Disclosure

of things evolutionists don't want you to know

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Lazarus, Elvis, and Zombies

Evolutionists will go to any length to explain evolutionary mysteries.

The fossil record isn't what evolutionists would like it to be. Species pop up in the most inconvenient places, so evolutionists come up with the most amusing explanations.

Lazarus and Elvis

Paleontologists have long recognized that there are gaps in the fossil record. They need some way to explain away the gaps. They used to use the term, "Lazarus taxon."

> David Jablonski and Karl Flessa gave the name "Lazarus taxon" to creatures that reappeared in the fossil record after a long absence. Unlike the biblical story, in which Lazarus was raised from the dead, no one thought miracles were involved, just gaps in the fossil record. Normally it is assumed that a taxon is gone for good if no trace is found for millions of years, but it may merely have become rare, or moved somewhere where it left no fossils. This is what happened with the coelacanth, a fish closely related to amphibians, which palaeontologists thought had died out with the dinosaurs until a South African trawler caught a living one in 1938. [1]

Modern evolutionists are very uncomfortable with the Bible, and no longer like to use any terms that even obliquely give credibility to the Bible. So, poor old Lazarus has been replaced by Elvis.

> Animals that have apparently vanished from the fossil record can seem to reappear after a long hiatus. Often the vanished creature or a close relative has indeed returned. Sometimes, though, the new discovery is a different species entirely, but closely resembles one that went before. Palaeontologists describe such a case as an Elvis taxon. [2]
>
> So where does Elvis come in? Evolution sometimes converges, shaping different taxa so they look very much alike. For example, a number of distinct lines of predators have evolved the long, curved and deadly teeth best known from the sabre-toothed tiger of the Ice Age. Some invertebrates evolve shells that look like earlier forms. These can all be mistaken for Lazarus taxa until closely examined. To emphasise the distinction, Doug Erwin and Mary Droser coined an alternative term for imitators in 1993: "Rather than continue the biblical tradition favored by Jablonski, we prefer a more topical approach and suggest that such taxa should be known as Elvis taxa, in recognition of the many Elvis impersonators who have appeared since the death of The King." [3]

"Convergent evolution" is their explanation for how so many unrelated species can be so similar in some respects. Their claim is that environmental necessity caused natural selection to make unrelated species evolve the same solution to a common problem.

Zombies

Furthermore, evolutionists have to deal with zombies in the fossil record.

> … the "Zombie effect", which applies when hard fossils such as dinosaur teeth are washed out of sediments and deposited in rocks millions of years younger - so in a sense they become walking dead. [4]

[1] *New Scientist*, 6 January 2007, "The word: Elvis taxon", page 48

[2] *ibid.*
[3] *ibid.*
[4] *ibid.*

We sometimes get email from people who argue, "If fossils of dinosaurs and modern men were found in the same layer of rock, it would disprove evolution. But such fossils have never been found, so evolution must be true." What these people don't realize is that "old" fossils are found in "young" rocks so often that evolutionists have invented the term "Zombie effect" to explain them away. If fossils of the "wrong" age were never found, there would be no need to create a term to explain them away.

A More Reasonable Explanation

The more reasonable explanation is that sedimentary rocks don't represent a history of millions of years. Different layers of rocks tend to contain different creatures because different kinds of creatures live in different environments. A rockslide in the Rocky Mountains may have happened the very same day hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. If so, the animals buried in that mountain landslide would have been very different from the animals that died in the Katrina flood. Someone might conclude that hurricane Katrina happened millions of years before our fictional Rocky Mountain rockslide because the fish and frogs buried in Louisiana were less highly evolved than the snakes, mountain goats, and horses buried in Colorado. That conclusion would be wrong.

Fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds all exist today in different parts of the world. Any disaster that causes rapid burial today could conceivably produce fossils of the animals living in that location, but not fossils of every species on Earth. That has always been the situation. There never was an Age of Fish, or Age of Reptiles, during which only those kinds of creatures existed.

