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Marco Polo Describes a Dinosaur

The standard evolutionary argument is that dinosaurs are separated from modern humans by a span of about 60 million years. If that were true, we could predict that no modern human has ever seen a dinosaur. Opponents of Christianity have even used this as a criticism of the Bible; you may have heard critics say something like, “If people and dinosaurs lived together, why doesn’t the Bible mention dinosaurs?” The fact of the matter is the Bible does describe animals that resemble dinosaurs – though it doesn’t use the word “dinosaur,” which is a term coined relatively recently. The Bible, for example, frequently uses the term “dragons”, which some have proposed is a reference to dinosaurs.

Besides the Bible, other books of antiquity have made references to dragons. Pliny the Elder was a naturalist who wrote about many animals, most of which are rather mundane. However, in several places he refers to “dragons” and describes

them as enormous creatures who can actually fight (and usually kill) elephants! From Pliny’s description of dragons though, I suspect he is actually describing very large snakes – perhaps as long as 120 ft in length (which is still very impressive).

There are many other historical references which I’ve read over the years. However, I came across still another account that was very interesting. It is from *The Travels of Marco Polo the Venetian*:

“Leaving the city of Yacho, and travelling ten days in a westerly



Model of a large bipedal dinosaur (perhaps *Ceratosaurus*) with small three-clawed forelimbs. Image (cropped): A. Caulfield, Flickr, goo.gl/TNXY1V, under CCA 2.0 Generic licence.

direction, you reach the province of Karazan, which is also the name of its chief city.... Here are seen huge serpents, ten paces in length, and ten spans in the girth of its body. At the fore part, near the head, they have two short legs, having three claws like those of a tiger, with eyes larger than a fourpenny loaf (*pane da quattro denari*) and very glaring. The jaws are wide enough to swallow a man, the teeth are large and sharp, and their whole appearance is so formidable, that neither man, nor any kind of animal, can approach them without terror.”

I was struck by the great care with which the author describes this creature: it is “10 paces in length” (30 feet) and “10 spans in the girth of the body” (about 7 feet thick, assuming a “span” is 8 inches). Though it doesn’t say specifically that the creature has four legs, it does describe the forelimbs as being “short” and having “three claws.” When you throw in jaws “wide enough to swallow a man,” it sure sounds to me like a good description of a large, bipedal dinosaur.

Of course, others will reject my opinion. I would direct your attention to the editor’s footnotes where he says, “This distorted account of an alligator or crocodile is less creditable to our author’s fidelity than any other of his natural history descriptions.” In other words, ‘Polo is usually pretty good at describing animals but he really blew it when describing this alligator.’ Maybe the account isn’t distorted at all. Maybe

it’s a good description of a dinosaur. Given the fact that the animal is further described as lurking in caverns during the day, hunting terrestrial animals, and then having to go to the river to drink, it’s certainly not a crocodile. It’s also rather silly to suppose that Marco Polo, an ocean voyager and naturalist extraordinaire, wasn’t familiar enough with crocodiles to describe them accurately.

Another interesting item gleaned from this account is how Polo describes the way these terrifying beasts were hunted. “By their motion in this way along the shore, and their vast weight, they make a deep depression, as if a heavy beam had been drawn along the sands. Those whose employment is to hunt them observe the track by which they are most frequently accustomed to go, and fix into the ground several pieces of wood armed with sharp iron spikes, which they cover with the sand in such a manner as not to be perceptible. When therefore the animals make their way towards the places they usually haunt, they are wounded by these instruments, and speedily killed.”

A criticism often used against creation is that if men and dinos lived together, then dinosaurs would eat the people. That’s a laugh. Humans are the top predators on the planet and I have said before that, when humans and dinos interact, it’s the dinos who get killed. Here we see another example of human cunning. A 30-foot long animal with sharp teeth and jaws big enough to

swallow a man is still no match for human intelligence.

