

CREATION

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CSM's contention is that the multitude of scientific evidence in the world around us points to a Creator: the universe is designed. And if so, it follows that one should expect some integration of the whole, as it has all proceeded from the mind and purposes of the same Person. Here then are two examples of just how astonishingly integrated and detailed this design is. As the Bible says, we cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end (Ecc. 3: 11).

Laminin: the Cross Within our Bodies

Adapted by J. Powell and R. Cambridge from notes provided by a medical doctor, with reference to a DVD sermon by Louie Giglio.

How inconceivably big is our God! He spoke the universe into being: stars that are huge raging balls of fire. Yet this star-breathing Creator of the universe also knit our human bodies together in minute detail. This reminded me of my constant amazement when studying the human body at medical school, so often thinking 'How can ANYONE deny that a Creator did all of this?' And we can trust that the God who

created all this, also has the power to hold it all together when things appear to be falling apart. Our loving Creator is also our sustainer.

And then I lost my breath as he [Louie Giglio] began to describe laminin. I knew about laminin. It is described in Wikipedia as 'a family of proteins that are an integral

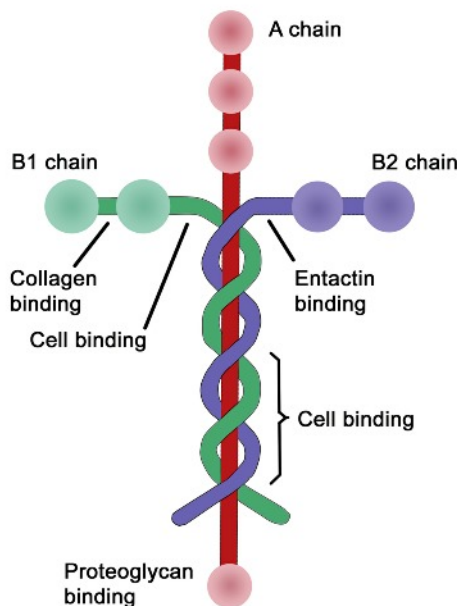


Diagram of a laminin molecule. Image: CSM.

part of the structural scaffolding of basement membranes in almost every animal tissue'. Laminins are what hold us together - literally. They are cell-adhesion molecules, holding one cell of our bodies to the next; without them, we would literally fall apart. I knew this already, but had never seen what they actually looked like. Now I have, and have thought about it a thousand times since.

This diagram is not an adaptation or 'Christian portrayal' of laminin, but a sample of what you will find in standard medical textbooks. Colossians 1: 15-17 springs to mind: *'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him **all things** were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **all things** were created by him and for him. He is before **all things**, and in him **all things** **consist** [hold together].'* [Emphases: JP.]

I think it is incredible that Paul penned those words two thousand years before the world knew anything about laminin, yet we can now see that from an absolutely literal standpoint we are indeed held together, one cell to another, **by the cross!**

Looking at the structure of laminin, you would never convince me that this is anything other than the mark of a Creator, who knew exactly what laminin 'glue' would look like long before Adam breathed his first breath. In other words, the Theistic Evolutionist notion that God fumbled His way through the Creation process over millions of years, getting it repeatedly wrong through a process of 'chance mutation', is an absurd and blasphemous insult to our Creator God.

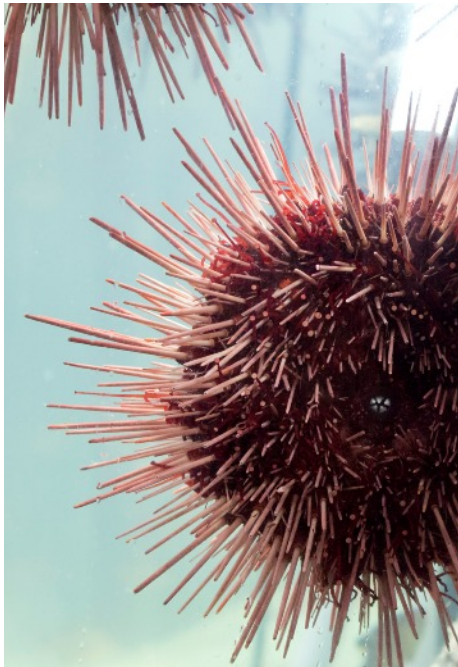
This image of laminin also reminds one very closely of Moses' rod (Numbers 21: 6-9), where we learn of how the Israelites, spreading discord by complaining about God's provision of manna, were judged by serpents. Referring to this passage, and to John 3: 14 - 15, Matthew Henry's Bible commentary explains:

"It is to be feared that they would not have owned the sin, if they had not felt the smart; but they relented under the rod. And God made a wonderful provision for their relief. The Jews themselves say it was not the sight of the brazen serpent that cured; but in looking up to it, they looked up to God as the Lord that healed them. There was much Gospel in this. Our Saviour declared (John 3: 14, 15), that as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of man [representing our sin nature] must be lifted up [crucified], that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish. Compare their disease and ours. Sin bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder. Compare the application of their remedy and ours. They looked and lived, and we, if we believe, shall not perish. It is by faith that we look unto Jesus (Hebrews 12: 2). Whosoever looked, however desperate his case, or feeble his sight, or distant his place, was certainly and perfectly cured. The Lord can relieve us from dangers and distresses, by means which human reason never would have devised. Oh, that the venom of the old serpent, inflaming men's passions, and causing them to commit sins which end in their eternal destruction, were as sensibly felt, and the danger as plainly seen, as the Israelites felt pain from the bite of the fiery serpents, and feared the death which followed! Then none would shut

their eyes to Christ, or turn from his Gospel. Then a crucified Saviour would be so valued, that all things else would be accounted loss for him; then, without delay, and with earnestness and simplicity, all would apply to Him..., crying, Lord, save us; we perish! Nor would any abuse the freeness of Christ's salvation, while they reckoned the price which it cost Him."

Sea urchin spines

Yet another structure of interest to those involved in the developing field of biomimetics is the spine of the sea urchin. Scientists are interested in this seemingly simple structure because of its remarkable properties: there is far more to it than one might suppose. An understanding of how



Sea urchins in an aquarium. Image: CSM.

the spine is constructed could lead to important industrial applications, such as the production of stronger concrete. Therefore it has been the subject of intensive scrutiny recently in a research project involving specialists in a number of scientific fields (see <http://goo.gl/hXQ3L>).

It turns out that the spine is a composite structure, made up of both "bricks" and "mortar". The "bricks" are formed from crystals of calcite, whereas the "mortar" is non-crystalline calcium carbonate, in the proportions of 92% to 8% respectively. This basic recipe facilitates the building up of a range of structures that become apparent at different levels of magnification, making the spine what is known as a mesocrystal. One of the lead researchers of the project, Jong Seto of the University of Konstanz, Germany, was reported as saying, "We started using more high-power techniques to go further down in the structure, and the further we go down, the more different modes of architecture and different organisations we find".

If the urchin's spines were only single calcite crystals they would be strong but brittle: they would cleave along their planes, as does mica or slate. However, the spines are tougher than this and if they do break at all, they do so irregularly, indicating their composite structure. The sea urchin thus has a protective array that is both tough and flexible.

One is reminded of another important material, human bone (see CSM leaflet no. 378, Your Amazing Skeleton). This too is a composite material, giving it exactly the right properties. What are the odds of an organism developing a structure based on exactly the right ingredients - from a vast multiplicity of possibilities - in exactly the

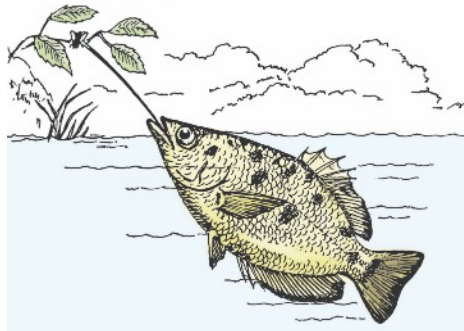
right proportions *just by chance*? Darwin's Theory of Evolution is a non-starter. Clearly we have an amazing Designer.

Archery with added power

A recent article on the BBC News website (see <http://goo.gl/DfyuS>) drew attention to the abilities of the archer fish, a creature with great prowess in shooting down its insect prey with jets of water even through the distorted optics of the interface between water and air. But how does a tiny fish produce such powerful jets?

A research team from the University of Milan has now shown that the fish's forceful strike is formed *externally*, using water dynamics, rather than using the body's internal muscles. This subtle ability gives the fish a strike range of as much as two metres, significantly more powerful than would be possible if it relied on its muscles alone.

