

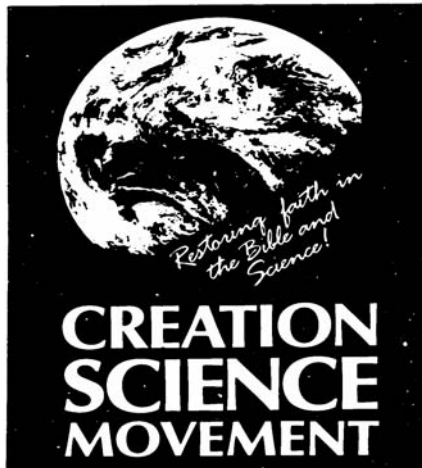
Plant - insect relationship supports whale of a tale

The Old Testament book of Jonah is a remarkable example of God's desire to extend mercy to an undeserving nation, and of His dealings with the reluctant prophet whom He wished to use to bring this about. The account describing how Jonah learned obedience the hard way - by being thrown overboard, swallowed by a great fish and then deposited conveniently close to Nineveh - is comparatively well known (see CSM leaflet no. 315 for background historical information). However, the incident that followed the repentance of Nineveh has received somewhat less attention.

Jonah apparently was none too pleased that God had spared the Ninevites from destruction and so God gave him an object lesson involving a "vine" and a "worm" (Jonah chapter 4). Now, after more than 2,500 years, it seems that scientists may have discovered the true identity of this "worm" and the plant it feeds upon.

Hausmann & Mhller¹ point out that the traditional English translation of the Hebrew word "kikayon" as "vine" is probably incorrect and that it should be translated "castor oil plant" (*Ricinus*). They list a number of biblical scholars who have concluded that "vine" is a mistranslation and they note also that "kikayon" is the word used in modern Hebrew botanical terminology to refer to the plant genus *Ricinus*.

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The identification of the "vine" as castor oil plant is of particular interest to entomologists because *Ricinus* is highly toxic: very few insects will feed on it at all. Both the seeds and the leaves are poisonous, and in fact an extract of the latter makes an excellent insecticide. In Israel, feeding by insects on *Ricinus* has been virtually unknown - until now. A recent paper by Witt et al.² describes a beautiful moth that is new to science. They name it *Olepa schleini* and, astonishingly, its larvae appear to feed *exclusively* on *Ricinus*.

Hausmann & Mhller note that the habits of the larvae of *Olepa schleini* match the account in the book of Jonah extremely well. The larvae are active at night. They may gather selectively on individual

Ricinus shrubs and can be highly destructive, gnawing the stem so that withering and death can occur in only a short time. Before sunrise they leave the plant and hide in litter and dry leaves nearby. Hausmann & Mhller comment that no other species of insect in the world is known to have this characteristic and unusual feeding behaviour on Ricinus, making it an extremely likely candidate for Jonah's "worm".

Creationists will not be surprised that the inspired Word of God proves yet again to be accurate when it touches upon scientific matters. What is surprising at first glance is that such an extraordinary and highly destructive Ricinus-feeding insect should have gone unobserved in Israel (or any other Middle Eastern country) for so long. Sadly, Mhller et al.³ note that this fascinating moth, so newly known to science, is a scarce and localised species that is already in danger of becoming extinct. It has a restricted distribution and its habitat is under threat.

R. Cambridge.

References

1. Hausmann, A. & Mhller, G. C., 2006, The biblical worms on Jonah's Ricinus were *Olepa schleini* larvae. *Mitt. Mhch. Ent. Ges.* 95: 5-9.
2. Witt, T. J., Mhller, G. C., Kravchenko, V. D., Miller, M. A., Hausmann, A. & Speidel, W., 2005, A new *Olepa* species from Israel. *NachrBl.bayer.Ent.* 53: 101-115.
3. Mhller, G. C., Kravchenko, V. D., Speidel, W., Hausmann, A., Ortal, R., Miller, M., Orlova, O. B. & Witt, T., 2006, Distribution, phenology, ecology, behaviour and conservation issues of the new Israeli tiger moth *Olepa schleini* Witt et al., 2005. *Mitt. Mhch. Ent. Ges.* 95: 19-29.

