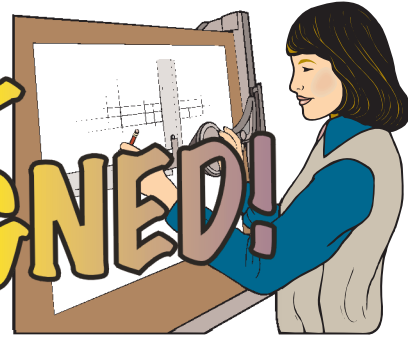


WELL DESIGNED!



There are many different species of crab, and most of them have shells to protect them. But one species — the Hermit Crab — has no shell of its own. Instead, it uses the discarded shell of other sea creatures.

This unusual crustacean takes great care when choosing its second-hand home, picking a shell that is a good fit. When the shell becomes too cramped, the hermit crab will 'move house', and find a larger shell. The crab's body is twisted to fit the coiled shape of the shell. Even its legs are designed for living in the borrowed shell: two pairs are used for walking, and the others are used to grip the shell. Its right-hand claw is much larger than the left, and is used as a 'door' to protect it when it's inside the shell.



A Sea Anemone

Hermit crabs have a strange relationship with another sea creature — sea anemones. They have stinging barbs that



The Hermit Crab

explode when touched, but hermit crabs often carry sea anemones with them, stuck to their shells. In fact, when they move to another shell, they often take their 'lodger' with them and plant it on their new home! This arrangement works well for both animals. The anemone protects the crab from predators, and is rewarded by food scraps left by its host.

The origin of the hermit crab is difficult for evolutionists to explain. Did the crab's ancestors lose their shells? There is no evidence they did, and it would be of no evolutionary advantage to lose a shell, then have to find a substitute home. And what about their specially-shaped body, specially designed legs — and that puzzling relationship with sea anemones? Surely gradual evolution can't account for all of this? The Hermit Crab looks like the good design of a wise Creator.

CLEAR THINKING NEEDED!

The idea that science and belief in God don't go together is a myth of our modern age. As we have seen, famous scientists of the past had no such problem. True science is all about observable evidence and doesn't rule out any possibility — even the supernatural. We humans have been given amazing brains, with the ability to think things through, and arrive at reasonable conclusions. Sadly, our own prejudices often get in the way of clear thinking.

We have seen how some scientists rule God out of their thinking because it doesn't fit their worldview. They are then committed to finding *naturalistic* explanations for everything, no matter how absurd these explanations may be. This is in great contrast to the scientists who gave birth to our modern scientific disciplines. They weren't afraid to say they could see God's hand in nature, while many modern academics seem willing to go to great lengths to deny it.

The world needs young scientists who refuse to be told what they have to believe and what conclusions they must draw from their research. Maybe you are one of them? If so, don't be intimidated into rejecting the God who created you, and gave you an enquiring mind. Belief in Him helps, rather than hinders true science. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding." (*The Bible, Psalm 111, 10*). And if you put your faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for us, you will not only receive God's forgiveness, but also the gift of the Holy Spirit, who "will guide you into all truth." (*The Bible, John 16: 13*).



Smile

What did the dog say when the boy pulled its tail?
That's the end of me!
What do you call a dinosaur that smashes everything in its path?
Tyrannosaurus wrecks!
What is an archaeologist?
Someone whose career is in ruins!

What is life all about? Visit www.the-real-thing.org.uk

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The ALTERNATIVE teens' paper!

ORIGINAL VIEW
ORIGINAL

No. 45

Killing a Modern Myth

In this issue:
Men of science: men of God
What is science?
Amphibians
The Hermit Crab
Clear thinking needed

Is there room for God in the lab?



Surely all scientists believe in evolution? Isn't belief in God and the Bible unscientific?

That's the myth. Here are the facts:

There are thousands of scientists in the world who are Christians, and see no conflict between their beliefs and their research. No part of the Bible — including Genesis — has ever been disproved. All the pioneers of modern science were Bible-believers.

Don't Be Intimidated!

Many secular scientists don't want us to think for ourselves — they tell us what to think! Then they ridicule anyone who dares to disagree. This is especially true when it comes to evolution. The late Professor Stephen J. Gould wrote, "Thinking humanity accepts the fact of evolution." And Dr Richard Dawkins has suggested that any person who doesn't believe in evolution is "ignorant, stupid or insane." Don't be intimidated by such comments. You have the right to weigh the evidence and form your own opinions!

