Types of fish scales. Diamond-shaped ganoid scales, present in primitive bony fishes such as the gar, are composed of layers of silvery enamel (ganoin) on the upper surface and bone on the lower. Placoid scales are small, conical toothlike structures characteristic of the chondrichthyes. Modern bony fishes have either cycloid or ctenoid scales. Ctenoid scales are flexible and are arranged in overlapping rows.