

WELL DESIGNED!



The Star-nosed Mole

THERE are many strange animals in the world, and one of the strangest is the **Star-nosed Mole**, which lives in Eastern Canada and the north-eastern USA. Like common moles, this hamster-sized animal lives underground and digs tunnels, although it goes much deeper. It is also a good swimmer, living near water, and its tunnels often exit underwater.

However, the strangest thing about this unique mammal is the bizarre nose which gives it its name. It has a fan of 11 pairs of fleshy tentacles which are constantly moving as it searches for food. These tentacles are sensory organs containing nerve fibres. They are named "Eimer's Organs", after zoologist Theodor Eimer, who was born in Zürich, Switzerland in 1843. He studied

common moles, and discovered that they had 5,000 sensory organs on their noses. If that seems amazing, then consider the fact that the Star-nosed Mole has at least 25,000 of these organs! Naturalist Peter Melzer says: "Today, we still do not understand precisely how these receptors transduce touch into the electrical signals that the nerve fibres transmit to the brain." (brainmindinst.blogspot.com).

Star-nosed Moles are practically blind, and as they move around, these sensors transmit signals to the brain in a similar way that blind people "read" braille by touch. You could say that they "follow their nose."

Many human inventions use electrical sensors, and all of them are the result of intelligent design. It therefore seems obvious that the Star-nosed Mole, with its strange nose, equipped with 25,000 sensors transmitting information to its brain, could not be the result of mindless evolution. It's amazing design clearly displays the work of a wise Creator-Designer.



A Star-nosed Mole

U. S. National Park Service



A Common Mole

Wikipedia photo by Michael David Hill.

AN UNCHANGING GOD

We have been taking a look at just a few of the numerous "living fossils." Evolutionists are surprised that organisms can survive for so long without significant change, often leaving no fossils in the intervening period. We think it remarkable that they believe that these millions of years actually existed. The older you believe the earth to be, the greater the problem. Millions of years without evolutionary change is difficult to believe if evolution really does happen. However, the fossil record — including the many "living fossils" — is just what we would expect to find if the Biblical record of creation is true. Genesis tells us that in the beginning God created specific "kinds", with the potential for limited variation and adaptation.

Some things have survived virtually unchanged throughout the world's history — which we believe has been a few thousand years. Some have undergone limited change, while others have become extinct, but none have evolved into a different "kind." That's why we can classify organisms, and there are no transitional types. Nature is dependable.

We believe that God our Creator is dependable too. He loves us, and goes on loving us, even when we reject His love. God proved His love through Jesus Christ His Son, who came to earth, gave His life on the cross for our sin, and rose again. He has promised forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe in Him. "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5: 17, *New Living Translation*). "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13: 8). Millions of people have responded to God's offer and proved it to be real. The God who doesn't change has changed their lives. How about you?

*To find out more about the Christian faith go to www.the-real-thing.org.uk



Smile, please

What do bees do with their honey? They cell it.

When is the best time to buy budgies?
When they're going cheap.

What do polar bears have for lunch?
Ice burger s!

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The REAL SCIENCE paper!



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SPECIAL THEME:
LIVING FOSSILS

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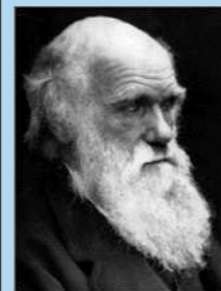
WHY HAVEN'T THEY EVOLVED?

Most people think of evolution as a process of continuous change over time. The popular image is of an "evolutionary tree", with so-called simple organisms at the root and human beings at the top. So it comes as a surprise to many people that many organisms have remained virtually the same even though they are supposed to have survived for millions of years.



Above (left) are some living horseshoe crabs, and on the right a horseshoe crab fossil, claimed to be about 500 million years old. The living species are almost identical to the fossil form. If evolution is an ongoing process, how could they resist change for such a vast period of time? (Photos: courtesy Dr Joachim Scheven)

HOW DARWIN GOT IT WRONG



He wrote: "We may safely infer that not one living species will transmit its unaltered likeness to a distant futurity." (The Origin of Species, 1859)
In modern English this means: "We can be sure that everything will evolve with the passing of time."

Organisms that show little or no change between the living and fossil forms are known as "living fossils." And it's not just a handful — there are hundreds of examples. Their existence is a serious challenge to Darwin's theory of continuous biological change. Evolutionists often use the word "stasis" to describe such "non-evolution". Lack of change over a short period of time is not a problem, but the idea that any creature remained unchanged for tens or even hundreds of millions of years stretches credibility.



Drawn by Michael Higgins

GEN & EV

NOT A LEG TO STAND ON!

THE most famous living fossil is the **Coelacanth**. When one of these fish was caught off the coast of South Africa in 1938, it shocked the scientific community, and became headline news around the world. Why? Because they were believed to have been extinct for 65 million years, since no fossil coelacanths had been found in rocks dated younger than this. Even more amazing for evolutionists was that the living fish was little different from fossils that they claimed were "350 million years" old. Since 1938, many live coelacanths have been found.