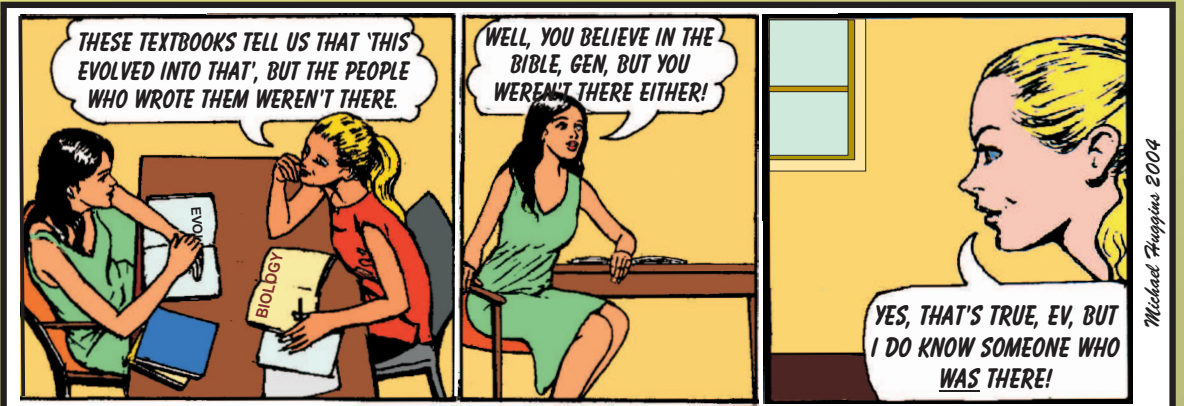


Prof. Louis Pasteur (1822–1895)

"Science brings men nearer to God... The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator."

—Louis Pasteur, who proved that life can't come from non-living matter.

GEN & EV

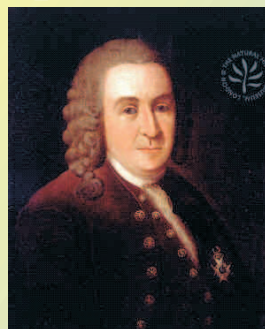


Michael Higgins 2004



Men of Science: Men of God

Where would science be without them?



Carl Linnaeus

(1707-1778) Swedish botanist who invented our modern biological classification system. A convinced Christian, Linnaeus believed that the original kinds of plants and animals were created by God.



Johannes Kepler

(1571-1630) Famous astronomer, who formulated the laws governing the motions of planets, which he described as 'a divine mechanism... derived by the most wise Creator.'



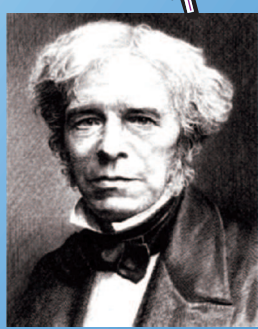
Isaac Newton

(1643-1727) Described as one of our greatest scientists. He said that our solar system 'could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being.'



Henri Fabre

(1823-1915) French pioneer of modern entomology (study of insects). Called atheism 'a mania', and said, 'You could take my skin from me more easily than my faith in God.'



Michael Faraday

(1791-1867). Pioneer in electricity. Inventor of generators and electric motors. Founder of the Royal Institution. Devout Christian who believed in the absolute truth of the Bible

The fact that all the founders of our main scientific disciplines were Bible-believing Christians proves that science and belief in God can go hand-in-hand. These brilliant pioneers saw no conflict between their faith and their work. Those pictured here are just a few of many. In fact, modern science flowed from Christian faith and belief, and from people who felt they were "thinking God's thoughts after Him." Among all the scientists who have ever lived, only a tiny minority were atheists. So why do so many modern scientists pretend that God can have no place in their research?

What is science?

'SCIENCE: (knowledge obtained from) the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical world, especially by observing, measuring and experimenting, and the development of theories to describe the results of these activities'. (Cambridge Advanced Learners' Dictionary).

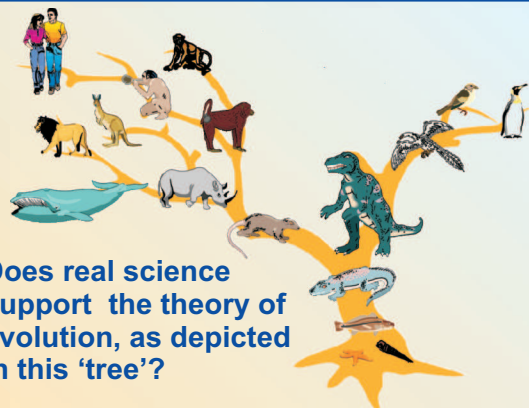
The word 'science' comes from the Latin *scientia*, derived from the verb *scire* meaning 'to know'.

So, is evolution science?

No one has ever observed evolution happening. We see variations within limits, e.g. different breeds of dogs, horses, finches, etc., but never one kind changing into another. And when we look at the record of the fossils, there are no indisputable transitional forms. So evolution theory hasn't been confirmed by 'observing, measuring and experimenting'.

But even more serious for evolutionists is the *information* problem. They claim that all life on earth evolved from a single-celled organism such as a bacterium. Although a bacterium is a complex thing, a human being is many, many times more complex, and to turn a bacteria into a human would need the addition of loads of new genetic information.