Now, in all fairness, if modern humans saw a dinosaur, it's not "proof" against evolution. Even if a living dinosaur were found today, it wouldn't necessarily disprove evolution. But it doesn't help it either. The world is what it is, and theories are attempts to describe it. The Bible says land animals (which would include dinosaurs) and man are contemporaries. The theory of evolution says dinosaurs became extinct millions of years before humans appeared. When we have accounts that seem to describe dinosaurs and people living together, it comports much better with the Bible.

R. K. Bentley, from goo.gl/RNGbKp, reproduced with kind permission.

Pharaoh and Evolution

The following three paragraphs reveal some striking and instructive parallels between the attitude of Pharaoh when confronted by Moses (Exod. 7-12) and the present-day Theory of Evolution: both are toxic worldviews that dominate and denigrate. Thankfully God is our hope and salvation from both of them.

“The culture of Egypt had dominated the world, casting its dark and oppressive shadow over all of civilization while abandoning the hope for any ethical or moral progress.

Ancient Egyptian philosophy pictured life as fixed and recurrent cycles of materialism determined by the immutable laws of nature that all human endeavours must serve. Their gods were the sun, the Nile and the animals. The sun created the cycle of the year. The Nile provided water and was the source of life. The animals represented the basic fundamental life forces. This comprehensive perspective was the very basis of ancient Egyptian civilization.

“The danger of this idolatrous worldview was that it related to human beings as nothing more than products of nature. Trapped in the matrix of natural law, man was seen as having no choice but to go with the inexorable



Statue of Rameses II at Luxor. Domination and slavery were considered natural and normal in ancient Egypt's pernicious culture. Image courtesy of M. E. Jones, RGB Stock.

flow of reality. Although acknowledging that man possessed the ability to make decisions, Egyptian philosophy claimed that those choices were in essence no different than those of a beast. Human psychology – our desires, motivations and weaknesses – was viewed as a product of nature. Negative emotions such as anger, jealousy, lust and the will to dominate others were understood to be natural and ordinary features of existence, prompting man to live no different from the animal predators that devour and plants that overrun their weaker competitors. The world was seen to reach a natural ecology of forces in conflict, balanced between the strong and the weak – the masters and the slaves.

“This suffocating paradigm imprisoned the spirit of man in an absolute bondage to the fetters of nature, with no possibility of breaking free and transcending its restrictive boundaries. All of humanity’s higher yearnings were denigrated and debased under the pernicious influence of this toxic worldview until mankind was entombed in pyramids of darkness and spiritual decay. Egypt is referred to as the “house of bondage” not merely on account of its large slave population. Egypt was a “house of bondage” through and through. All were mentally enslaved to the fixed laws of nature that determined the fate of individuals and groups alike. No slave even imagined that escape from

bondage was possible because slavery was simply a condition of life.”

(*Yehuda HaKohen*, January 2018, goo.gl/oVFPn2)

The Creation Days: Literal Days or Ages?

Eons of time are absolutely essential to the theory of evolution. Robert Jastrow, an evolutionist, says: “The key to Darwin’s explanation is time.” (p. 112).

Those who are intimidated by evolutionary propaganda attempt to find some way to fit the coveted “time” into the biblical record of creation. One of the ways this feat is attempted is by arguing that each “day” of the creation week represents vast ages of time.

A recent book contains four chapters devoted to this concept (Ross, pp. 45-90). Some within Church of Christ (e.g. John N. Clayton) likewise do obeisance to the day-age theory (see Jackson & Thompson, pp. 83-87). But this notion is absolutely false. An examination of Exodus 20:8-11 reveals the fallacy of compromising the Bible position regarding the creation week.

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath unto Jehovah ... for in six days Jehovah made the heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is.”



Each of the first six days of creation was comprised of evening and morning. This makes no sense at all if each “day” was a period of millions of years. Image courtesy of A. Krappweis, RGB Stock.

