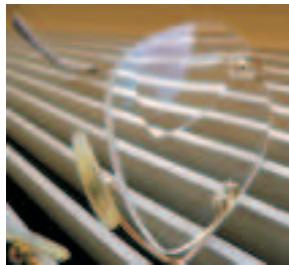




The Anableps

ONE of the strangest fish in the ocean is the Anableps. It is sometimes nick-named the "Four-eyed fish", and for a very good reason. Anableps doesn't actually have four eyes, but it does have unique bifocal eyes.

These fish live in the southern Pacific Ocean, where they swim with their eyes half in and half out of the water. Their eyes are perfectly suited for this, being divided into two parts; the lower half is designed for seeing below the water, and the upper half for seeing above the water. The lens is egg-shaped and can focus two separate images at the same time. There are two corneas and two retinas, which is really like having four eyes, hence its nick-name. The visual cortex of the fish's brain also had to be specially designed to process these double images.



Bi-focal glasses

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From wikipedia.com

The eyes of the Anableps are rather like the bifocal spectacles that many people wear. These have divided lenses, with the lower part designed for reading and other close-up work, and the upper part for seeing things at a distance. Bifocals are designed by people who understand optics, and those who wear them first need a sight test so that the lenses of the spectacles are suited to their eyes. The unique eyes of the Anableps defy an evolutionary explanation. They could no more have been produced by chance mutations than bifocal glasses.

Evolution can't explain the origin of the eyes of the Anableps. How could they have evolved by gradual changes? And what use would the eyes have been before they were fully functional? There is no evidence that Anableps evolved. The most reasonable explanation is that this fascinating fish was created and designed by God.

TWO KINDS OF SIGHT

In this issue we have considered the origin of eyes and sight. Sight is a very valuable sense, and sight impairment or blindness is a serious disability. However, to keep our eyes closed and refuse to see would be very foolish. Yet isn't that what many people are doing about the origin of life? They blindly insist that evolution can explain everything, and refuse to face up to the serious scientific objections, or the evidence for intelligent design. Some, like American biologist Professor Richard Lewontin, have admitted their bias. He wrote that "we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door."



There is a saying that "there are none so blind as those who won't see." Is this refusal to consider evidence for design due to a reluctance to face up to the implications of believing in a Creator to whom we are answerable?

Working horses are fitted with blinkers (left), which prevent them from being distracted by seeing anything except what is in front of them. Many people wear "blinkers", too, which prevent them from seeing anything they don't want to see — things like the evidence for God's existence and their need of His forgiveness. The Bible tells us that "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (2 Corinthians 4: 4).



Jesus Christ said He came to earth to bring sight to the blind. There are two kinds of sight — physical and spiritual. Jesus did heal those who were physically blind, but he also came to heal our spiritual blindness so that we can see ourselves as we really are, created in God's image, but cut off from Him because of our sin. If you have not faced up to your need of God, take off your blinkers, believe that Jesus died on the cross for you, and allow the light of His love and forgiveness to flood into your life!

Laughter is good medicine

"Doctor, doctor, will I be able to play the violin after the op?"
"Yes, of course..."
"Great! I never could before!"

Doctor: Did you take those pills I gave you to improve your memory?
Patient: What pills?

A man walked into a chemist's and asked, "Do you have any acetylsalicylic acid?"
"You mean aspirin?" asked the pharmacist.
"That's it, I can never remember that word."

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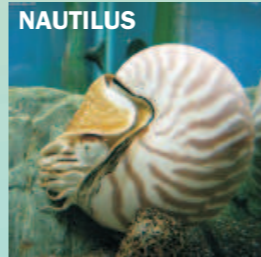
The REAL SCIENCE paper!



No. 52

ONE IN THE EYE FOR EVOLUTION

Eyes are wonderful organs that enable us to see the world around us. The origin of eyes poses a serious problem for those who believe in evolution.