The new research has demonstrated that as the archer fish spits, it "modulates" the velocity of the water jet to alter its shape



Sketch of an archer fish shooting down an insect. Image in the public domain.

through the air. The head of the water jet increases in volume from liquid arriving from its tail to form a large drop, which hits its prey with greater force.

One wonders how exactly the lowly archer fish managed to achieve such a sophisticated utilisation of water mechanics. Could it possibly have had some intelligent help...?

Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist by Dr David Rosevear

6 October p.17 – Mammal ancestor not so puny

“The common ancestor of modern mammals was tiny and shrewlike, living unobtrusively in the shadow of the dinosaurs – or so we thought... Fossils indicate that some larger mammals shared the dinosaurs’ world.”

What is not revealed here is that a study of beds in which dinosaurs fossils are found shows that all today's plants and animals lived alongside these dragons. There was no separate 'age of dinosaurs'. Moreover, we find today that it is important to have a balanced ecosystem, not a single group of creatures.

13 October p.15 – DNA has a half-life and it's a whopper

A study of DNA extracted from the leg bones of 158 extinct flightless birds called moas has given an estimated half-life of **“521 years – almost 400 times longer than expected from lab experiments.”** Other DNA **“from 450,000 to 800,000-year-old insects and plants preserved in ice”** is



Skeleton of a moa. DNA has been recovered from moa bones, but estimates of its age are predicated on huge assumptions. Image: Wikipedia, in the public domain.

calculated to have a half-life of **“up to 158,000 years, meaning the last remnants would disappear around the 6.8-million-year mark.**

“The kinetics of DNA decay in solution means that we would not find any DNA in a 100,000-year-old bone – but we do.”

The dating of rock sediments is based on the theory that they were laid down gradually, rather than catastrophically at the flood. So with all the estimated ages wildly too great, it follows that the half-lives are equally mistaken. This is reflected in the mismatch with the observed lab results. The finding of soft tissue, blood cells and DNA in fossils by a team of scientists headed by Mary Schweitzer is the motivation for these calculations.

13 October p.33 – In from the cold

“In this picture, the universe works on the back of processes that increase entropy [that is, randomness, disorder] – for example dissipating heat from places where it is concentrated, and therefore more ordered, to cooler areas, where it is not.

“That predicts a grim fate for the universe itself. Once all heat is maximally dissipated, no useful process can happen in it any more. It dies a ‘heat death’. A perplexing question is raised at the other end of cosmic history, too. If nature always favours states of high entropy, how and why did the universe start in a state that seems to have been of comparatively low entropy? At present we have no answer...”

The problem is not with their thermodynamics but with their cosmic history. The universe was created in a state of low entropy – that is, perfect order. The Creator pronounced it ‘very good’. Since the Fall, entropy has increased, providing energy for the work done by all processes. At the end of time, the Creator will make all things new, the opposite of death.

20 October p.28 – Revolutionary road

In 1962, Thomas Kuhn’s book *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* described how science is characterised by paradigms that describe and explain the observations of events. If and when sufficient anomalies arise, patching up of the theory with *ad hoc* assumptions is no longer possible and a new paradigm becomes necessary. This is a paradigm shift. Such a shift was thought to have become necessary when the new science of geology taught that the earth was millions or even billions of years old. The theory of evolution replaced the biblical view of Creation.

What this article will not say is that all the anomalies in the big bang theory, all the problems with genetics, as well as those found in measuring rates of nuclear decay, have stretched the credibility of the evolution paradigm, and that it is high time to face facts and revert to a Creation worldview.

27 October p.12 – Don't rule out finding alien DNA on Mars

Human genome cracker Craig Venter wants to send a DNA sequencer on NASA's next trip to the planet Mars. Looking for biochemicals would not be an unambiguous sign of the existence of former living creatures, because some 'biomolecules' may simply be chemicals like sugars that can form by chance. Also comets could have carried biomolecules from earth.

Mars lacks both a thick atmosphere and a protective magnetic field like earth, so any living thing would have to live at least a metre beneath the surface to avoid harmful radiation. Moreover, biomolecules such as proteins and DNA break down over time. So they will have plenty of excuses when DNA isn't found and sequenced.

All of this highlights how special the earth is, created to be inhabited (Isaiah 45:18).