One of the most fundamental laws of Bible interpretation is this. Whenever a word is employed several times within a context, it will carry the same meaning in each case — unless there is a compelling reason for assigning an unusual sense to the term (cf. Matt. 8:22). There is certainly no such reason apparent in Exodus 20:8ff.

The sabbath day law was designed to commemorate the seventh day of the creation week, which consisted of seven days (of the same type as the sabbath). Try substituting the terms “age or ages” for the words “day or days” in Exodus 20:8-11, and see just how much sense it makes.

And so, circle the words “day” and “days” in Exodus 20:8,9. Now circle “days” in verse eleven. Connect these terms with a line, and in your margin note: Creation “day” same type as sabbath, hence, literal day — not long age.

References

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Shadow of Darwin — A Review of the Teaching of John N. Clayton. Apologetics Press: Montgomery, AL.

Jastrow, Robert. 1977. *Until The Sun Dies*. Warner Books: New York, NY.

Ross, Hugh. 1994. *Creation And Time*. Navpress: Colorado Springs, CO.

Scripture references

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 8:22; Exodus 20:8; Exodus 20:8, 9.

(Wayne Jackson, reproduced with kind permission of Jared Jackson, 29 January 2018, ChristianCourier.com, goo.gl/3Bmj7x).

Vast Universe

I saw a video clip recently explaining how vast the universe is. It went into great detail about the sun, stars and planets, as well as our Milky Way in relation to the rest of the known universe. It made my mind boggle to think that God simply spoke it all into being. Psalm 33:9 says, ‘For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast’.

Our own galaxy has an estimated 100 billion stars, and there are an estimated 100 billion more galaxies like ours beyond us in deep space. Earth is really small in relation to the size of the sun, which is considered to be a very average sized star. Over a million earths would fit inside the sun, yet the sun is dwarfed by the magnitude of Arcturus, the fourth brightest star in the



Ring-like swirls of dust filling the Andromeda galaxy: just one of the unimaginably vast number of galaxies in the universe. Image: ESA/NASA/JPL-Caltech/NHSC.

be in relationship with Him. Our magnificent, incomparable and immeasurable God gave without measure, because He loved me. 'For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in

night sky, two hundred trillion miles from earth, yet visible with the naked eye. It has a radius twenty times greater than that of our sun.

(trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life' (John 3:16, Amplified).

It puts into perspective for me the absolute wonder of Jesus' birth. God, the creator of the earth the stars and the galaxies, the One who simply spoke it all into being, sent His Son, Jesus, the Word, to become flesh, and live among us. He left the glory of Heaven and exchanged it for the reality of this minute, dusty planet, all because He loved us. And He chose to create us in His image. Even though we're fallible, sinful, fragile people, we bear the image of our magnificent Creator. We carry His very presence within us, because Jesus came to redeem us, and to clothe us with His glory.

(*Seeds of the Kingdom*, 11 January 2018, used with permission.)

Creation in Education

"Evolution is not science. It is a religious system for atheists. What is taught in public schools on TV, and in national parks is not science. It is theology with shoddily constructed scientific trappings and language."

L. Winter, 12 February 2018

"This week, Education Secretary Damian Hinds said: 'Creationism has no place in the science curriculum and you're not going to get marks in your science GCSE talking about creationism'."

Jewish News, 27 February 2018, goo.gl/mxT9Xw

I've been challenged to bear in mind the absolute wonder of the birth of Jesus. The One who holds the stars in place, the One who even knows them all by name, knows me by name, and made a way for me, through Jesus, to

“We are keen to emphasise that we will continue to teach science from the creation/design perspective – a right we have as an independent school in England - alongside some teaching about the theory of evolution. Sadly this right to consider more than one perspective regarding origins is not enjoyed by government-funded schools. We are pleased to be offering a broader and more balanced approach to science that is free to consider following the evidence where it leads.

“Alongside the majority of Christians, we affirm a high view of God as the creator and sustainer of the universe and of all living things. We reject the notion that living things have come into being by a random and purposeless process in which God has played no part. We affirm the belief, held by many scientists both past and present, that nature provides abundant evidence of the hand of a designer.”

