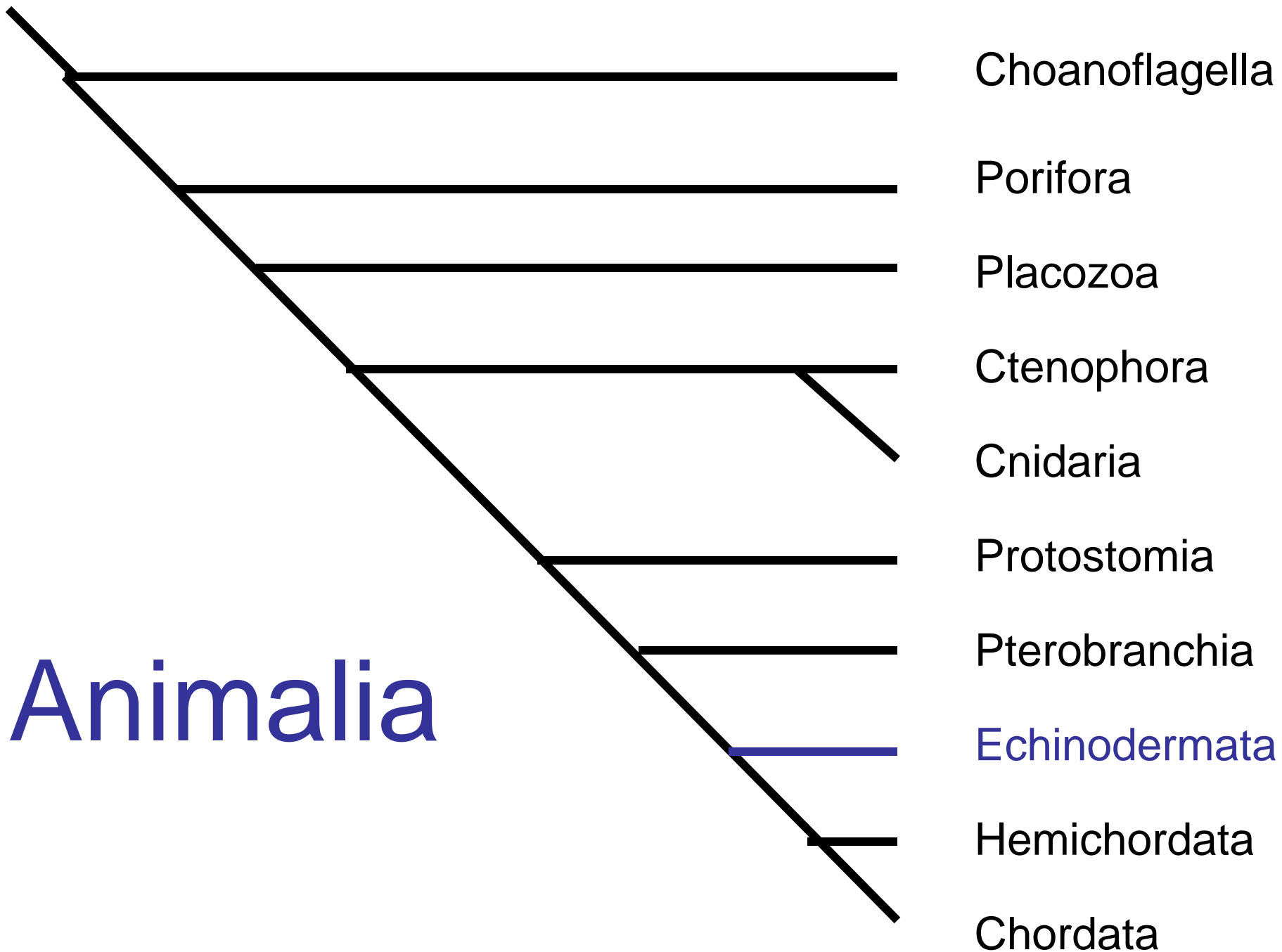


**Larval echinoderm**

**Chordate body plan**

# The best known of the Deuterostomia:

- Pterobranchia
- Echinodermata
- Hemichordata
- Chordata



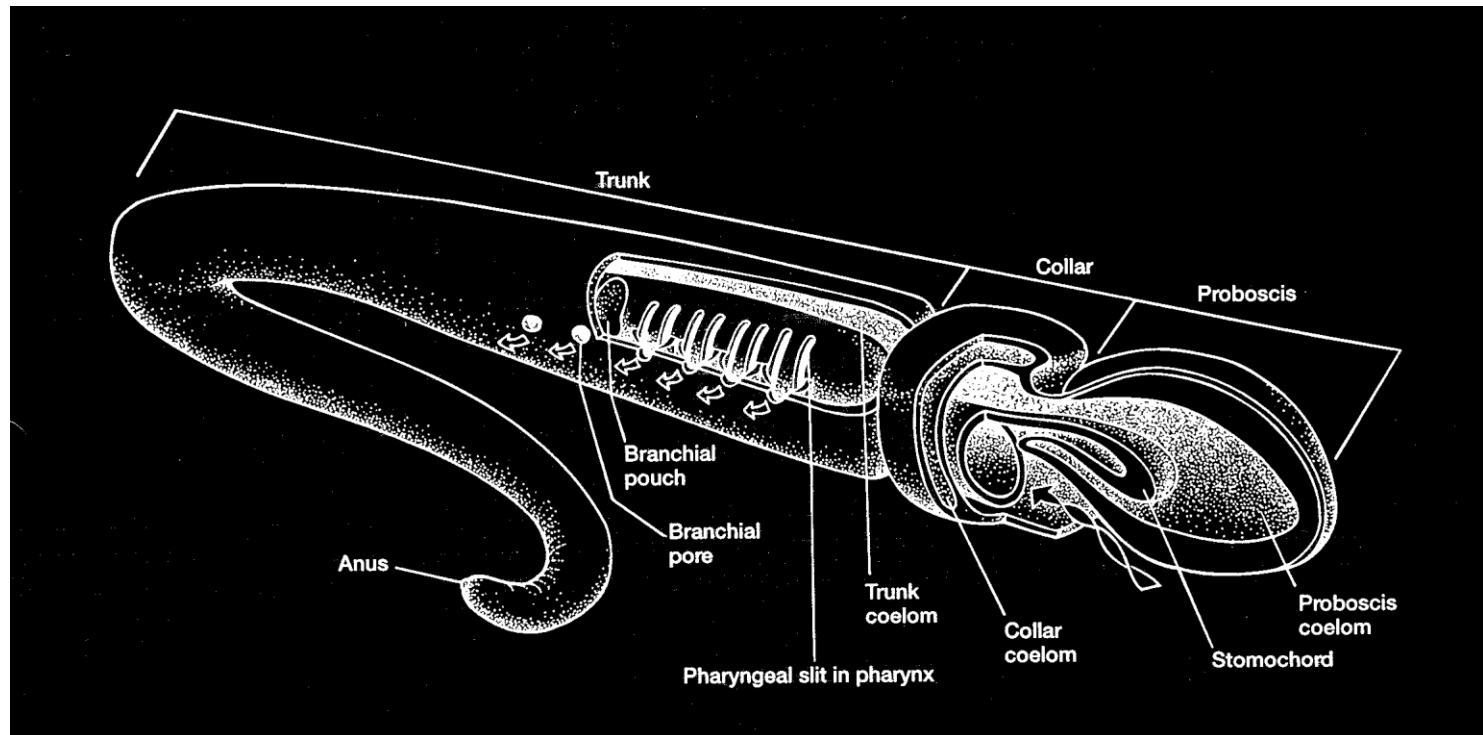
# ECHINODERMATA:

Characterized by:

- Radial symmetry as adults (bilateral as larvae)
- Water-vascular system

# PHYLUM HEMICHORDATA:

Deuterostomes with GILL SLITS  
(Original function of gill slits NOT for breathing; for FILTER FEEDING.)



# PHYLUM CHORDATA

Deuterostomes with the following synapomorphies:

- Pharyngeal gill slits
- Dorsal hollow nerve cord
- Notochord
- Post-anal tail

# PHYLUM CHORDATA

Includes the following subphyla:

- Urochordata
- Cephalochordata
- Vertebrata
  
- (People used to think Hemichordata were included, but they turn out to be the sistergroup.)

# SUBPHYLUM UROCHORDATA



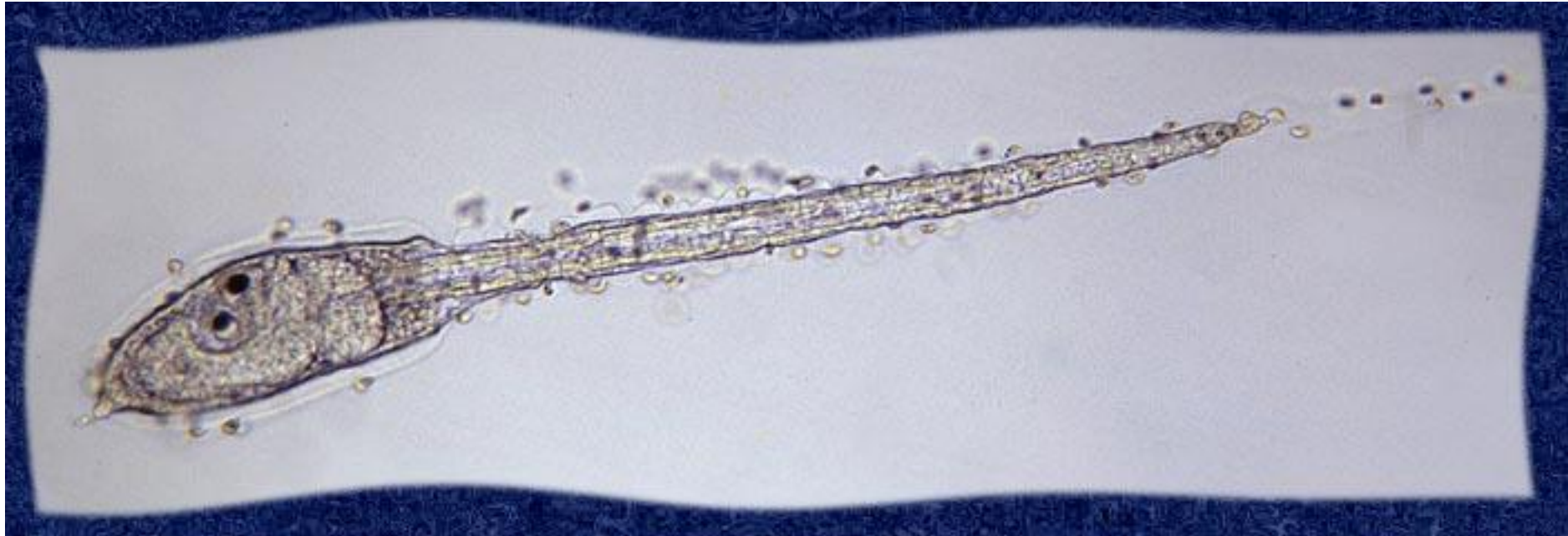


How can something like this be related to chordates like us?