27 October p.30 – The missing reel

Apparently, 400,000 years after the big bang, when the universe was very young, oh my best beloved, there was a **"single flash that bathed the cosmos in light.... The infant universe is, like a newborn baby, almost featureless, yet to assume the characteristics that will mark it out in later life. When our telescopic cameras pick up its story again, however, it is recognisably its adult self – stars, galaxies and clusters of galaxies already populate its reaches."** This is stasis, not

evolution, just as we find with the fossils. What happened before we see it as it is today? **"That has long been a matter of conjecture."** It is hoped to fill in 'the missing reel' of this film, presented in the crackle and hiss of radio waves.

They reckon that after the first 400,000 years, the initial plasma had cooled sufficiently for protons and electrons to combine into hydrogen atoms, giving the radiation known as the cosmic background, now found at just above zero absolute temperature. The story continues that gravity pulled clumps of hydrogen atoms together (against their kinetic energy) to form molecules of gas that in turn formed stars. **"Convincing as this plot development is [?], in the absence of observational evidence it is a tale too confidently told. Many significant details of the universe's evolution remain sketchy – and in some cases wholly obscure."**

When stars exploded (devolution) they collapsed to form black holes that sucked in gas and surrounding stars to become massive. **"Yet a typical supermassive black hole would need longer than the age of the universe [their age estimate] to swallow enough material."**

The hope is that new very large arrays of radio telescopes can provide the missing reel in this blockbuster piece of fiction! Up until now the technology has not been available to see a hydrogen radio signal that has been stretched by time. A 30 antenna giant radio telescope built in India has proved too small.

3 November p.32 – The great thaw

We know that vast sheets of ice stretched out from the poles in the past. Glaciers have left striations in the bedrock surfaces, and 'erratic' boulders were dumped far from their place of origin. Submarine



The formation of the great ice sheets, and their subsequent decline, can be explained as consequences of a sudden catastrophic world event - the Flood. Image: CSM.

shelves show that sea levels dropped some 120 metres below today's tide marks, but a thaw raised sea levels and Britain was separated from the European Union.

What caused this drastic climate change? Variations in earth's orbit with time are not sufficient. Once the ice was in place (reckoned here to be a period from 120,000 until 20,000 years Before Present) the thaw may have been triggered by changes in sea currents and winds, with heat washing from the hot tropics towards the poles. Also density differences between fresh melt water and seawater would have induced vertical mixing. In the 1980s, ice cores in Antarctica showed remarkable correlation between carbon dioxide levels in the ice and temperature. However, this simply reflects the greater solubility of the gas at

low temperature, so does not necessarily imply that this gas caused the climate change. Rather, this greenhouse gas raises the temperature.

Evolutionary dating tells them that the southern hemisphere began to thaw a few hundred years before the north. If the ice age was the catastrophic result of the flood, varves would represent frequent snow storms rather than winter seasons, so this gap could have been daily variations.

A creationist view would take note of the rise in sea temperature due to massive volcanic activity during the flood. The high evaporation rate, coupled with increased heat radiation from the earth to space with the collapse of the water vapour canopy, would lead to snow condensing at the poles. The sun has less heating effect at the poles than the tropics. Rapid build-up of snow leads to compression into ice, and this flows under gravity out from the Polar Regions across the globe. Eventually the oceans cool by evaporation and radiation, plus the inflowing of ice sheets from the poles. This process gradually slows up and is now mainly a seasonal effect. The earth is young.

10 November p.4 – Mars out of gas

“Methane on Mars? Maybe not, according to the latest readings from NASA's Curiosity rover. The robot's search for the organic gas, the first to be carried out within Mar's atmosphere, has essentially found nothing.”

See also 8 December below.

10 November p.15 Ray of hope dims for dark matter

Hopes have been raised and dashed again over finding dark matter, the stuff needed by big bang theory to act as a gravitational glue to stop galaxies from flying apart as they spin round. The universe's mass,

according to the theory, should be composed of 80 per cent of dark matter. They thought they had found indirect evidence in the form of a spike in gamma rays coming from the middle of the Milky Way. However, **“when the data was reprocessed the signal faded, casting doubt on it being dark matter.”**

When careers and reputations depend upon it, hope can stimulate imagination!

