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HE Bombardier Beetle is a tiny insect that shoots hot, smelly liquid, with a loud, popping sound, at any creature which threatens it. It simply turns around and blasts off, using two moveable nozzles at its rear end. How does it do this? Inside the beetle’s body are two storage chambers (reservoirs) which contain two chemicals — hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide.

When it is threatened, the beetle squeezes the two reservoirs, forcing the chemicals into a combustion chamber, where they are mixed with water and another chemical, which heats them to boiling point. Special valves close to prevent the liquid going back into the reservoirs, and scalding the beetle’s insides. It then fires this nasty, boiling liquid at the amazing speed of up to 500 pulses a second, rather like a machine-gun, sending any would-be attacker, whether a frog, mouse or ant, scuttling away.

It seems impossible that the bombardier beetle’s amazing mechanism could have evolved gradually. Even if it somehow “discovered” how to make the two chemicals, it would have needed the reservoirs to store them. But why would it evolve them before they were needed? And all of this would have needed the reservoirs to store them. But why would it?

Scientists at Leeds University recently did special research into the Bombardier Beetle, and from this study hope to be able to design better fire extinguishers and fuel injection systems for engines. This insect is like a wonderfully designed machine, part of God’s creation, not the result of chance evolution.

When God created the world it must have been a really wonderful place, because “God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31). Adam and Eve, the first humans, were placed in a garden where God had created “every beautiful tree and every good tree that was good for food.” (Genesis 2:9). Adam and Eve had a wonderful choice — they could eat fruit from every tree in the garden except one. Yet, they disobeyed God and ate the fruit from that forbidden tree, which would have killed the beetle — and the two moveable nozzles with their special muscles to shoot the mixture out. Without them, the beetle would explode!

God, our generous Creator

We can’t imagine a world without plants, and no other life could exist without them. There are many thousands of different plants. This shows us that God not only loves variety, but that He is also very generous. We read in the Bible that when God created the plants, “Some plants had grain for seeds. The trees made fruit with seeds in it. Each seed grew its own kind of plant.” (Genesis 1:12). In the beginning, people and animals were vegetarian, and ate only fruits, vegetables and green plants. (see Genesis 1:29-39). After the great flood of Noah’s time God gave people permission to eat meat as well. (Genesis 9:3). If you go into a shop that sells fruit and vegetables you will find a wonderful variety to choose from — carrots, onions, beans, potatoes, apples, bananas, oranges, pineapples, and lots more. How grateful we should be to God, our Creator, for providing all of this variety!

Puzzle Corner.

Why are flowers beautiful?

Many people believe that flowers exist just to attract pollinating insects. But they could do that without being beautiful! We believe that the thousands of beautiful flowers on earth were created by God because He loves beauty, and wants us to enjoy them too!

In the beginning, God said, “Let the earth produce plants.” (Genesis 1:11). We find lots of them everywhere — in the sea and on the land.
Some actually trap insects and eat them! The Venus Flytrap (lower right) has leaves which spring shut in a tenth of a second when an insect touches tiny trigger hairs. Scientists simply can’t explain how the Venus Flytrap, with its amazing leaves which spring shut in a tenth of a second when an insect touches tiny trigger hairs, could have gradually evolved. It must have been specially designed to do this by God, the wise Creator.

Evolutionists are puzzled, but we believe that God created them to live like this. They don’t think about how they began to live together in communities and learn all these skills.

People have always been fascinated by ants and the way they live and work together to build nests and gather food. Did you know that some ants are farmers and gardeners? Leaf-cutter ants (left) cut pieces from leaves and carry them to their nest. There they use them to make compost on which they grow a special fungus for food. They carefully look after their “gardens”, weeding them and taking care in the same way that farmers keep crops. The ants “milk” the aphids to get a sugary substance called honey-dew (right). In the Amazon rain-forests there are ants that prefer one kind of tree in which to build their nest. So they kill all the other plants by injecting the leaves with acid — just as gardeners sometimes use a weed-killer!

How did ants begin to live together in communities and learn all these skills? Evolutionists are puzzled, but we believe that God created them to live like this. They don’t think about what they do. The Bible even tells us we can learn from the ants: “Go and watch the ants, you lazy person. Watch what they do and be wise. Ants have no commander. They have no leader or ruler. But they store up food in the summer. They gather supplies at the harvest.” (Proverbs 6: 6-7).

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