Media Matters

Interviews with the papers, radio and television so far this year have resulted in articles mentioning CSM in the **Guardian** newspaper (02/01/06, 21/02/06, 12/04/06, 18/04/06), in **The Times Educational Supplement** (10/03/06), a double page article about the Genesis Expo with photos in the **News, the Portsmouth daily paper** (08/03/06, responses 20/03/06), a second **BBC online link** to www.csm.org.uk resulting in 700 hits (11/04/06), **BBC Radio London** interview (22/02/06 following the previous day's Guardian interview), **BBC Radio Manchester** (13/04/06), and **City University online radio** (20/03/06). On 19th April J & DR did an hour long programme on **Revelation TV** (London) that has already been repeated once. On 20th April DR did a phone interview with women's magazine **Take a Break**. On the 21st April a reporter and cameraman from **Teacher's TV** filmed extensively in the Genesis Expo for a programme in early May featuring John MacKay.

Other creationist organisations, particularly Creation Research's John MacKay, also report media coverage during this Australian creationist's visit to the UK recently.

MORI Poll on teaching Creation

The Horizon TV programme did a MORI poll, reported by BBC online 26/01/06, where 2000 people were asked if Creation should be taught in schools. 39% were in favour of creationism/ID with 48% favouring evolution. Given more than one choice, 44% chose creationism, 41% ID and 69% evolution theory. This means that 31% in UK do not want evolution taught in schools.

Evolutionist backlash

This MORI poll alerted the Royal Society, who put out a statement against teaching creationism / Intelligent Design, and commissioned atheist Professor Steve Jones to give a lecture 'Why evolution theory is right and creationism is wrong'. Dr John Le Fanu of the Telegraph and Melanie Philips of the Mail have written against Steve Jones' Royal Society lecture that attacked creationism. Dawkins did two TV programmes on religion as 'The Root of all Evil', and Rod Liddle a Dispatches programme, The Fundamentalists (06/03/06). The Archbishop of Canterbury also declared that creationism should not be taught!

Creationism/ID on schools menu

The Times Educational Supplement carried this headline on its front page, Friday 10th March: 'And God created a Rumpus'. It announced that "Pupils will be asked to discuss creationist theories in science lessons in a new GCSE syllabus, the TES has learned...The contentious modules, contained in new biology syllabuses, say students should be aware that creationism - the strict biblical theory that God created the earth in six days - contradicts Darwin's theory of evolution...Last week Jacqui Smith, schools minister, fuelled the debate, by indicating that pupils should be allowed to consider creationism and intelligent design in science lessons...Direct reference to creationism is made in OCR and Edexcel exam board biology syllabuses. This follows a government-backed recommendation that the science curriculum should allow pupils to debate controversial issues. (This issue of the TES referred to CSM.) The curriculum states that pupils should learn that the fossil record supports Darwinism.

Does the fossil record support evolution theory?

According to educational experts who write the school curriculum, pupils must be informed that the fossil record supports evolution theory. But what do the fossil experts think?

Professor Stephen Jay Gould, until his recent death America's most high profile palaeontologist, wrote:

'The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of palaeontology. The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is inference, however reasonable, not the evidence of fossils.' Gould, S.J., *Evolution's Erratic Pace*, Natural History, vol. 86, May, 1977.

