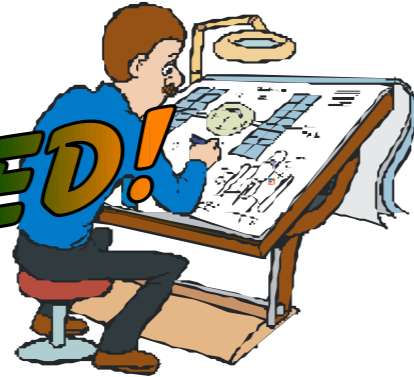


WELL DESIGNED!

The Gecko



Wikipedia photo by Zoofair

MANY animals are excellent climbers, but Gecko lizards (above) are master climbers. They can walk up vertical surfaces, even glass, and upside-down across ceilings, even hanging by one toe. Scientists had long been puzzled about how geckos could perform such amazing feats. It was suggested that they had tiny suction pads on their feet.

In 2002 the gecko's secret was discovered. It's all due to the special design of their feet. Their toes (below left) are pads covered with millions of microscopic hairs that have even tinier split ends, called spatulae.



Wikipedia photo by Björn Christian Torrissen

This intricate design enables an electric force that attracts molecules to each other, and supplies energy to hold a gecko firmly to a surface. The process is called the *van der Waals force*, named after Dutch scientist Johannes Diderik van der Waals, who did research into the way particles attract each other.

Through studying geckos, scientists are learning how to make tyres that grip the road better, bandages and dressings that stick better to wounds, and even to replace *Velcro*. Some scientists in Manchester even copied the design of the gecko's foot to make "gecko tape", which was strong enough to allow a man to hang from a ceiling. However, unlike the gecko's feet, after being used 5 times it lost its grip.

Intelligent scientists have yet to perfectly copy the gecko's design, so surely it is unrealistic to suggest that chance mutations over a long period of time could do it? Intelligent design by a Creator is a far better explanation.

EVIDENCE MATTERS!

WE are constantly being bombarded with evolution through the media and our educational system, and we are assured that "evolution is a fact." Most people simply accept what they are told, and never pause to question it, or investigate the facts for themselves. But surely we should never believe something just because we're told we have to?

When it comes to questions of where we came from and why we are here, isn't it important to check the facts, and consider whether we may have been misinformed? In this issue we have pointed out that many of the so-called evidences for evolution have proved to be false. Yet they are still being presented in TV programmes and textbooks. Thousands of scientists now reject evolution, so it makes sense to examine evolutionists' claims. The fact that some of them get very angry when anyone dares to question their theory suggests that evolution has become a world-view, a kind of religion. World-views have implications. If you are the result of millions of years of chance mutations, then life has no purpose or value. If, on the other hand, you are the result of an act of creation, your life does have purpose and value; you matter.

We believe the evidence points to the existence of a Creator, and that the Bible tells us who He is, and how He revealed Himself in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's not myth but history, and millions of people have discovered it's true. Jesus said, "Whoever hears my word, and believes him who sent me has eternal life." (John 5: 24). Why not investigate these issues, and check the facts for yourself? You have nothing to lose! (see www.crt.org.uk for some useful links. Also www.the-real-thing.org.uk or www.rejesus.co.uk to find out more about Jesus Christ and the Bible).



Why not check the facts?



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Smile, please

Man to doctor: I keep thinking I'm a bell.
 Doctor: Take these tablets, and if they don't work give me a ring in the morning.
 Father to son: What are your results in the end of term examination?
 Son: Underwater.
 Father: What do you mean, underwater?
 Son: They're below "C" level

