



Creation Matters

Volume 8, Number 3

May / June 2003

Soldiers in the Field — A Report from NIAGfest 2003

by Steve Miller



If there is a place where the evolutionary concepts have remained seemingly unchallenged, it is in Astronomy. In the last few years, fortunately, the tide is beginning to turn even within this field of science.

Two members of the Creation Research Society have taken the conflict right into the heart of naturalism itself. On April 25-27, 2003, Dr. Don DeYoung (on left in photo) and Steve Miller (on

right) set up a booth for distributing creation materials at the star party known as NIAGfest (see photo).

The Warsaw Astronomical Society and three other Northern Indiana astronomy groups were involved in putting on NIAGfest. Depending on the weather, about 300 to 500 stargazers regularly attend this annual event. All the lectures given at NIAGfest are based on the reli-

... continued on p. 11

Does the Modern Pattern of Extinction Fit the Darwinism Prediction?

by Jerry Bergman, Ph.D.

A review of the modern patterns of extinction and threatened extinction reveals a pattern opposite that predicted by Darwinism. Furthermore, natural selection does not predict the evolution of the variety of organisms existing today. Instead, simple organisms such as bacteria that were effectively able to produce large numbers of offspring would be the rule.

Research on extinct animals has determined that, although some animals have become extinct, they are in many ways *very much like those that have survived*. No evidence exists that it is the “less fit” that usually go extinct. Rather, extinction is more often a matter of bad luck than bad genes (Raup, 1991). The reason for the demise of most animals often can only be speculated. Balance in nature, although it shifts periodically to accommodate changes in the environment, has existed for as long as life has been on Earth. The reasons behind most modern extinctions are not related to fitness. David Day (1981; p.

... continued on p. 2

40 Years of the Creation Research Society

Editor's note: In marking the 40th anniversary of the founding of the CRS, it is instructive to review this editorial by one of the founders, Dr. Walter Lammerts, which appeared in the very first issue of the CRS Quarterly.

My own interest in the continuing dialogue between those scientists who believe in evolutionary concept and those who are creationists began about six years ago when my older daughter, Karen, brought home a high school textbook in which the statement was made that “all scientists

now accept the fact of evolution as basic to their study of nature.” When she asked me if this was true I told her that I certainly did not, and patiently explained to her a few of the many evidences which make the evolution theory invalid. About three years later my younger daughter, Ca-

... continued on p. 10

Contents

Soldiers in the Field — A Report from NIAGfest 2003.....	1
Does the Modern Pattern of Extinction Fit?.....	1
40 Years of the Creation Research Society.....	1
A “New and Weightier” Proof of Evolution.....	4
Creation Calendar.....	6
Speaking of Science	
Bacteria More Orderly than Previously Known.....	7
Beagle 2 Calling Beagle 1.....	7
Biggest Cosmic Mysteries Listed.....	7
Sea Monsters Brought Up from the Deep.....	8
Neanderthals Had Manual Dexterity.....	8
Cell to Phagocyte: I'm Dying — Eat Me.....	9
Trees, Water Pumps Extraordinaire.....	9

Modern Pattern of Extinction

...continued from page 1

13) has noted that “the sheer destructiveness of the last 300 years” has been unparalleled since life began on earth.

Since the killing of the last Dodo in 1680, there have been at least 300 extinctions of vertebrate animals, more than half of these being full species. Before the expansion of Western Man and his culture, the extinction of an animal species was a rare occurrence. Even during such cataclysmic processes as the “Great Dying” of the dinosaurs, the rate of the dinosaurs’ extinction has been estimated at not greater than one species per thousand years.

Remarkable stability

In addition, natural selection would not evolve the life forms which exist today, but would select *primarily*, if not totally, for animals that produce the largest number of offspring, and had the longest fertility period. These factors would be the long-term result of a survival-of-the-fittest law, yet the number of offspring, longevity, and length of the fertility period of *almost all animals* have been remarkably *stable* for the past several hundred years and, according to current available evidence, stable for the past several thousand years as well. Animals would not be selected for survival after bearing offspring.

Evolution would **not** select for complexity, longevity alone, or even for quality of life, but primarily for structures that *directly* affected long and fertile reproduction periods. Nor would natural selection produce extremely complex structures or mechanisms, such as those used by the bombardier beetle, the firefly, or the archer fish, but simple and effective mechanisms that clearly and directly facilitated what is defined as evolutionary success, i.e., the *number of offspring* that survive and are able to reproduce at any given time.

Endangered species

An evaluation of the available empirical evidence finds an *inverse relationship* between survival and the hypothesized evo-

lutionary development. Animals that are *higher* on the evolutionary scale are actually more vulnerable to extinction. This is illustrated by the fact that there are only 44 species of insects on the *U.S. Department of Interior Endangered Species List* out of over 950,000 types identified (0.0046%), but there are 73 species of mammals out of only 4,630 identified types (1.58%).

This means that mammals are 343 times more likely to be endangered than are insects — the exact opposite of what we would expect according to Darwinism. It should be noted that insects are harder to keep track of; nonetheless, the pattern holds true for all other categories as well, even where the counting problem does not exist. I have been following these data for over 30 years and have noted that the more accurate the extinction data, the stronger this relationship.

The data for world endangered species (the above discussion pertains to the US only) more accurately highlights this observation, as shown in Table I. The data clearly show that the *higher* the organism is on the evolutionary tree, the *more* likely it is to be threatened (or to have gone extinct) in the last few centuries.

Of those animals that have become extinct in recent times, a highly disproportionate number are vertebrates (supposedly the “highest” type of animal), including the *Badlands Bighorn* (which became extinct in 1910), the *Eastern Elk* (1880), and the *sea mink* (1890). Among the birds which became extinct are the *heath hen* (1932), *passenger pigeon* (1914), *Caroline parakeet* (c. 1920), the *solitaire* (c. 1760), and the *dodo bird* (*Didus eneptus*) (c. 1681).

