Disclosure

of things evolutionists don't want you to know

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Sharktooth Hill

"Is there any point to which you would wish to draw my attention?"
"To the curious incident of the dog in the night-time."
"The dog did nothing in the night-time."
"That was the curious incident," remarked Sherlock Holmes. [1]

Sometimes, it's not what you see in the museums, but what you don't see that should draw your attention.

There is a nice little museum in Bakersfield, California, called the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History. [2] One of their patrons owns some land northeast of Bakersfield which contains rich fossil beds. This area is called "Sharktooth Hill" for a reason you might easily guess. Occasionally this patron allows museum members to dig on his land as a fundraiser for the museum. (It costs $25 to become a member, and then $50 per day to dig on selected weekends. [3]) I took the opportunity to do this on April 25, 2005, and encourage you to do so, too, if the opportunity ever arises.

The area northeast of Bakersfield consists of rolling hills whose tops are roughly equal in height.

The museum officials use a bulldozer to clear off the dirt above the bonebed a few days before the dig days, allowing museum members dig the rest of the way down to the fossils.

In just four hours of digging I found lots of shark teeth and a few other kinds of teeth.

[1] Arthur Conan Doyle, *Silver Blaze*. In: The Penguin complete Sherlock Holmes. London: Penguin, 1981.
[2] 2018 Chester Ave. , Bakersfield, CA 93301. http://www.sharktoothhill.com/index.html
[3] http://www.sharktoothhill.com/sharktooth_hill_dig.html.

I was told that the pencil-shaped teeth came from a porpoise or dolphin. The teeth below came from some kind of ray (sting ray, manta ray, *etc*.).

I didn't find any shark bones because sharks don't have bones. Shark skeletons are made of cartilage, which is the stuff that makes your nose stiff. Cartilage doesn't fossilize well. That's why hominid skulls all have a hole where the nose should be. Artists have to guess what hominid noses looked like, and they guess they looked partly human, partly apelike, because of their evolutionary prejudice. But that's another story.

Whales do have bones, and I found a dozen or so broken pieces of whale ribs. Just a few of them are shown below.

The most significant thing I found was identified as the ear bone of a whale; but it wasn't important enough that the museum wanted to keep it. It remains in my collection.

I discovered that the best way to find the fossils was to take big chunks of sediment back home. At home I put the chunks in a plastic tub of water, where they immediately turned to mud. I put the mud in a kitchen sieve and washed the mud away, leaving the teeth and a little bit of gravel in the sieve. Many of the shark teeth I found were less than ¼ inch (6 mm).

Inside the Museum

The museum contains many fossils found at Sharktooth Hill, and other places. They tell you,

> Twelve to fifteen million years ago during the time period geologists call the Miocene Epoch most of Kern County was an ocean bay. The waters lapped against rolling hills that were soon to be pushed up to form the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Northeast of Bakersfield, where the modern Kern River leaves the Sierra Nevadas, a river flowed into the bay.
>
> The river carried sediments and the remains of plants and animals into the bay. These materials, along with the plentiful remains of marine organisms, sank to the bottom and much of the organic remains was fossilized. Subsequent geologic events pushed up the sediments, and they then eroded to form the rolling hills that include Sharktooth Hill. Exposed in these hills is the bone bed that formed from those fossil-rich sediments. The Sharktooth Hill bonebed encompasses more than 110 square miles, but most of it is deep underground. Only east of the Bakersfield area is it exposed. [4]

You would probably believe that, if you didn't actually go on the dig and see the Sharktooth Hill bonebed. You might even believe it if you did go on the dig and left your brain in neutral. We hope you are more skeptical and less gullible than most people apparently are.

Kern County Bay

Why do they think Kern County was once "an ocean bay?" We suppose it is because there are lots of shark teeth found there. Sharks generally live in oceans. When was the last time you heard about anyone bitten by a shark in a desert, forest, or prairie? ☺ If sharks were there, it must have been covered with water.

But they have also found fossils from 138 species of vertebrate animals including birds, cats, dogs, horses, camels, and deer mixed in with all those shark teeth. [5] How did all those

[4] http://www.sharktoothhill.com/sharktooth.html
[5] www.sharktoothhill.com/sharktooth_hill_fauna.doc

animals get out in the ocean? They claim, "The river carried sediments and the remains of plants and animals into the bay."