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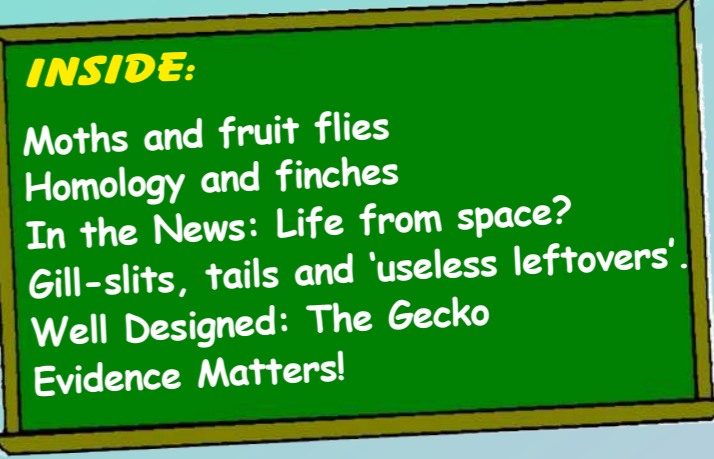
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The REAL SCIENCE paper!



No. 63

EVOLUTION'S VANISHING EVIDENCE



We are constantly being told that the evidence for evolution is "overwhelming," even irrefutable. Yet many of the supposed evidences for evolution have turned out to be false. These include Darwin's "Tree of Life," Peppered Moths, recapitulation theory and vestigial organs.

Axing Darwin's "Tree of Life"



The front cover of *New Scientist* (21st January 2009) declared that "Darwin was wrong", and a special article suggested that Charles Darwin's "tree of life", which he first sketched in 1837 (left) showing how all life supposedly evolved from a simple beginning, "is wrong and needs to be replaced." Evolutionary biologist Eric Baptiste said, "We have no evidence at all that the tree of life is a reality." The article brought an angry response from four atheists, Daniel Dennett, Richard Dawkins, Jerry Coyne and Paul Myers – who wrote: "What on earth were you thinking when you produced a garish cover proclaiming that 'Darwin was wrong'?.. many readers will interpret the cover not as being about Darwin, the historical figure - but about evolution." To be fair, *New Scientist* wasn't suggesting that evolution was wrong, but that the origin of life was very complex — more like a thicket than a tree. In fact, more like the Biblical view of the creation of separate "kinds", with a rich gene pool allowing limited variation within each "kind." This can be pictured as an "orchard" of bushes, rather than a single "tree of life."



Drawn by Michael Haggard

GEN & EV

MOTH-EATEN THEORY

PEPPERED Moths (*Biston betularia*) have been presented as evidence for evolution for many years.¹ This claim is based mainly on experiments by biologist Bernard Kettlewell in the 1950s. There are two varieties of moth – dark- and light-coloured. Before the Industrial Revolution in England, so the theory goes, there were more of the lighter-coloured moths, since they blended in with the lighter-coloured trees, and were less easily spotted by predators. The darker variety, being more easily seen, tended to be eaten. However, during the Industrial Revolution in England, trees became blackened by soot, so more of the lighter variety were eaten, and the darker moths multiplied.



The two Peppered Moth Varieties.
 Wikipedia photo by Olaf Leillinger.

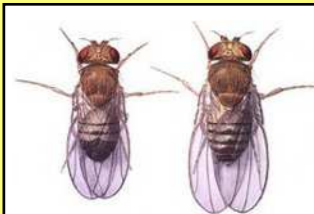
It later emerged that Kettlewell's claims were suspect. He had released moths on to tree trunks during the early morning, even though the moths normally move around at night, and hide on the lower side of branches during the day. In some cases – the source of many of the photos in textbooks – dead moths were fixed to tree-trunks!

Some evolutionists have tried to rescue the theory, claiming that Kettlewell was right after all. Professor Michael Majerus of Cambridge University, described the case of the Peppered Moths as "one of the most visually impacting and easily understood examples of Darwinian

evolution in action. It provides after all the proof of evolution."² But does it? Consider the facts: There always were two varieties of Peppered Moth – the dark and light. Populations have changed in response to environmental variations, but there are still only two varieties. This is natural selection, but not evolution – moths are still moths! And it doesn't explain the *origin* of moths. Their intricate life cycle, from moth, through eggs, caterpillar, chrysalis, and back to moth, defies an evolutionary explanation.

1. "Evidence for Darwin's theory of evolution" BBC GCSE "Bitesize" website.
 2. Lecture at European Society for Evolutionary Biology, 23rd. August 2007.

