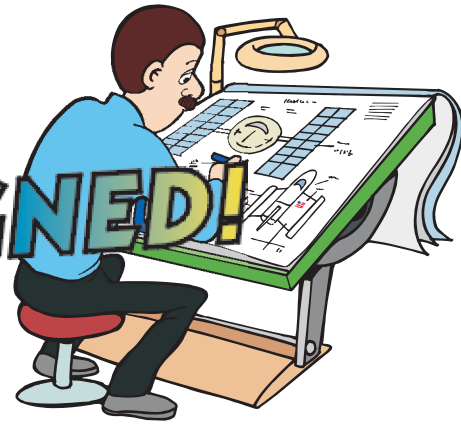


**WELL  
DESIGNED!**



**Weaverbirds**

**M**OST birds build some kind of nest, but Weaverbirds must surely qualify as master nest-builders. There are over 170 species, living mainly in southern Africa, with a few in Asia and Australia. As their name suggests, most weaverbirds build intricately woven nests, using strands of grass. They can even tie knots! The nests are suspended from branches.



Baya Weaver with nest

Photo from Wikipedia by J. M. Garb



Colony of nests. Photo from Wikipedia by Tim Ross

Some species build long tunnels leading into their nests, and others build their nests in colonies — the sparrow weavers build “apartments” in which 100 to 300 pairs of birds have separate flask-shaped chambers entered through tubes at the bottom.

If a nest is damaged during building, rather than repair it, the bird will tear the nest apart and begin all over again. This reveals that they do it by instinct — it is not a learned skill. So the ability to weave their nests must be coded into the weaverbirds’ DNA. The idea that they gradually evolved this skill doesn’t make sense, since trial and error would have resulted in the loss of eggs and risk to the species’ survival. They had to get it right from the very beginning!

**Both the birds and their nests show evidence of design by a wise Creator, not the result of chance mutations over a long period of time.**

**Are they afraid to believe in a Creator?**

In this issue we have dealt with just one of the many scientific problems faced by evolutionists — the idea that mammals evolved from reptiles. If we consider the whole evolution theory, the problems are multiplied many times over, so why do so many scientists insist that evolution is a fact? The answer has more to do with *philosophy* than science. Many evolutionists reject religion, yet have a religion their own — *naturalism*.



Geneticist Richard Lewontin admitted this when he wrote that they had “a prior commitment, a commitment to naturalism” so could not “allow a Divine Foot in the door.” This explains why some evolutionists become so emotional when evolution is questioned; Professor Richard Dawkins (left) — author of popular book *The God Delusion* — has said, “It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I’d rather not consider that).”

That kind of response suggests that these people are actually afraid to face the possibility that a divine Creator exists because it has implications. If there is a God who created us, He has the right to set rules for us to live by, and we are answerable to Him. Many people find it more comfortable to deny God’s existence, even when the evidence suggests otherwise. But this itself is a delusion, since, if God exists, pretending He doesn’t makes no difference!

The evidence points to the existence of a Creator-Designer, and Christians claim that He has more than “a divine foot in the door.” We believe He entered human history in the Person of Jesus Christ, so that, rather than being afraid of God, we could know Him as a Father and Friend. “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (*The Bible, Romans 5: 8*). Jesus paid the penalty for our sin on the cross, and rose again to defeat death, which the Bible tells us is the result of human sin. To find out more about the evidence for Jesus and Christianity see [www.the-real-thing.org.uk](http://www.the-real-thing.org.uk)



Christians believe God entered human history

**Have a smile**

Why does a giraffe eat so little?  
Because a little goes a long way!

Why isn't your nose twelve inches long?  
Because then it would be a foot!

Why didn't the skeleton go to the party?  
Because he had no body to go with!