Clearly, at least for the past several hundred years, animals on the *higher end* of the putative evolutionary scale are actually often in far *more* danger of becoming extinct; and those on the *lower end* of this hypothetical ladder (such as cockroaches) are clearly, as a whole, in far less danger. This difference is especially great if the ratio is calculated: out of almost one million species of insects on the world list, only 537 are in danger of becoming extinct (0.05%), and out of almost 5,000 mammals, fully 1,096 (24%) are in danger (or over 480 times more)! Accordingly to these data, the *higher* the animal on the

evolutionary ladder, the *less* fit it is in Darwinian terms.

Evolutionists teach that life evolved in very different environments than those in which they exist today but, by definition, survival of the fittest is related to the ability to adapt to different environments. In addition, evidence exists that at least as far back as recorded history, many ancient environments were very similar to today (and before this, we must rely largely on speculation). Climate is often the major environmental factor that changes, but even then animal migration can often deal with this kind of change.

Mammals are rare

Furthermore, mammals are comparatively rare — they constitute only about one ten-millionth of all species living today (Margulis and Sagan, 2002, p. 39). This information is exactly the opposite of what the evolution model predicts and, according to Carroll (1997; p. 25), the fossil record indicates that this pattern holds true for much of history:

What Darwin eventually hoped to find were “infinitely numerous transitional links” (1859, p. 310) joining all forms of life. In his chapters on the inadequacies of the fossil record he asked, “Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of

Creation Matters

ISSN 1094-6632

Creation Matters — a CRS publication
Volume 8, Number 3
May / June 2003

Copyright © 2003, Creation Research Society

All rights reserved.

General Editor: Glen W. Wolf from

For membership / subscription information,
advertising rates,
and information for authors:

Glen W. Wolf from
P.O. Box 8263
St. Joseph, MO 64508-8263

Email: contact@creationresearch.org
Phone/fax: 816.279.2312

Creation Research Society Website:
<http://www.creationresearch.org>

Articles published in *Creation Matters* represent the opinions and beliefs of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Creation Research Society.

Advertisements appearing in this publication do not necessarily imply endorsement of the events, products, or services by the Creation Research Society.

such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the gravest objection which can be urged against my theory” (p. 281). He answered this in terms of the nature of the fossil record: “The geological record is extremely imperfect and this fact will to a large extent explain why we do not find interminable varieties, connecting together all the extinct and existing forms of life by the finest graduated steps. He who rejects these views on the nature of the geological record, will rightly reject my whole theory” (p. 342). Despite more than a hundred years of intense collecting efforts since the time of Darwin’s death, the fossil record still does not yield the picture of infinitely numerous transitional links that he expected. In contrast, a very different pattern of the distribution of fossil organisms has been established by paleontologists.

And Day (1981, p. 13) argued that many animals today did not become extinct because of “lack of fitness,” but because of an inability to deal with *human*-caused changes:

It would be quite wrong to use such misunderstood terms as “natural selection” and “survival of the fittest” as an explanation for extinction. ... To say that the Dodo, Steller’s Sea Cow, the Quagga and the Passenger Pigeon became extinct because of evolutionary faults that did not allow them to adapt to new conditions (which Man’s technology introduced), is as plausible as explaining the collapse of the Japanese in World War II in terms of genetic flaws: the populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki could not develop a biological immunity to atomic radiation.

This “different pattern” seen through history is an abundance of lower level animals (the vast majority are invertebrates) and higher level animals are rare. Darwinists argue that preservation differ-

ences account for this fact, but the modern pattern indicates that this claim may not be valid. The fossil record also shows a large number of higher animals that are extinct. The most notable examples are the dinosaurs.

Some Darwinists argue that these evaluations are too recent and that Darwinism must be evaluated for millions of years. Yet we can only evaluate the data that exist, and ancient data are often mere guesswork based on very limited (often very incomplete) artifacts. Survival-of-the-fittest forces do not seem to propel animals to a higher level of fitness so as to produce greater protection against extinction by developing more complex organs. Actually, if the criteria that neoDarwinists argue are valid, bacteria should be considered the **highest** form of life on the evolution scale. They are the most fecund and have survived unchanged the longest.

r vs. K strategies

A control mechanism that must be considered when comparing numbers of organisms existing today is a breeding strategy

theory called the “r” vs. “K” approach. The “r” strategy is followed by simple animals like the oyster that may lay as many as 500 million eggs a year, but invests little energy into the fate of any one egg. Out of the 500 million, only a dozen or so will survive to breed on their own. The “K” strategy involves producing *very few* eggs, but instead investing a great deal of energy into each one. Extreme “K” is the breeding strategy of “intelligent” species such as gorillas or humans. Gorillas have one offspring every five or six years, investing great time and attention until the infant becomes a functioning adult. Historically, humans were semi “K” strategists, and wide variations were common — ranging from families of twelve children to urban professionals who put everything from flash cards to Ivy League educations behind an only child.

For these and other reasons, the role of natural selection is seriously being questioned by some scientists today. As the so-called simple forms of life have lower ratios of extinction, they are in many ways more fit. Two other major problems inadequately answered by evolutionists have

Table I World Threatened and Extinct Species (adapted from Groombridge and Jenkins, 2000; p. 109)					
	Total Known Species	Number Threatened Species	% in Group Threatened	Extinct Species	% of Total Extinct
Vertebrates					
Mammals	4,630	1,096	24	88	2
Birds	9,946	1,107	11	107	1
Reptiles	7,400	253	3	20	0.3
Amphibians	4,950	124	3	5	0.1
Fishes	25,000	734	3	172	0.7
Invertebrates					
Insects	950,000	537	0.05	73	0.004
Mollusks	70,000	920	1	237	0.3
Crustaceans	40,000	407	1	10	0.03
All others	--	27	--	4	--
Plants	270,000	30,827	11	>400	0.2

to do with the origin of life and the vast chasm that exists in the quality of the human mind compared to that of animals.