Mutant fruit flies haven't evolved



A male and female of *Drosophila melanogaster*

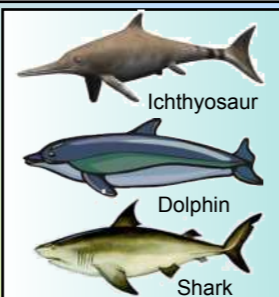
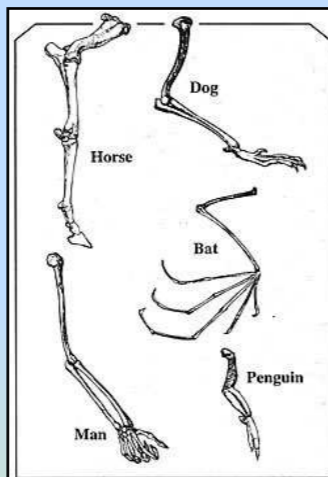
Recognising that natural selection can't explain evolution, most evolutionists now suggest that mutations (genetic mistakes) are the main mechanism. However, most mutations are harmful, often lethal. Mutations can be caused by radiation, which is why people don't tend to expose themselves to radiation. Seeking to prove that mutations can result in evolutionary change, in the early 20th century geneticists began experiments with radiation on the fast-breeding fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*. Some 3,000 mutations have been identified – there were flies with an extra pair of wings (which couldn't fly), some with deformed wings, or no wings at all. All of the mutations were harmful or harmless; none of them produced better flies – and they are still fruit flies!

DOES HOMOLGY PROVE EVOLUTION?

Homology, or comparative anatomy, is often used as evidence for evolution. It is claimed that similarities in the bone structures of different creatures (right) suggest they evolved from a common ancestor. According to *Encyclopedia Britannica* (online edition, 2005), "Homologies of the forelimb among vertebrates, [give] evidence for evolution. The bones correspond, although they are adapted to the specific mode of life of the animal." Darwin wrote, "On any other view, the similarity of pattern between the hand of a man or monkey, the foot of a horse, the flipper of a seal, the wing of a bat, &c., is utterly inexplicable" (*The Descent of Man*, ch. 1). But is it? Surely common *design* is a logical alternative?

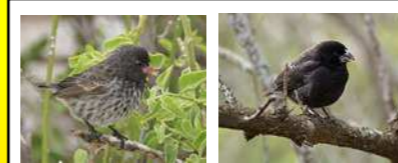
All motor cars have seats, steering wheels, suspension lights and brakes, because car manufacturers use a common design that has proved itself. Why would an intelligent Creator use lots of different designs for animals that live on the same planet?

In fact, evolutionists only use homology as evidence when it suits them. Extinct ichthyosaurs, dolphins and sharks are very similar, yet one is a reptile, one a mammal and the other a fish. Since they are not believed to be closely related, the similarities are attributed to "convergent evolution", not common descent. However, in both cases, evolution is assumed.



The similarities between ichthyosaurs, dolphins and sharks are said to be due to "convergent evolution."

Finches are still finches!



Two of the Galapagos finches

On the Galapagos Islands, which Charles Darwin visited (1831-1836), there are about 13 different species of finches. Darwin didn't notice them at the time, but they were later used to support his theory, because it was believed they all descended from a common ancestor. This is probably true, but this is variation by natural selection, not evolution.

Creationists believe that the original "kinds" described in the book of Genesis had a rich gene pool, allowing them to adapt to a changing environment. Observations on the Galapagos Islands over the last 40 years have shown that the finches are still changing as they adapt to climate variations. Although evolutionists sometimes call this "evolution in action", it's really nothing of the kind. These birds are still finches – and we predict they always will be!