Gould further wrote that the evolutionary links are in the minds of evolutionists:

'Gradualism was never "proved from the rocks" by Lyell and Darwin, but was rather imposed as a bias upon nature. ...has had a profoundly negative impact by stifling hypotheses and by closing the minds of a profession toward reasonable empirical alternatives to the dogma of gradualism. Lyell won with rhetoric what he could not carry with data.' Gould, S. J., *Toward the vindication of punctuational change*. In: W. A. Berggren & J. A. Van Couvering (Eds.): *Catastrophes and Earth History: The New Uniformitarianism*, Princeton University Press, Princeton (New Jersey), pp.14-16, 1984

Not only is there a lack of intermediate forms in the fossil record, but Hutton and Lyell's millions of years of sedimentation

has been thrown into doubt by Derek Agar, late Professor of Geology at Swansea University:

'...I have been trying to show how I think geology got into the hands of the theoreticians who were conditioned by the social and political history of their day more than by observation in the field...In other words, we have allowed ourselves to be brainwashed into avoiding any interpretation of the past that involves extreme and what might be termed 'catastrophic' processes.' Ager, D. V., *The Nature of the Stratigraphical Record*, The Macmillan Press Ltd, London, pp46-47, 1981.

Agar suggested that the nature of some sediments - cross grained sandstone, conglomerates, etc. - showed that they were formed in hours rather than aeons. Catastrophism is back, but not, it seems, a worldwide flood in the days of Noah. People will believe anything so long as it is not in the Bible!

It is a matter of observation that when bivalves such as clams die, the muscle holding their two shells relaxes and they open out. Yet fossil clams have their shells tightly closed as in life. They were buried alive. Crynoids decompose after death to leave a scattering of ossicles, yet fossil 'sea lilies' (right) are found whole. Buried alive. Fossil fish have been found in the act of swallowing a smaller fish, and fossil marine reptiles in the process of giving birth. Buried alive. Upright fossil trees passing through many layers of sediments are not uncommon. They were completely buried before the tops could rot. The fine detail of soft tissue jellyfish fossils indicated sudden burial. The Mt St Helens eruption produced tens of feet of layered sediments in only hours.

So should school pupils be taught that the fossil record supports evolution theory? There are no evolutionary links and the fossils were buried alive in layers laid down catastrophically over continents.

No organs that are evolving have been discovered in fossils or living forms. Where creatures are still around today, they closely resemble the fossil forms. There is only the variability within kinds that reflect the presence of alleles in the genome. This flexibility means that the population of a kind can survive in various ecological niches. This is not alleged macro-evolution.

Hopefully children will be exposed to these facts under the new curriculum.



Knives are out for Intelligent Design

It has been observed in the tea-rooms of many university departments that teaspoons regularly disappear. This is all the more puzzling since forks are never in short supply. A recent study by academics in a leading zoology department has concluded that teaspoons are evolving over time into forks.

The theory is not without its critics, because intermediate forms have not, so far, been reported. Experts say that the process would be so gradual that they would not be found. Others have noted that in tea-rooms frequented by undergraduates living in digs, loss of spoons is usually rapid. Such punctuated evolution has been described as saltation. Evolution may happen too quickly to be observed.

Some fundamentalists from the physics and engineering departments have suggested that teaspoons are designed, and that a change from spoon to fork would involve additional design information. However, as no one can identify the designer of the original teaspoon, it is not appropriate to consider this theory in science classes. The design theory goes back a long way in history, so might be conveniently discussed by theology departments.

However, since the evolution of teaspoons into forks has not been observed, the fundamentalists claim that this is not science. Evolution theory should properly be studied under Religious Education. Others feel that since forks are here and spoons have largely become extinct, this proves evolution.

Henry M. Morris welcomed by the Creator

The well-known creationist author and founder of the Institute of Creation Research in California has died at the age of 87 on 25th February. As a biblical scholar with keen insights on the doctrine of Creation, as well as a hydraulics engineer, he co-authored with theologian John C. Whitcomb Jnr. the book *The Genesis Flood* in 1961. This book offered many arguments for a recent Creation, Fall and worldwide flood, and was very influential in the thinking of our own EPM Council. CSM, then known as the Evolution Protest Movement, was the world's only creationist organisation, with branches in N. America, S. Africa, Australia and New Zealand. However, we had some long-age creationists and gap theorists, as well as young earth creationists in leadership. Thanks largely to Dr. Morris, CSM became exclusively young earth creationist, and he graciously accepted to become one of our distinguished Vice-Presidents.