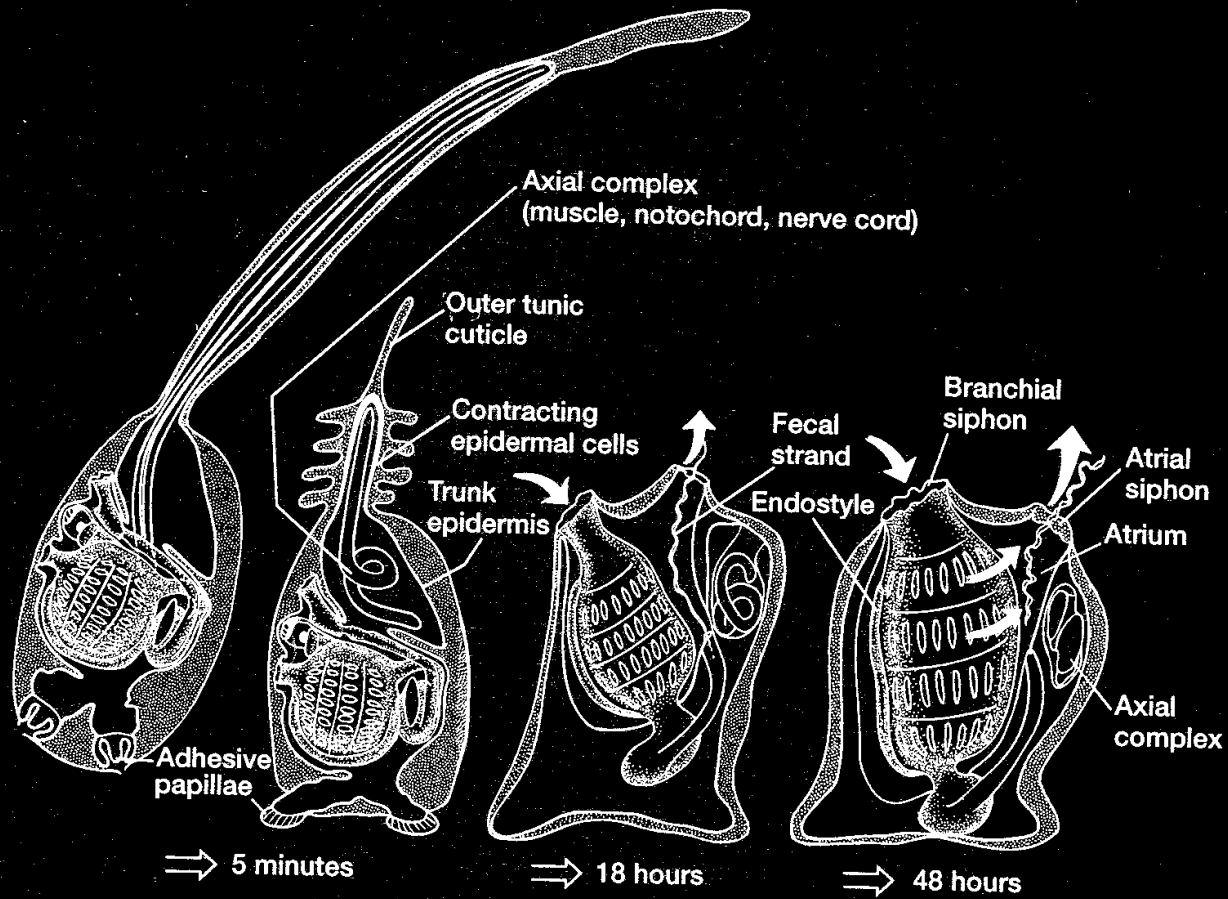
Addition of a new life stage: a mobile larval stage.

**CAENOGENESIS:** Interpolation of a new life stage into the lifecycle.





The new larval stage of a urochordate

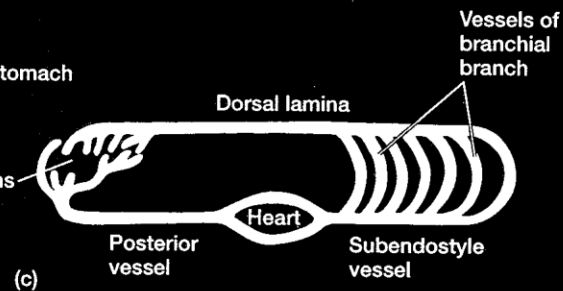
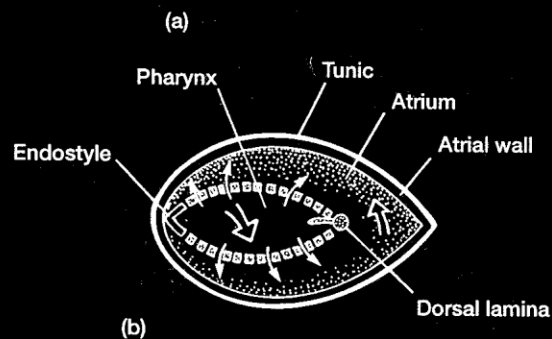
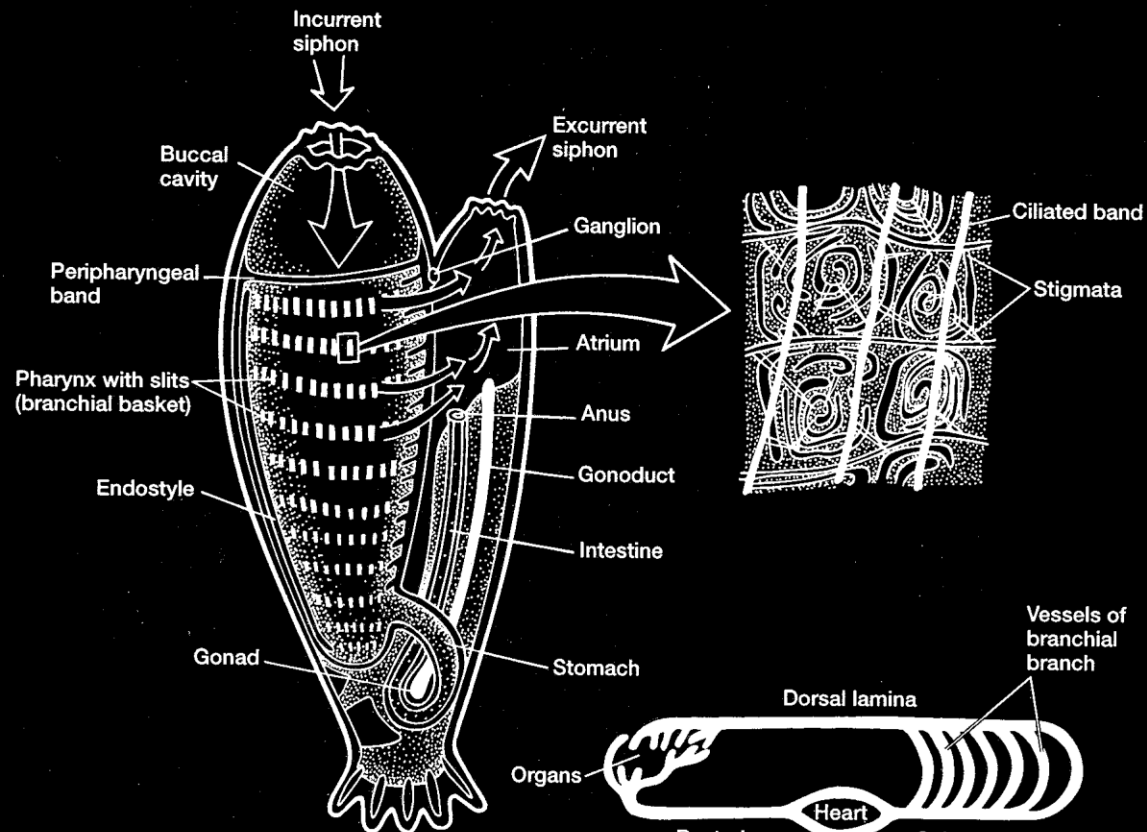