N. Steele, spokesman for an independent Christian school, goo.gl/VVnL9C, 22 February 2018

Cuttings & Comments from **New Scientist**

by *Dr David Rosevear*

13 January p.8 – Let the boulders fall where they may

“**Monstrous oceanic waves are able to transport boulders weighing hundreds of tonnes. The finding helps explain how huge rocks end up**

atop high cliffs. It also implies that storm waves, and other rogue waves, can be more powerful and hazardous than previously thought.”

The west coast of Ireland was struck by a huge cluster of storms during the winter of 2013-2014. When researchers studied photographs taken before and after the storms, they found that massive boulders had been moved by about 2.5 metres. The largest weighed in at 620 tonnes – equivalent to about three Statues of Liberty in SI units.

It is now generally agreed among geologists that big changes happen in high energy situations, such as storms, tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Imagine a succession of tsunami waves encircling the Earth for more than a year. They would erode away the continents down to their igneous bases. As the flood subsided, suspended rock would be deposited, most dense first, in worldwide bands. Plants and animals would be buried and fossilised. Such a scenario agrees with the present succession of rock layers, and the whole history fits into the biblical timescale.

Why should alleged primitive humans be around for hundreds of thousands of years before learning to farm the land and use metallurgy?

13 January p.22 - The cosmic zoo

“**Do we live on a rare earth? One so exceptional that it is pretty much alone in hosting a rich diversity of life, with almost all other planets being home to simple microbes at**

best? Or are we in a universe teeming with living things as complex as those here, meaning that we exist as part of a vast cosmic zoo? **“Debate on this rages on, but we say it is time to accept that the latter is very likely.”**

So opine a professor from Berlin and an astrobiology researcher. (There would be no point in being an astrobiology worker if you thought Earth was the only place to support life.) They admit that life might take a long time to get started but then the jump from simple to complex life will take place, eventually and inevitably. They don't seem to appreciate that microbes and men are alike incredibly complex, and that the passage of time leads to decomposition rather than synthesis of complex molecules.

The authors note many key innovations on the way to complexity, such as a means of turning light into energy, oxygen, complex cell architecture, genetic structures, nerve systems, and sex.

“Looking at these major innovations from the simplest life forms to the most complex, we find nearly all of them evolved independently several times on Earth. So while these are big steps towards complex life, they are not highly improbable.”

In other words, if you by faith imagine that evolution has occurred on Earth, it must be able to happen on other heavenly bodies.

SETI still eagerly awaits its first message from somewhere out there. Stand by to repel boarders!



Insect wings, such as on this dragonfly, are extraordinarily complex. If life gradually evolved then many “part-wings” should be found in the fossil record, but they are strangely absent. Image courtesy of D. Dyet, RGB Stock.

27 January p.6 – Origin of insect wings revealed by gene editing

“Insects first evolved wings around 400 million years ago, and winged insects have thrived ever since. But how did that crucial first step happen?”

“Biologists have debated several rival ideas for over a century, but no fossil insects with ‘proto-wings’ have been found, so there have been no conclusions.”

The present idea is that insects, with their six leg segments, evolved from crustaceans that had seven leg segments **“so insects lost at least one... Modern crustaceans lost one segment, but for insects, two fused with the body, and the wings evolved from them.”** Just So!

One idea why wings evolved in insects that walked on water is so that they can catch the wind to sail along. Yet again, maybe they evolved in tree-living insects that glided to safety when threatened.

The one idea not explored is that on Day 6 God made everything that creeps

upon the earth after its kind: and God saw that it was good.

27 January p.12 – Stellar blasts that could cook up life

“Planets blasted with stellar flares could be delicately balanced between nurturing life and killing it off. While such eruptions of high energy particles can cause biological damage and chip away at a world’s vital atmosphere, they might also kick-start the stuff of living things.”