Acknowledgments. I wish to thank Wayne Frair, Clifford Lillo, Frank Vosler, and Bert Thompson for their very helpful comments on an earlier draft of this paper.

References

- Carroll, R.L. 1998. *Patterns and Processes of Vertebrate Evolution*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.
- Day, D. 1981. *The Doomsday Book of Animals*. New York: The Viking Press.
- Dean, J. 1979. "Stimulator for producing small heated aerosols." *Physiology & Behavior*,

23(3):583-584.

- Groombridge, B. and M.D. Jenkins. 2000. *Global Biodiversity*. Cambridge, UK: World Conservation Press.
- Margulis, L. and D. Sagan. 2002. *Acquiring Genomes: A Theory of the Origin of Species*. New York: Basic Books.
- Raup, D.M. 1991. *Extinction; Bad Genes or Bad Luck?* New York: W.W. Norton.

A "New and Weightier" Proof of Evolution Evaluated 19 Years Later

by Jerry Bergman, Ph.D.

Periodically one reads articles by Darwinists who are surprisingly honest in admitting that much of the current evidence for evolution is invalid. Many of them then proceed to propose their own theory, which they claim is new and better, or a new line of evidence for evolution that they imply is, at last, finally unassailable evidence for Darwinism.

One such line of evidence was proposed several years ago by Peter Medawar and his wife. It is instructive to look at this evidence over 19 years later to determine if time has vindicated the Medawars' views. The Medawars are no light-weight scientists — they both did their graduate research at Oxford, and Sir Peter Medawar was awarded the Nobel Prize for his scientific work in 1960.

After noting that various "contemporary currents of thought have given rise in recent years to the impression, perhaps the hope, that the notion of evolution has somehow been discredited and the doctrine of special creation has been reinstated and possibly even put on a scientific foundation," the Medawars tried to explain *why* this state of affairs exists. They stated that

it is difficult not to sympathize with the layman's bewilderment upon learning that acceptance of the hypothesis of evolution does not rest — as he had assumed it must — upon the validity of so-called proofs of evolution, most of which are unconvincing or open to other interpretations, but rather upon evidence of a different and far weightier kind (1984, pp. 92-93).

They then discussed five lines of evidence for Darwinism that they considered to be "of a different and far weightier kind" than that which was often currently offered. The first was (1984, p. 93):

We accept the notion of evolution because it alone makes sense of the pattern of similarities and differences among contemporary living organisms that is revealed by the study of comparative anatomy...

The old arguments from homology and embryology

This "far weightier evidence" is simply the old homology argument based on evidence that makes far more sense if interpreted from the viewpoint of a common designer. Indeed, given the validity of the concept of evolution, one expects that it would produce *far more* drastic differences in life than now exist. In analyzing a work of literature or art, one often can prove authorship by finding a basic commonality of a work compared with a set of known examples of that author or artist. To many observers, differences found often actually argue for *different* authors. Time and genetic research have not been very kind to homology (Bergman, 2001).

Their second proof was "the remarkable similarity between embryos of human beings, birds, and reptiles, on the one hand, and on the other the embryos of their reputed ancestors, such as fish," (p. 93). This evidence has been refuted by numerous researchers (for a review see Bergman, 2000). As is widely known, the basis of the "ontology recapitulates phylogeny"

theory was a forgery by Haeckel. When *all* developmental *stages* are examined, the pattern does not show a "remarkable similarity," but rather remarkable differences — even at the earliest stages of development.

Evidence of a different color

The third proof they cited was the "evolutionary transformations we have witnessed in our own lifetimes, such as the spread of the melanic variant of moths in the countryside near industrial areas" (1984, p. 94). The story is as follows. When pollution from coal-burning furnaces became a problem, light-colored moths hanging on soot-covered tree trunks could be seen easily by their enemies (mostly birds); thus, light moths become less common, and dark moths more common. When the pollution was cleaned up by pollution-control laws, and the tree bark became lighter, the light moths again become more common (supposedly because they were now better camouflaged).

This well-known example, even if true, is not evolution. The word evolution originally meant "unfolding," and referred to an organism's changing from one type into another, leaving behind forever the past type — the common ancestor monkey kind evolving into a human kind, for example. This definition does not fit the color-frequency changes of moths that occurred in this case.

The recent extensive study by Hopper (2002) puts the peppered moth evidence in its true perspective. Evidently, all of this research is very questionable, and quite likely forgery was involved. Among the many problems with the story is the fact

that the moths are not diurnal, but are nocturnal creatures. Additionally, the moths' primary enemy is not birds but bats. And finally, the moths normally don't rest on tree trunks, but *underneath* the branches.

All organisms have tremendous, built-in methods of producing variety to deal with environmental pressures. The variety that exists in the living world commonly comes only from a change in existing gene frequencies or the operation of complex built-in means of producing variety (such as genetic crossing over). This mechanism can be likened to a good stereo receiver that has a built-in system to produce an enormous amount of sound variety — including its volume, tone, treble, bass, speaker balance, and vibrasonic control mechanisms. Turning the volume up or the bass down is not a manifestation of evolution but is simply an expression of the radio's built-in method of producing variation.

Likewise, the artificial gene sorting used by humans to produce the two hundred or so breeds of dogs that exist today (all of which were evidently produced from the wolf family eons ago) does not show Darwinism, but only demonstrates the fantastic variety of innate genetic versatility that the dog family originally possessed. This is enormous evidence, not for evolution, but for innate design. Given enough time, if all of the world's breeds were mixed together, dogs would revert to their original characteristics.

Genetic variability is an important part of all life design, and is critical in allowing animals to survive, just as the stereo adjustments are necessary for a stereo to function properly. All viruses and bacteria possess complex genetic systems that allow them to be able to produce a large number of new varieties. Interestingly, the virus that has by far the most ability to produce antigenic variety is that which causes AIDS — it is now estimated by virologists to be over four times as capable of producing new varieties as the next most prolific virus, the influenza virus.

