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How old are fossils?

Many fossils are millions of years old - if you believe evolutionist dogma. However, more and more evidence is accruing of the preservation of substances in fossils that are extremely difficult to account for, if the fossils are indeed so ancient. These organic compounds are fragile and consequently most unlikely to survive for such long periods without breaking down and being lost.

In past issues of the CSM Journal we have commented on the discovery in fossils of heme, collagen and soft tissues including nerve and muscle cells. In the bones of a number of fossils of dinosaurs significant levels of the radio-isotope carbon 14 have also been found, demonstrating conclusively that the age of these animals must be measured in only thousands of

years and not millions of years at all. The half-life of carbon 14 is only 5,730 years, so it should have dwindled to practically nothing if the fossils were really as old as evolutionists claim.

A recent article on the BBC News website (<http://goo.gl/tZsDy1>) reports on the discovery in fossils of yet another substance that is unlikely to endure for millennia - melanin. This light-absorbing pigment is responsible for the dark coloration in many animals including, so it now seems, fossil species of leatherback turtles, mosasaurs and ichthyosaurs.

The melanin was discovered in the animals' fossilized skin. It was in such high amounts in the turtle and mosasaur that the research team consider they must have been very dark animals. The lead researcher of the team, Dr Lindgren of Lund University,



Artist's depiction of a mosasaur, *Prognathodon saturator*. Image: Wikipedia, in the public domain.

Sweden, commented that present-day turtles also have high amounts of melanin (so no evolution there, then). It is possible however that these animals may have been lighter on their undersides, so that they were less easily visible to predators looking up from below them.

Noah and the Ark

At the time of writing this article there is much publicity in the media for a new blockbuster film about Noah. The dramatic account of God's judgement on the wickedness of mankind through a worldwide flood, but of the mercy shown to Noah and his family through their obedience in building an ark, is a story that was bound to attract the attention of a filmmaker now that computer-generated special effects are capable of providing the imagery necessary for such an unparalleled catastrophic event. One could hope that such a film, faithfully recounting the event, would do much to stir discussion and to help people recognise their need of God and of their Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Your writer has not yet seen the film, but knows a number of reliable individuals who have, and sad to say they all report the same - that the film is very far removed from the biblical account. One has to question why someone would want to produce a film that departs so radically from the truth. Could it have anything to do with the uncomfortable fact that the Lord Jesus Christ referred to the Flood not only as an historical event but also as a warning of destruction in the future, when God will judge the world a second time? (See Matt. 24: 37-39).



Noah's Ark as depicted on an old metal church door in Italy. One could wish that some film-makers would recount the biblical story as faithfully. Image: CSM.

In contrast, an article that appeared recently in the Telegraph online (see <http://goo.gl/zCdsvY>) commented on the reliability of the dimensions of Noah's Ark as recorded in the Bible. Apparently a group of master's students from the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Leicester University calculated that the Ark could have carried 70,000 creatures without any danger of sinking, such was its superb buoyancy. One student was reported as commenting, "Using the dimensions of the Ark and the density of the water, we were able to calculate its buoyancy force, which, according to Archimedes' principle, is equal to the weight of the volume of fluid the object displaces... This meant we were then able to estimate the total mass the Ark could support before the gravitational weight would overcome the buoyancy force, causing the Ark to sink".

How could Noah have designed such an incredibly stable ship unless he had help from Someone who understood physics far better than he did himself? And incidentally, it's worth pointing out that Noah was commanded by God to take *kinds* of animals on board the Ark, not *species*, so critics' objections based on the latter misunderstanding are completely unfounded.

For a better appreciation of the enormous size and capacity of the Ark, where better to look than the Netherlands, where a full-size replica has been built by Johan Huibers, a visionary Christian. An article about his remarkable accomplishment is available on CBC news online (see <http://goo.gl/Dnyuh8>), at which he is reported as saying "I want to make people question that, so that they go looking for answers and ultimately find salvation through God and eternal life".

Fishy magnetism

In the November 2013 issue of the CSM Journal we commented on the human ability to navigate, the fact that it requires three kinds of brain cells working in unison to do so, and that the probability of these developing by chance was virtually zero - the system had to have been designed.