This is wishful thinking. High energy cannot produce information, nor the myriad of intricate structures that constitute the tiniest life forms. Have they thought of researching with a sledgehammer, perhaps?

27 January p.18 – Taking CRISPR to a whole new level

A team in Canada has managed to repair mutations in 90 per cent of target cells using the CRISPR genome-editing technique. This could help tackle all inherited diseases.

“CRISPR is great at disabling genes, but using it to fix them is much harder because it involves replacing a faulty sequence with another.”

The team physically linked the replacement DNA with the CRISPR protein that finds and cuts the faulty sequence. Taping the text to the scissors ensures that the replacement DNA is in place once the cut is made.

This is real science as opposed to the philosophical nonsense of evolutionary speculation.

3 February p.40 – Stone Age primates

“What can the antics of tool-using monkeys and chimps tell us about our own evolution, wonders Erica Tennenhouse.”

Frankly, nothing!

“We used to think that using tools was the preserve of our hominin lineage and one of the remarkable talents that made us human.”

Stone tools were uncovered in Tanzania’s Olduvai Gorge associated with australopithecines - southern apes - now extinct. These apes are still claimed as our distant ancestors.

This *NS* article reports that bearded capuchin monkeys in Brazil have been observed using similar stone hammers and anvils to break open cashew nuts. They also dig for tubers. Again, it has been recently noted that macaques in the coastal regions of Thailand use rocks to break open oysters, crabs and sea snails. These ‘distant cousins’ are using tools like our ‘closest relative’, the chimp.

So now a couple of Oxbridge boffins have invented the newest branch of science called ‘Primarch’, or primate archaeology. They dig where the remains of ancient apes have been found, looking for stones that have been used as tools. They have even found sharp flakes as used by man, though these could be the accidental by-products of shaping tools. **“The tools unearthed...are remarkably similar to those used today.”**

No one seems to have realised that if apes today are using their God-given

intelligence to shape and use tools, then the tools used by australopithecines in Olduvai Gorge do not qualify them as our ancestors.

It is observed that New Caledonian crows use tools both in the wild and in the laboratory. Sea otters use rocks to smash the shells of their prey. Horses and dogs are certainly misnamed ‘*dumb* animals’.

10 February p.15 – Neanderthals used fire to make tools

Digging sticks fashioned from hard boxwood have been found in Italy. They are a metre long with a point at one end and a rounded handle, partially charred to remove side-branches. They are similar to the digging sticks still used today by some hunter-gatherer tribes. An accompanying picture from Time Life shows a group of ugly, hairy ‘hominins’ sitting around making the sticks – pure imagination. Skeletal remains have long since established that Neanderthals were tall, big-brained people sharing our DNA; in other words sons of Eve.

10 February p.16 – Pre-life molecules beyond our galaxy

The Large Magellanic Cloud appears to contain the most complex molecules ever detected outside our galaxy. But how complex are these ‘pre-biotic’ chemicals compared to the molecules found in even the ‘simplest’ living forms?

Those found are methanol (CH₃OH), methyl formate (HCOOCH₃) and dimethyl ether (CH₃)₂O, all containing

less than ten atoms. Compare that to a human gene that contains about a million bases, or our DNA molecule with about 3 billion bases. Each base contains many atoms, and the DNA also contains sugar and phosphate molecules. The whole lot uses a complex code to make proteins, another class of complex molecules.

Frankly, there is no such thing as a ‘pre-life’ molecule.

The galaxy is composed of predominately hydrogen and helium, the two simplest atoms.

10 February p.56 – Feedback

Feedback on the back page offers amusing or intriguing snippets that readers send in. Here we read:

“The crafty serpent in the Book of Genesis, who at the dawn of humanity, created the first ‘fake news’...’ Pope Francis denounces those using ‘snake tactics’ in public discourse.”

