

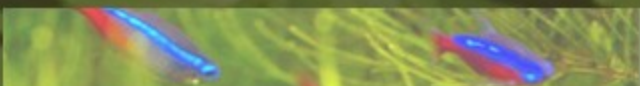
BRIAN SIDLAUSKAS

Associate Professor & Curator of Fishes



RESEARCHER

My research unites phylogenetic, morphometric, comparative anatomy, taxonomy, biogeography and computer simulations to understand and conserve the biodiversity of fishes. Much of my lab's work targets the Characiformes, a fantastically diverse and poorly known group of about 2000 species (tetras, piranhas, head standers and relatives) distributed primarily in tropical South America and Africa. For better or worse, I'm one of the world's experts on head standing tetras. In addition to continuing studies of tropical biodiversity, current studies in Oregon address cryptic diversification, endemism, biogeography and conservation of native fishes, with particular attention to speckled daces and other cyprinids. Specimens from natural history collections like OSU's Ichthyology Collection figure prominently in my research.



I grew up in Salem, Massachusetts. Yes, the one with the unfortunate witch trials in the 1600s. It was pretty neat to grow up in a town with several surviving buildings from the 17th century and the oldest graveyard in the country. I can trace my living history hobby back to those origins.

My interest in fish and fisheries dates to a very young age: my father was a semi-professional lobsterman and I spent a lot of my summers helping him fish for lobsters and flounders off Salem neck.

My main scientific passion lies in the origins of biodiversity. Why are there so many species of fishes on the planet, and what causes them to differ and diversify? I am also deeply passionate about the conservation of biodiversity, my wife, my pets, obscure musical styles from the 13th century, German board games, dressing up in historical clothes, and spending entirely too long in the kitchen preparing awesome meals.



FIND BRIAN!

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TEACHER

I teach ichthyology, systematics of fishes, and advanced ichthyology.

ADVISOR

The best part about advising undergraduates is the chance to help people actualize their dreams and aspirations. I am tremendously impressed with the energy and drive to improve the world displayed by so many of our students.