But of course, it isn't just humans that need to find their way around; so do animals. In the vastly changed landscape and seascape of the world following the devastation of the Flood, how could recovering populations of animals find their way?

It will come as no great surprise to creationists to hear that more and more examples are becoming known of animal navigation abilities. The same God who cares so much about mankind also cares about the animals He made and equips them with the abilities they need to survive.

One interesting recent example is some research work on Pacific salmon, reported in the BBC News website (see <http://goo.gl/9NuiN3>). The study suggests that these salmon are born with an in-built "magnetic map" that helps them to migrate over thousands of kilometres. The researchers believe that the fish are sensing changes in the intensity and angle of the Earth's magnetic field to establish their position in the ocean.

This begs some interesting questions, such as how could this ability have developed gradually, by blind chance, over millions of years without the salmon getting lost and thereby failing to breed in the meantime? And even should the salmon develop an ability to sense the magnetic field, how does it know how to interpret what it senses and relate it to an inbuilt map?

A particularly interesting part of the research involved a study of young



Young Chinook salmon. Image: Roger Tabor, (USFWS).

Chinook salmon that had never made a journey from the river where they hatched to the ocean. Experiments indicated that these fish may have an innate sense of the *world's* magnetic field, not just of the local area they developed in. Some of the fish were placed in water-filled metal buckets where they could be observed easily. When the magnetic field of the bucket was altered, the fish changed direction accordingly. One of the researchers commented, "It's like they have a map. They know something about where they are, based on what field they are in". Now, we recognise that maps are the work of an intelligent cartographer, so Who provided the one used by the salmon?

Lifeless Mars

Recently NASA released a number of images of Mars taken by the robotic reconnaissance vehicles *Spirit* and *Opportunity* for a showcase exhibition at the National Air and Space Museum, part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, USA. A videoclip commenting on the images and on the "evolution" of Mars is available online (see <http://goo.gl/IigHSZ>). Steven Squyres, Principal Investigator, Mars Investigation Rover, commented that in the past the

planet "...was warmer, it was wetter, it was more like Earth". Really? And yet in spite of this similarity, no life whatsoever has been found on Mars. Further evidence therefore that living creatures must have been created deliberately on Earth by a Designer.

Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist by Dr David Rosevear

4 January 2014 - p.5 – Lone Star evolution

"Children in Texas will spend the next decade reading biology textbooks free of anti-evolution propaganda, thanks to the defeat last month of creationist attempts to cast doubt on the evolution content of such books. [see NS 5/10/13 p.7 reported on in last quarter's journal Creation]

"Creationists on the 15-member Texas State Board of Education had been trying since 2009 to force textual changes designed to undermine the scientific consensus on evolution...

"An unidentified volunteer reviewer complained to the board in November that the [currently used] book contained 18 errors of fact. To settle the issue the



A sandy boulder-strewn valley on Mars as photographed by the robotic reconnaissance vehicle *Curiosity* - with no signs of life anywhere. Image: NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS.

board appointed a panel of three eminent biologists to pass final judgement on the criticisms. ‘Our sources said all three panellists dismissed the claims of factual errors and recommended no changes to the textbook’.”

Note that the creationists wanted to undermine factual errors which is not the same as ‘scientific consensus’. No eminent biologist is going to risk his reputation by supporting Creation against the scientific consensus.

Eminent biologist Richard Lewontin expressed this clearly when he wrote in the New York Review 17 years ago this week: ‘We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfil many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our *a priori* adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.’ *The New York Review*, 9 January 1997, p. 31.