Evolutionists are laboring under the false impression that rock layers represent vastly different ages of time. When fossils of one species appear in widely-separated layers, but not the intervening ones, they have to concoct some explanation as to why that species existed in disconnected time frames. The three main explanations are the Lazarus taxon (the species did exist all along, but was so rare that no fossils have been found), the Elvis taxon (the species went extinct, but then a very similar imposter evolved later), and zombies (the fossils walked into another layer after they were dead). The real explanation is that they are just plain wrong about the different layers of rock representing vastly different periods of time.

A "Mite-y" Problem for Evolutionists

Related mites might not be related.

We just love DNA analysis because it makes such fools of evolutionists. The more they study DNA, the less sense the theory of evolution makes. This forces them to make up the wildest excuses. Here is a recent example.

> A family of beetle mites may be the first animal lineage to have abandoned sexual reproduction and then reevolved it.
>
> That's the conclusion of a study of the mites' evolutionary history as determined by DNA analysis, says Roy Norton of the State University of New York in Syracuse.
>
> The Crotoniidae mites perpetuate their species through the usual joint efforts of males and females. Yet when Norton and researchers from Darmstadt Technical University in Germany studied DNA to trace a family tree for certain mites, the Crotoniidae ended up as a relatively recent twig on a bigger branch bristling with asexual lineages. Analyzing the physical structures of the mites leads to the same conclusion, says Norton.
>
> The tidiest way to explain the tree's pattern is that Crotoniidae sex disappeared long ago and then somehow reemerged, he and his colleagues say in a paper published in the April 24 [2007] *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. [5]

Their fundamental problem is their use of the word, "related." According to the dictionary, there are two different meanings for the word.

> Main Entry: **related**
> Function: *adjective*
> **1 :** connected by reason of an established or discoverable relation
> **2 :** connected by common ancestry or sometimes by marriage [6]

When Linnaeus first devised the classification that is still in use today (with minor modifications), he grouped similar living things into "related" categories. Since he did not believe in the theory of evolution, he grouped them together because they were "connected by reason." It is reasonable to classify birds separately from fish because

[5] Susan Milius, *Science News*, May 12, 2007, "Sex—perhaps a good idea after all" page 302
[6] Merriam-Webster's on-line dictionary

birds have feathers and many fly, but fish have scales and swim.

Evolutionists have come to assume that similar living things are related because they are "connected by common ancestry." They seek to discover that common ancestry. They make the incorrect assumption that the most similar things have the closest common ancestor.

Using similarity as their guide, they assumed that all mites that reproduce sexually are closely related to one common ancestor, and all mites that reproduce asexually are closely related to a different common ancestor. Sexual reproduction is a major difference which would be difficult for evolution to have produced, so evolutionists think it must have happened in a distant ancestor. But when they looked at the DNA of mites, they discovered some sexually reproducing mites are closer genetically to some asexually reproducing mites than other sexually reproducing mites. Not only that, the physical appearance of some sexual mites is more like that of asexual mites. Therefore,

> The team concludes that the mites represent "a spectacular case" of breaking a supposed law of evolution that says that when complex traits disappear, they're gone forever. [7]

What makes this case so spectacular is that the supposed evolution of sex the first time is an unsolved riddle. Certainly, in the long run, sexual reproduction is superior to asexual reproduction because it provides more opportunities for genetic diversity and adaptation. The problem for evolutionists is that there is no short term survival advantage. The first male of a species would not be able to reproduce without a female, and vice versa. Even if males and females did evolve simultaneously, how would they know what to do, and why would they have the urge to do it? In times of extreme evolutionary pressure, when the population is small and mating opportunities are few, the asexual creatures have a much better chance of survival because it is much easier to get lucky with yourself than to get lucky with someone else.

Looking at the DNA of 30 species of beetle mites, and using it to reproduce a mythical evolutionary tree, evolutionists are forced to come to the conclusion that sexually reproducing beetle mites evolved into an asexual form, a few of which later evolved back into a sexual form.