The Missing Evidence

The key, as we have hinted at the beginning of this essay, is what ISN'T in the museum. They don't have a wonderful shell collection. Shouldn't the bottom of an ocean bay be littered with seashells? Why don't they have a wonderful display of all the different kind of shells that lived around Bakersfield 12 to 15 million years ago?

It could be that they have lots of shells, but don't display them in the museum and don't mention them on the web page because they aren't important. But wouldn't it be important to see how much, or how little, shells have evolved in 12 to 15 million years? If you got 'em, flaunt 'em.

I suspect they don't display Kern County shells because they don't have very many. Maybe they don't have any at all. When I dug there, I didn't find a single shell. I didn't even find a piece of a broken shell. But I did find tiny shark teeth that were so small they were difficult to pick up without tweezers. If there were any shells, or shell fragments, I think I would have noticed them. And I found the teeth and bones in dried mud, not sand. Sharktooth Hill just doesn't look like what I would expect the bottom of a shallow bay to look like.

The geological setting is more consistent with some sort of terrible storm, or maybe a tremendous flood, that covered the Bakersfield area with a lot of water and mud, leaving beached whales and sharks alongside dead birds and land animals. The area seems to have been covered by dirt that washed down from the nearby mountains in the subsequent decades. Eventually rain eroded the dirt into the rolling hills we see today.

Evolution in the News

Monkeying with the Numbers

The Rhesus Macaque monkey's DNA has been sequenced, and it is no surprise that the publicly disseminated numbers show just what the evolutionists want to show.

According to the popular press,

> Of the macaque's nearly 3 billion DNA base pairs, 93.5 per cent are identical to those in the human genome. This is not unexpected for a species whose lineage diverged from our own about 25 million years ago. The human and chimp genomes, which diverged just 6 million years ago, are about 98 per cent identical. [6]

The real story is in the 31-page special section of the 13 April, 2007, issue of *Science*. What the research article actually said was,

> Nucleotide sequences that aligned between the human and rhesus average 93.54% identity. If, however, small insertions and deletions are included in the calculation, identity is reduced to 90.76%. Considering regions that are difficult to align, such as lineage-specific interspersed repeat elements, would further decrease the level of computed identity. Moreover, evolutionary distances exhibit local fluctuations, as in other mammals, and less divergence was observed in chromosome X (94.26% identity of aligned bases). The GC-content of the rhesus in aligned bases was not notably lower than that of the human (40.71% versus 40.74%). [7]

Of course, to get that result they used the same kind of selective comparison (comparing just those parts that are similar enough to align) that we described in detail in previous essays. [8] Not wanting to repeat what we wrote in those essays, we used similar analytical techniques to show that the first chapter of Darwin's Origin of Species is only 5 per cent different from the first chapter of the Bible. Although that analysis was silly, it wasn't funny, so we decided not to bore you with it.

Later, the *Science* article says,

> Similarly, 89% of human-macaque orthologs differ at the amino acid level, as compared with only 71% of human-chimpanzee orthologs. [9]

If 89% differ, that means only 11% are the same. At the amino acid level, we are only 29% the same as a chimp. You can get any number

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[6] *New Scientist*, 21 April 2007, "Monkey genome springs surprise for human origins", page 15

[7] *Science*, Vol. 316, 13 April 2007, "Evolutionary and Biomedical Insights from the Rhesus Macaque Genome" page 223

[8] *Disclosure*, October 2005, "Chimps are Like Us", *Disclosure*, January 2003, "98% Chimp" *Disclosure*, January 2003, "Monkey Business" *Disclosure*, September 2003, "More Monkey Business"

[9] *Science*, Vol. 316, 13 April 2007, "Evolutionary and Biomedical Insights from the Rhesus Macaque Genome" page 223

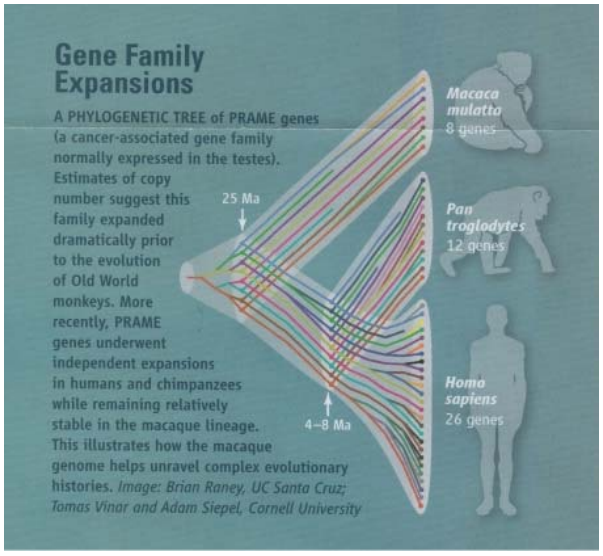
you want simply by picking what you want to compare.