NAUTILUS

Evolutionists point to the wide range of eye types in the natural world, from the "pinhole" camera type of the nautilus (which is still the same as fossils claimed to be 400 million years old) to the compound eyes of insects like the dragonfly. They then claim that this illustrates how eyes evolved from simple to complex, and that there has been plenty of time for this to happen since life began. However, this theory was undermined by the discovery of fossil trilobites with perfectly preserved compound eyes in the supposedly "600 million-year-old" Cambrian rocks. These eyes (below, left) have a double-lens structure ideally suited for underwater vision. In fact, this design was so precise that the mathematics to understand it wasn't discovered until the 17th century! So much for the theory that eyes evolved from a "simple" beginning, for here — according to the evolutionists' own time-scale — we have fully-developed compound eyes appearing near the very beginning of the evolution of life. The Cambrian trilobites have no fossil ancestors, so what could their eyes have evolved from?

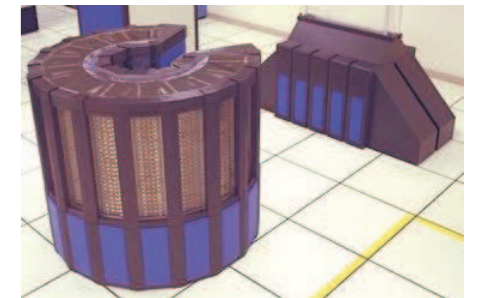


DRAGONFLY

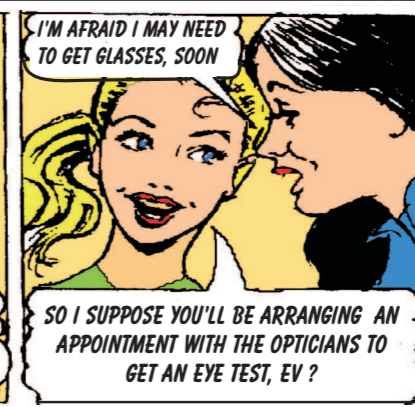
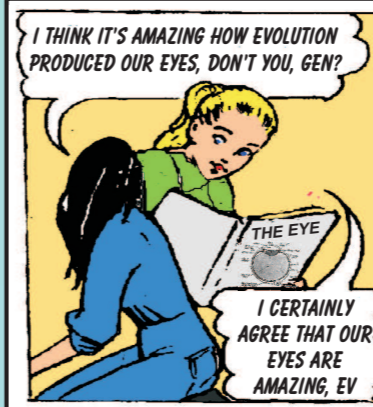


TRILOBITE'S EYE

OUR EYES LEAVE SUPER-COMPUTERS STANDING!



The Cray Supercomputer (above) is one of the most powerful computers ever designed by humans, yet, according to Professor of Biomedical Engineering Dr. John Stevens, it would take "a minimum of 100 years of Cray time to simulate what takes place in your eye several times each second." (Byte Magazine, April 1985.)



Drawings by Michael Higgins

For more on Darwin and evolution see www.darwinday.org.uk

DARWIN'S "EYE TROUBLE"

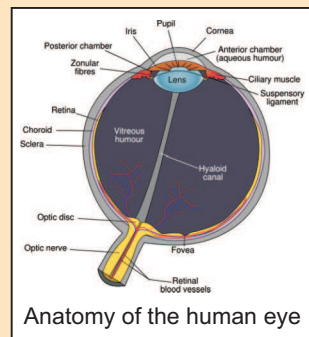
In his *Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin wrote: "To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration could have been formed by natural selection seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree." However, Darwin went on to say that he believed the eye had evolved through gradual stages from a simple light-sensitive spot to the complex eye of humans. Yet he had to admit that he had no idea how that "light-sensitive spot" originated: "How a nerve comes to be sensitive to light hardly concerns us more than how life itself originated." But that was a great cop-out! If you are trying to explain the origin of eyes without an intelligent Creator you do need to address the issue of how light-sensitive cells came into being.

The human eye has 137 million special light-sensitive cells — called rods and cones — which receive light from the lens, and convert it into electrical signals. These then travel at 300 miles an hour along the optic nerve to the brain, where millions of intricate electrical connections in the *visual cortex* produce the image that we see. Even if an eye had a lens, cornea and retina, but no optic nerve to take the signals to the brain, and no visual cortex to create the images, it would be about as useless as a traditional camera without a film.