from

larva to adult

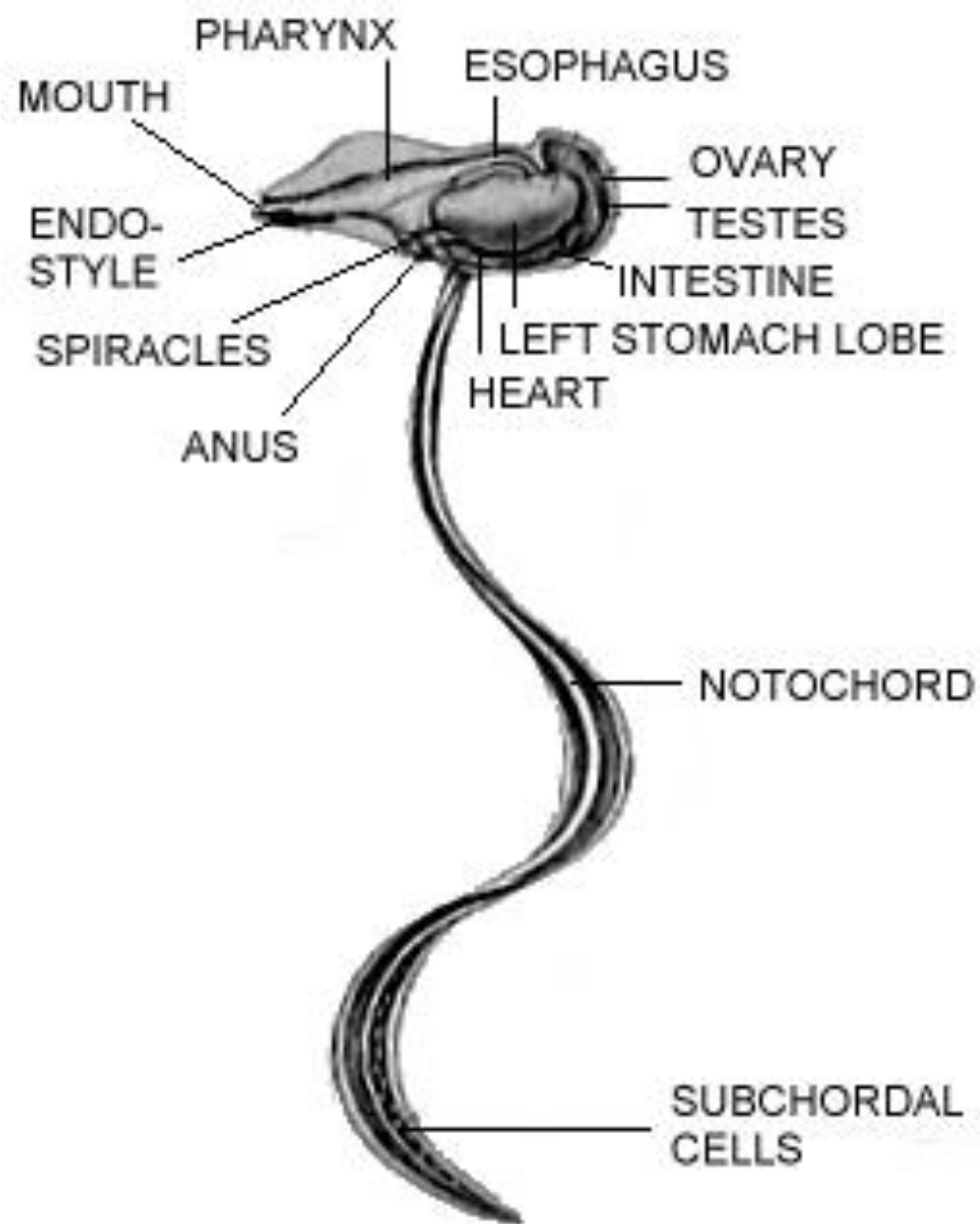


Adult  
urochordate



Some urochordates stay larval all life long, but they become sexually mature – an example of NEOTONY.

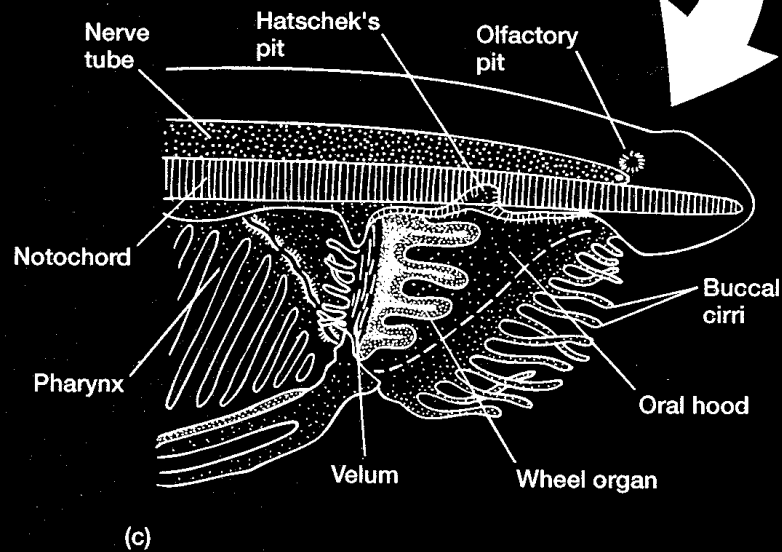
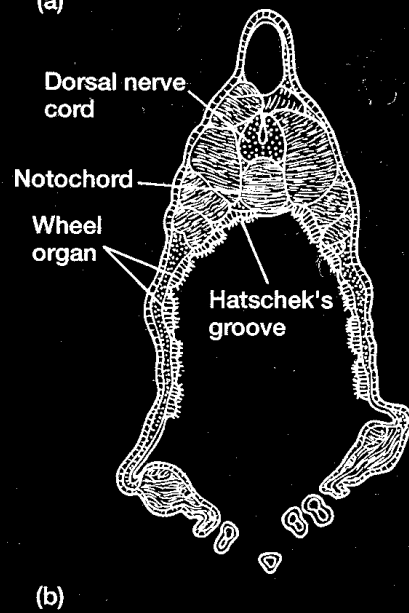
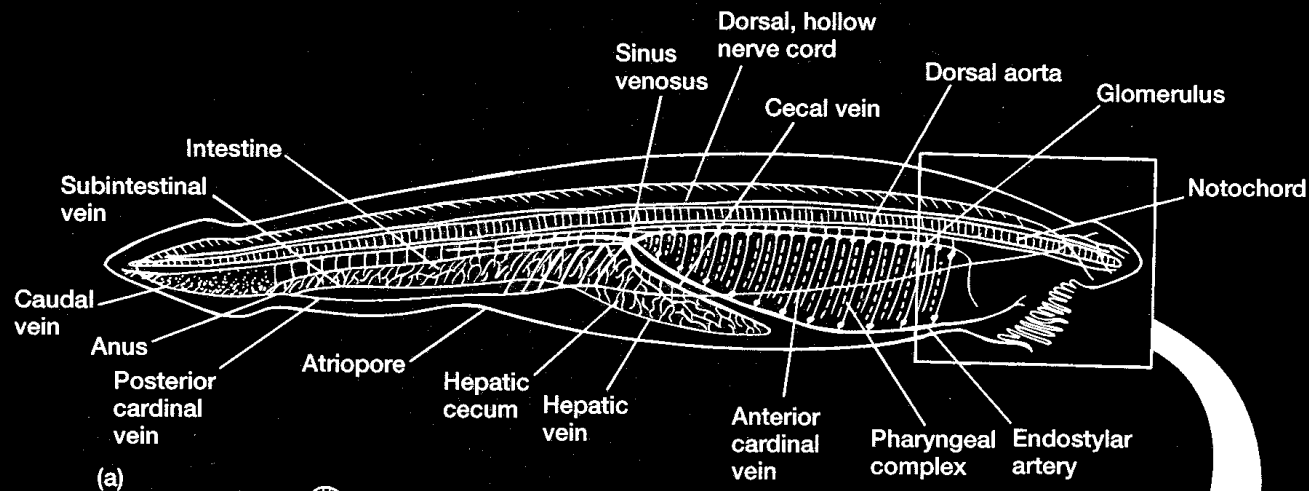