The implication is that the story of the Fall in Genesis 3 is also fake news. Rather it is the reason why the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

17 February p.18 – Beetles escape from toad’s stomach

A little over thirty years ago your reviewer wrote CSM pamphlet 233 about the bombardier beetle. When approached by a predator it sends hydroquinones and peroxide from separate chambers in its abdomen into a keratin-reinforced space and simultaneously injects an enzyme. The

resulting explosion spits noxious chemicals from two tubes at its back-end, that it directs at the enemy. This complex defence mechanism had to be fully formed before it could work. It could not evolve piecemeal. This *NS* article reports on two Japanese scientists, possibly with time to kill, feeding bombardier beetles to toads.

“Forty-three per cent of the beetles escaped, some after 107 minutes.”

These beetles used the time in the toad’s tummy to spit out their chemicals until the toad threw up and spewed them out like Jonah on the shore near Nineveh.

17 February p.32 – Silence of the plants

The Creator also used chemistry to help plants attract pollinators, and to communicate warnings of pests. Plants produce thousands of complex volatile compounds such as beta-pinene, which smells fresh and piney. They are combined to make specific scents.

Unfortunately, air pollution can destroy these scented messages, so that they are not carried far on the wind. This affects the pollination of crops and the bouquet of flowers. Ozone and nitrogen oxides from vehicles and power plant emissions are the main culprits. The article cites several interesting examples of plants using scent to warn of attack. For instance, oranges and lemons emit monoterpene limonene that degrades into some 1,200 different compounds in the presence of ozone.



Lemons have a designed-in chemical warning system. Image courtesy of K. Tuck, RGB Stock.

“When aphids infest soybeans...the plants sound a chemical ‘burglar alarm’ that brings ladybirds to the rescue.”

The answer is to tackle sources of air pollution, and to plant lots of trees whose large surface area can absorb ozone and nitrogen oxides from the atmosphere.

24 February p.6 – Evolution may stop us drinking alcohol

The gene labelled *ADH* makes alcohol dehydrogenase, an enzyme that breaks down alcohol into toxic acetaldehyde. A further enzyme in this irreducibly complex system converts the toxin into harmless acetate. Some change in the system **“in the last tens of thousands of years”** – i.e. a mutation from soon after the Fall – allows the toxin to accumulate so that the boozer would feel unwell after even a small amount of alcohol. This involves a loss of genetic information, but it does combat a harmful addiction.

This is no more Darwinian evolution than when, as a ten-year-old, I gave up smoking home-made coltsfoot

cigarettes because they made me feel sick.

24 February p.17 – Silence of the crickets

“Male crickets woo by ‘singing’ – vigorously rubbing their wings together so that bumps and ridges scrape, making sound. But in recent decades, up to 95 per cent of male crickets on the Hawaiian islands of Kauai and Oahu have evolved flat wings, leaving them mute.”

It turns out that a particular parasitic fly homes in on the male’s song and sprays



The characteristic song of crickets is produced by specially ridged and wear-resistant wings. Image: courtesy of Purplepic, RGB Stock.

the cricket with its eggs. The larvae then eat the cricket.

But it’s not cricket to label this as ‘evolution’. This mutation that smooths out the wings means that those with the mutation don’t attract the fly, and so survive to pass on their mutated genes. The mutation involves a loss of genetic information, so the cricket is then at a disadvantage in the mating stakes. This is devolution.

24 February p.18 – CRISPR may target a learning disability

“Fragile X syndrome is the most common inherited form of cognitive impairment, affecting one in 4000 men and one in 6000 women, It is caused when a gene called *FMR1* is silenced, which typically inhibits learning.”

Now a team at MIT have taken brain cells derived from stem cells from people with Fragile X syndrome. They succeeded in reactivating the gene by editing the epigenetic markers that keep it switched off. The next step is to test the technique directly in the brains of mice with the condition.

There is some evidence that genes are wrongly switched on or off in Alzheimer’s and in Parkinson’s diseases.

The idea that genes somehow evolved by chance is seen to be nonsense, especially when things go wrong.