**ON-LINE RESOURCES:**  
[www.crt.org.uk](http://www.crt.org.uk)  
[www.darwinday.org.uk](http://www.darwinday.org.uk)

Original View is published three times a year by the Creation Resources Trust (Reg. Charity No. 1016666). Editing, design and layout by Geoff Chapman. Unless otherwise stated, articles are written by the editor. There is no subscription charge, but donations are invited. Contact CRT at P O Box 3237, YEOVIL, BA22 7WD. Phone/fax: 01935 850569. E-Mail: [info@crt.org.uk](mailto:info@crt.org.uk). Other resources, e.g. DVDs, CDs, books, literature, etc., available by post or on-line at [www.crt.org.uk](http://www.crt.org.uk). Scriptures taken from the HOLY BIBLE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Hodder & Stoughton. All rights reserved. Illustrations in this issue from Clipart.com, Planet-Medien-AG and Wikipedia.com

[www.crt.org.uk](http://www.crt.org.uk)

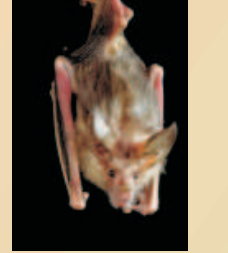
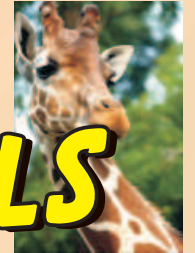
**The REAL SCIENCE paper!**

**ORIGINAL  
VIEW  
OBSCURED**

**No. 56**



**MANY  
MAMMALS**



**Mammals come in many different shapes and sizes. Although most live on land, some are aquatic, and one kind can fly. According to evolution, mammals evolved from reptiles. What does the evidence tell us?**

**LITTLE & LARGE**



**Pygmy shrew**



**Blue whale**

**MAMMALS** have colonised almost every part of our planet, both on land and in the water. They range in size from the pigmy shrew at 80 mm. (3.25 ins) long, to the blue whale, 33 metres (109 feet) in length. There are three sub-classes of mammals: the marsupials (pouched mammals), the monotremes (egg-laying mammals), and the placentals. However, the scientific evidence doesn't support the idea that mammals evolved from reptiles (read more inside). Evolutionists can't agree on what a mammalian “family tree” should look like. Neither is there any evidence to link the three classes of mammals to any “common ancestor” — they all appear abruptly in the fossil record.



There are three classes of mammals (clockwise above) the marsupials, monotremes, and placentals.

**GEN & EV**

WHALES ARE AMAZING, GEN — AND TO THINK THEY HAVE EVOLVED FROM ANCESTORS THAT LIVED ON LAND!

OH, THEY EVOLVED FROM REPTILES, THOUGH, LIKE ALL ANIMALS, THEIR ORIGINAL ANCESTORS WERE FISH

SO WHAT DID THEIR ANCESTORS EVOLVE FROM?

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, EV, IS THAT AFTER MILLIONS OF YEARS OF EVOLUTION, WHALES ARE BACK WHERE THEY STARTED!

Photo by Matthias Asgerisson

© 2008. Printed by CPO Worthing.

Drawings by Michael Peggion

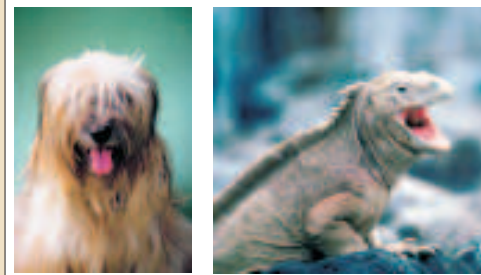
# HAIR AND EAR PROBLEMS

**A**LL mammals have body hair (or fur) Many evolutionists claim that mammals evolved fur to keep them warm. It is true that hair is an excellent insulator, but they have a problem explaining how mammals got their hair. They claim it evolved from reptiles' scales, possibly starting as sensitive whiskers, but there is no evidence for this. There are important differences between reptilian scales and mammalian hair. Scales are rigid plates, and when reptiles moult, the whole sheet of scales is discarded. Mammals' hairs (like birds' feathers) are rooted in the skin as individual follicles, and are lost singly when moulting. Both scales and hair have been found in the fossil record, but no evidence of hair evolution, despite more than a century of searching. The oldest fossil mammal (see box, below right) had fully developed hair.