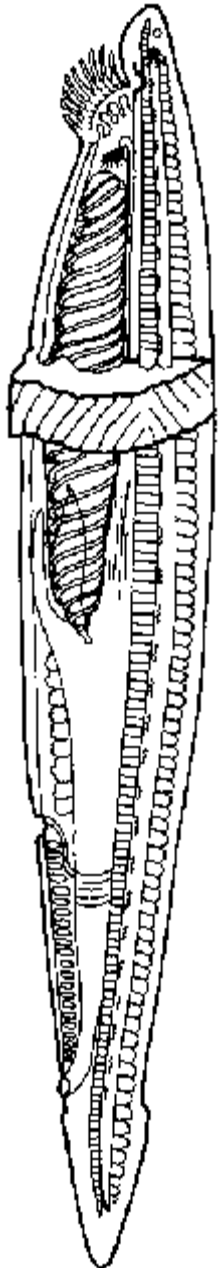




# More “fish-like” PHYLUM CEPHALOCHORDATA

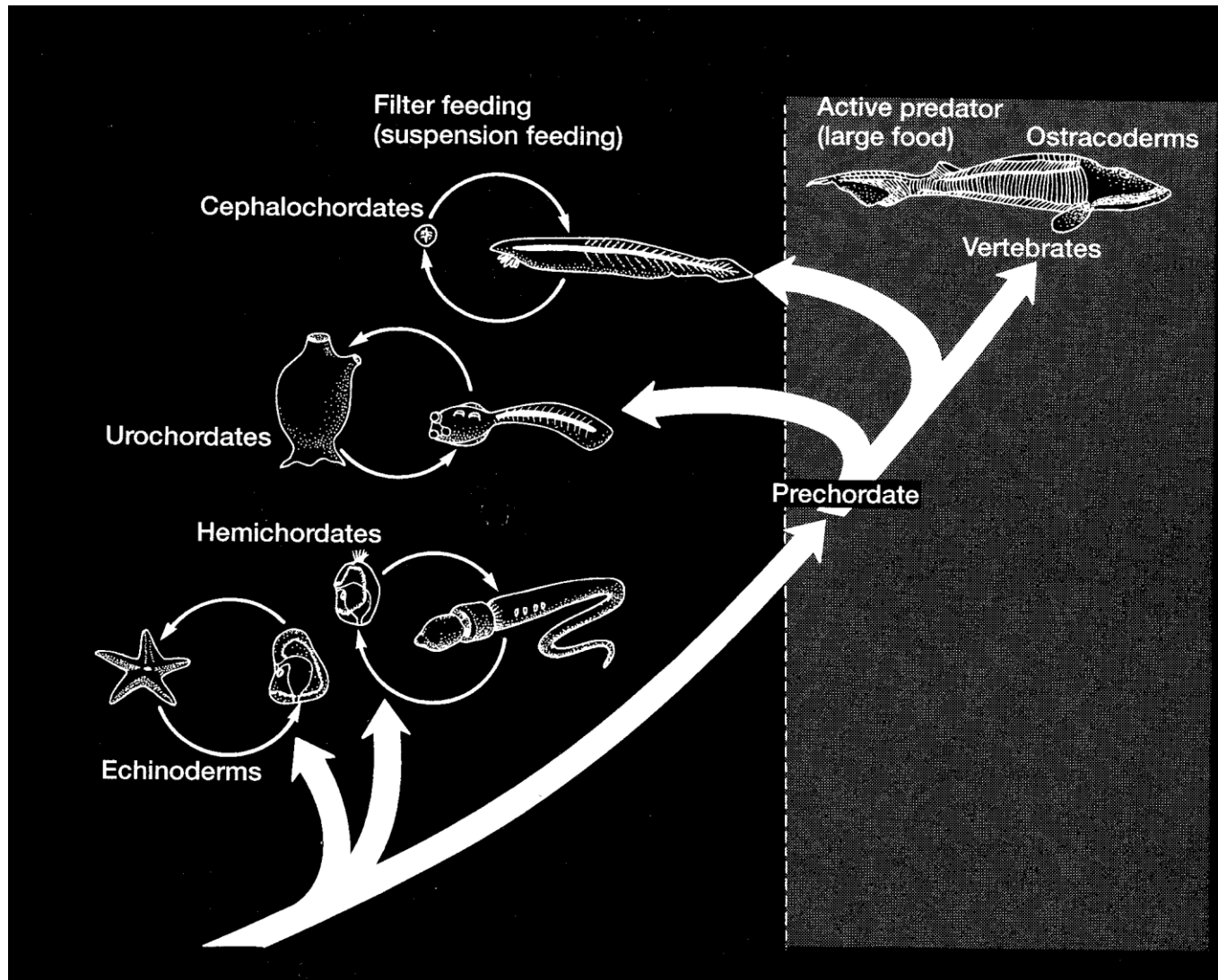


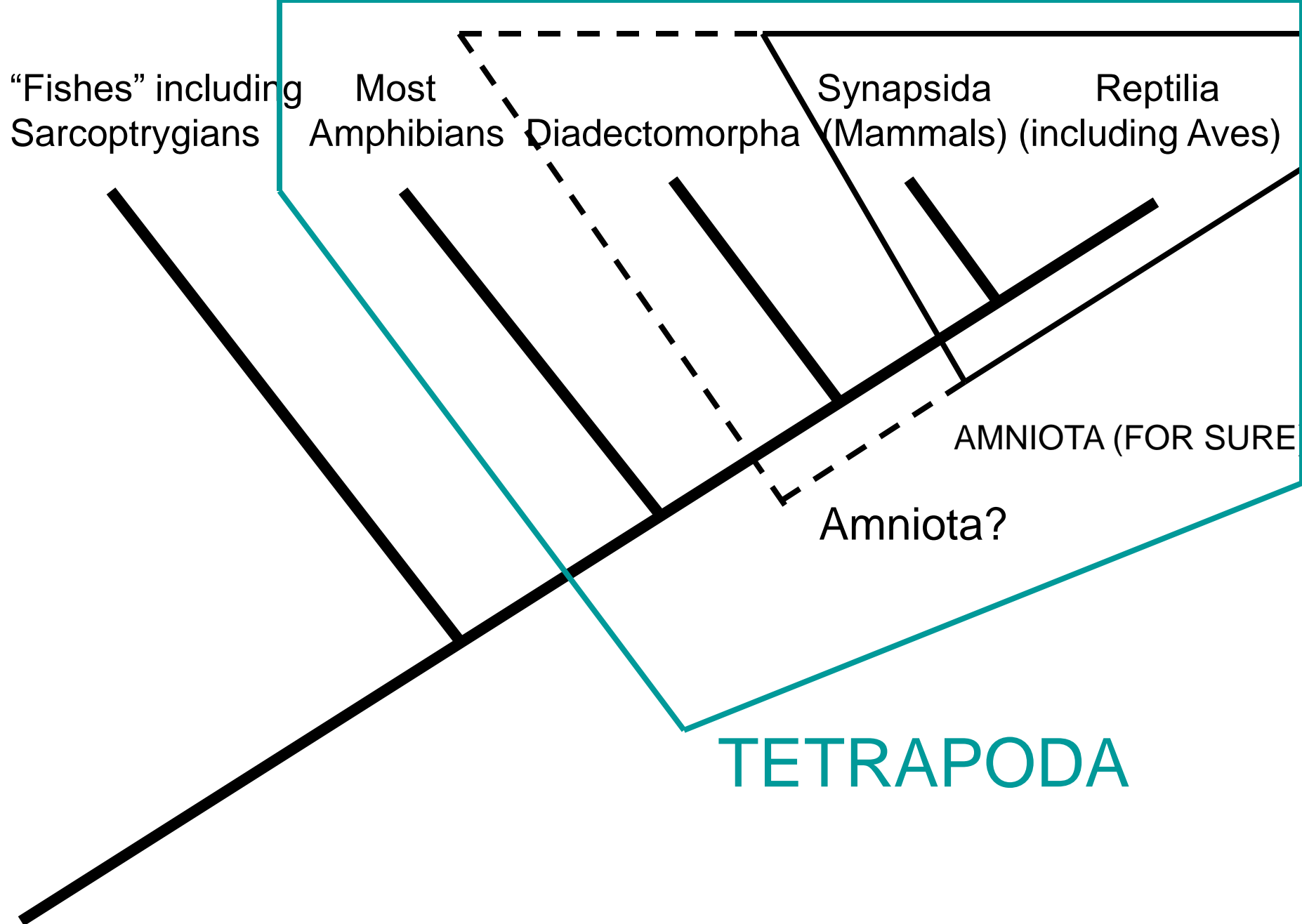






So, then  
what's a  
vertebrate...?

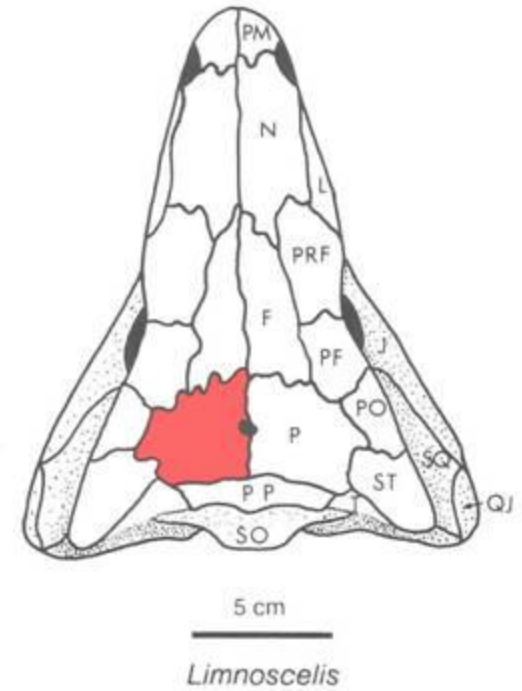
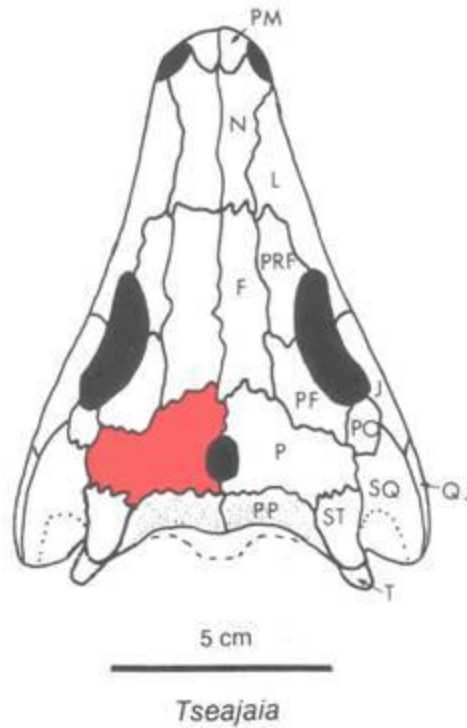
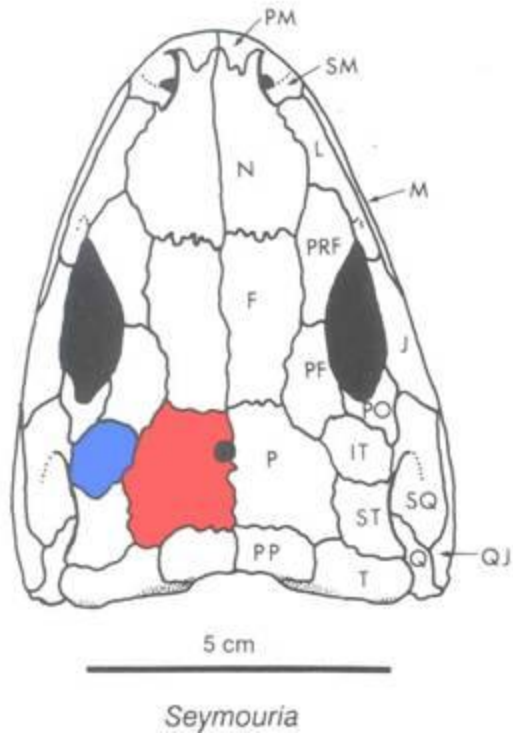




Amniotes: have four embryonic structures that reside outside the embryo to help it survive:

- Amnion
- Yolk sac
- Chorion
- Allantois

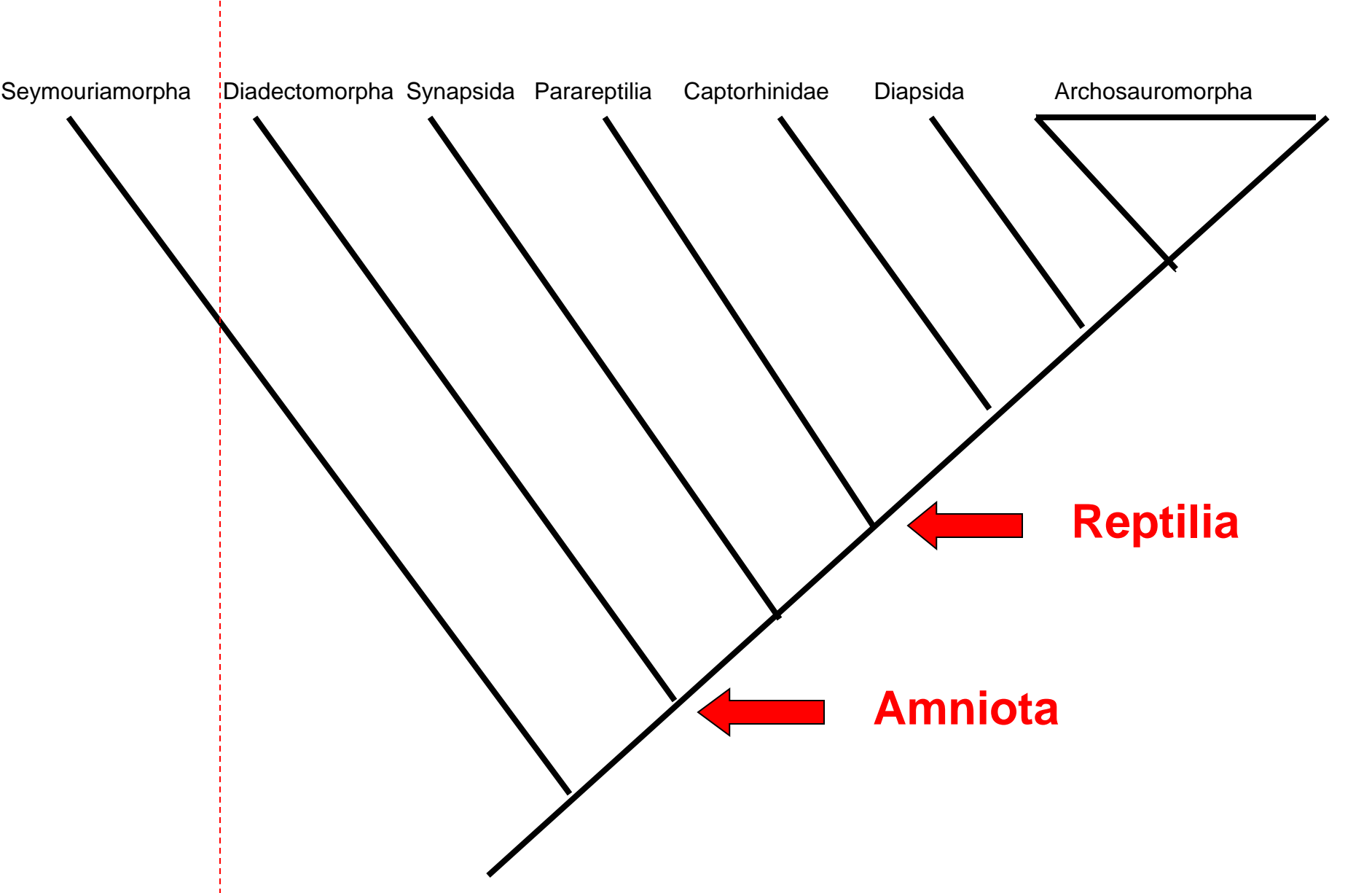


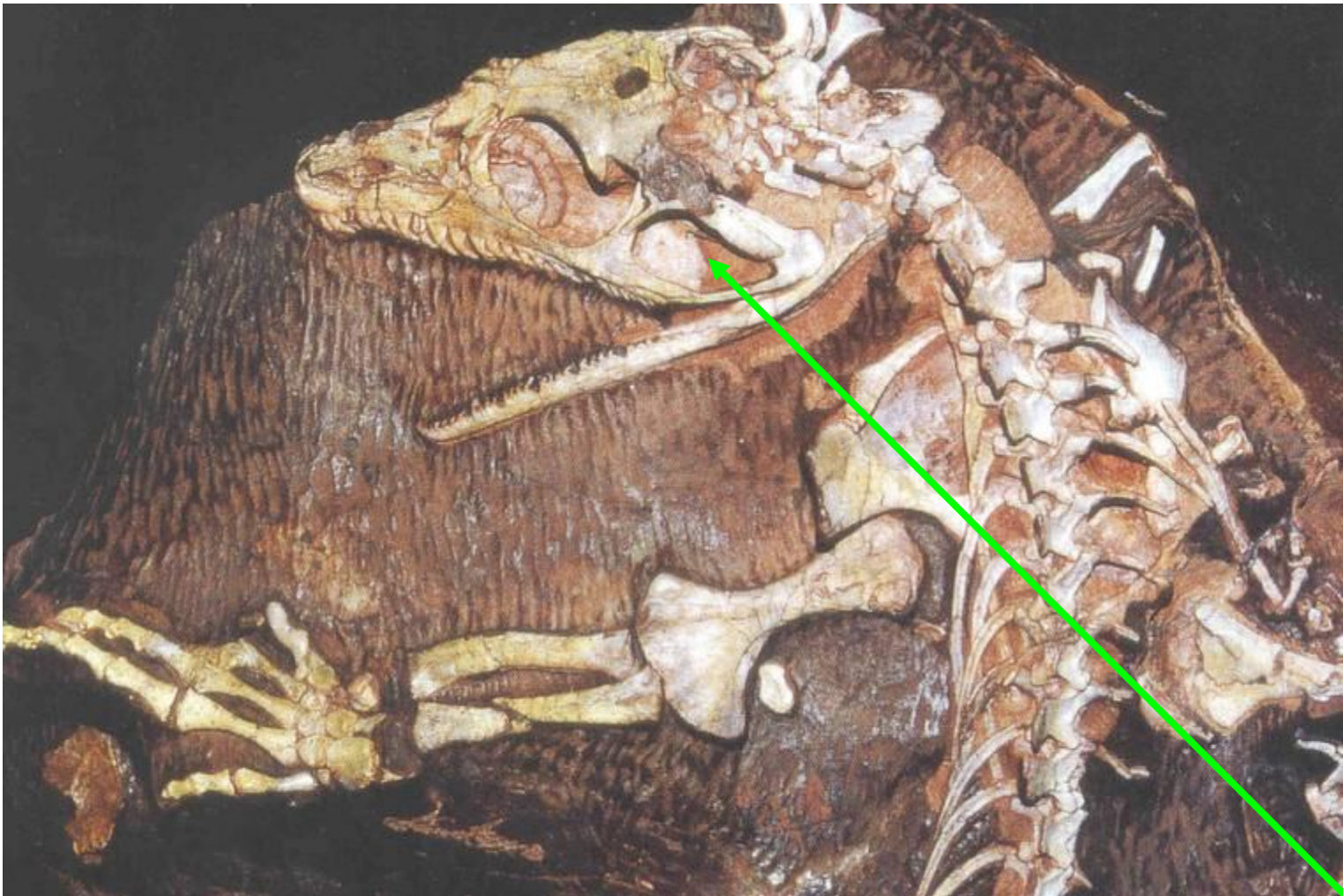


## Diadectomorpha:

- No intertemporal bone like other amniotes
- Very terrestrially adapted

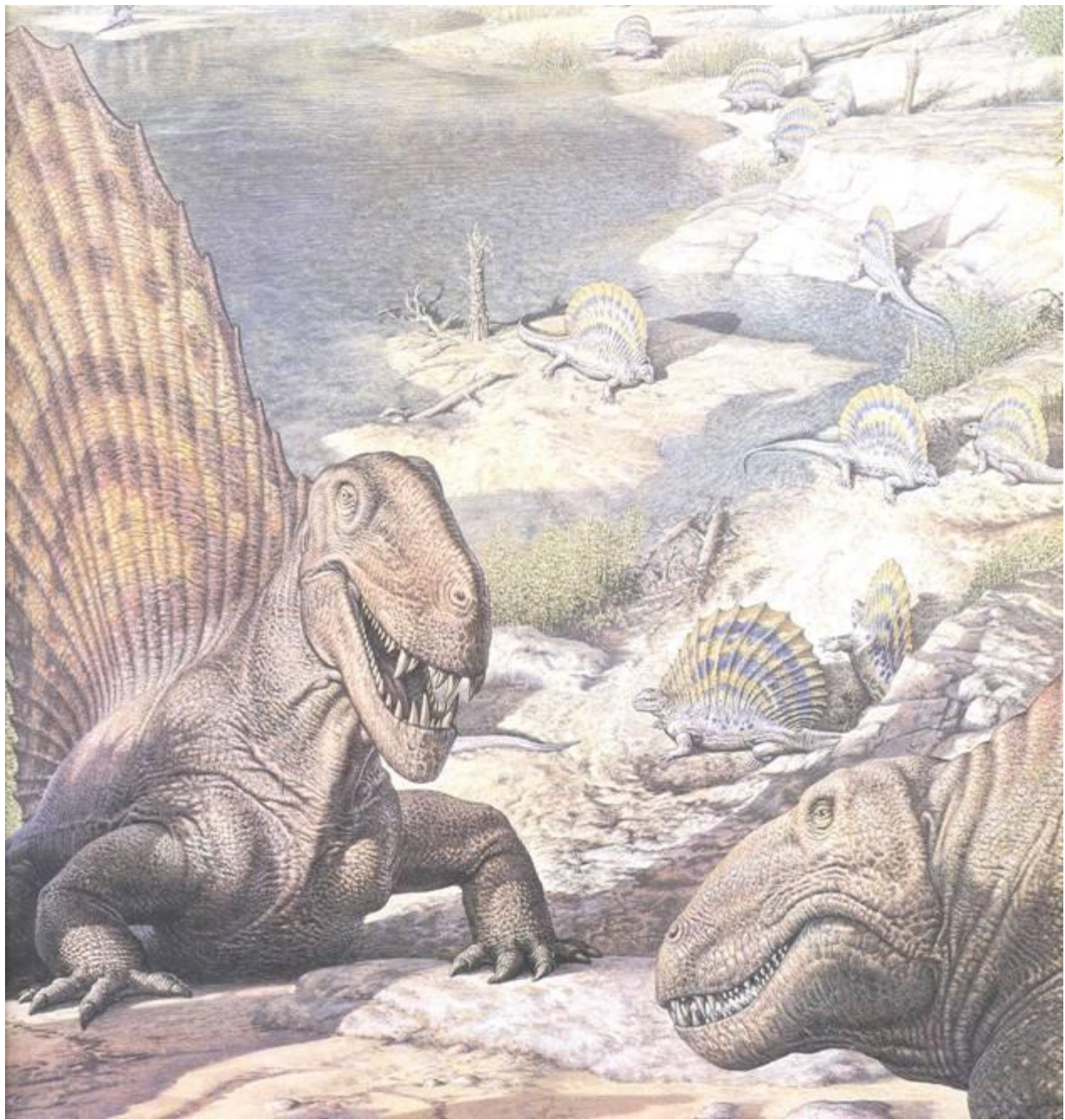
“Amphibia” Amniota





Basal Synapsida (“Pelycosauria”): A single opening on side of skull

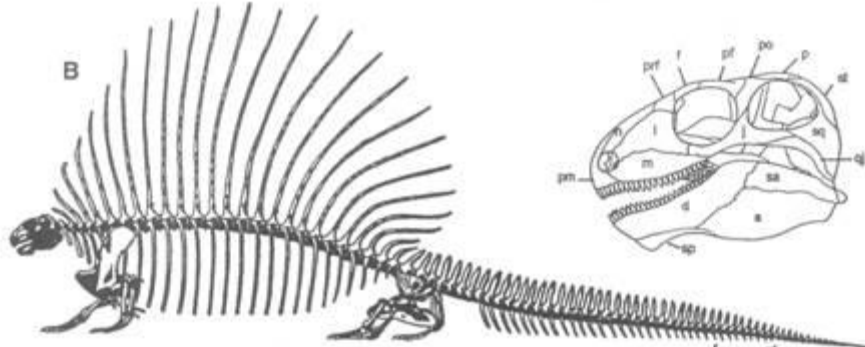




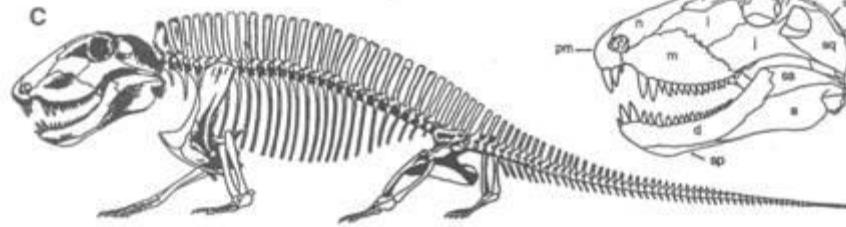
A



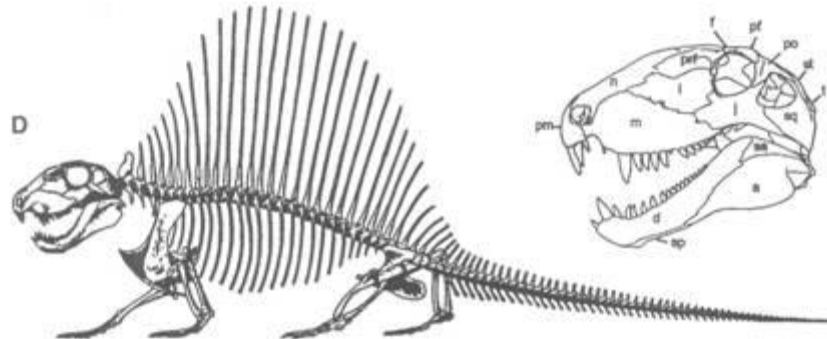
B



C



D



# Synapsida: Including Modern Mammals

# AMNIOTA

Diadectomorpha(?)

Synapsida