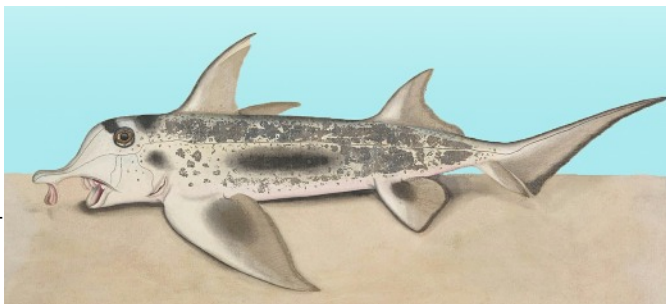
11 January p. 16 – Evolution? It’s so 400 million years ago
“It’s a living fossil to beat all others. The elephant

shark, *Callorinchus milii* has the slowest evolving genome of any vertebrate.” It is assumed that this ratfish “diverged from sharks about 400 million years ago”. Comparison of its genome with sharks “found it had changed less from its presumed ancestral form than any other. *C. milii* outstrips the coelacanth, the fish that previously held the slow evolution record.”

Apparently this jawed fish gave rise to many modern animals including humans. **“As well as jaws, the earliest fish pioneered bony skeletons and a sophisticated immune system, but it is not known when or how these features appeared”.**

One also wonders how the more primitive creatures from which it is supposed to have evolved survived without the sophisticated immune system. What a lot of conjecture can be squeezed from a comparison of genomes of two similar creatures! Here is a technique of modern science being used to spin a Just So story.

Creationists believe that things reproduce after their kind, so they only vary within the genetic limits built into their genomes. In a recent television series about fossils, Professor Fortey tells us that the wide variety of complex creatures of the ‘Cambrian explosion’ found in the Burgess Shale have also been found since in several



Painting (adapted) of an elephant shark by George Raper, c. 1784.
 Image: State Library of N. S. Wales, Australia; in the public domain.

other parts of the globe. He adds that there are still such creatures about today, some 550 million years later by evolutionary calculations. One of them was, he reckoned, a terrestrial organism, while today's cousin is marine. We, of course, believe that land and sea creatures were mixed up in the great Flood and buried together.



A big-fin reef squid in an aquarium. Image: George Berninger Jr., Wikimedia Commons, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

18 January p.5 - Fin to limb

“Five fossils of fish-like creatures that lived 375 million years ago have yielded new evidence of how the fins of fish evolved into the legs of land animals. The *Tiktaalik roseae* fossils reveal a key transitional point when fish began to develop hind limbs strong enough to support locomotion.

Our readers may remember that we reported in April 2006 that this fish could bend its neck to catch prey on land. The fossils strongly resembled the African eel catfish *Channalabus apus*, a living fish that could also bend its neck. It still hasn't learned how to walk after all that alleged time.

18 January p.10 – Hints of Pompeii's cultural melting pot

The ruins of temples in Pompeii buried by ash from Vesuvius's famous eruption in 79 AD have been excavated. Roman sacred sites normally face west, but 11 of these, including the Temple of Apollo, are found to be aligned with the rising of particular stars or with the position of the sun or moon on days of cultural significance.

Pliny the Elder was climbing the volcano at the time to see what all the smoke was about. Pliny the Younger watched and recorded the event from across the Bay of

Naples. Apollo must have been out hunting and couldn't help (I Kings 18:27).

25 January p.16 - Squid zeroes in on prey using hopelessly blurred vision

Big-fin reef squid bob up and down when they get prey in their sights in order to judge the striking distance. But they have a bulge in the retina of each eye that gives blurred vision, unique in nature. The bobbing moves the image of the prey in and out of the blurred region. The difference between blurred and sharp images is at a greatest when the prey is exactly in striking distance of the tentacles. So the retinal distortion, far from being an evolutionary mistake, is a clever design to measure the range, which is difficult to judge in open water.

25 January p.17 – Gene tinkering restores vision in people with rare eye disease

Jonathan Wyatt was one of six patients treated for choroideremia that is caused by a fault in the *CHM* gene. It makes cells in the retina stop working, gradually leading to blindness. **“I would look at someone and all I could see was blancmange. Now I can see faces”, says Wyatt.** Having

spoon-fed three toddlers in my time, I know the experience.

His treatment involved placing a functioning copy of the defective gene in a virus, and inserting it in the eye cells. After the successful treatment, he said **“I hadn’t been able to read digits on a mobile for five years.”**

The Creator pronounced the Creation ‘very good’, so Adam, made in God’s image, had no defective genes. Following his disobedience, gene mutations began to accumulate along with the thorns and thistles. By replacing mutant genes with good ones, we are beginning to treat these diseases.