We are told,

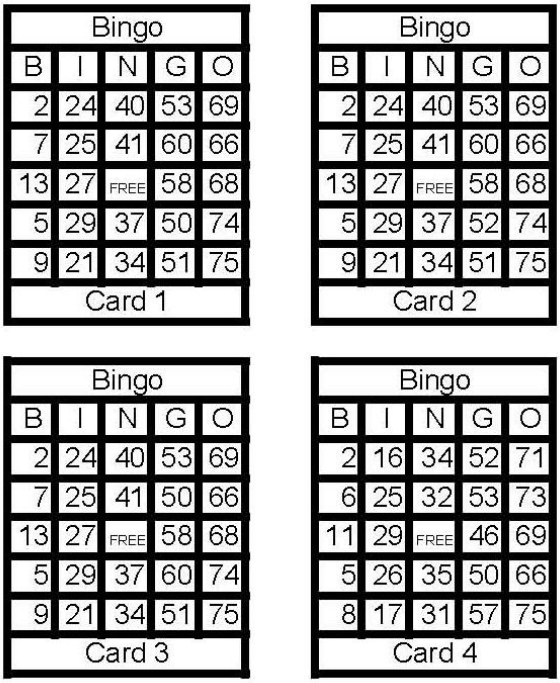
> Norton, Darmstadt's Katja Domes, and their colleagues analyzed three genetic sequences from each of 30 species of beetle mites. [8]

No doubt some other evolutionist will analyze different genetic sequences from the same 30 species and come up with a different, more reasonable (from an evolutionary standpoint) result.

Analysis is always subjective. One always has to make arbitrary choices that affect the outcome, and it is human nature to believe that the choices that produce the most favorable outcome are "correct."

Bingo Similarity

Let's demonstrate this by trying to classify these four Bingo cards. Which of these Bingo cards are the most similar?



Clearly cards 1, 2, and 3 are much more similar to each other than they are to card 4. It is highly likely that the holders of cards 1, 2, and 3 will all shout "Bingo" at the same time. (Computation of the exact probability is left "as an exercise for the reader." ☺) But which card is most like card 1? Card 2 differs by only one number. Card 3 doesn't differ by any numbers at all, but two of the numbers are in different locations.

When analyzing DNA, scientists often find the exact same genetic sequences in different places, or repeated a different number of times. Sometimes they find similar genetic sequences that differ by just a single letter or two. Which is

[7] Susan Milius, *Science News*, May 12, 2007, "Sex—perhaps a good idea after all" page 302

[8] *ibid.*

more important?

Going back to our Bingo example, one might argue that the "true" test of similarity is that both cards would get Bingo at the same time. Since B7, I25, N41, G60, O66 gives Bingo to just cards 1 & 2, they must be most similar. But G50, G51, G53, G58, G60 gives Bingo to just cards 1 & 3, so they must be the most similar. There is an outside chance that someone might notice that B2, I25, G50, O75 gives Bingo to cards 1 & 4 with just four numbers, which actually makes cards 1 & 4 the most similar.

If it really mattered to your fundamental belief of your place in the universe whether card 2, 3, or 4 was most similar to card 1, you would believe the criteria that proved your choice was right. When measuring the similarity of chimp, monkey, and human DNA, or the DNA of beetle mites, people are naturally going to believe that the analysis technique that confirms their belief is right.

Scientists are quick to explain why the DNA sequences they chose to analyze were right. But if you were to ask an honest scientist, "Why didn't you choose this other DNA sequence?" he would probably say, "Because it doesn't give the right answer."

Lest you think we don't believe anything scientists say about genetics, we want to be quick to point out that if you ask a scientist, "What genes are involved in development of fruit fly wings?" you will get a consistently correct answer. That's because that knowledge has been determined experimentally. Scientists have damaged (intentionally or randomly) certain genes and observed the results. It doesn't matter which scientist damages the gene, the results are the same, and the results can be reproduced in any laboratory with adequate equipment. It isn't a matter of opinion, it is fact.

