

The Evolution of the Ear in Mammals

For over a century it has been understood by anatomists that the incus and malleus (“anvil and hammer”) bones in the ears of mammals correspond to bones that previously made up the jaw joint (quadrate and articular) in the other vertebrates.

The *Pandas* authors claim this correspondence is false:

Yet there is no fossil record of such an amazing process. Consider that to make this change, one of these bones had to cross the hinge from the lower jaw into the middle ear region of the skull,

(*Pandas*, p. 121)