Scientists don't know of any mechanism that can add new information, and information can only come from an intelligent source. Does this not at least suggest the possibility that there is an all-wise, intelligent Creator who is the author of that information, and who must have created specific 'kinds' of organisms, with the potential for limited variation? If the evidence doesn't support a naturalistic explanation for life, surely the alternative should be considered? Take a look at the quotes on the right: are these scientists being objective? No. By ruling out the possibility of creation, they are being totally unscientific. In fact, they are being *anti-scientific!*



Does real science support the theory of evolution, as depicted in this 'tree'?

RULING GOD OUT!

"Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such a hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic"
—Scott C. Todd, *Nature*, Sept. 30th 1999.

"Darwinism rejects all supernatural phenomena and causations"
—Dr Ernst Mayr, *Scientific American*, July 2000.

These two scientists are allowing their *world-view* to restrict their research, and ruling out one line of enquiry even before they begin. What a contrast between them and those great pioneers of science!

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A CLOSER LOOK at Evolution Amphibians

According to the evolution theory, one of the most important events in the history of life on earth was when (in the words of naturalist David Attenborough), "fish began to haul themselves out of the water and become the first backboned creatures to walk on the land."¹ The problem for this theory is that there are no fossils to prove this move from sea to land. "Until more fossil species are found which reveal the transitional forms between fish and amphibians, this important period of vertebrate evolution will remain uncertain. The earliest fossil amphibians that have been found had already solved the problems of living on land."²

But the problems for evolution don't stop there. There are three orders of amphibians living today: frogs and toads, newts and salamanders, and the limbless caecilians. Although these three orders are said to have evolved from an extinct amphibian called *Ichthyostega*, there are no fossils to prove this relationship. Fossil expert Professor Alfred Romer admitted that between the modern forms and their supposed ancestor there is "a broad evolutionary gap, not bridged by fossil materials."³

STRANGEST

The strangest of the modern amphibians are the caecilians, and they pose a special problem for evolutionists, since they have to believe they have *lost* their legs during the course of evolution — even though they are supposed to have evolved from an ancestor which had spent millions of years evolving legs from the fins of fish! Some caecilians actually live in the water, so is this evolution going backwards?



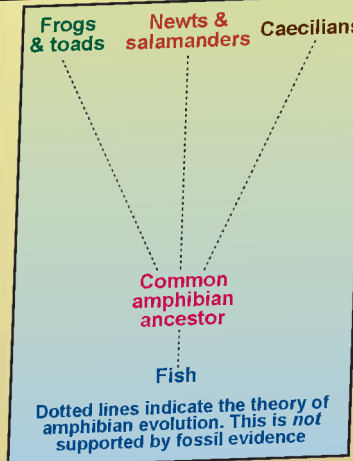
Caecilians are legless amphibians. Did they "lose" their legs?

The chart on the right shows the theory of amphibian evolution, and the dotted lines indicate the missing fossil evidence. In view of this lack of evidence for a common origin of the modern amphibian orders, it makes sense to consider the alternative: that the three modern orders were originally created with the genetic information necessary to produce the different species in each order — and that the caecilians never had ancestors that walked!

1. *Life on Earth*, Collins 1979, p. 131.
2. *Biological Sciences Website*, (www-biol.paisley.ac.uk).
3. *Vertebrate Paleontology*, Univ. of Chicago Press, 1966, p.98.

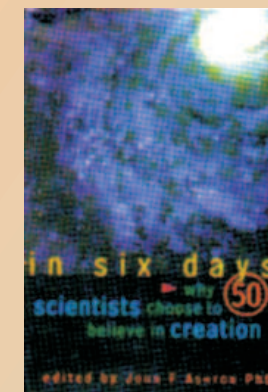


Frogs (top) and salamanders (above) belong to two of the three orders of modern amphibians



The book that shatters a myth!

People who insist that no true scientist could believe in the Bible's account of creation couldn't be more wrong! In Sydney several years ago, a public lecture was given on the evidence for the biblical version of creation. A research scientist stood up and said that he didn't believe that any scientist with a PhD would believe this. Dr John Ashton — who has a PhD. — was present, and he decided to investigate. The result was the book *In Six Days: why 50 Scientists choose to believe in Creation*.*



It contains 50 chapters, each written by a scientist. They include biologists, physicists, geologists, zoologists, chemists and geneticists. Here are a couple of quotes, 'The evidence points to an intelligent designer of the vast array of life, both living and extinct, rather than to unguided, mindless evolution.' —Dr Nancy Darrell (botanist). 'When I consider the great questions of origins from a broad perspective, the biblical model makes most sense to me; it leaves fewer unanswered questions.' —Dr Ariel A Roth (biologist).

Dr Ashton had no difficulty in finding 50 scientists with PhDs. who believed that God created the world in six literal days. In fact, he had more than enough, and a follow-up volume, *On the Seventh Day*, has been published.

**In Six Days*, 360-page paperback, £11.95 + £1.80 P & P from address overleaf.