He recently wrote to us (October 14, 2005): "I am honored to be included as one who is supportive of your fine ministry there in England and the world in general. Anyway, we do appreciate your own work there at the Creation Science Movement and the wonderful literature you publish from time to time. I wish it were possible to travel to England once more to see your museum, but I am afraid my traveling days are gone. Anyway we trust the Lord will continue to lead and bless you in your strategic ministry there." When Joan and I were invited to visit him in his office at ICR, we saw over his desk a plaque which simply said **Perhaps Today**. His travelling days are done.
DR

Cuttings & Comments from **New Scientist**

4 February p.21 Hubble explodes latest 'evidence' of cosmic strings

'It is a bit sad', said Tom Kibble who pioneered the theory of cosmic strings, the latest idea for explaining the mismatch between big bang theory of the origin of the universe and observations. He had hoped that a seeming double image of a distant galaxy was a case of lensing by a string, but Hubble has now shown that it really is twin galaxies. Perhaps someone will now come up with straw theory to grasp at.

A scientist of the highest calibre who did know Who made the universe was young earth creationist Michael Faraday. The 4th February issue (p.6) also carried a derogatory piece calling Faraday a poser without peer. This pioneer of electromagnetism was of humble origins, and took elocution lessons to temper his cockney accent. So, for wanting to communicate clearly, this genius is denigrated as a poser by a science historian from Cambridge. I don't suppose Patricia Fara will ever get her image on the back of a banknote.

11 February p.36 Make me a hipporoo

Veteran scientist Freeman Dyson considers the way in which computer technology has developed since the 1940s, when no one could conceive that one day kids would do their homework on them. He also notes the advances in our knowledge of biochemistry and more recently of genetic engineering. He looks to the next 50 years when, he thinks, children will all have home kits for diy genetic modification when the barriers between species will have been breached.

11 February p.48 In search of a second genesis

In this book review Paul Davies ponders on how life got started. Are we on earth unique or is the naturalistic origin of life inevitable under the right conditions? **"Almost a century and a half [after Darwin] the origin of life remains one of the great unsolved problems of science."** We can't make life in a test tube. But even supposing we did manage it, Davies concludes: **"It is one thing for a primitive cell to be painstakingly designed and manufactured by a team of trained organic chemists in a laboratory full of expensive equipment, quite another for it to happen spontaneously in the rough and tumble of the natural world ...The range and diversity of the theories serve to confirm that, to date, we really don't have much of a clue about how or where life began, or how long it took."**

18 February p.7 In the soup

"The cherished idea, first suggested by Charles Darwin, that life on Earth emerged billions of years ago from a warm prebiotic soup, may not be correct after all. Scientists at a meeting of the Royal Society in London on Tuesday said that when DNA molecules and amino acids form in warm volcanic puddles they bind strongly to clay particles and can take no further part in reactions."

This sounds as though DNA and amino acids can form in volcanic puddles. They can't. DNA from living things, and amino acids made biochemically, when placed in such puddles, bind to clay and become chemically inert. No stage in this "cherished idea" can take place naturally, and as Urey and Miller found out in 1953, it doesn't even work with intelligent encouragement.