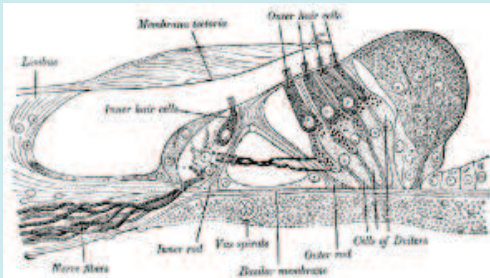
A discarded snake's skin

Evolutionists also have "ear problems". All reptiles, living and fossil, have several jaw bones and only one ear bone, but all mammals, living and fossil, have only one jaw bone and three ear bones. How could a transitional creature eat or hear properly, while bones were migrating from the jaw to the ear? Another serious objection to evolution is the fact that all mammals have an amazing and essential hearing organ known as the Organ of Corti (right). Mammals couldn't hear without it, yet reptiles don't have it, and there is nothing in the reptilian ear that it could have evolved from.



All mammals have hair, which is totally different from the scales of reptiles. There is no evidence that hair evolved from scales.

## AN AMAZING ORGAN



Reptiles don't possess the *Organ of Corti* — an essential part of mammals' hearing. This tiny delicate and complex organ has 15,000–20,000 auditory nerve receptors, each with its own hair cell! The diagram shows just how intricate it is. (See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organ\\_of\\_Corti](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organ_of_Corti))

From Gray's Anatomy

www.crt.org.uk

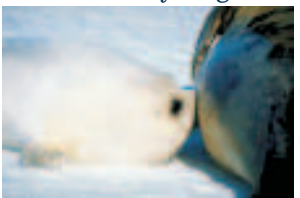
# How did mammals get milk?

All new-born mammals, from bats to bears, mice to moose, wallabies to whales, are fed on milk, produced by their mother from mammary glands. Milk is a remarkable food; it contains essential antibodies to protect the young against infection, as well as sugars and vitamins, amino acids and minerals. Without milk, the young would not survive. A baby humpback whale can drink 600 litres (130 gallons) of high-fat milk in a day!

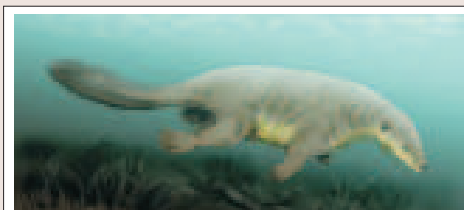
The origin of milk and mammary glands is a serious problem for those who believe mammals evolved from reptiles. Reptiles don't have mammary glands, so what could they have evolved from? Evolutionists have suggested they are adapted sweat glands, but this is just a guess — there is absolutely no evidence. Sweat is actually a waste product, so how could sweat glands gradually evolve into mammary glands which produce milk, full of rich nourishment, and essential to the young mammals' survival? In any case, reptiles don't have sweat glands, either!

Although they have no teats, the monotremes (egg-laying mammals) like the echidna (right) and platypus, also produce milk, which oozes from their skin. Although sometimes called "primitive" their milk is not at all like sweat!

At the milk bar: all mammals produce milk for their young



# EARLY FOSSIL MAMMAL "SURPRISES" SCIENTISTS



Reconstruction of *Castorocauda*

The discovery of the fossil of "a beaver-like animal" named *Castorocauda*, "could challenge some currently accepted ideas on mammal evolution," reported *BBC News online* (24th February 2006). According to the evolutionists' dating system, this animal lived "164 million years ago", but had hair, a beaver-like tail, strong arms for digging, and teeth like modern river otters. The report went on: "Such advanced features have surprised many scientists, suggesting mammals that lived during the hey-day of the dinosaurs had already conquered a variety of environments. The mammals of the time were once thought to be largely primitive shrew-like creatures, scuttling at the feet of dinosaurs, and only flourishing when the dinosaurs died out some 65 million years ago." In other words, the first mammals were much like mammals are today, and haven't evolved!