Another problem for evolutionists was that they had previously believed that coelacanths were some kind of "missing link" between fish and amphibians, because they had bony fins, which may have been evolving into limbs. However, far from showing any interest in walking out of the sea, coelacanths swim to depths of 700 meters (2,300 feet). They are large fish, growing up to 2 meters (6.5 feet) long and weighing as much as 80 kg. Their eyes are highly specialised, similar to the eyes of cats, dogs, and dolphins, enabling them to see well in the dark depths.

We have two questions for the evolutionists: Firstly, if evolution really happens, how could these fish remain virtually unchanged for 350 million years? Secondly, why are there no fossils in rocks *younger* than 65 million years? Where have the coelacanths been hiding? We suggest that those 65 million years are an illusion. Ironically, the coelacanth has now been declared an endangered species!



Above: a fossil coelacanth. Below: a modern specimen, similar to the one caught in 1938.



Special coins and stamps were produced to commemorate the discovery of a living coelacanth. (Photos from Wikipedia Commons)

www.darwinday.org.uk

www.crt.org.uk

Photos: Wikipedia Commons

Wikipedia photo by Raimond Spekking

Spider evolution: a lot of spin?



A spider trapped in amber. Photo by Elisabeth, Wikipedia Commons.

Special conditions are necessary to preserve insects and spiders. Most of these are found in amber, which is hardened tree resin. Spiders produce silk, and evolutionists believe they evolved this ability. Yet spiders preserved in amber, claimed to be "400 million years old", show they already had this ability. Amazingly, spiders' webs, with insects trapped in them, have also been found in amber. So, the evidence suggests that spiders have always been spinning silk and haven't evolved from anything else.



This cockroach, preserved in Baltic amber, is claimed to be over 40 million years old — but it's clearly a cockroach. (Wikipedia photo by Anders L. Damgaard from <http://amber-inclusions.dk>)

Many insects, too, show no evolutionary change between specimens trapped in amber — supposedly tens of millions of years old — and forms that are living today.

Koalas refute Darwin



Although Koalas may look like teddy bears, they are not bears at all. They are marsupial (pouched) mammals that live in the wild only in Australia, and eat the leaves of the eucalyptus tree. The oldest koala fossils, claimed to be over 20 million years old, are little different from those living now. Their fossilised jaws and teeth suggest that koalas were already living in the forest canopy and specialising in eating leaves. And since koalas appear abruptly in the fossil record, there is no evidence that they evolved from anything else.

Trees that failed to evolve



The Wollemia Tree was thought to have died out 2 million years ago until it was found growing in a remote part of Australia in 1994. The oldest Wollemia fossils are dated at "200 million years old". Why no evolution?



Ginkgo trees, with their fan-shaped leaves, (above left), are unique, and unrelated to any other tree. Fossils of ginkgo leaves (above right) are found in rocks said to be "270 million years old". There is no fossil evidence that ginkgos evolved from any other plants, and they have clearly not evolved since those first fossils were formed.

IN THE NEWS

BEE-BRAINS BEAT COMPUTERS



Scientists at the University of London, have discovered that bumblebees (left) can beat computers in solving complex mathematical problems. In order to save energy when collecting nectar they calculate the shortest possible route between the flowers they have randomly discovered. This is sometimes called the "Travelling Salesman Problem." According to *Science Daily* (25th October 2010) "The Travelling Salesman must find the shortest route



that allows him to visit all locations on his route. Computers solve it by comparing the length of all possible routes and choosing the shortest. However, bees solve it without computer assistance using a brain the size of grass seed."

After exploring the location of the different flowers, bees found the shortest route much quicker than computers could. Researcher Dr Nigel Raine said, "Despite their tiny brains bees are capable of extraordinary feats of behaviour. We need to understand how they can solve the Travelling Salesman Problem without a computer. What short-cuts do they use?" So bees, with "a brain the size of a grass seed", can beat modern computers, and scientists hope to learn something from them.

Computers, and the programmes they use, didn't come into existence by chance processes. How much less could bumblebees, with their superior ability, be the result of random mutations and natural selection over millions of years. This new evidence clearly points to the existence of a Designer, who created the bees with brains already programmed to solve mathematical problems.



SCIENTISTS' SURPRISE CATCH



Marine scientists exploring in the Coral Sea off Australia in 2006 had a big surprise when they caught a "Jusassic Shrimp", a member of the lobster family. These creatures were thought to have been extinct for 50 million years — the date assigned to the most recent fossils. To find one alive

and well, and looking like the fossil form (left), begs two questions: (1) Why hasn't it evolved, and (2) where has it been hiding if the fossils really are 50 million years old?

"Sea lilies" show no evolution



Sea Lillies or Crinoids (above left) are animals, not plants. These sea creatures have a complex hydraulic system and three-part nervous system. Crinoid fossils (above right), the oldest of which are dated at "500 million years", are almost identical to living forms.

What fossil parrots don't tell us



According to Wikipedia, "Researchers are still unsure about the origins of parrots", due to the "scarcity of the bird's fossil record." The oldest parrot fossils, found at sites in northern Europe, including Ireland, eastern England and Scandinavia, are claimed to be more than 50 million years old. Evolutionists don't know where parrots originated, or what they evolved from, and the oldest fossils tell us they have changed little. So parrots are "living fossils", and a good example of the survival of a created "kind."