4 March p.16 Jurassic 'beaver' is new fossil record

The fossil of a semi-aquatic beaver-like creature has been unearthed in the region of China famed for its 'feathered dinosaur' fossils. It is called *Castorcauda lustrasimilis* which translates as beaver-tail otter-like. It has a flat tail like a beaver and was half a metre long. **"The animal had a full mammalian pelt, with guard hairs and under fur, and scales on the tail like a modern beaver... had webbed feet and limbs adapted for swimming, and teeth specialised for catching fish"**. Not a lot of evolution there then, except that it is in a layer labeled Jurassic that is claimed to be 100 million years before whales took to the water. **"Hair keeps us warm, and sweat glands help us to disipate heat, so skin is part of the adaptation to constant body temperature, says Luo. Mammary glands evolved from sweat glands..."** I wonder how they fed their young before these mammary glands evolved, and why don't we have teats where we sweat most?

Other Jurassic fossils, a foot-note tells us, are a creature with feet adapted for digging into insect mounds, with teeth like its modern equivalent, the armadillo, and another that shows similar skeletal adaptations to the modern digging and semi-aquatic water mole.

Of course if we discount the 150-200 million year date we are possibly looking at creatures similar to today's semi-aquatic mammals buried in water-borne sediments at the Flood.

'Adaptations' sounds as though the creature changed itself by usage. A better explanation is that these features were designed to be optimal for the jobs they do, be that digging or swimming or whatever.

4 March p.19 Floral eavesdroppers get defensive

"Methyl jasminate, used in Chanel No. 5, is produced by sagebrush when it is attacked by herbivores. The volatile chemical stimulates the production of toxic defense compounds, but other plant species 'eavesdrop' on the alarm signal and crank up their own chemical defense ...And plants tipped off by the fragrant signal have an even more subtle response. Instead of producing a costly arsenal of toxins such as nicotine, Kessler discovered that tobacco simply primes itself for defence: it elevates levels of precursors of its defence chemicals. Nicotine can then be produced more quickly, but levels of the toxins themselves hardly rise. Kessler believes eavesdropping is widespread in the plant community."

How would plants survive the attack of herbivores before its toxic defence evolved? What incentive had the sagebrush to send out methyl jasminate to warn its neighbours? How did its neighbours know how to interpret the chemical signal? How did it work out that it was less expensive in resources to simply prime the defences rather than go all the way to producing its toxins? How did it know what toxin the herbivore would want to avoid, and then work out the production process that could stop partway?

This multi-stage process has all the hallmarks of design. A chemist would require intelligence and skill, plus a laboratory of apparatus, to synthesis methyl jasminate. The makers of Chanel No. 5 charge quite a lot for their product - I know. But as a chemist I would rather buy the perfume than make it myself. My wife would also prefer that I bought it. Perhaps sagebrush... no!

11 March p.18 Why we aren't like our cousins

A geneticist from Chicago has measured gene activity in equivalent genes from humans, chimps, orang-utans and rhesus macaques. There were differences in 12 to 19 per cent of the 907 genes for which he got good data.

“In particular, genes coding for transcription factors, which regulate the activity of other genes, tended to be especially active in humans.” Other genes had not differed in activity between the four kinds. Many body structures and activities such as breathing will require the same genes. Genes that turn on or off other genes will make a lot of difference. Try living alongside them and the difference between them and us becomes rather more evident.

11 March p.30 Evolution and us

“He believes that the rate of human evolution is accelerating, and that selection for sexually desirable traits is the driving force. ‘Our high rates of migration, outbreeding, and cross-ethnic mating are recombining our genes at unprecedented rates’, he says.”

Inbreeding, as within families or small communities encourages mutations to be expressed - the village idiot effect. However although mixing breeds lessens the chances of offspring having mutant forms of the same genes from both parents, it does not make the existing genes themselves fitter.

“In 1000years, Miller predicts, ‘people will be much more beautiful, intelligent, symmetrical, healthy and emotionally stable, due to 40 generations of genetic screening against harmful mutations.’”

Eliminating mutant genes is not evolution. The genes have not acquired information.

18 March p.8 Abortion

The South Dakota Task Force on Abortion, consisting of a 17 member panel of senators, lawyers, doctors and campaigners from both sides of the issue have reported.