Opinions about how and why certain DNA sequences originated are nothing more than opinions. Just because it is the opinion of a scientist doesn't make it true. That's why opinions of different scientists are often different. Sometimes scientists can give rational justification for their opinions. Sometimes they can't. For example, there is no rational justification for the evolution of sex in the first place, or the reevolution of sex in beetle mites. The only justification is, "Sex exists. Therefore, it had to happen through natural forces because there is no such thing as a supernatural force." That's philosophy, not science.

Email

We Do Get These A Lot

Here's a peek at some typical email.

Even though we get lots of email like this, we rarely publish it. But, from time to time, it is entertaining and instructive share them with you. This particular email is apparently in reference to our "A Bird By Any Other Name" article.[9] The only change we made to this email was to delete the sender's email address.

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Subject: u must get these a lot...
From: r p
Date: 4/26/2007 9:06 PM

u sound like a well written bloke, but do u
really believe that the best use of your
scientific skills is in slander?

every scientist understands the plight of
archeologists to be published, its no secret
that they overstate the significance of their
finds. But thats not evidence against
evolution... far from it. as much as u dont
want to believe it, M. gui is evidence for
evolution. not the best example, i must admit.
but your scepticism is plain extreme.

oh, and the higher metabolism of birds and
mamals evolved in the precursor dinosaurs.
dont bother with the semantics. there would be
more classes of 'dinosaur' if fossils
presurved their biochemistry. the fact is that
many dinosaurs were warm blooded, how else
would they get so large? we call them mammal-
like-reptiles.

the take home message from the M. gui
discovery is that (a) flight evolved more than
once, and/or (b) feathered critters were
sucessful and diverse for a while there. NOT
that M. gui is the missing link.

you would make a good scientist with that
sense of scepticism if u just applied it to
creation.

in ur opinion, how do u classify
Archaeopteryx? bird or dinosaur? or somthing
in between?

just for my sake in trying to understand ur
point of view, how old do u think the earth
is?

"Calling a Chinese bird a dinosaur doesn't
prove that dinosaurs evolved into birds." --
do_while
... it doesnt profess to 'prove' anything, it
mearly provides yet more evidence that birds
shares ancestory with dinosaurs. and also
provides evidence that flight evolved
independantly, more than once in dinosaurs.
just like it did again in mammals in the case
of bats.

"It is just bad science. The theory of
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[9] *Disclosure*, April 2007, "A Bird By Any Other Name"

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evolution is detrimental to science because it
distracts scientists from important work by
sending them on a wild dino-goose chase."--
do_while  ...thats just twisted, but it
sounded good. shame on you. most scientists
arnt out there trying to prove evolution.
there are more pressing issues than education.
theres already plently of molecular evidence
to convince most people if they can bring
themselves to understand the context.
ribosomal RNA is a good example. i dare u to
try and twist that into a sunday school fable.
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Ironically, he begins by saying that we should expect archeologists to "overstate the significance of their finds" in order to be published. He says that if we point this out it is "slander."

Isn't overstatement a lot like lying? He says the fact that the supporters of evolution are lying about their discoveries isn't evidence against evolution. If there is good evidence for evolution, why does someone have to exaggerate it to make it convincing?

He admits that *M. gui* isn't the best evidence for evolution, then says we reject it just because our "scepticism [sic] is plain extreme." Scientists are supposed to be skeptical. We want proof, not wishful thinking.

He believes dinosaurs must have been warm-blooded because they were big. He apparently wasn't alive in the 1950's, when we were all taught that dinosaurs had to be cold-blooded because they were big. The argument back then was that big warm-blooded animals would require too much food, and there would be a heat dissipation problem. Therefore, the dinosaurs had to be cold-blooded.