25 January p.40 – Right on Target

“Sequencing genomes has become easy. Understanding them remains incredibly hard...We still have very little understanding of what, if anything, all our DNA does.” One needs to be able to alter a particular gene within a living cell to see what happens. Now geneticists have managed to target and disable nearly every one of our 20,000 genes separately in dishes. Not only will this breakthrough enable us to treat many diseases like cancers, HIV and sickle cell, but even, if thought desirable, to **“modify people”**.

A carefully designed RNA sequence combined with a particular protein attaches itself to the DNA at a target site and cuts it to isolate the required gene.

Tweaking the method has made it possible to modify many genes at once. This is useful since **“there’s never a single mutation responsible for diabetes or heart problems – it’s always a combination”**.

The sheer complexity of the genome and its manner of working, even in single-celled organisms, makes the idea that it came about by chance quite ludicrous.

1 February p.17 – Grand Canyon is a sprightly young 6-million-year-old

In 2012 parts of the canyon were dated at 70 million years BP.

Now thermo-chronology has been used to decide when hot buried rocks came to the surface and cooled. Parts measured 50 to 70 mya while the youngest turned out to be 6 mya. At that point the famous canyon apparently began to be drained by a new river system that gouged out the spectacle we know today.

Creationist geologist Dr Steve Austin has shown that another dating method gives identical ages for igneous rocks at both the top and bottom of the canyon. The Bible would suggest that sediments and igneous intrusions were laid down at the Flood. Following the melting of the ice sheet some 4,000 years ago, melt water formed the feature very rapidly.

Dating methods all have built-in assumptions. Their precision was further



South Rim of the Grand Canyon National Park.
Image: D. Deans, www.rgbstock.com

called into question when radiocarbon was detected in petrified trees and even in diamonds.

8 February p.10 – The return to Africa that time forgot

The article assumes that “our species migrated out of Africa around 65,000 years ago.” However, “an analysis of DNA from what is supposedly one of the most distantly isolated of all African populations has revealed the presence of genetic material from western Eurasia...The Khoisan tribe of southern Africa are hunter-gatherers and pastoralists who speak unique click languages.”

Since the Flood and dispersion from Babel there have been hunter-gatherers in every age in various parts of the world. This doesn't mean they are primitive. There have also been workers in brass and iron, and musicians (Genesis 4) in every age since the Creation. Man is not evolving.

“In 2012, another genetics study revealed that ancient Middle Eastern genes – which are today found in southern Europeans – did indeed enter the east African gene pool around 3000 years ago, which nicely matches the Queen of Sheba story. So much for anecdotes and tales. The migration deeper into Africa is perhaps easier to support with science. Indeed, linguistic and archaeological studies suggest a subset of the Khoisan, the Khoe-Kwadi speakers, arrived in southern Africa from east Africa around 2200 years ago... Just like the rest of the world, Africa had population movements too. There was simply no writing to document it.”

The article includes a map showing an assumed initial migration out of Africa to the Middle East, followed by movements into Europe, Asia, and back into Africa.

Why should it have taken over 60,000 years for mankind to go back into Africa?

8 February p.36 – The finch whisperers
“How language emerged is one of evolution's biggest mysteries. A clue might come from a rather surprising place” – birdsong!

The munia is a rather drab finch with a repetitive, simple song, living in South-East Asia. **“But around 250 years ago, breeders started to transform it into a beauty, with a subtle plumage of chocolate to platinum feathers.”** It now goes under the name of ‘Bengalese finch’. **“As a side effect, the Bengalese finch also acquired a remarkably complex song.”** It developed over a short period of time while the birds were held captive in an aviary with other birds.



One of the many varieties of the so-called Bengalese finch. Image: Quartl, Wikimedia Commons, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

When munia eggs are put in a Bengalese finch nest, the chicks adopt the song pattern of their foster parents. However, if Bengalese finch eggs are raised by munia parents, then the chicks have the drab monotonous song of the munia birds. So the changes are not due to any adjustment of the birds' genes.