IN THE NEWS

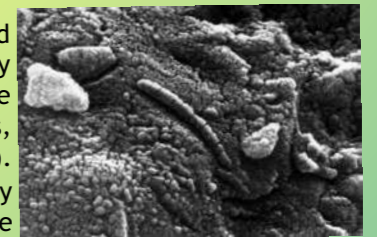
Another "life from space" claim

In early March 2011 the media reported that Richard Hoover, a scientist at NASA, claimed to have found evidence of microscopic life in meteorites, including fragments from a meteor that fell to earth nearly 150 years ago. He claims that he observed microscopic structures that are "almost exactly the same size and shape as bacteria found on Earth", and that they were present in the rocks when they arrived from outer space. Dr Hoover claims that his discovery proves that life on earth was "seeded" by meteorites from space, and that this means that "life must be widespread in the universe."

These claims, first published in the *Journal of Cosmology*, have been disowned by NASA and greeted with great scepticism by most scientists. Dr Hoover made similar claims in the past, which proved to be mistaken. Critics say that the markings could be inorganic, as was the case in 1996 with the so-called Martian meteorite (right). They could also be due to contamination by bacteria since they fell to earth. It should be noted that Dr Hoover is an astrobiologist who strongly believes that alien life exists, and has written a number of books promoting the theory of *panspermia* (life from space).

It would seem unlikely, to say the least, that any kind of life could survive a journey through the earth's atmosphere. And moving the origin of life elsewhere does nothing to solve the dilemma faced by secular scientists: how did life arise from non-living matter in the first place?

Despite growing interest in the possibility of extra-terrestrial life, there is no evidence that it exists, and there is no evidence that life can arise by accident. The Bible tells us that "In the beginning God created", and this is still the most logical and believable explanation.



A meteorite (NASA photo)

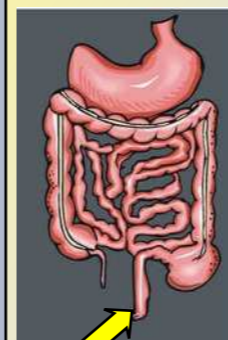
Myth of gill-slits, tails and "useless left-overs" still lingers

Some evolutionists claim that a human embryo "recapitulates" evolution as it develops in the womb, beginning as a single cell and passing through a "fish" stage with gill-slits, and a "monkey stage" with a tail. In a letter to Asa Gray in September 1860, Darwin wrote that "embryology is to me by far the strongest single class of facts in favour" of the theory. This idea was popularised by German scientist Ernst Haeckel, who in 1874 produced a set of drawings to "prove" that the embryos of different creatures, including humans, looked similar in their early stages. These drawings (right) were actually faked. We now know that embryos look very different very early in their development. Dr Michael K. Richardson of the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, St. Georges Hospital Medical School, London, wrote that Haeckel's 1874 drawings were "substantially fabricated.. Sadly, it is the discredited 1874 drawing[s] that are used in so many British and American biology textbooks today." (*Science* 281:1289, 1998).

The fact is, the human embryo doesn't go through "evolutionary" stages, and never has gill-slits or a tail. One of Darwin's "strongest facts" has proved false!



Haeckel's faked drawings



Human appendix

The idea that there are "vestigial organs" – useless leftovers – in our bodies is another myth. There were once about 180 of these, but advances in scientific knowledge have gradually reduced the list. Yet the myth still lingers. Professor Jerry Coyne wrote, "We humans have many vestigial features proving that we evolved. The most popular is the appendix.... an organ that was critically important to our leaf-eating ancestors, but is of no real value to us."¹ Professor Coyne is wrong! Professor William Parker of Duke University Medical Center says: "Long denigrated as vestigial or useless, the appendix now appears to have a reason to be – as a "safe house" for the beneficial bacteria living in the human gut." The appendix is most useful to those living where modern health care and sanitation are absent. "Once the bowel contents have left the body, the good bacteria hidden away in the appendix can emerge and repopulate the lining of the intestine before more harmful bacteria can take up residence."² Dr Parker later said that Darwin was wrong: "Maybe it's time to correct the textbooks. Many biology texts today still refer to the appendix as a 'vestigial organ.'"³ However, what evolutionists *really* need to find are organs on the way *in*, not on the way *out* – and these are conspicuous by their absence!

1. "Why Evolution is True" 2009. 2. *Science Daily* 8th October 2007. 3. *Science Daily* (Aug. 21, 2009).