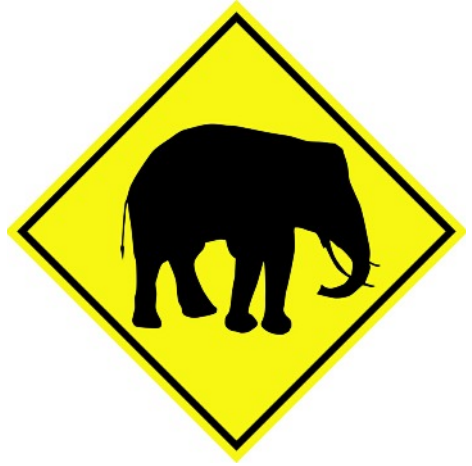
10 November p.34 – The Higgs? Damn...

If hope deferred makes the heart sick, as I read somewhere, then particle physicists must now be feeling thoroughly frustrated. Fifty years ago Peter Higgs invented his particle to give mass to all the other fundamental particles. It was the final piece of a jigsaw puzzle known as the Standard Model. Playing with their atom smasher, the \$6 billion Large Hadron Collider this July, they found evidence of the Higgs' existence in the rubble of a nuclear pile-up.

“His problem is that the standard model is manifestly incomplete. It predicts the outcome of experiments involving normal particles to accuracies of several decimal places, but is frustratingly mute on gravity, dark matter and other components of the cosmos we know or suspect to exist.” There is a **“vast discrepancy between the Higgs actual mass and that predicted by quantum theory.”** The Higgs doesn't decay in accordance with theory and more data is needed, but the LHC is about to shut down for a refit. What they would like is a bigger and better collider, purpose built.

“The elephant in the accelerator tunnel is: if it is the Higgs, how can it even be there in the first place.”

The answers are sought in terms of 'sparticles', super-symmetry and extra dimensions of space. One suspects that they are making it up as they go along.



Even without an elephant in the accelerator, there are jumbo-sized problems with the Big Bang Theory. Some of these are discussed in CSM pamphlet no. 356. Image derived from M. Zacharzewski, www.rgbstock.com.

10 November p.42 – Homo virtuous?

This piece looks at the bottomless depths of human wickedness and the lofty heights of human kindness, and asks: **“What drove the evolution of our moral compass”**. Three pages later it concludes: **“It will be interesting to see how far evolutionary theory in action can bring out the best in us. What is not in doubt is that our worst side will remain. Evolution has made us both altruistic and selfish – good and evil – and we cannot be otherwise. It's impossible for us.”**

An explanation of the origin of evil is found in the book that evolutionists despise, Genesis, but help is available through the Seed of the woman foretold there.

17 November p.18 – Coral calls in the goby cavalry

“When small staghorn corals are at risk of being smothered by mats of turtle weed, they send out a chemical distress signal. This calls the cavalry – in this



Staghorn coral. Image: Adona9, Wikipedia, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

case, broad-barred and redhead gobies – to come to their aid. The gobies eat the turtle weed, protecting the corals.”

When researchers placed the fish in tanks with the turtle weed, the weed was not eaten. Then when the coral was introduced, the fish tucked in to the weed in response to the pheromone signal. In return, corals provide shelter for gobies. Moreover, after eating the weed, the skin secretions of the fish became more toxic to their predators.

This has to be a design feature. Gobies just aren't smart enough to have invented this for themselves.

17 November p.42 - Half-life heresy

It has been an axiom of nuclear physics since the 1930s that the decay of radioactive elements is unaffected by environmental conditions. Orbiting electrons of the atom are affected, but not, it was assumed, particles within the nucleus. This was a basis of radiometric dating; rates of decay are constant.

Now observations are challenging that principle. Decay rates for beta decay (but not alpha decay) in the laboratory slow down when a solar storm reaches the earth. Rates also vary with the time of year as the sun–earth distance varies during our orbit. Decay rates in the northern hemisphere are

faster in February (shortly after the 3rd January perihelion when earth is closer to the sun) and slower in August. To date, a dozen independent groups have logged 20 cases of variable radioactive decay rates.

It is proposed that nuclear decay may be triggered by solar particles that they call neutrellos, acting on the unstable atomic nuclei. Neutrellos, like neutrinos, may mostly pass through matter undetected.

Note from your reviewer

I seem to be spending a lot of time and space on articles about Big Bang theory and about Particle Physics. Is this justified when both are based upon ideas that lack experimental confirmation?