The *nucleus interfacialis*, one part of the bird brain that controls song, is enlarged in the Bengalese finch compared with its wild parent. If that part of the brain is surgically removed, the song reverts to the simple munia vocals.

This article “**sees parallels between this transition and the evolution of human language from the simple vocalisations of our forebears.**” Clearly, however, this experiment in breeding throws no light at all on the supposed evolution of speech. The finches blossomed in the social atmosphere of the aviary, free from the fear of predators, while their plumage genes were being tweaked. Like human babies, they learned vocal patterns from those around them. When deprived of the sound of the birds that laid their eggs, they copy those that rear them.

The idea that the grunts of primitive ape-man progressed to ‘Me Tarzan, you Jane’ is another Just So story.

15 February p.17 - Punk Amazon bird is an ancient European emigrant

The hoatzin bird (pronounced ‘wot-seen’) lives today along the Amazon, but the ‘oldest’ fossil is found in France.

“Young hoatzins (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) have claws on their wings, like their dinosaur ancestors, which they use to climb trees. They also have punk-style feathers on their heads and ferment their food in a foregut like that of cows, giving them a cow-like stink. The heavy foregut means hoatzins can only fly a



A hoatzin from the Beni River, Bolivia. Image: Linda De Volder, Wikimedia Commons, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

few hundred metres... It is unclear how such poor flyers crossed the Atlantic.”

At the time the bird was suddenly buried in the Flood, today’s Europe, Africa and South America were probable one large land mass. There are also African hoatzin fossils.

Some other modern birds also have hooks on their wings, so this is hardly a basis for claiming dinosaur ancestry. Notice they don’t claim that hoatzins evolved from cows. Of course, cows can’t fly – cleaning bird droppings off the windscreen is enough of a nuisance.

[NB. Surprisingly, the cover story in this edition, ‘The cure for love’, celebrates St Valentines on the 14th February, but ignores the Darwin anniversary of the 12th.]

22 February p.7 – Helium burp

“Yellowstone National Park in the US is belching out over 38 kilograms of helium a year. The gas seems to have formed billions of years ago and been trapped in the rocks until the area became tectonically active.

Helium, He - the second lightest element in the periodic table – only exists as a monatomic gas. Hydrogen is a smaller atom, but it comes as the diatomic gas H₂, a molecule which is larger than helium atoms. So helium gas diffuses out of the rocks faster than any other gas. It is made in radioactive minerals like zircon and biotite that contain uranium atoms. These decompose to form lead, with the loss of eight alpha particles. These particles quickly pick up a couple of electrons from their surroundings to form helium atoms.

The Institute for Creation Research in the USA measured the rate of diffusion of helium atoms from zircon crystals at various temperatures. They concluded that all the earth's helium would diffuse out of the rocks in much less than one million years. The planet is not that old.

1 March p.16 – No viruses? No skin or bones either

Cells fuse together to form tissue and organs with the help of proteins like syncytin. The genes for proteins like syncytin are found in viruses. The assumption made here is that these genes initially came from viruses rather than being part of the created DNA of the multicellular organism. We are told that **“the human genome is littered with DNA that slipped in when viruses infected a cell of an ancestor...It is plausible that all cell fusion stems from viral genes slipping into our genome ... But the jury is still out... He speculates that viruses may be responsible for the very**

existence of multicellular organisms. ‘This makes me think that viruses have contributed enormously to the communication between cells, and to the appearance of multicellular organisms on Earth’ Rey says. (Felix) Rey of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, France, has found that the FF family of cell fusion proteins also comes from viruses.”

However, it is admitted that **“despite its importance, nobody knows how cell fusion evolved.”**

It should concern us that many non-specialists, including school teachers and journalists, will read these review articles and imagine that the speculative conclusions are scientifically proved. They will then speak with all the authority of a ‘know-all’, brain washing our kids.

8 March p.26 – Cosmic conundrums

We are reminded that we do not understand the origin of the universe. **“Many physicists are arriving at the conclusion that our visible universe is part of a larger space-time of infinite volume. Within this ‘multiverse’, our universe would be but one of an infinity of space-time patches, each one outside the causal reach of any other.**

“The multiverse can be viewed as the continuation, or perhaps the climax, of a series of great shifts that dislodged the Earth, then the sun, and then our own galaxy from a special position at the centre of physical reality.