The "mammal-like reptiles" weren't particularly big. Since he brings them up, have you ever stopped to wonder what makes the mammal-like reptiles "mammal-like"? Were they reptiles with breasts? (If they did have breasts, they would be mammals, wouldn't they?) Did they have hair? (Not as far as we know.) They were "mammal-like" because the bones in their jaws looked a lot like the bones in a mammal's ear. This supposedly is proof that the reptilian jaw was evolving into the mammalian ear.

If *M. gui* isn't a missing link, how does it suggest that flight evolved more than once? Certainly there are lots of different kinds of feathered creatures, but that doesn't prove they evolved, nor does it prove lots of different kinds were created. The discovery of lots of different kinds of flying creatures simply proves there are lots of different kinds of flying creatures—nothing more.

He asks for our opinion on the classification of *Archaeopteryx*. The point we have often tried to make is that classification is just an opinion. In some people's opinion, the choice "bird or dinosaur" is silly because, in their opinion, birds ARE dinosaurs.

We don't know how old the Earth is, but there seems to be much more evidence that it is thousands, rather than billions, of years old. Last month's essay on the distance to the Moon [10] is just one example. What is the compelling evidence that the Earth is billions of years old (other than that it has to be billions of years old for so much evolution to have taken place)?

What is the proof that flight evolved independently in bats? Why don't evolutionists believe that bats evolved from flying birds? All they would have to do is lose their feathers, and evolve breasts and sonar. We know it is silly to think a bird could evolve breasts and sonar. What we don't know is why it isn't silly to think a reptile could evolve breasts, and a mammal could evolve sonar. ☺ Scientists don't know how flight could have evolved once; but evolutionists are forced to believe that it happened several times (in birds, mammals, insects, and dinosaurs).

He is probably correct when he says most scientists aren't out to prove evolution. We suspect that most scientists don't even believe in evolution, but have been unable to find any data to confirm or deny that suspicion. (We have asked Gallup and Pew to do a survey, but we have never received a response.) Certainly there are some high-profile professors in universities who have religious and/or political and/or financial motives for trying to prove evolution, but we doubt that they represent mainstream scientific views.

Given this sample of his spelling and grammar, we are not surprised that he thinks "there are more pressing issues than education." ☺ His understanding of science isn't any better than his grasp of the English language, either. We shudder to speculate on why he thinks ribosomal RNA is good evidence for evolution.

Yes, we do get a lot of email like this. We don't generally share it with you because we don't want to be accused of setting up a straw man just to show how easy it is to tear it down. We prefer to address real issues that intelligent people are likely to ponder. But, every once in a while, it is fun to shoot fish in a barrel. ☺

[10] *Disclosure,* June 2007, "The Dark (Matter) Side of the Moon.

by Lothar Janetzko

"Creation vs. Evolution": Is This a Sensible Question?

http://stackblog.wordpress.com/2007/06/22/creation-vs-evolution-is-this-a-sensible-question/

Prof. John Stackhouse's Weblog

This month's web site review looks at a recent entry in Prof. John Stackhouse's Weblog. The entry under discussion has the title "Creation vs. Evolution": Is This a Sensible Question? The date of the entry is June 22, 2007. Typical of weblogs or blogs, the web page is divided into two sections. On the left side of the web page you can read the blog entry and on the right side you will find links that provide the reader access to additional information.

The blog entry provides a good historical background into the creation vs. evolution debate. The author points out that the 1961 book called The Genesis Flood by Henry Morris and John Whitcomb was largely responsible for what he calls the creation science scheme. He points out that there are "four different understandings of creation held by Bible-believing, church-going Christians" and provides a short description of each one.

The main point of the blog is to point out that "creation versus evolution" really means different things depending on how you view creation. The blog author makes the interesting point that "we should teach science as a 'method', as an adventure of discovery and debate, not as a dull, fixed set of indubitable facts to be indoctrinated". The blog makes many interesting observations about creation and evolution and tries to be objective and civil. I am sure the reader will find much of interest by exploring the different categories found on this site.

Disclosure

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