Reptilia

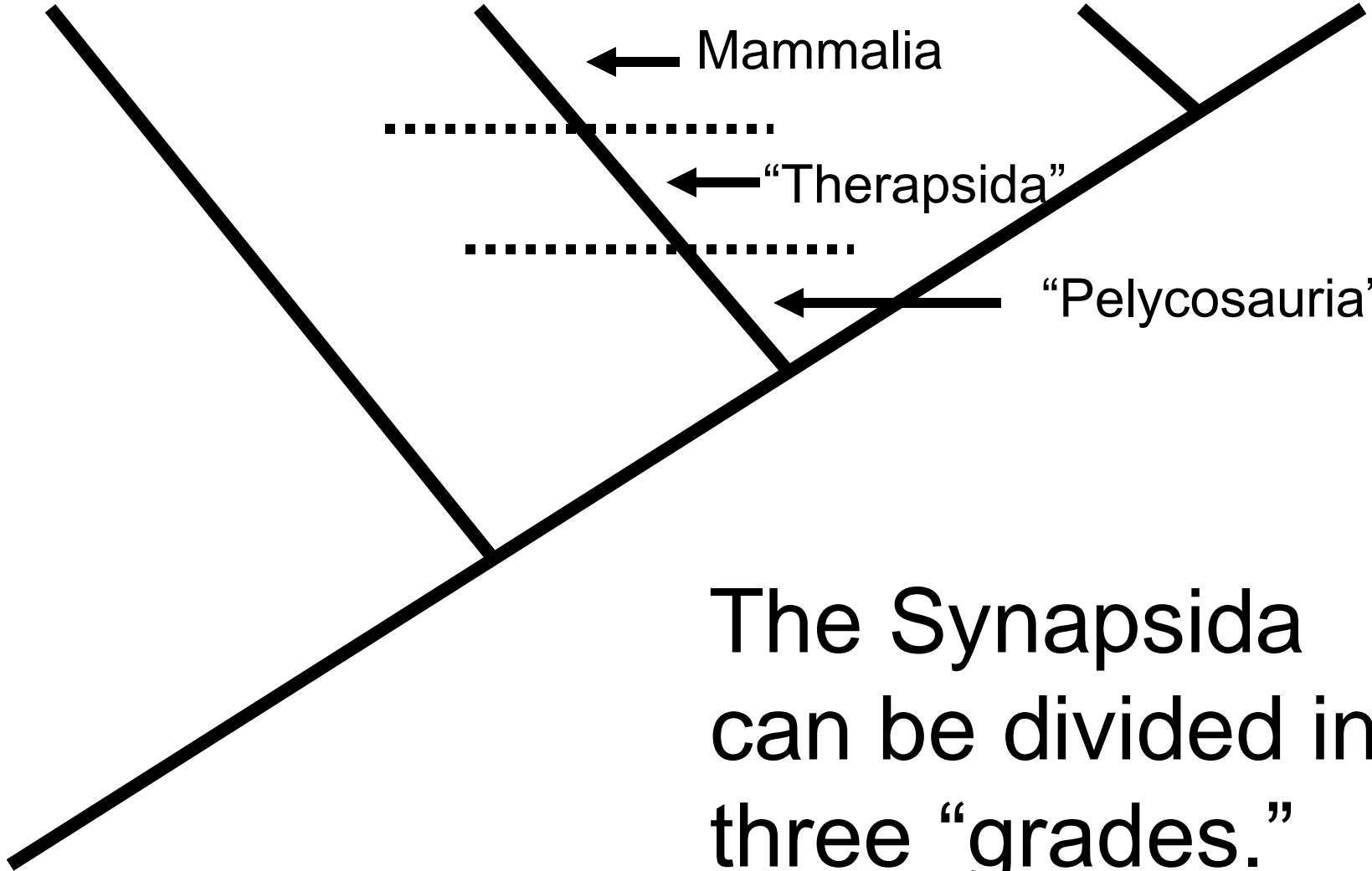
Avialae

← Mammalia

← "Therapsida"

← "Pelycosauria"

The Synapsida  
can be divided into  
three "grades."



# Mammals:

- Mammary glands
- Hair
- Facial muscles – muscles of facial expression
- A specialized jaw joint (between a single bone of the lower jaw (dentary) and the squamosal region of the skull)
- Three bones in the middle ear to help in hearing



Mammals have mammary glands for NOURISHING THE YOUNG



Mammals have HAIR.



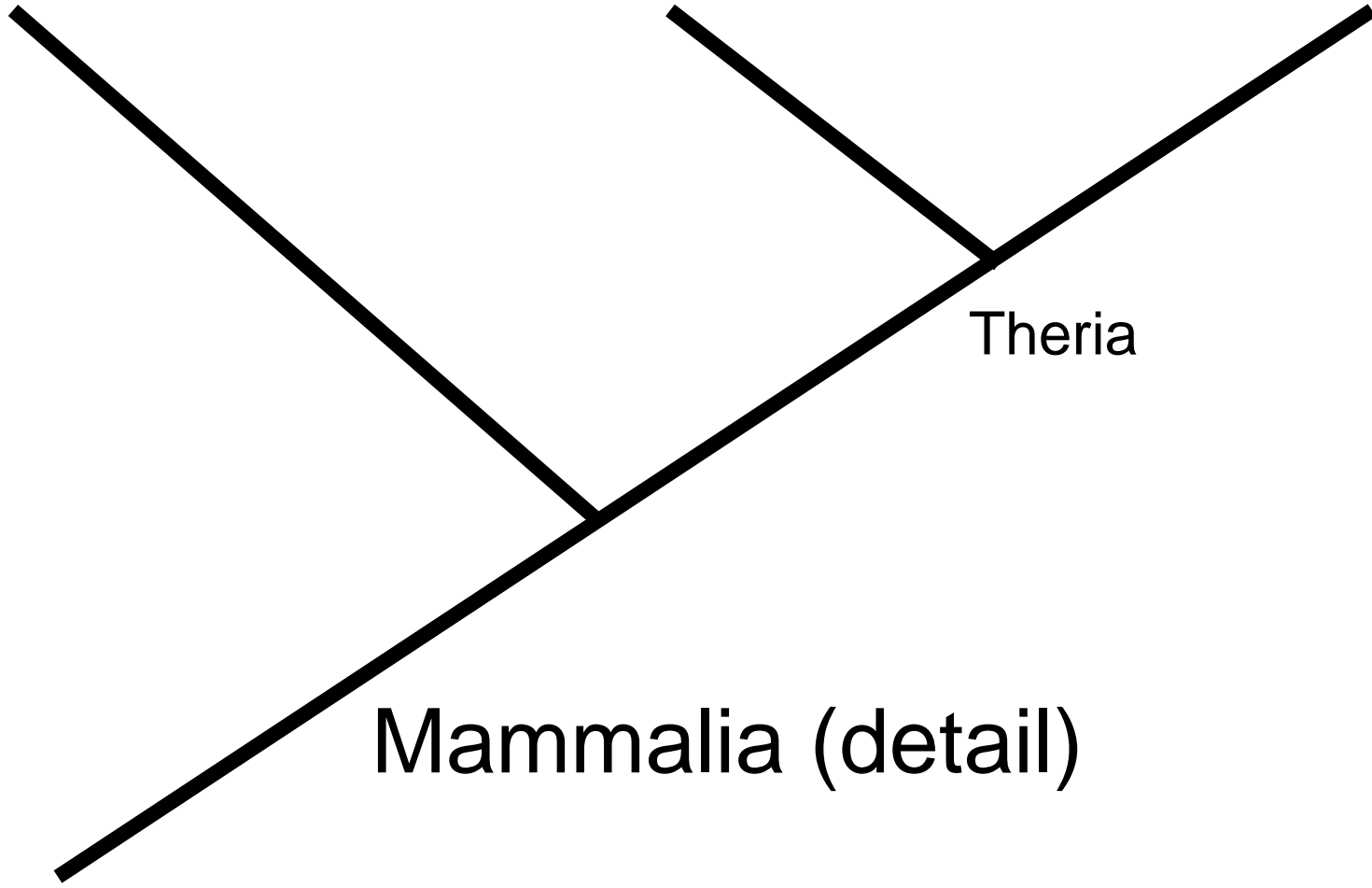
Mammals have muscles of facial expression