3 March p.19 – Fabric inspired by polar bears keeps this bunny warm

“The porous interior structure of a polar bear’s fur helps insulate it against harsh Arctic winters.”

To mimic these pores researchers used a complex process to create ice crystals in silk fibre and then freeze dry it. The resulting woven fabric has excellent thermal insulation and makes the wearer invisible to infrared light (i.e. heat). Polar bear fur also reflects IR light. Without these inventive scientists, time and chance would not produce these fibres. Such ingenious complexity gives the lie to the evolution hypothesis.

3 March p.44 – Director of evolution “Jennifer Doudna’s discovery of the CRISPR gene-editing technique gives us unprecedented power over life itself”, according to *NS* correspondent Michael Le Page. “In 2012, Doudna’s team made one of the biggest discoveries in the history of biology: how to edit the DNA in living cells with relative ease. In essence, it gives humans the power to direct evolution.”

The CRISPR method allows workers to add or remove methyl groups in the epigenome near the gene, and so switch off or on the gene. (The epigenome is that major part of the DNA that does not have genes that produce proteins. For decades, evolutionists called it ‘junk DNA’, supposing it to be a relic from an evolving life-form.) The CRISPR treatment does not alter the sequence of nucleotides in the DNA, so no evolution from one type to another takes place.

CRISPR is an extremely powerful toolset for disabling genes, repairing faulty genes or turning genes on or off. Genetic diseases can thereby be treated. Mutations in our fallen world can be rectified, restoring the Creator’s original pattern.

“I think the biggest impact is going to be in agriculture,” says Doudna. Indeed, biologists have already used CRISPR to create everything from gluten-free wheat to low-fat pigs and goats that produce more cashmere wool.”

CRISPR could not, however, be used to make designer babies with enhanced intelligence. Intelligence, it seems, is **“determined by hundreds of genes, each with a tiny effect. What’s more, the same variant can have different effects in different people.”**

10 March p.13 – Earth vaporised and the moon then sprang out

Is there no limit to evolutionary Just So stories?

“A shape shifting Earth might have formed the moon. Roughly 4.5 billion years ago, a collision made our planet mushroom outward into a spinning cloud of vaporised rock resembling a squishy jam doughnut. At its puffy edges the moon formed, suggests new work on a model of early Earth.”

10 March p.28 – The hunt for dark DNA

‘Dark DNA’ is the label given here to genes where mutations have

substituted the bases A and T for C and G.

“Standard sequencing technology is not very good at picking up sections of DNA with high levels of G and C. So we set out to reveal the elusive DNA in a different way ...”

Unlike dark energy, dark DNA actually exists and was first seen in fat rats; gerbils that live in the desert on a poor diet, where they have no predators.

The gene *Pdx1* has vital roles in the development of the pancreas and in switching the insulin gene on and off. The rat appeared not to have this, and other, genes, although the RNA that they made was functioning. They have recently been found to exist with high levels of the bases C and G; more mutations than any other version of the genes we know of in the animal kingdom.

Now, thousands of genomes where vital genes were not found will need to be looked at again using a sequencing technique that picks up on dark genes.

The article claims that **“Dark DNA could be influencing the direction of evolution”**. However, we only find the same genes, but with mutations that our methods did not recognise. They still code for RNA and make proteins vital to life.

17 March p.18 – Blood chemicals protect you from morning heart attacks

“The start of your day is the most dangerous part of it – heart attacks are both more likely and more lethal in the morning. But chemicals made

by your body can protect you and may lead to new drugs for heart disease.

“Resolvins are made from an omega-3 fatty acid by your immune cells.”

And guess what – the level of resolvins in our blood peaks around 7am!

Chance? No chance.

24 March p.9 – Land animals can’t resist the call of the sea

According to evolutionists, invertebrates developed spines and became fish that climbed out on to the land and grew legs. They quickly learned to breathe air. This Just So story becomes complicated when one wonders how marine mammals fit the picture. This article simply assumes that land animals went to sea for the food.