“The task force finds that the new recombinant DNA technologies indisputably prove that the unborn child is a whole human being from the moment of fertilisation, that all abortions terminate the life of a living human being, and that the unborn child is a separate human patient under the care of modern medicine.

The task force cited scientific advances since 1973 as showing an embryo to be a ‘whole, separate, unique, living, human being’ from the moment of conception. The advances in question include DNA fingerprinting, which shows a pattern of DNA that can identify an individual, and the polymerase chain reaction, which makes it possible to amplify and extract that information from a single cell... The task force also cited findings that control of growth and development are established by the embryo’s DNA after the third division of the fertilised egg: this stage is reached long before the embryo is implanted in the womb, which has previously been cited as when personhood began.”

“Several large studies suggest that women are more likely to suffer from depression, bipolar disorder, and suicidal thoughts following an abortion and are more likely to abuse drugs.”

Four members of the panel, presumably the pro-choice campaigners, disputed the findings. Nevertheless the governor of South Dakota has enacted a law banning all abortions in the state, except when a woman’s life is in danger.

18 March p.20 Ears need coils

“Why are mammals’ inner ears coiled like a snail shell? ..They say the shape improves hearing by amplifying sound vibrations, particularly at low frequencies... The researchers liken this to the ‘whispering gallery’ effect in St Pauls Cathedral in London, where the gallery’s circular shape allows someone whispering against its wall to be heard on the opposite side.” Cochleae are testimony to intelligent design.

25 March p.20 The oldest human footprints in Oz

In south-eastern Australia, 457 footprints of at least a dozen children and adults have been found. The size and spacing indicate that some of the people were almost two metres tall and ran at up to 20kph (12mph). The prints are dated at 20,000 years old. The Laetoli prints in Africa are said not to be human because they are thought to be millions of years old. Since sediments can be laid down in hours rather than millions of years, both dates are gross over-estimates. I wonder what they were trying to run away from at such speed?

24 March p.24 Good god guide

Here is another letter from philosopher Dr Mary Midgely, the scourge of men like Dawkins and Dennett, describing them as disturbingly irrational and unscientific.

“Why do memeticists always apply their methods to doctrines that they dislike, such as religions, or to indifferent ones, rather than favoured ones such as belief in democracy, Darwinism, or indeed memetics itself? Till that is done, their approach can surely only serve to justify bias.”

1 April p.6 The clergy rise up

“More than 10,000 clergy have signed up to the ‘Clergy letter project’, launched in 2004 by Michael Zimmerman of the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh. ‘Evolution Sunday’, held in February to discuss the compatibility of science and religion, is planned to become a yearly event at churches across the US, Zimmerman says.”

This list of churches that preach that evolution is truly historical and that death is not therefore the result of sin, can be viewed at their www.darwinday.org web site. UK creationist organisations such as CRT and CSM have combined to counter this web site by buying the domain names www.darwinday.org.uk and www.darwinday.co.uk and darwinday.info. School children directed to their site will do a Google search and be also led to ours. As the bicentenary celebrations of Darwin’s birth on 12th February 2009 approaches, our site will show links to specific articles on a number of creationist sites that counter the claims of darwinday.org. So the site itself will not have to be full of articles but will point to answers already present on other sites. We thank Geoff Chapman for obtaining the domain names.

The CSM Council see the education of clergy in the truth of Scripture as of primary importance and deplore the ambivalent stance of the Evangelical Alliance. (We are members of EA to show that we are not a cult but agree to the EA Statement of Faith.) We have been in contact with an EA official, and our letters of complaint about the theistic evolutionary article in IDEA, their magazine, helped persuade them to invite Professor Andy McIntosh, a former Vice-President of CSM, to write on Creation.