A vestigial argument

The Medawars' fourth proof, vestigial organs, they claim, clinches their argument because "only evolution theory makes vestigial structures in contemporary organisms intelligible" (1984, p. 94). A list of useless

organs was once completed by German anatomist Wiedersheim (1895), who concluded that a whopping 130 vestigial organs existed in the human body alone. Not a single one of these is considered vestigial today, and most of them, such as the pineal and the thymus, have been proved to have crucial functions in the human body. The rest have been shown to have clearly functional roles, and are not vestigial in the least (Bergman and Howe, 1990).

When creationists bring up this as an argument against Darwinism, evolutionists not uncommonly allege, "No evolutionist today uses the vestigial organ argument any more." Obviously they do, and commonly so. I often encounter the vestigial organ argument when reviewing biology books for possible adoption for my college-level biology classes. Yet, the history of this line of reasoning shows that today it is an enormous embarrassment for evolutionists. It has gone from being one of the strongest proofs of evolution, argued by Darwin in a full chapter and other sections of his famous tome *Origin of Species* (1859), to being a tragic chapter in the history of science because of its adverse effect on medicine and the health of millions of victims (Bergman and Howe, 1990).

The fossil story

The fifth and last proof the Medawars offer is the "convincing story of the fossil record." They claim that "only evolution theory makes a convincing story of the fossil record." This is an argument that even informed evolutionists today no longer make when they review the research in this area (thus the popularity of the theory of punctuated equilibrium). This evidence "of a far weightier kind" that the Medawars introduced has not held up well over the past 19 years.

Their judgment about the only alternative to their theory, special creation, is summed up as follows: "A man who believes that fossils are the remains of organisms inundated by Noah's flood can believe anything; no effort of credulity would be too much" (1984, p. 94). If there was a great flood, it surely left many fossils. Indeed, floods are understood to be one of the major methods of producing fossils. It is not easy to prove that a given fossil did *not* form because of a flood. And,

given this, to prove that the flood which buried it was *not* Noah's flood is also not easy. But, given the billions of fossils likely formed from floods, it would take many a lifetime to "prove" that *none* of them was the result of a flood that could have been Noah's flood.

Conclusions

When I first read the Medawars' book many years ago, I was looking forward to reading new, innovative concepts that provided "far weightier" proof for evolution as promised. Instead, I found nothing that was even remotely new. These proofs, rather than being "evidence of a different and far weightier kind," are the old, oft-trotted-out evidences that even many committed evolutionists now argue are invalid. The 19 years since they were published have not been kind to these ideas.

The Medawars (1984, p. 94) did, however, admit that "There are still many uncertainties about the mechanism of evolution, and some at least about the exact course it took in the history of existing animals and plants." Yet, they went on to say, "Nevertheless, the theory of evolution is scientifically acceptable, [and] is indeed widely accepted ..." Evolution may be scientifically "acceptable," but time has shown it is not well served by the evidence that the Medawars presented. And, the fact that it is widely accepted can be explained partly by the fact that in many places in the world, such as the United States, it is *by law* the *only* theory that can be taught in public-school science classrooms. Those who oppose it are often subject to ridicule, employment termination, or worse.

One might certainly wonder about the validity of a theory that must rely on proofs, most of which the Medawars themselves admit "are unconvincing or open to other interpretations" (1984, p. 93) and that must be taught as fact by the force of law. Teaching both sides is held to be religious advocacy, and it is for this reason that the courts have ruled that opposing information and ideas must be *excluded* by force of law (See *Webster versus New Lennox School District*, U.S. Court of Appeals Decision, 7th Circuit, No. 89-2317). Unfortunately, such a state of affairs is not rare in history, and has been the norm of tyrants and dictators everywhere who have

little regard for truth or human rights.

References

- Bergman, J. 2000. "The Rise and Fall of Haeckel's Biogenetic Law." *CRSQ* 37(2):110-122.
- Bergman, J. 2001. "Does Homology Provide Evidence of Evolutionary Naturalism?" *Creation*
- Ex Nihilo Technical Journal* 15(1):26-33.
- Bergman, J. and G. Howe. 1990. *The History and Evaluation of the Vestigial Organ Concept; Vestigial Organs Are Fully Functional*. Terre Haute, IN: CRS Books.
- Hopper, J. 2002. *Of Moths and Men: The Untold Story of Science and the Peppered Moth*. New York: Norton.
- Medawar, P.B. and J.S. Medawar. 1984. *Aristotle to Zoos: A Philosophical Dictionary of Biology*. London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson.
- Wiedersheim, R. 1895. *The Structure of Man: An Index to His Past History*. New York: Mac-Millan.

**Don't forget to
renew your membership / subscription
for 2003**

Creation Calendar

Note: Items in "Creation Calendar" are for information only; the listing of an event does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Creation Research Society.

July 26

Human Anatomy / Design Features in the Human Brain
by Ruth Ebeling, M.S.
7:00 pm, Evangelical Formosan Church, Torrence, CA
Sponsored by South Bay Creation Science Association
Contact: Garth Guessman 310-952-0424

July 27 - August 1, August 3-8, August 10-15

Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure
Fun-filled vacation for families, near Lake City, CO
Sponsored by Alpha Omega Institute, Grand Junction, CO
Contact: 970-523-9943, aoi@discovercreation.org

August 4 - 9

International Conference on Creationism
Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA
Sponsored by Creation Science Fellowship, P.O. Box 99303,
Pittsburgh, PA 15233-4303
Contact: 412-341-4908, www.icc03.org

August 15 - 20

European Creationist Congress
Gullbrannagården, Sweden
Hosted by The GENESIS Society of Sweden
Contact: Föreningen Genesis, c/o S. Halldorf, Algatan 8, S-388 41,
Trekanten, SWEDEN www.8thecc.com

August 18-23

Charleston Creation Conference
Community Chapel, Cross Lanes, WV
Sponsored by Kanawha Creation Science Group
Contact: 304-746-4817 wvcreation@aol.com

Oct. 31 - Nov. 1

Cosmology Conference
The Fawcett Center, The Ohio State Univ., Columbus, OH
Sponsored by Creation Research Science Education Foundation,
P.O. Box 292, Columbus, OH 43216
Contact: 614-837-3097, www.WorldByDesign.org

Speaking of Science

Commentaries on recent news from science

Bacteria More Orderly Than Previously Known

Bacteria are not simple bags of protoplasm. Since they lack the organelles and nuclei that eukaryotic cells possess, scientists used to think their contents were fairly unstructured and homogeneous. That view is changing, say Gitai and Shapiro (2003). “Historically,” they agree, “perhaps because of their general lack of compartmentalized organelles, bacteria were viewed as relatively uniform at the subcellular level.”