Monotremata  
(Egg-laying mammals)

Metatheria  
(Marsupials)

Eutheria  
(Placental Mammals)



Theria

Mammalia (detail)

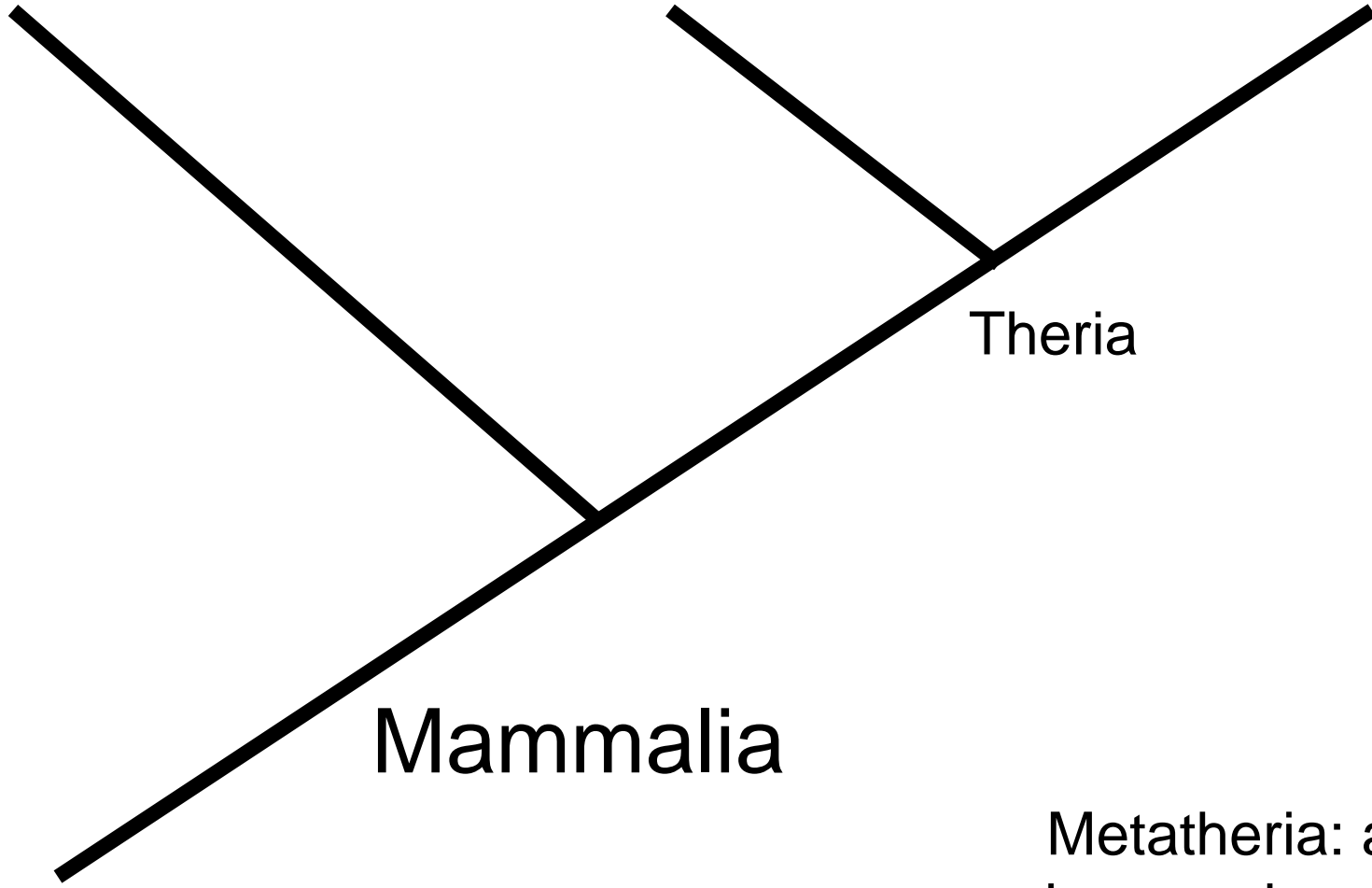
The duck-billed platypus and spiny anteater (*Echidna*) are members of Monotremata (egg-laying mammals).



Monotremata  
(Egg-laying mammals)

Metatheria  
(Marsupials)

Eutheria  
(Placental Mammals)



Theria

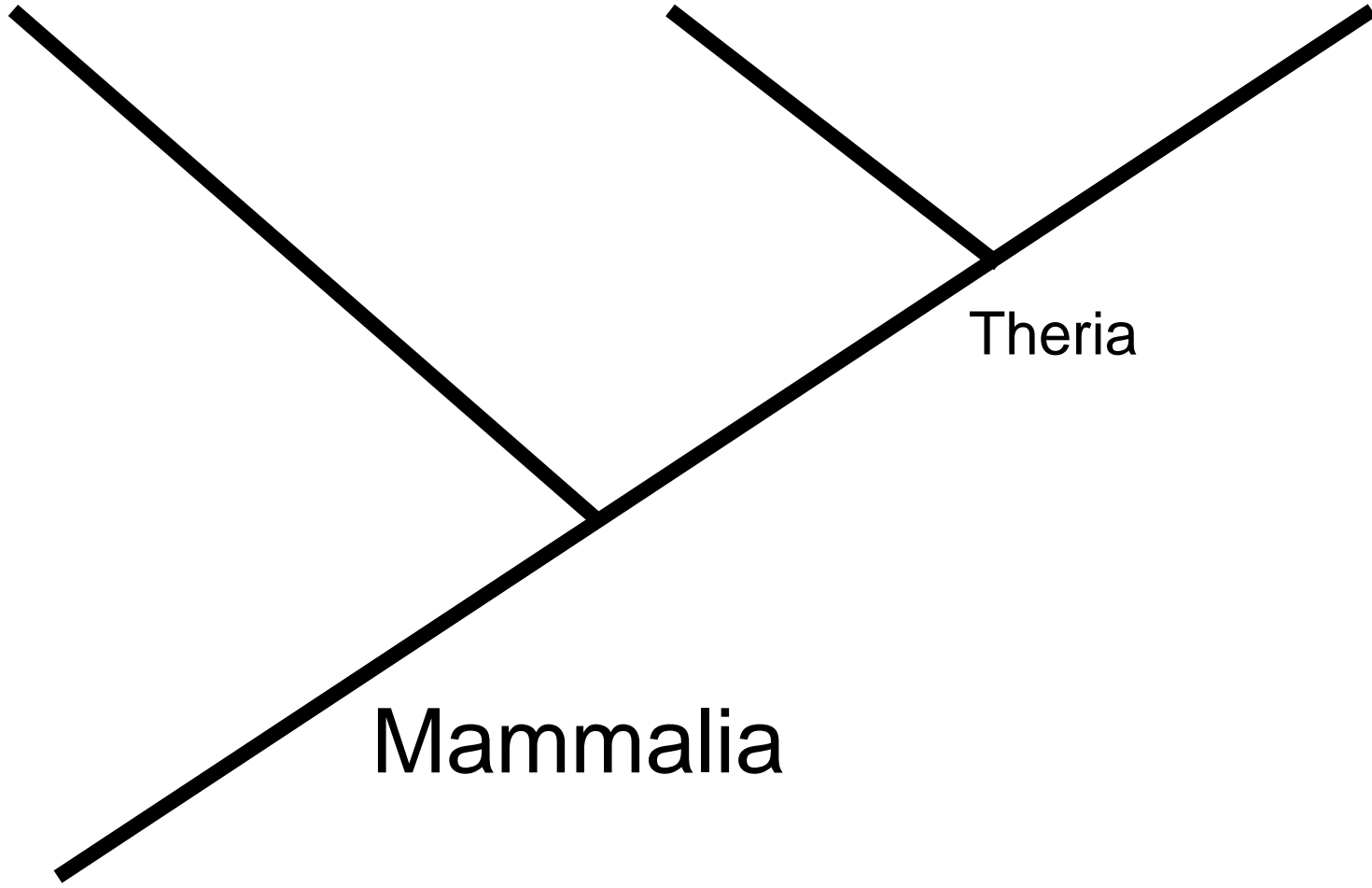
Mammalia

Metatheria: also  
known since the  
Cretaceous

Monotremata  
(Egg-laying mammals)

Metatheria  
(Marsupials)

Eutheria  
(Placental Mammals)



Theria

Mammalia

The METATHERIA, also known as MARSUPIALS are often called the “pouch mammals” because although initial development is internal, much takes place in the mother’s pouch – which is technically outside the body.

# A Placenta:

- Combination of the amniote Chorion and Allantois
- Helps the developing embryo to communicate with mother.