1 April p.18 Climate blamed for mass extinctions

We read that the Flood in the days of Noah killed off life on earth except for those marine creatures which survived plus pairs of all air breathing animal kinds on the Ark. Death was due to volcanic action unlike anything since (the fountains of the deep) and worldwide water inundation (the windows of heaven). The Lord Jesus confirmed the Flood that took them all away. Those creatures that did not thrive in the post-Flood climatic conditions (especially the large reptiles) have become extinct.

Evolutionists interpret the fossils as laid down over hundreds of millions of years, and because they are sorted into layers, claim that these are a history of separate extinctions. This article talks of an Ordovician extinction 450 million years ago where marine life is seriously affected, a Devonian extinction 374 ma ago when again marine life is most severely affected, a Permian extinction 251 ma ago affecting both marine and land creatures, Triassic and Cretaceous extinctions, the latter extinguishing the dinosaurs 65 ma ago. They claim huge volcanic eruptions and meteor impacts. The sediments are all either marine or igneous, agreeing with Scripture in all but the time-scale.

Today it is recognised that sediments were laid down rapidly (see page four of this Creation journal). Derek Agar suggested that the great time gaps between the catastrophes left no geological evidences.

If we assume a decrease in the speed of light since the Creation, and hence of the rate of radioactive decay, then all of the evidence fits neatly into an approximately 6,000year earth history. We await the last act. Perhaps today!

8 April The fish that headed for land

A fossil claimed to be a 370 ma old fish has been found in the remote Arctic. Not any old fish but the missing link between fish and land animals. No, this is not the fragment of jawbone found in Elgin a few years ago by missing link specialist Per Alberg. This 'intermediate' lacks the bony covering of the gills that fish have, so it's air-breathing. Its fossil fins show bones of a wrist-like arrangement and flexible elbow, but sadly no fingers and toes. The creature shows a lot of erosion, however. Its neck could move and the skull looks rather like a crocodile's. I guess it will serve its purpose until a more convincing one is found.

8 April p.32 The quantum elixer

This article relates some of the extraordinary properties of water. Most of us are aware that ice floats, unlike other liquids when they freeze. If ice were heavier than water, the oceans would freeze from their bottoms up and life would not be possible. Water has a high heat capacity so that the oceans modify fluctuations in temperature. This is all due to the weak hydrogen bonds between the H₂O molecules constantly forming and breaking apart. They are the result of a quantum phenomenon known as zero point vibrations. Water molecules are involved in the folding of proteins into their vital shapes, and they trap water in folding. **"Without water it's all just chemistry. Add water and you get biology."** Water also influences the manner in which proteins bind to DNA. **"The problem is that much more research needs to be done to find the right techniques to probe the properties of water."**

Without water life is impossible. But with water life is not inevitable.

22 April p.11 Evolution gets busy in the urban lab

Here is yet another article trying to kid us that when grey squirrels and great tits modify their behaviour in city environments we are witnessing Darwinian evolution. Squirrels, whose country cousins dash rapidly across open fields, stop and look both ways when traversing a four lane highway - survival of the streetwise. Tits sing at a higher pitch against the low frequency hum of city life. Darwin himself was no more logical. His *Origin of species* talked about finch beaks and tortoise shell patterns. And loads of church pastors have been taken in.

22 April p.16 Fighting superbugs with milk

A marsupial fetus lacks an immune system, but its mother's milk protects it against pathogens. Ben Cocks, of Melbourne "**has found that the mother's milk contains a molecule that is 100 times more effective against Gram-negative bacteria such as *E. coli* than the most potent form of penicillin. The molecule, called AGG01, also kills four types of Gram-positive bacteria and one type of fungus.**" Young placental mammals have their own immune system.

22 April p.16 It moves whales

The U-shaped hyoid bone above our larynx helps us chew, keeps our tongue in place and drops lower at 2 years old to allow us to speak. But for the whale, the much enlarged hyoid is a locomotor bone, enabling it to swim. The up and down motion of the tail starts at the head, powered by muscles attached to the hyoid. 'Their locomotion is really a body wave' says Joy Reidenberg of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Yet another design feature.