New microscopic techniques are unveiling highly ordered structures, like protein spirals and rings that oscillate between the poles and allow the cell to locate the midpoint for cell division. The authors add:

Perhaps the most important lesson to be learned from the work by Shih *et al.* [Ed.: those who imaged the spiral proteins] is that the more closely we look, the more order we see within bacterial cells. The fact that the phrase ‘bacteria are not just small bags of enzymes’ has become cliché is a sign that bacterial cell biology is coming of age.

Hmmm, wonder why there is no mention of the word *evolution* in this paper. Maybe we need to return to the view of Antony van Leeuwenhoek, the first man to see bacteria. Even in 1702 he realized:

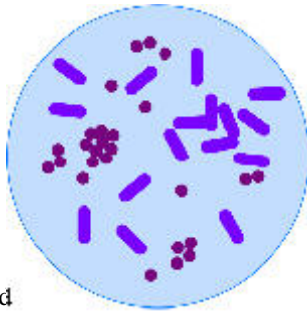
From all these observations, we discern most plainly the incomprehensible perfection, the exact order, and the inscrutable providential care with which the most wise Creator and Lord of the Universe had formed the bodies of these animalcules, which are so minute as to escape our sight, to the end that different species of them may be preserved in existence.

His exemplary observational scientific work led him to wholeheartedly reject and refute the doctrine of spontaneous generation.

By the way, do bacteria really lack organelles? A scientist at University of Illinois has reported that he found one, and that it is challenging commonly-accepted evolutionary ideas. Dr. Roberto Docampo is quoted in the news release (Barlow, 2003):

It appears that this organelle has been **conserved in evolution from prokaryotes to eukaryotes, since it is present in both.** This **argues against the belief** that all eukaryotic organelles were formed when early eukaryotes swallowed prokaryotes. (emphasis added)

This also means that prokaryotes are not more primitive, and that the complexity of organelles extends all the way to the smallest, allegedly simplest, forms of life.



Beagle 2 Calling Beagle 1

A search is on to recover H.M.S. Beagle, the ship Charles Darwin made famous by his voyage around the world as a young naturalist, reports BBC News (Anonymous, 2003). They hope to find some remains of the hull in an Essex marsh, though its location has been lost for almost a century. The timing is linked to the European Space Agency’s upcoming launch of Mars Express, containing Britain’s lander Beagle 2, a robotic spacecraft hoping to find evidence of water (and therefore, presumably, life) on Mars this December.

Of the original ship, Dr. Robert Prescott is quoted in the BBC News article:

Darwin’s experiences during that expedition critically influenced the development of his ideas about evolution, ultimately revolutionising the way science regards the story of life. The Beagle surely qualifies as one of the most significant ships in scientific history.

The Beagle has become the antithetical icon to Noah’s Ark. It was a centerpiece of the opening episode of the PBS *Evolution* series in 2001. Much of the story, however, has become mythical under revisionist writers. Darwin was still a creationist on the Beagle and attended shipboard prayer meetings regularly and willingly. Captain Fitzroy, his Christian friend, was an honorable and godly man. Darwin did not think much of the Galápagos finches at the time he collected them and was not having doubts about the Bible till later.

None of this may matter, anyway. Darwin’s “ship” appears to be moving off the radar screen. Charlie is still the darling of the evolutionists, but more as an aging patriarch than a trendy guy. They like him because he liberated science from the strait-jacket of observation and opened the door to storytellers. This gave professional evolutionists job security so they can wander through biology labs as if they belong there.

But if Darwin-Lyell gradualism is falling out of vogue among adult entertainers, the old Beagle may just become a fable in children’s storybooks much like Noah’s Ark is today. The new ship on the radar screen is the battleship H.M.S. Asteroid. Incoming terror cannonballs from space (i.e., asteroids) have all the impact among today’s evolutionary storytellers. They provide a wealth of new plot lines (and great special effects).

Biggest Cosmic Mysteries Listed

Space.Com has listed the biggest mysteries, myths and hoaxes in astron-



omy (Britt, 2003). We'll leave the last two categories for the reader's inquiry, but take a look at the first. What cosmic mysteries does this senior science writer list that pertain to the debate on origins?

Life. "Life remains the greatest mystery of science. How did it start? Nobody knows." Britt considers astrobiologists the most clueless scientists of all, more even than biologists.

Sex. "We don't know why sex began. Scientists have long been mystified as to why early life forms switched from asexual reproduction – which avoids all the complications of monogamy, entirely sidesteps partnering, and enjoys the benefits of cloning – to sexual reproduction, with its inherent burden of getting hitched, at least for a time."

Other universes. No way to know if they're there.

Dark matter. Without this stuff, whatever it is, galaxies wouldn't hold together.

Dark energy. "This one makes dark matter seem simple," moans Britt. Cosmologists are clueless what dark energy is.

Remember this list when that teacher or educational TV program gives some glib answer about the evolution of life, sex, or the universe. Every once in awhile, it's worthwhile to remind our readers that it is not just creationists who are calling naturalistic scientists clueless*. When investigating the unobservable past, a clue requires a Clue-giver.

*This shouldn't be taken in a derogatory way, because it simply means there are limits to what can be known. But to persist in going the wrong way when all the clues point the other way is to be willingly clueless.

