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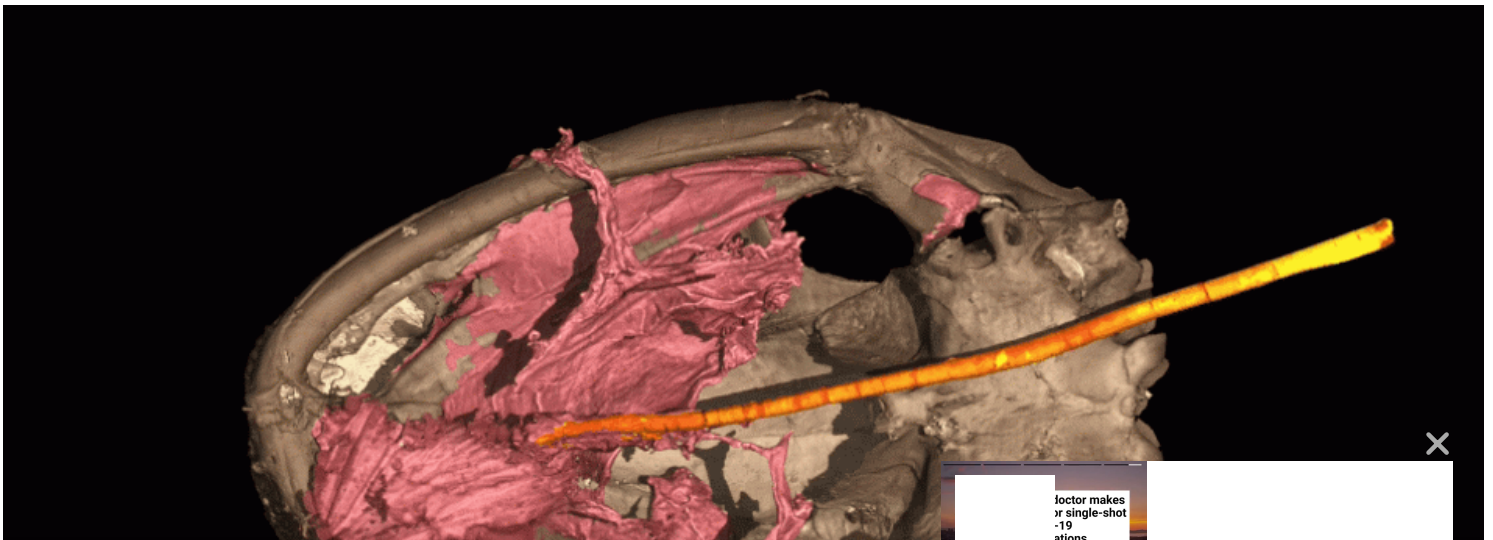
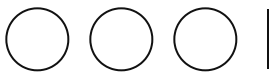
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# Weird, extinct amphibian had a rapid-fire 'slingshot' tongue

Steph Panecasio, provided by

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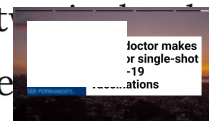
*This article, Weird, extinct amphibian had a rapid-fire 'slingshot' tongue, originally appeared on CNET.com.*

Step aside, chameleons. There was once another speedy tongue making sticky waves in the animal kingdom. A new study, published in Science on Thursday, establishes the now-extinct amphibians known as albanerpetontids (or albies) as the earliest users of a slingshot-style tongue, used to snatch prey from the air by contracting and launching at great speed.

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A set of 99-million-year old albie fossils, discovered in Myanmar, also introduce the world to a new species, *Yaksha perettii*. Based on the size of the skull, scientists were able to estimate an adult size of approximately to the tail. Don't let that fool you into thinking they were amphibians were armored and their tongues acted like



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Edward Stanley, co-author of the study and director of the Florida Museum of Natural History's Digital Discovery and Dissemination Laboratory, said "this discovery adds a super-cool piece to the puzzle of this obscure group of weird little animals."

Knowing they had this ballistic tongue gives us a whole new understanding of this entire lineage."

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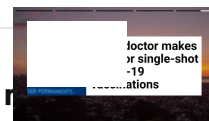
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