CSM News

At the time of writing, **Dr David Rosevear**, CSM chairman, is due to debate the issue of teaching creationism and Intelligent Design in schools. This will be on the BBC South regional half of the Sunday **Politics Show on BBC ONE TV at 12.30 May 14th**. These are usually last-minute arrangements by their nature, so we could not give our readers notice, but in any case you will all be at church.

Dr Farid Abou Rahme, a CSM Council member will speak at the **Café Scientifique at Blackburn, 6.30pm on May 16th**, at the **Youth Hostel at Milton Keynes on Sunday 10.30am, May 21st** at the **Evangelical Church, Walsall, 7.30pm on June 7th** and at **Bosworth College, Northampton 10am on June 22nd**

There will be a debate involving the Australian creationist **John MacKay** and **Dr Jeff Ollerton** (Senior Lecturer in Environmental Science, University of Northampton) at the **University of Northampton Main Lecture Hall at 7:30pm on June 10th**. Capacity 250 - come early to avoid disappointment - arranged by Farid, one of the leaders of the Northampton Creationist Group, and Randall Hardy of Creation Research UK.

"Thousands not Billions" DVD presentation **Abbey Centre Northampton 7:30pm 15th July**

CSM Council member **Andrew Sibley** will be at **Crossroad Christian Centre, Seaton, Devon 10:45 am, Sunday 23rd July** and at **Lyme Regis, Dorset, Combe Street Chapel, 4pm, 27th August**

The following notes were sent to us by possibly our oldest member who joined the EPM, now CSM, in 1934.

Dr. Leonard Loose has read everything Darwin wrote and published, and is a mine of information on Creation. The numbers refer to the quotations below.

Did you know that Darwin admitted that:

His theory is conjectural and may be false.¹
Finding living evidence in support of his theory is simply hopeless.²
His theory is challenged by the evidence for Creation.³
He unfairly excluded the evidence for Creation when presenting his case for evolution.⁴
The fossil record offers no evidence for evolution.⁵

Darwin in presenting his theory:

Makes 243 statements of ‘belief’.⁶
Requires 202 ‘probabilities’⁷
Assumptions, suppositions and presumptions are frequently made.⁸
Was unable to cite one example of one species and its several stages of change and improvement becoming two distinct non-crossbreeding species.⁹

Quotations

1. You object to all my illustrations. They were all necessarily conjectural and may be all false, but they were the best I could give.
Aug. 1860 letter to W H Harvey in *More letters*

of Charles Darwin, vol 1, p.162
2. To get the degree of sterility you expect in recently formed varieties seems to be simply hopeless.
Letter to T H Huxley, *ibid* p.225
3. For I am well aware that scarcely a single point is discussed in this volume on which facts cannot be adduced, often leading to conclusions directly opposite to those at which I have arrived.
The origin of species, Dent 1972 p.18
4. A fair result can be obtained only by fully stating and balancing the facts and arguments on both sides of each question, and this is here impossible. *ibid* p.18
5. Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such graduated chain and this perhaps is the most obvious and serious objection which can be urged against my theory. *ibid* p.292-3
6. *The origin of species*, e.g. pp 162,163, 228,229,390,391,457,458.
7. *ibid*, pp 112,113,172,173,282,283,384, 385,426,427.
8. There are engendered those fragile towers of hypotheses based on hypotheses where fact and fiction intermingle in an inextricable confusion...We are beginning to realise now that the method is unsound and the satisfaction illusory. WR Thomson, Introduction p.xxiv, *Origin of species*, Dent, 1928.
9. I insisted on the necessity of obtaining experimental proof...from the first [1860]. I told Darwin this was the weak point of his case.
Professor T H Huxley, *Life and Letters*, 1903, vol.III, p.203.

Creation Science Movement

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