Sea Monsters Brought Up from the Deep

Not exactly dragons, but fish and other creatures that look like the stuff of nightmares have been brought up from 1.3 miles deep off the coast of New Zealand, reports BBC News (Whitehouse, 2003). One species of fish has fangs bigger than its head. "To avoid piercing its own brain when it shuts its mouth," the article explains, "its teeth fit into opposing sockets."

In addition to fish, new species of armored shrimp, squid, and a spider with long legs and a tiny body were found. Five hundred species of fish and 1300 invertebrates were discovered, living in complete darkness and under pressures hundreds of times greater than at the surface.

They also found a fossil shark tooth they claim had been lying "undisturbed on the sea floor for millions of years." The sea floor was not supposed to be undisturbed for so long. The tooth is evidence that the creature did not die millions of years ago.

Unheard-of wonders remain to be discovered on this living planet. Ugly as they are to our sensibilities, these creatures are all remarkably adapted to their extreme environment. Many of them have features not seen in other members of their orders and families. And they represent arthropods, bony fish, cartilaginous fish, crustaceans, cephalopods, echinoderms and more — totally different groups of animals, all with adaptations to high pressure and darkness.

The writer of Psalm 104 didn't know a thousandth of the

amazing details in the sea when he exclaimed,

O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions — this great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great. There the ships sail about; there is that Leviathan which You have made to play there.

Neanderthals Had Manual Dexterity

Neanderthals had hands and wrists with a full range of motion, claim the authors of a new digital analysis published in *Nature* (Niewoehner, *et al.*, 2003):



As there is no significant difference between Neanderthals and modern humans in the locations of their muscle and ligamentous attachments, there remains no anatomical argument that precludes modern-human-like movement of the thumb and index finger in Neanderthals. The demise of the Neanderthals cannot be attributed to any physical inability to use or manufacture Upper-Palaeolithic-like (Châtelperronian) tools, as the anatomical evidence presented here and the archaeological evidence both indicate that they were capable of manufacturing and handling such implements.

The article, written by a team from Cal State San Bernardino and North Dakota State University, began their article saying, "These primitive people may have been as handy with their tools as modern humans are."

Nature Science Update (Hopkin, 2003) reports on this finding, and surmises that their demise was due more to social factors than physiological limitations. *Scientific American* (Wong, 2003) has illustrations of the hand and wrist bones, admitting that this study blurs the distinction between Neanderthals and moderns, making their demise harder to explain. Also, the BBC News (Briggs, 2003), agreeing that Neanderthals were not butter-fingered, ham-fisted klutzes, and admitting "the popular image of Neanderthals as clumsy, backward creatures has been dealt another blow," is not letting the news steal the show on premiere night.

Imagine the anthropologists in Huxley's day finding out that all the arguments for brutishness of Neanderthals have collapsed. These individuals were just as smart and handy as we are. Maybe they lived in hard times, or never developed sophisticated technology due to pagan superstition. But they were fully human, just as are living "stone-age" tribal peoples.

There is just as much physiological difference between existing groups of *Homo sapiens sapiens* as between Neanderthal and non-Neanderthal human bones. It is only evolutionary bias that has classified these our brothers into a different race. Neanderthals are no longer of any value in evolutionary arguments. It's time to

drop the label, stop considering them as icons of evolving primates, and start calling them Bob, Sue, Bertha, and Albert — the neighbors.

Cell to Phagocyte: I'm Dying – Eat Me

Cells go the way of all the earth, but their society cleans up after them. This occurs through an elaborate signalling procedure that biochemists are beginning to uncover, as explained in a review article in *Cell* (Ravichandran, 2003). A cell undergoing death throes by caspase activation (in itself an elaborate shutdown process) sends out “eat me” signals that are recognized by the roving clean-up squad, the phagocytes.

Normally, a cell wears a “Don’t eat me” tag, but this is removed and a phosphatidylserine (PS) tag pops up on the outer membrane. Simultaneously, LPC and/or other signals are secreted in search of a nearby phagocyte, with a “silent invitation to dinner.” The dying cell wears the “eat-me” signals on its outer membrane. An approaching phagocyte turns on anti-inflammation signals, as if to say to others nearby, “Nothing to get inflamed about; I can handle this one.” After engulfing the dying cell, it re-sets the inflammation alarm.

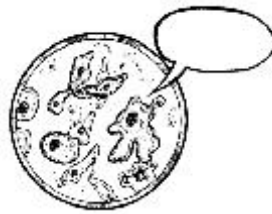
Through this system, needless inflammation is avoided, and the streets and alleys are kept clear of cellular corpses. The author summarizes his article thusly:

An evolutionarily conserved machinery exists for engulfment of apoptotic cells from worm to mammals.

Let’s clear the air in that sentence: if machinery is “evolutionarily conserved,” it is not evolutionary at all. Conservation is not evolution. Such double talk that injects evolution into the phraseology contradicts these observations. Nothing has evolved. In this evolution scenario, the cleanup crew has been around since it first appeared, fully functional, in the lowly roundworm. (Undoubtedly, similar mechanisms go back even further; scientists just happened to have studied this mechanism in a favorite lab worm, *C. elegans*.) There are at least seven genes involved in corpse clearance, he says.

So the Creator thought of everything. Nothing is wasted; when the cell has hit its threescore and ten, the parts are recycled, and the tissues are kept clear of debris. Ravichandran’s diagrams show cells with happy faces wearing the “Don’t eat me” tag, and sad faces advertising “Eat me.” But this is not just some cute trick that animals do — it is serious business. He says,

Accumulating evidence suggests that failure to clear apoptotic [dying] cells promptly has serious consequences for inflammation and autoimmunity.