“Some of the most spectacular species now living in the sea have land-living ancestors. Whales are descended from animals similar to deer, while walrus evolved from animals a bit like stoats.”

These deer-like animals had to forsake grass for krill, and swim with difficulty until their legs and antlers dropped off and their noses migrated to the top of their heads. Changing the shape of their tails was obviously a fluke.

Those studying this marvel have identified 69 occasions when land animals began living in or exploiting the seas in the last 250 million years. If they dropped the idea of slow sedimentation leading to deep time, they could conclude that all these kinds were created a few thousand years ago,

and that their fossils were buried in a worldwide flood, as attested by the histories of many peoples.

31 March p.32 – Beetlemania

This is an interesting and informative article about the ubiquity and diversity of the beetle family. As is so often the case, the writer confuses the place of burial and fossilisation of these insects as denoting the period in the imagined past when they supposedly evolved, rather than the time of catastrophic burial during the worldwide flood.

“New beetle species have been described at an average rate of about four a day since 1758, when Carl Linnaeus started cataloguing plants and animals using the two-part Latin scientific names we know today.”

There are now estimated to be about 5500 mammal species, 10,000 birds, 85,000 molluscs and 25,000 plant species. Until recently, there were thought to be some 400,000 kinds of beetles. But in 1982, entomologist Terry Erwin began hauling fogging machines up into the canopy of rainforests. He collected the beetles that dropped down on sheets. There were tens of thousands of unknown species. There are at least a few million species.

Their hardiness and dietary flexibility means that beetles thrive in environments as diverse as rainforest canopies and the Namib Desert.

So far, so fine! However, the article then develops a Just So story:

“Beetles began to proliferate in the Carboniferous period between 350



Tough elytra, such as in this male stag beetle, protect a pair of folded wings. Image: Minodor, Pixabay.

and 300 million years ago. At some point the front pair of wings of their precursor beetleoid acquired a leathery texture, while the hind pair remained delicate and membranous. The tough front wings gave protection to the folded back wings... With the insect still able to fly at will, these structures became indispensable armour – the elytra, or wing cases, of modern beetles.”

Beetles are part of a vast ecosystem doing useful jobs such as ladybirds eating aphids and dung beetles clearing up, reflecting the Creator’s wisdom.

Quotes

“Back in 1953, Crick and Watson discovered DNA’s structure to be that of a double-helix. This shape is essentially a twisted ladder form. The “rungs” of this “ladder” are composed of over three billion nucleotides.

Additionally, the DNA molecule itself is tightly coiled. According to Carl Sagan, just one DNA molecule if unwound and linked end to end would be approximately 7 feet in length. As we have already pointed out, the body has over 100 trillion cells. This means that if all the DNA molecules in a person's body were unwound and linked together, then it would be able to reach from the Earth to the moon over 500,000 times. The moon is about 240,000 miles from the Earth.

DNA. Since DNA requires at least 75 pre-existing proteins to function, and since proteins can only be made by instructions given by DNA, evolutionists find themselves attempting to build the temple of Darwin on a veritable foundation of quicksand.”

J. Gibson, 2017

You write:

“With all this said, we now come to perhaps the evolutionist's most mystifying and perplexing dilemma of all life's anomalies. Namely, how did all this data or information manage to be encoded into the DNA molecule to begin with? In accordance with evolutionary thought, the data must have come into being by only naturalistic processes. One can only imagine atoms bumping into each other billions and billions of times until they somehow miraculously formed into this mind-boggling molecule known as

“I had a life changing evening at Surrey Uni. in 1988 when [CSM speaker] came to give a speech about evolution and creation. In the space of 1 - 2 hours I was amazed to realise that the God of the Bible was REAL! Evolution was unscientific. Without his ministry and obedience to God I don't think I would be saved today. Will never forget that day for as long as I live. I bought the tape of the speech for £1. I listened to it over and over in awe. The best pound I ever spent!”

CB (Mrs)

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