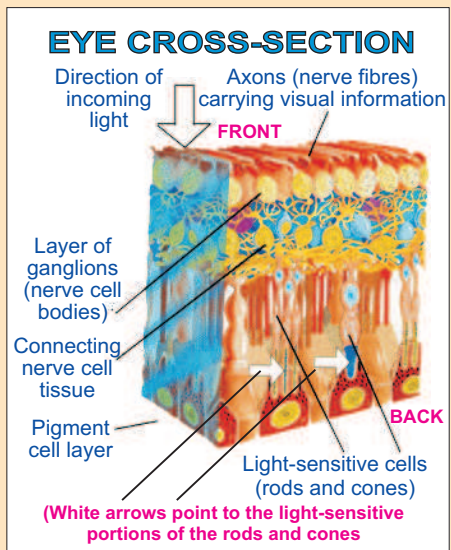
LIKE A CAMCORDER

The eye has often been compared with an ordinary camera, and there are indeed many similarities, but, it would be more accurate to compare it to a camcorder. In fact, our eyes are like two camcorders linked together. We know that camcorders don't just happen — they are designed by people with a knowledge of optics, and each part is manufactured with precision. When we consider the complex structure of eyes, the intricate circuitry provided to make them work, and the many wonderful variations in the eyes of living things, the idea that "blind chance" was responsible seems particularly far-fetched.

Maybe the Bible provides the most rational explanation for the origin of eyes: "Does he who formed the eye not see?" (*Psalms 94:9*)



Anatomy of the human eye



Graphic from www.answersingenesis.org



Evolutionists are avoiding the real challenge

Swedish biologists Dan-Erik Nilsson and Susanne Pelger have persuaded many people have been that eyes evolved.¹ They claimed that, given nothing more than time and chance, a "light-sensitive patch," can "gradually turn into a focussed-lens eye," and in the space of "only" a few hundred thousand years. A widely-published diagram (left) shows their proposed sequence from a light-sensitive spot to a fish's eye, supposedly simulated on a computer. They claimed the sequence involved around 1,800 gradual steps. However, these claims are deceptive. Firstly, this sequence was never simulated on a computer, but is based on rough hand-written drawings! Secondly, taking their cue from Darwin (see above) Nilsson and Pelger's series started with light-sensitive cells, and made no attempt to explain how these originated. This is quite a serious omission, since without these cells sight would be impossible, no matter how good the other parts of the eyes happened to be.

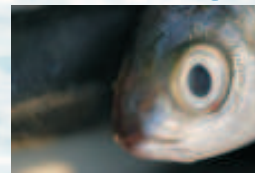
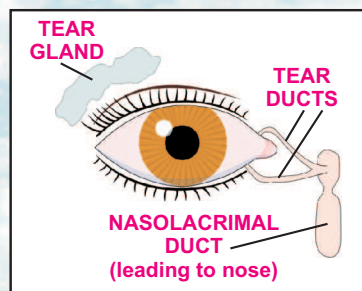
Professor Richard Dawkins admitted, "They started their story after the invention of a single light-sensitive cell — it does no harm to call it a photo-cell. It would be nice, in the future, to do another computer model, this time at the level of the inside of the cell, to show how the first living photo-cell came into being by step-by-step modification of an earlier, more general-purpose cell. But you have to start somewhere"² But Professor Dawkins, like Darwin, is avoiding the issue: to explain the origin of something you must start at the *beginning!* By ducking this challenge, evolutionists are admitting they simply don't know!

1. "A Pessimistic Estimate of the Time Required for an Eye to Evolve," Proceedings of the Royal Society, London (1994) 256, 53-58.
2. "River out of Eden", Weidenfield & Nicolson, (1995), pp. 79-80.

Why fish don't cry

Next time your eyes water, be thankful that you have tear glands and eyelids. Our tear glands produce about 1 c.c. of liquid every day!