Trees, Water Pumps Extraordinaire

The world’s tallest tree stands over 367.5 feet tall, which means every needle up there has to have water pumped up to it from below the ground. Did you know scientists have been puzzled for centuries how this is done? The leading theory taught in schools, the Cohesion-Tension Theory (C-T), has been controversial for a long time. Even Francis Darwin said, when it was first proposed, “To believe that columns of water should hang in the tracheals like solid bodies, and should, like them, transmit downwards the pull exerted on them at their upper ends by the transpiring leaves, is to some of us equivalent to believing in ropes of sand.”

Even today, Michael Tyree of the USDA Forest Service, explains other, more serious problems with the idea that transpiration at the leaves somehow ‘pulls’ the water up the vessels (Tyree, 2003):

I can think of no other botanical theory that has engendered more incredulity among physical scientists and animal physiologists than the C–T theory, because it requires us to suppose that water is transported in a metastable state. If an air-bubble or vapourvoid of sufficient diameter were to arise in a xylem conduit under negative pressure, the water column would cavitate and the void would expand to displace the water, making the conduit dysfunctional.

Despite these criticisms, no one has had a better idea. Recent measurements, however, seem to indicate that the C-T mechanism actually does work in spite of cavitation, “because there are billions to trillions of conduits in a tree and because adjacent conduits are isolated from each other by primary cell walls in pits.” So the huge number of conduits guarantees that some cavitation in individual tubes will not reduce the overall success of the water pump.

In addition, tall trees and ground-hugging plants have to balance trade-offs between vessel diameter and gas exchange rate through the leaves. Tyree explains:

Fast-growing species have large, efficient conduits that are highly vulnerable to embolism; such plants perform poorly in drought. Slow-growing species have small, inefficient conduits that are very resistant to cavitation.

Some puzzles remain, but “An understanding of **this legacy of natural selection** should allow us to breed or engineer improved drought-resistant or fast-growing trees,” he says (emphasis added in all quotes).

This story would be so much more enjoyable without the useless Darwinspeak. Tyree’s article starts out:



... continued on p. 11

milla, showed me three high school textbooks making essentially the same statement.

By this time I began to wonder if perhaps I might be the sole remaining intellectual dinosaur surviving in an otherwise completely enlightened age of mammals. Inquiry at our local church revealed that not one of the five scientists holding responsible positions at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory had any use for the theory; they all were creationists. Thus encouraged, I contacted a number of Fellows of the American Scientific Affiliation and soon found that several of them such as William J. Tinkle, now retired but formerly Professor of Genetics at Anderson College, were still creationists.

Team of Ten

We then set up a Creation Research Committee, or "team of ten" as Tinkle called it, for mutual exchange of ideas. By this time Henry M. Morris and John C. Whitcomb published their now famous book, *The Genesis Flood*. The many facts so well presented by them have re-established Biblical catastrophism as an intellectually sound alternative explanation of geological and geographical facts. The two concepts of creation and catastrophism are so closely interwoven that our Creation Research Committee decided to start a Creation Research Society.

The statement of belief to which we all subscribed was first drawn up by our committee while attending a joint meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society and the American Scientific Affiliation at Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. It was then amended at a meeting of the northern group in the home of John J. Grebe, physical research chemist, in Midland, Michigan. Our active voting membership is limited to scientists having an M.S. (or equivalent in experience), Ph.D., D.Sc., Ed.D. or M.D. degree. However, so much interest in our work has been shown by educators, pastors, theologians and other (scientific) laymen, that the steering committee decided in January of 1964 to establish individual nonvoting, sustaining

memberships at \$5 per year.

Our aim is a rather audacious one, namely the complete re-evaluation of science from the theistic viewpoint. Actually, Christian men of science have allowed themselves to be dominated by a certain code; i.e., all *legitimate* scientific inquiry must proceed on the basis of appealing only to processes and forces and reaction rates now in operation. This idea is all right as a way of stating either in words or mathematical symbols the natural processes and laws we observe or detect. As a result, great progress has been made in such sciences as chemistry and physics and even biology, particularly genetics and medicine.

Our aim is a rather audacious one, namely the complete re-evaluation of science from the theistic viewpoint.

The increasingly successful application of engineering principles has led successively to the exploitation of power from coal, oil, electricity and finally in a fantastic way nuclear energy. Equally startling is the resulting expense and danger to the taxpayer! However, many scientists have mistakenly come to the conclusion that these laws express the totality of nature. Accordingly, the wonderful adaptations everywhere so clearly pointing to design are popularly credited vaguely to Nature and spoken of as being the result of evolution by natural selection. Rarely does one see the phrase "as we gaze at the beauty of this rose we marvel at the glory of God whose creation it is."

.....

It is our hope to publish from time to time *original* research. Though we have no hope of convincing our agnostic and atheistically-minded scientific colleagues of the barren and worn out nature of evolution concepts, we expect they will read our annual and quarterlies in order to get much needed *new* information published for the first time.

Our theistic evolutionary-minded

friends may also see that their position is illogical. Our atheistic colleagues are at least logical in their basic assumptions; i.e., that the universe is eternal though ever changing and that *present* rates and kinds of *naturally* occurring processes are adequate to explain it. If so, what need is there of postulating the theory of a personal God?

Let us begin

Mainly, however, it is our hope that educators, pastors, theologians, and laymen may see that we can, with better logic, postulate a personal God who created this universe by the conversion of His energy (a part of it) into mass and therefrom very rapidly brought into being the marvelous order we see both in the inorganic and organic realms. The tasks involved in reorganizing the many fields of science in line with this concept are many. Creationists have too long been merely negative in their thrust, indicating the weaknesses of the evolution concepts, but offering little in its place. As will be clearly shown by Henry M. Morris this world shows such clear evidence of degeneration and catastrophe that one marvels how so many of our scientific colleagues have been blinded. To paraphrase the words of our great President, the late and beloved John F. Kennedy, we cannot hope in one lifetime to complete the structure of a truly theistic science, but let us begin.

This first annual of our Creation Research Society is then presented as a beginning of the task ahead.

Sincerely,
Walter E. Lammerts

— Reprinted from *CRSQ* (1964) 1:1-2.

