

Living Fossils and Stasis

Species that closely resemble their fossil relatives are known as “living fossils.” Living fossils are examples of stasis, since they do not show any directional variation that might lead to evolution of a new species. Many living genera have fossil records that extend through long stratigraphic intervals, qualifying them as “living fossils.”



The false gharial, *Tomistoma schlegalii* lives in parts of Southeast Asia. The genus *Tomistoma* has a fossil record extending down to Eocene sediments. *Tomistoma* and its close relatives are an example of morphological stability.

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