The macaque genome is important because,

> All told, [medical] researchers publish about 2,000 papers a year on macaques, with publicly funded researchers conducting studies on about 40,000 animals and drug companies, many more. … The average 3% difference between macaque and human genes means that for some genes the macaque sequence may be invisible to a human-based microarray. [10]

By comparing the human, chimp, and macaque genomes, medical researchers can learn more about the relationship between genetics and diseases, which naturally leads to improved medical treatments. So, in the misguided attempt to figure out how man evolved, scientists are likely to discover things that are medically useful.

Part of the special fold-out for the 13 April 2007 issue of *Science* showed this diagram.



The idea behind the picture is that if humans have a gene, and macaques have an identical gene, but the chimp's equivalent gene is slightly different, then there must be an evolutionary advantage to the chimp's variation. But what the picture really shows is how different the number of genes really are, and how random chance would have had to have added information to the genomes of all three species if evolution were true. Look at all the places in the diagram where one gene branches out into two. Each one of those branches is a scientifically implausible miracle. This diagram actually shows how impossible evolution is.

[10] *Science*, Vol. 316, 13 April 2007, "Boom Time for Monkey Research"

Email

Birds of a Feather

From time to time we get requests from individuals to help them debate an evolutionist. We don't provide that service.

One-on-one personal debates are a waste of time. Anyone who is committed enough to debate is not likely to change his mind. Furthermore, the religious and political implications are likely to trump any scientific argument in these cases. They generally tend to turn nasty, and degenerate into personal attacks. We do, however, like to listen to what evolutionists have to say.

Michael, a creationist, sent us several pages of email from Scott, an evolutionist, covering a wide range of issues. Here is just a little excerpt of what Scott wrote to Michael,

> The commonality of DNA could indeed be seen as a "template" that a designer used. As you know, many people from Paley on down to Dembski have argued something very similar. There are two problems I see with this arguement: [sic]
> 1) It doesn't explain non-functional similarities. When you look at the parts of DNA that don't code for proteins, why should non-coding chimp DNA be closer to mine than to my cats? It seems to me that either they should have all been the same 6000(ish) years ago, in which case they would all be equally far from each other now, or they would have been randomly distributed, in which case they should have no pattern at all today. Instead, all of the non-coding DNA has a pattern of relationships that not only match each other, but match the fossil record. I don't see why a designer would do this, since there is no functional reason to do so.
> 2) It also doesn't explain the pattern of functional parts we see in living animals. Let me show you a photo: http://skeletaldrawing.com/ext_photos/chimera.jpg It's a cute little Photoshop creation (I didn't do it) that obviously throws together parts of a rodent, a bat, and a ram. If animals were created, I would expect them to look more like this. For example, why should all birds have feathered wings while all bats have skin-wings? Surely there are cases where a skin-wing is better than a feathered wing (and vice versa), but why are there no birds with skin wings and no bats with feathers? If they were put together from scratch by a designer you would expect him to mix and match whichever pieces He needed, but instead animals seem to be stuck with whatever their relatives have, and then just modify those a little bit.

Scott used the term, "non-coding" rather than "junk" to describe that portion of the DNA that we don't understand. There is now less "junk DNA" in the human genome today than there was a few years ago, but that isn't because the DNA changed. It is our understanding that has improved, and will continue to improve.

Apparently the part of the DNA that doesn't tell how to code for proteins seems to control when the coding part is "expressed." Although we don't fully understand the junk DNA, it is clear that it isn't just random junk. Creatures that have similar observable characteristics will have more similar DNA because DNA creates the characteristics, whether we call it "junk" or not.

His statement that DNA matches the fossil record is questionable. If that were true, there would not be the notorious fights between paleontologists and microbiologists regarding the classification of animals that we have chronicled in the past. [11] Paleontologists insist that their family tree, based on fossils is correct, while microbiologists claim their family tree, based on DNA is correct. If DNA matched the fossils there would not be any argument.