Illustration by Carl Buell, from [www.neucom.edu/Deptis/Anat/Pakiceid.html](http://www.neucom.edu/Deptis/Anat/Pakiceid.html)

# IN THE NEWS

## Have astronomers really found three "super-earths"?



It was recently announced at an astronomy conference in Nantes, France, that astronomers at the La Silla Observatory in central Chile have discovered a trio of "super-Earths".<sup>1</sup> The planets are circling a star slightly smaller than our sun, which is 42 light-years away from us.

But are they really "super-earths"? This description would suggest that they are like the earth, only better. Let's look at the facts behind the hype. One dictionary defines the meaning of the word *super* as "an article or a product of superior size, quality, or grade." So are these newly-discovered planets of superior size, quality or grade to the earth? They are certainly larger — rocky planets between two and 10 times the mass of Earth. They orbit their star very rapidly. One whizzes around in just four days, compared with Earth's 365 days, another taking 10 days and the slowest taking 20 days.



Photo credit: ESO  
Artist's impression of "super-earths"

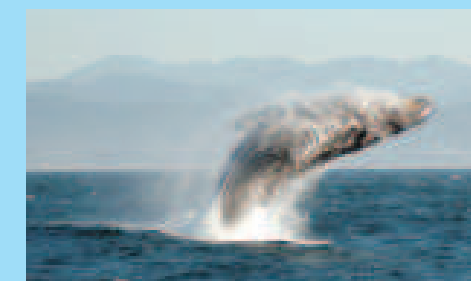
In view of all the reports, it may come as a surprise to learn that astronomers have not actually seen these planets — they have simply detected a wobble in the star, and concluded that the planets are there and calculated their size and the time they take to orbit the star. This may well be correct, but such planets would be totally unlike the earth, and could never support life. So describing them as "super-earths" is really misleading, since they are not at all like the planet we live on, which, according to all the available evidence, is still absolutely unique.<sup>2</sup>

1. *BBC News online*, and *Yahoo News* 16/06/08.
2. See "No Place Like Home", *Original View* No. 55.

# A WHALE OF A TALE!

Evolutionists claim that whales (and other aquatic mammals) "went back to the sea", but their theory is full of problems — and they can't even agree which land animal whales evolved from!

Charles Darwin suggested it could have been a bear. Other candidates have been members of the dog or cattle family. More recently, a deer-like animal is the favourite — a theory popularised in David Attenborough's TV series *The Life of Mammals*.



## ATTENBOROUGH'S IDEA:

Whales evolved from "a deer-like animal"  
*The Life of Mammals*,  
BBC-TV January 2003

## DARWIN'S IDEA:



"I can see no great difficulty in a race of bears being rendered, by natural selection, more and more aquatic in their structure and habits, with larger and larger mouths, till a creature was produced as monstrous as a whale."  
— Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species*, 1859.



## "MISSING LINKS?"

There have been a number of claims that "missing links" between land animals and whales have been found, but none are convincing. One example is *Pakicetus*. When part of a skull (above left) was discovered, reconstructions showed a four-legged creature diving for fish (right).



Later, more complete fossils were found, which totally changed the picture, and recent reconstructions (left) show that *Pakicetus* was nothing like a whale.



## PROBLEMS FOR WHALE EVOLUTION\*

Whales have nostrils on the top of the head. They have no rear limbs. Their eyes and ears are specialised for seeing and hearing underwater. Unlike land mammals, baby whales are born *tail first* to prevent drowning at birth. Female whales have special muscles to *pump* milk into the calf's mouth to prevent it swallowing seawater.  
*Can these things be explained by gradual evolution, or is creation a better explanation?*  
\*For more info. see [www.icr.org/article/433/](http://www.icr.org/article/433/)