“Support for this scenario stems from the ‘unnaturalness’ of the fine-tuning that we observe in our surroundings.”

So because everything about our universe is just right for life (the anthropic principle sometimes called the ‘Goldilocks effect’ after the fairy story about the three bears), physicists are proposing an infinity of different universes where one had to get it



alpha levels rise, triggering a cellular signal encouraging capillaries to grow. This brings in oxygen, which shuts down HIF-1-alpha and halts capillary development. Should the tissue then grow, oxygen levels will fall again, and the loop is set in motion once more.”

We are told that this idea “increases the reader’s sense of wonder”. Many manufacturing processes now utilise feed-back mechanisms. Psalm 139 (NKJV) puts it like this:

Secular physicists may growl at the idea of a created universe, but their own notions are no different from fairy stories. Image (adapted) in the public domain.

right. This multiverse idea also qualifies as a fairy story. **“We cannot settle any of these questions by experiment”**. Though I do know a Book that might help!

‘For You have formed my inward parts; You have covered [margin: woven] me in my mother’s womb. I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.’

8 March p.48 - The journey of life

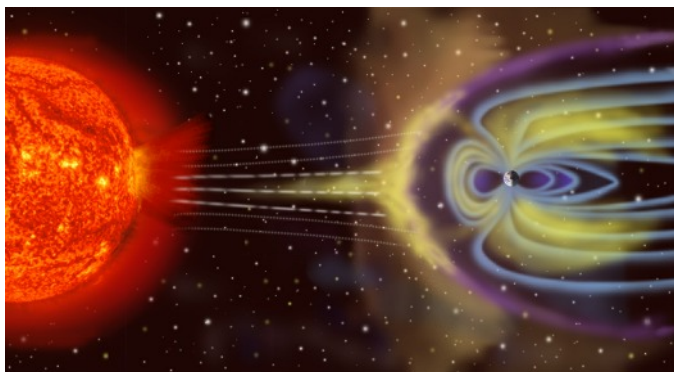
Here is a review of the book *‘Life Unfolding; How the human body creates itself’*, by Jamie Davies, OUP, £20.

The developing human embryo displays a number of feedback mechanisms to start and stop processes automatically.

“A nice example of this is the way tiny blood vessels called capillaries manage to cater to different kinds of tissue, even while these tissues are moving and growing. A feedback loop exists between oxygen and a cell protein called HIF-1-alpha. Oxygen normally causes HIF-1-alpha to be destroyed. If a tissue lacks oxygen, HIF-1-

15 March p.10 – Earth raises shield against sun’s fury

“Earth is always surrounded by a bubble of magnetism called the magnetosphere, which protects us from the bulk of the solar wind, a stream of high-energy particles constantly flowing from the sun.



Depiction of the magnetosphere. Image: NASA, in the public domain.

When the particles do get through to the atmosphere, near the poles, we see the auroras, as well as geomagnetic storms that can wreak havoc on navigation systems and power grids."

When a solar storm comes our way, "satellites and ground-based detectors have watched as a tendril of plasma unfurls from a reservoir around the planet and creates a protective buffer... Earth doesn't just sit there and take whatever the solar wind gives it. It can actually fight back."

The plasma stretches from the atmosphere to the boundary between Earth's magnetic field and the sun's.

Isaiah 45:18 reassures us that the LORD formed the Earth to be inhabited.

22 March p.8 - Ripples of the multiverse

After three years spent analysing the temperature data of the Cosmic Microwave background (CMB), scientists **"with the BICEP2 telescope in Antarctica have announced the first indirect detection of primordial gravitational waves"** These polarised ripples in the space/time fabric **"could solidify the idea that our young universe went through a rapid growth spurt called inflation"** in the first trillionth of a trillionth of a trillionth of a second following the big bang. They think that the big bang formed everything from the explosion of nothing. **"Inflation depends on a kind of material that turns gravity on its head and causes it to be repulsive".**

Inflation is **"linked to the idea that the universe is constantly giving birth to smaller 'pocket' universes within an ever-expanding multiverse".**

But the making of a universe out of nothing runs counter to the First Law of Thermodynamics that stipulates that matter/energy cannot be created or

destroyed. Making a multiverse would multiply that impossible task by an infinite number of times.