Soldiers in the Field

...continued from page 1

gious dogma of atheistic naturalism. Creationists know this religious dogma by the alias of evolutionism, which masquerades undercover in the stealth mode of scientism.

In order to meet this debate head on, DeYoung and Miller distributed information exposing the errors of evolutionism and the Big Bang Model. The handout materials came from the Creation Research Society, the Institute for Creation Research, and Answers in Genesis.

On Friday the weather for NIAGfest started out with rain, but the skies cleared around 9:30 pm. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being best), the transparency was a +9 for Friday evening. There was some high haze on Saturday, but clear viewing was the

mainstay for both evenings. Jupiter and Saturn were both easy to find, and being able to observe these two gas giants was the best part of this year's NIAG. The star party is held at this time each year so that the spring galaxy clusters are normally the highlights for this occasion.

As creationists, we know there is plenty of scientific evidence which supports a young earth and universe. Astronomical observations from the Hubble Space Telescope have provided much evidence which, when not forced into an evolutionary precept, actually support the youthfulness of the creation model.

Dr. DeYoung, for example, cites spiral galaxies which present a serious challenge to evolutionary time. It is difficult to explain how delicate spiral arms can arise across an entire galaxy, and then persist over time. The best natural explanation to date involves density waves. These are

gravitational disturbances that somehow keep stars bunched into the spiral arms, somewhat like a cattle roundup. However, density waves are only a model; they are not a reality. Furthermore, an origin for the proposed density waves is uncertain. Whether or not astronomers can explain these beautiful spiral galaxies, we believe the Creator made them just thousands of years ago. Planet earth, the solar system, and thousands of nearby stars are located within one spiral arm of the Milky Way Galaxy.

My sincere thanks goes to Dr. DeYoung for his willingness to support this endeavor. To the best of my knowledge, this was the first time a display with a young universe, young earth theme, was ever presented at this event. We both had a fantastic time defending the Word of the Lord!

Speaking of Science

...continued from page 9

Like their animal counterparts, large multicellular plants need to supply all their cells with fuel and water. **For animals, the solution was the evolution of a vascular system, with a pump** to circulate an isotonic blood plasma that prevented cell rupture through the osmotic inflow of water. **Plants took a different route to solve the problem** of osmoregulation, encasing each cell in a rigid exoskeleton, the cell wall. But this rigidity brought with it a lack of mobility — for whole organisms and also for tissues and cells. Plant tissues were too rigid **to evolve a pump mechanism** for long-distance transport.

So plants found another solution and invented high-efficiency pumps that could transport water hundreds of feet into the air without cavitation loss, etc. and so on. Is this kind of personification of plants and animals enlightening? How did a plant, without a brain, figure out this trick:

Plants seem to retain and transport water in conduits while under pressures as negative as -1 to -10 megapascals (MPa) — that is, **pressures 10 to 100 times more negative relative to atmospheric pressure than a perfect vacuum.**

Evolutionary gibberish about plants' *inventing* pumps that *solve* the cavitation problem and animals that *invent* vascular systems is devoid of logic. Nature should abhor a vacuum.

References

Anonymous. 2003. Scientists search for Darwin's Beagle. *BBC News*: 30 May, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/essex/2950694.stm>

- Barlow, J. 2003. Organelle's discovery challenges theory, could alter approach to disease treatment. *News Release*: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, June 17.
- Briggs, H. 2003. Neanderthals 'had hands like ours.' *BBC News*: 27 March, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/2884801.stm>
- Britt, R.R. 2003. The greatest myths, hoaxes & mysteries in astronomy and space science. *Space.Com*: 25 March, www.space.com/scienceastronomy/myths_hoaxes_030325.html
- Gitai, Z. and L. Shapiro. 2003. Commentary: Bacterial cell division spirals into control. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*. (Published online before print June 16)
- Hopkin, M. 2003. Neanderthals capable of fine handiwork. *Nature Science Update*: 27 March, www.nature.com/nsu/030324/030324-6.html
- Niewoehner, W. A., A. Bergstrom, D. Eichele, M. Zuroff, and J.T. Clark. 2003. Manual dexterity in Neanderthals. *Nature* 422:395.
- Ravichandran, K.S. 2003. "Recruitment Signals" from apoptotic cells: Invitation to a quiet meal. *Cell* 113:817-820
- Tyree, M.T. 2003. Plant hydraulics: The ascent of water. *Nature* 423:923.
- Whitehouse, D. 2003. Weird ocean life surprises. *BBC News*: 24 June, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3017078.stm>
- Wong, Kate. 2003. Nimble-fingered Neanderthals. *Scientific American.com*: 27 March.

Editor's note: All S.O.S. (Speaking of Science) items in this issue are kindly provided by David Coppedge. Additional commentaries and reviews of news items by David can be seen at: www.creationsafaris.com/crevnews.htm.

40th Annual Meeting of CRS Board of Directors

The Society's board of directors met in Milwaukee May 29-31. Pictured here are the board members and associates in attendance (left to right):

Seated — Gene Chaffin, Bob Gentet, Ted Aufdemberge, Dave Kaufmann, Don DeYoung, and Glen Wolfrom.

Standing — Gary Locklair, Russ Humphreys, Lane Lester, Hank Giesecke, George Howe, Kevin Anderson, Mike Oard, John Meyer, Wayne Frair, Emmett Williams, and Duane Gish.

Frair and Gish are retired board members. Meyer and Giesecke are, respectively, Director and Associate Director of the Van Andel Creation Research Center.

Board members not present: John Reed and Ron Samec.



Photo by Gary Locklair

Creation Research Society
P.O. Box 8263
St. Joseph, MO 64508-8263
USA

Return Service Requested



Creation Matters

May / June 2003
Vol. 8 No. 3

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Creation Research Society

Visit the CRS Web Site

www.creationresearch.org



... coming soon ...

online access to the current CRSQ

... for members only ...

Watch for details!