Without them our eyes would become dry and useless. Evolutionists believe that land animals evolved from fish, but since fish live in the water they don't need tears. If fish came out of water, they would quickly become blind. So how did the first land animals get the complex apparatus that produces tears and then drains them away? (see diagram below). What did it evolve from? And how did the first land animals avoid going blind while it was happening? Trying to explain where our tears came from is enough to make an evolutionist weep!



EYES GALORE!

We have outlined some of the difficulties with the theory of eye evolution. Yet, because there are so many different types of eyes in the animal kingdom, some evolutionists now believe that eyes evolved independently at least 40 times!

The theory that eyes evolved becomes even more absurd, if we accept the supposed ancestry of the higher mammals and human beings from fish, via amphibians, and reptiles. According to this idea, the lower mammals "lost" most of the cones in their retina, and also the oil-droplets in the cones they did have, which meant they couldn't distinguish between colours. Did evolution make a mistake here, as this meant that the "higher" mammals, including the primates, would have had to "re-evolve" these features? Yet the cones in primates' eye are nothing like as good as those of reptiles, and our lenses are less efficient than those of snakes. These "problems" are due to the fact that evolutionists arranged their "family tree" long before they thought about the origin of colour vision.



Although the eyes of octopuses are very similar to ours, because evolutionists don't believe they are closely related to us, they claim their eyes evolved along a separate path.

The theory that eyes evolved from "simple to complex" may look convincing on the surface, but the facts are against it. As we noted on page one, the pinhole camera-type eye of the nautilus hasn't evolved into a more complex organ, even though evolutionists claim it has existed for 400 million years. And trilobites of the same "age" already had complex compound eyes. It just doesn't add up!

Evolutionists often claim that the "human eye is wired backwards" and therefore a bad design. Dr Peter Gurney, a consultant ophthalmologist, refutes this. See his web article at www.trueorigin.org/retina.asp

IN THE NEWS Scientists discover pigeons' secret



Photo from Wikipedia by Andreas Trepte, Marburg

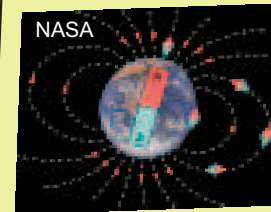
For centuries people have been fascinated by the ability of pigeons to find their way home over long distances. Some can fly 500 miles in a day. As long ago as 2,900 BC the Egyptians were using pigeons for "air mail", and during the Second World War pigeons were used to bring messages back to Britain from behind enemy lines.

Various ideas have been put forward to explain how these birds find their way home, even from places they have never been before. Some

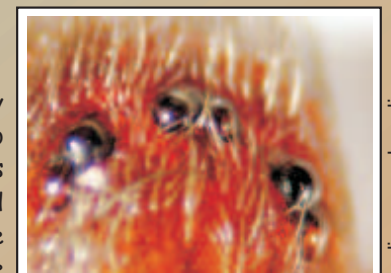
researchers suggested they used the sun and stars or their sense of smell. Others, however, have long suspected that pigeons somehow use the earth's magnetic field to navigate, and German scientists now

believe they have proved this. Using X-Rays to examine the pigeons' upper beaks the scientists discovered tiny iron particles arranged in a 3D pattern. These particles change direction, just as the needle of a compass points to the north, allowing the birds to navigate by the earth's magnetic field (left).

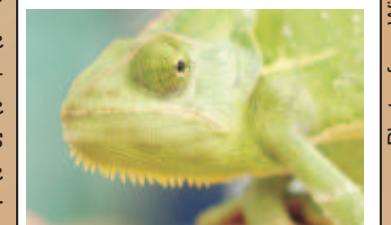
Sailors have used compasses ever since the Chinese first invented them around 900 years ago. In a compass (right) a magnetised needle is set to swivel freely, so that it points to the earth's magnetic pole. Compasses didn't come into being by chance — they were designed. Chance mutations could never have caused iron particles to grow in the beaks of pigeons. This is more evidence for intelligent design.



Despite the problems surrounding the origin of eyes, some evolutionists are now suggesting that eyes evolved separately at least 40 times!



The Brown Recluse Spider has six eyes, but some spiders have eight



The Chameleon can move both of its eyes independently

Photos from Wikipedia free on-line encyclopedia