"One possible wrinkle is that previous temperature maps of the CMB suggested that the signal from primordial gravitational waves should be much weaker than what BICEP2 is seeing. Those results set theorists bickering about whether inflation really happened and whether it could create a multiverse. Several physicists suggested that we scrap the idea entirely for a new model of cosmic birth".

No new model will include a Creator, because scientific experiments cannot confirm God. Secular scientists suggest a theory and then try to fit all their experimental results into the theory. These fudge factors in the big bang theory include cold dark matter, dark energy, inflation and



Claiming that the Big Bang formed everything from the explosion of nothing is little different from saying that you can get a white rabbit out of a magician's empty hat. Image: composite from three images on www.rgbstock.com.

the multiverse, for none of which is there any direct experimental evidence.

The Anthropic Principle notes that everything is exactly right for man to live on earth. This might be because we are in one of an infinite number of universes, all differing in their laws and conditions, with ours being the Goldilocks solution. Then again it could be because our Creator made it to be inhabited (Isaiah 45:18).

This discovery and dodgy interpretation of polarised ripples made headline news on TV, radio and in the papers. ‘The man on the Clapham omnibus’ is led to think that the big bang, inflation and the multiverse have all been confirmed by Science. He can be sure of inflation – every time he goes to the shops.

22 March p.12 – How early life did without enzymes

“Without enzymes, metabolic reactions would not occur.”

So without enzymes, there could be no biological life, including ourselves!

“But enzymes are big proteins folded into specific shapes, so it is hard to see how they could have appeared fully formed in the primordial soup where life may have evolved...Enzymes have to be an exact fit for the chemical they react with, just as a lock can only be opened by a specific key.

“Even given millions of years, nature would have struggled to produce the enzymes that catalyse today’s metabolic reactions.”

There are thousands of different enzymes in every living cell, each coded for by a length of DNA with a specific order of nucleotides. But evolutionists need not despair, apparently. Amyloids could be the solution, despite the fact that amyloid plaques in the brain are a sign of Alzheimer’s disease, and bad news for humans. **“Unlike enzymes,**



Schematic of the enzyme phenylalanine hydroxylase. Such molecules are highly complex and must be a highly specific shape to work at all. How could they have gradually evolved? Image: T. Vickers, Wikipedia, in the public domain.

[amyloids] contain peptides – short chains of amino acids – and could have evolved more easily. If a bunch of short peptides are mixed together, amyloids form, each with a complex structure. To see if these amyloids behave like enzymes, Korendovych and his colleagues made seven simple peptides, each seven amino acids long. They then made amyloids by allowing copies of each peptide to clump together, adding zinc ions to help the process along. Four of the seven peptides made amyloids...”

Sounds hopeful! Were they any good at catalysing metabolic reactions, though?

Well, no. But they did find that these amyloids could catalyse the breakdown of organic molecules called esters. But that would be evolution in reverse! All that energy and expense trying to prove that life can originate without a Designer!

29 March p.5 –Stem the tide

It is sometimes claimed that if creationist research were of any value it would be accepted by peer-reviewed science journals.

“A recent survey by pollsters Ipsos MORI and the British Science Association found that while the UK public holds scientists in high regard, 35 per cent think scientists ‘adjust their findings to get the answers they want’.” *New Scientist* has now done its own survey asking stem cell researchers if they know of deliberate fraud (p. 14).

“Our survey suggests there may be a modicum of truth to this.

“Our survey is small, but it does suggest there is something rotten in the state of stem cells: a worrying number of respondents admitted knowing about fraud or unethical behaviour. The problems also reflect poorly on the scientific enterprise. For years, there have been warnings that there are not enough checks and balances: institutes, funders, journals and journalists all have incentives to hype results, Peer review is supposed to be the backstop, but all too often it has proved to have butterfingers.” Just once in a while, however, a creationist’s paper slips through the peer reviewers’ fingers. The work of French scientist Guy Berthault showing that sediments are laid down in rapid succession in moving water gave the lie to ‘millions of years’ to those who had eyes to see it. It has been published in the peer-reviewed journal of the French Academy of Science, as well as by CSM as pamphlet 281.