It was the second of Scott's points that we found amusing. He asks, "Why are there no birds with skin wings and no bats with feathers?" As we pointed out in the April, 2007, newsletter, it is simply because scientists chose the definitions that way. Birds have feathers by definition. When those definitions aren't convenient, they change them. That's why dinosaurs are birds now, not reptiles.

> Luckily, you picked a subject that I actually research and publish on, the origin of birds. First off, no one thinks that birds evolved from fish (directly). I would be happy to cover the origin of land vertebrates from sarcopterygians if you like, but that is not my specialty. Skipping waaaaaaay ahead in the story to the origin of birds from dinosaurs, we have literally thousands of fossils, including hundreds of feathered dinosaur fossils (no, not the composite fossil that National Geographic foolishly published in their magazine). As an anatomist, I try to reconstruct as many as time allows, but I am hopelessly behind. Here is a visual cladogram I managed to put together using only accurate skeletal reconstructions (I did about half of them). There are about 30 known species missing, but it gives you an idea of how good the fossil record is for the origin of birds: http://skeletaldrawing.com/dino_bird_cladogram.jpg.

It is a beautiful picture, but it doesn't prove a thing. One can certainly organize birds by physical appearance, but that doesn't prove they evolved from a common ancestor.

Given a collection of 500 randomly selected items from a grocery store one could create a cladogram showing which items are most similar. If six people did it they would probably come up with six different cladograms, and they would argue about which one was correct. In fact, that's exactly what has happened as we reported in our Human Evolution essay seven years ago. [12] That essay included "Figure 1" from an article in the prestigious journal *Science* [13] showing six different "most parsimonious cladograms" of hominid relationships according to six different expert teams of human evolutionists.

Why the disagreement? The short answer is that cladograms are subjective. They depend upon opinion as to which characteristics are most important. The most important characteristics are obviously the ones that prove what you want to prove. More than nine years ago [14] we used a cladogram to "prove" how the English word "evolution" came from "confusion" through small step-wise letter changes. ☺

Cladograms are just a visual aid for expressing someone's opinion. Scott apparently used size and shape of bones in constructing his cladogram because he is an expert in bird anatomy. If he had used first appearance in the fossil record, or DNA (if it were available) as his criteria, he would have come up with a different cladogram, implying a different evolutionary sequence. They can't all be correct.

Scott believes all birds evolved from dinosaurs, and he believes dinosaurs and birds gradually changed shape, so he has drawn a picture that sorts birds and dinosaurs by shape, expressing his opinion of how they changed shape.

Much of his argument boils down to the notion that if God had created life, He would have done it differently. He can think whatever he wants about God. But since his arguments are based on what he thinks about God, they aren't really scientific. His arguments are religious.

Scott would have made animals more diverse if he had been God. It is hard for us to imagine how animals could be any more diverse than they actually are, so Scott must have better imagination than we have. But then, imagination is the hallmark of evolution. For reptiles to have evolved into mammals, one has to be able to imagine mutant turtles growing breasts. One has to imagine dinosaurs growing feathers and learning to fly. One has to imagine jellyfish growing backbones. Imagination isn't science.

[11] *Disclosure*, July 1999, "The DNA Dilemma"

[12] *Disclosure*, January 2000, "Human Evolution"

[13] Wood & Collard, *Science*, Vol 284, 2 April 1999, "The Human Genus" page 67

[14] *Disclosure*, March 1998, "Dinobirds"

by Lothar Janetzko

Creation Moments

http://www.creationmoments.net/

"In the beginning God created..."

This month's web site review looks at the web site of Creation Moments.com. On the home page you will find tabs that will guide you to various parts of the site. The tabs are labeled: 1) Home, 2) Products, 3) Resources, 4) Radio, 5) About CMI, 6) Support and 7) Contact.

The Home tab provides information about a featured product and articles under the heading of "Today in the News". Also under a caption of "Where to Go?" you will find links to 1) Radio Archives and Daily Podcast, 2) View Articles, 3) Search CMI and 4) Newsletter.

The Products tab guides you to the Creation Moments product inventory. Here you learn that "Creation Moments has an inventory of more than 225 different books and videos on creation issues. Our book and video titles are meant for people of all ages and education levels. They examine subjects like evolution, the flood, dinosaurs, creation-confirming discoveries and an array of other subjects to help build faith and support Biblical truths".

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On the Radio tab you learn that the "Creation Moments" daily 2-minute radio broadcast has been on the air since 1987. Here you will also find a link to archives of the daily programs that will allow you to listen to the audio of each broadcast and also view transcripts.

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