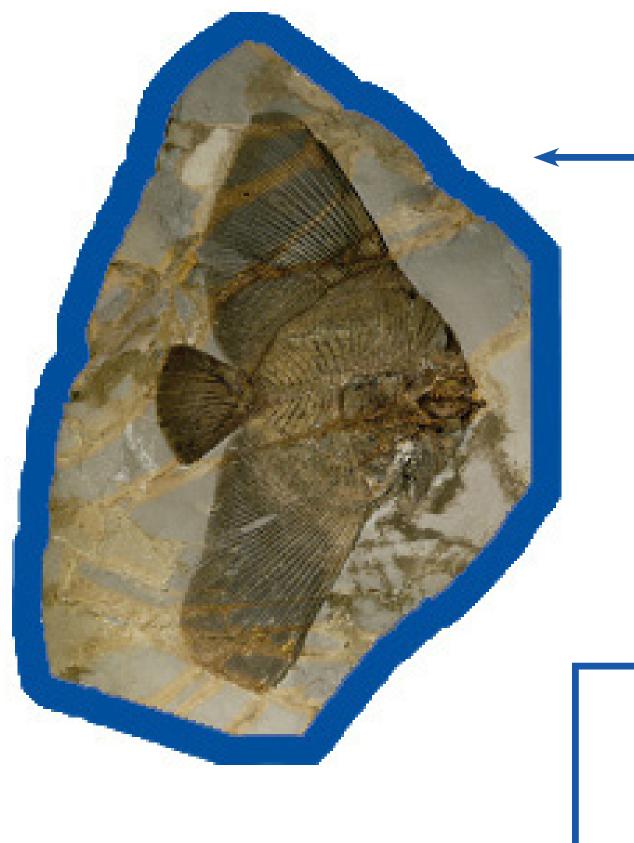
WHY HAVE SEA FISH FOSSILS BEEN FOUND IN THE MOUNTAINS?

On the Lessini Mountains in Bolca, a mountain town in the province of Verona, there is one of the most important fossil deposits in the world of the Cenozoic Era (*Tertiary*) for fossil fish.

This paleontological area is called "pesciara di Bolca": the term "pesciara" ("the fishbowl") indicating the high number of of fish fossils found. In fact, about 50 million years ago, Bolca was on the edge of a large sea and its underwater landscape was similar to that of our present tropical seas.



-A fossil specimen of Angelfish (Eoplatax papilio). These are one of the most beautiful fish: they have an elongated rhomboidal shaped body, compressed at the sides; they nibbled among the

corals reefs.

• A well-preserved fossil specimen of an eel(Paranguillatigrina).Notethecoloured spots on the skin and a small fish still intact in the stomach.



Did you know?

Originally, the term "fossil" meant anything that was excavated from

the earth.

This word was used in science towards the end of the 700's, but already in 1517, Verona's Girolamo Fracastoro (1476-1478 ca.-1553) recognized fossils as marine animals and plant species, and claimed that the mountains were formed from the sea, anticipating by some centuries the correct interpretation regarding the origin of fossils.