# “Evo-Devo”

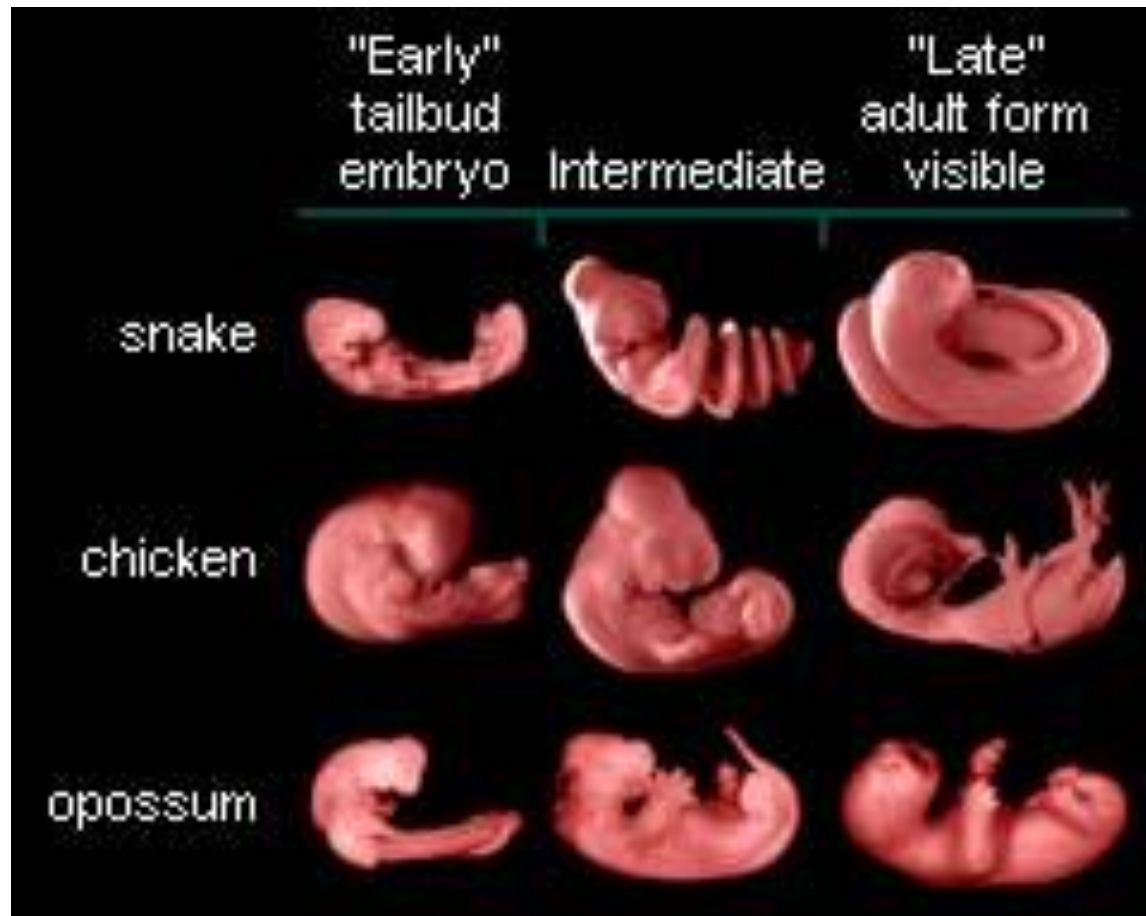
## The Union of Evolutionary and Developmental Biology

Natural for evolutionary biologists and developmental biologists to find common ground. Evolutionary biologists seek to understand how organisms evolve and change their shape and form. The roots of these changes are found in the developmental mechanisms that control body shape and form.

Darwin's perception was given a theoretical basis and evo-devo its first theory when Ernst Haeckel proposed that because ontogeny (development) recapitulates phylogeny (evolutionary history), evolution could be studied in embryos.

Technological advances in histological sectioning and staining made simultaneously in the 1860s and 1870s enabled biologists to compare the embryos of different organisms.

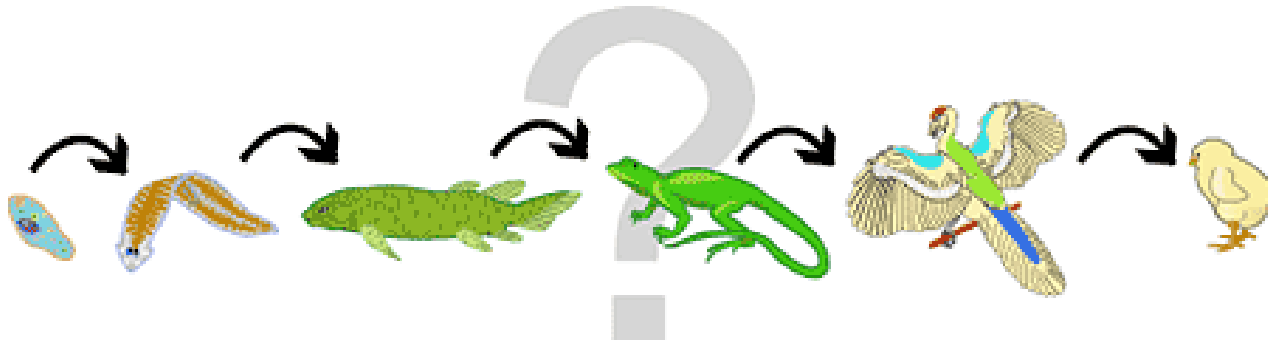
Though false in its strictest form, Haeckel's theory lured most morphologists into abandoning the study of adult organisms in favor of embryos--literally to seek evolution in embryos.



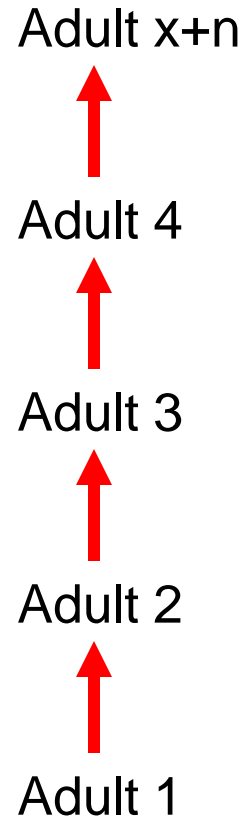
Notice how ontogenetically early forms appear more similar.

The idea that ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny suggests that an organism's development will take it through each of the adult stages of its evolutionary history, or its phylogeny. Thus its development would reiterate its evolutionary history — ontogeny recapitulating phylogeny.

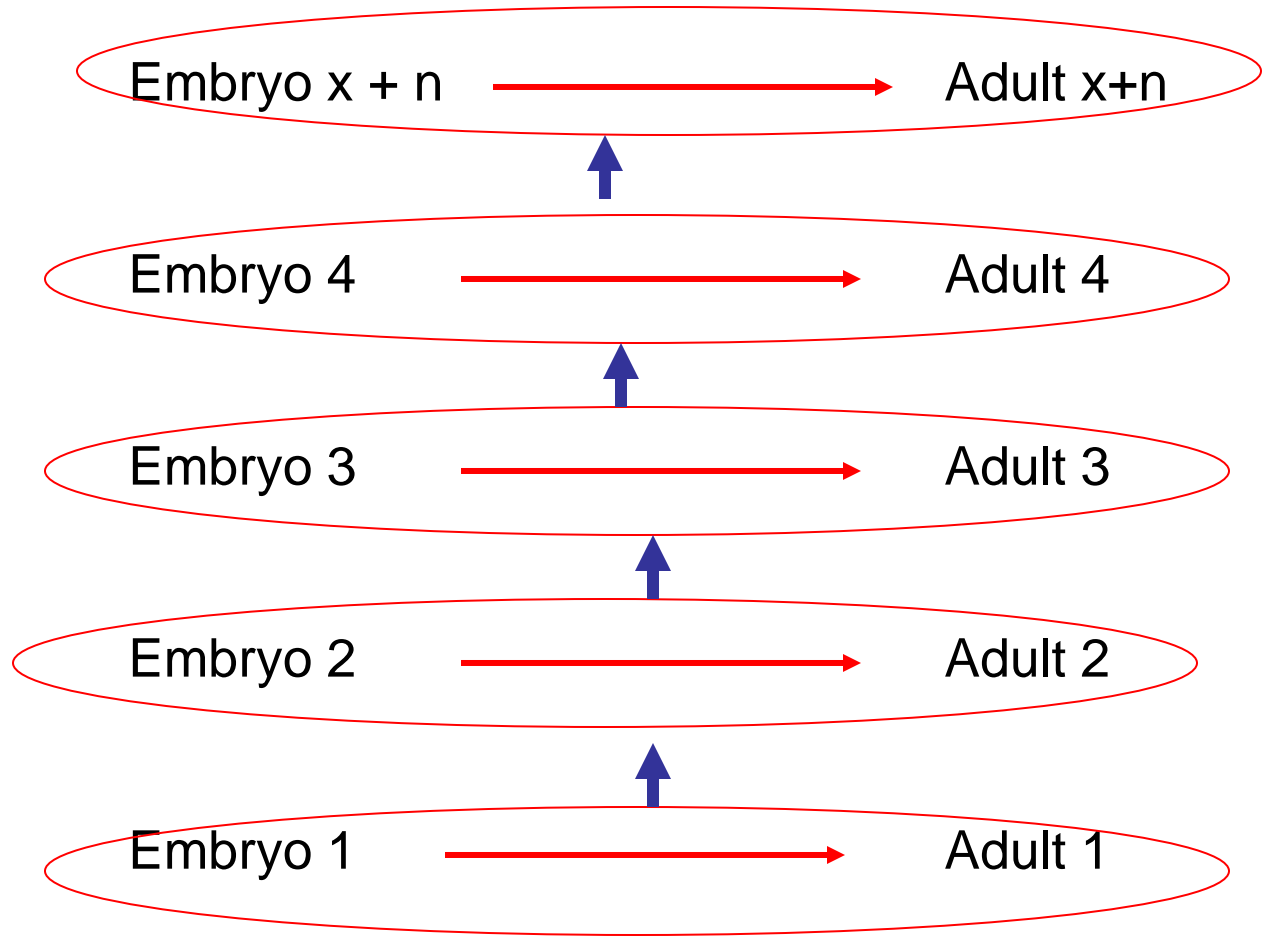
This idea is an extreme one. If it were strictly true, it would predict, for example, that in the course of a chick's development, it would go through the following stages: a single celled organism, a multi-celled invertebrate ancestor, a fish, a lizard-like reptile, an ancestral bird, and then finally, a baby chick.



What is clear is that we cannot only study evolution by looking at a progression of adult structures.



# We must study the evolution of ontogenies.



**Useful characters for understanding the evolution of organisms/groups can come from any ontogenetic stage.**