Red sandstone rock layers. Berthault’s experiments suggest that sequences of many layers of sedimentary rock were all laid down together in moving water. Image: CSM.

29 March p.6 – Gene use mapped

“Every cell in the body contains the same genetic code. But which genes are active or ‘expressed’ in the cell depends on its function. This is controlled by tiny bits of the genome called promoters and enhancers.

“By looking at more than 800 human tissue samples, covering nearly all cell types, they found 44,000 enhancers and 180,000 promoters that control gene expression.

“Combining their map with other data showed that mutations linked to diseases occurred more often in the enhancers and promoters than they did in the genes themselves. Researchers can now try to design therapies that target these mutations.”

Please note the extreme complexity of the genome, making the accidental change from one kind of organism (however ‘simple’) to another statistically impossible. Note also in passing that mutations, thought by secular scientists to be the mechanism for evolution, lead to disease.

29 March p.16 – Trillion-scented smorgasbord is everyday fare for our nose.

“Our noses are sharper than they look. They can tell apart at least a trillion smells – far more than we thought.” The previous crude estimate of about 10,000 smells, dating back to 1927, has been revised in the light of improved techniques. **“The result suggests that people are surprisingly good at telling smells apart, even though most of us struggle to describe those smells in words. ‘We have an amazing olfactory capacity that has not been appreciated.’”**

What is not so generally appreciated is Who designed the nose.

Quote: life... or not

Quite apart from the dodgy assumptions made by evolutionists when endeavouring to estimate the age of a rock sample, here's an interesting quote:

"Dating the emergence of life on Earth is a daunting task. We can date when life was already thriving based on the age of microfossils, i.e., mineralized structures whose size, shape, and chemical composition matched those of modern microbes. But even these 'proofs' can be misleading. In the 1980s, for example, scientists discovered 3.5-billion-year-old mineralized filamentous structures in the Apex Chert formation in western Australia, which were strikingly similar to cyanobacteria. The 'microfossils' were later shown to be inorganic mineral formations."

(Gemma Reguera, 07 April 2014, <http://schaechter.asmblog.org/schaechter/>)

From the mailbox

"We continue to dive with great enthusiasm into the CSM newsletters and articles when they arrive, and to return to them again and again for greater understanding, and for nuggets to share with whoever shows an interest. We are so very grateful for the continued efforts that go into producing them to such a high standard every time. Bless you and all your faithful colleagues at CSM and at the exhibition. So good to know of that constant witness right opposite the Victory!" J

"I still enjoy the stimulation of reading your bulletins after many years!" RS

New book

The Authenticity of Daniel by Bill Cooper, 72pp, published by CSM, £5.50 + P&P.

There are few today who are aware of the sheer historical excellence of the Book of Daniel. Archaeological and documentary evidences combine in the most remarkable way to demonstrate - in defiance of all the critics - its historical accuracy and authenticity. That evidence is presented in this book, and is fully documented. Why it is not more widely known is down to the systematic suppression of evidence that has been applied over the last century and a half by academe to all the books of the Bible, but to Daniel especially. It's not that scholars have been unaware of the evidence. Quite the contrary. But they have simply refused to allow it to reach the public. Here that evidence is laid bare, from the Babylonian records in which the names of Daniel and his friends appear - along with their respective careers during

The Authenticity of the Book of Daniel



by
Bill Cooper

the Captivity - to the remnants of bricks and mortar which have been brought to the light of day by the archaeologist's trowel. This book should revolutionise everyone's thinking about the Book of Daniel, Bible reader and scholar alike.

Editor's note: CSM is also working on an audio version of this publication. More news of this in due course.

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Articles in the Journal are generally by the editor, R. Cambridge, unless otherwise stated. Articles, letters, notes and other contributions from new writers are warmly welcome.

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