While the average Bible-believer may be happy to skip over these reports, many have children who will meet these secular explanations in school or university. They need to see how tenuous, indeed often how ridiculous, these stories are. Sometimes *New Scientist* admits as much, as in the next item. So please bear with me! DR

24 November p.12 – Higgs is too saintly and SUSY too shy

“Hope of using the Higgs boson and the elegant theory of supersymmetry as shortcuts to discovering the mysteries of the universe are evaporating fast.” So say scientists reporting on new data from the LHC at CERN, to a symposium in Kyoto, Japan. **“...the LHC’s searches for particles predicted by supersymmetry (SUSY) have turned up nothing.”** SUSY was thought up to include dark matter and other omissions in the standard model.

24 November p.42 – What’s the buzz?

The extraordinary mental feats of bees are forcing us to rethink what we thought we knew about intelligence. **“A bee has fewer than a million cells in a brain measuring**



Honeybees: an intensely cooperative lifestyle with a rich repertoire of behaviours. Image: A. van Leen, www.rgbstock.com.

less than a millimetre cubed.” Yet, “bees have well-developed neural networks involved in memory and learning.”

“We have now uncovered a rich repertoire of behaviours under the hive lid. Studies of the choreography of the waggle dance, for instance, have revealed that a worker will interrupt another’s jive with a butt to the head if it has found danger – a spider, say – at the location. Bees also display an extraordinary range of housekeeping chores, including spring cleaning, mutual grooming and a form of surveillance in which ‘bouncers’ guard entrances against intruders. The hive has even evolved its own air conditioning: when temperatures soar, the workers sprinkle water over the

honeycomb and beat their wings to produce a cooling draft.”

One has to wonder how they survived before they ‘evolved’ this skill.

Some 60 different behaviours have been recorded for worker bees, more than for beavers and rabbits, for instance.

“Putting these skills to the test in a labyrinth, honeybees can learn to use abstract signs to find the way to a reward. Importantly, they can then grasp that the same signs mean different things in different mazes – suggesting an understanding of context.”

The evolutionary ‘Just So’ story, o my best beloved, is that **“the expansion kicked off 90 million years ago in a solitary wasp that ultimately gave rise to all these social insects. If so, apian intelligence may have originated for hunting and overwhelming prey, before later being co-opted for a more cooperative and peaceful lifestyle.”**

Another, simpler explanation is that ‘all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all’.

(See also some further fascinating information about bee biology on page 14 of this CSM Journal.)

1 December p.32 – In the beginning

“Has the cosmos existed forever, or did something bring it into existence?”

This is said to be the universe’s greatest mystery, so it’s nice to know that CSM’s function is to tell all and sundry what happened and Who did it in six days.

One reason why the universe cannot be infinitely old is because by the second law of thermodynamics all the stars would by now have gone out.

The article mentions Hubble’s observation that the universe is expanding. Rewind the tape backwards (in theory) and you discover a pin-point of super-dense cosmic

egg with no sign of a cosmic chicken. This still wouldn't say what caused the big bang, nor what happened before that. Such a beginning is called a singularity. Hardly surprising, **"physics breaks down at a singularity, making it impossible to predict what lies on the other side."**

The theory of inflation imagines the beginning as a vacuum in a very high energy state with a negative pressure. Repulsive gravity pushes everything apart. This inflates the vacuum making it even more repulsive. The energy then goes into creating matter and heating it up.

The question of what would have created the original energy in this scenario is overlooked, but they think it happened 13.7 billion years ago. **"One of the striking features of inflation is that it is eternal."** Vacuums just keep bubbling up and inflating. The secret of perpetual motion!

Inflation is one of a few theories hoping to avoid the singularity of a beginning, including 'the cyclic universe'. **"In this scenario, our universe is a four dimensional island, or 'brane', in a higher dimensional space. It collides repeatedly with a second brane. Think of the two branes as two parallel slices of bread, coming together along a fifth dimension, passing through each other,**

pulling apart again, then coming together again."

Crumbs!

"If you run it backwards like a movie in reverse, the cyclic universe encounters either a singularity or some kind of beginning like inflation... Another cosmological scenario considered by Vilenkin and Mithani is even weirder than the cyclic universe. This is the 'emergent universe' imagined by ... 'It's a somewhat desperate scenario,' says Vilenkin... When it comes to the beginning of the universe, in many ways we're still at the beginning."

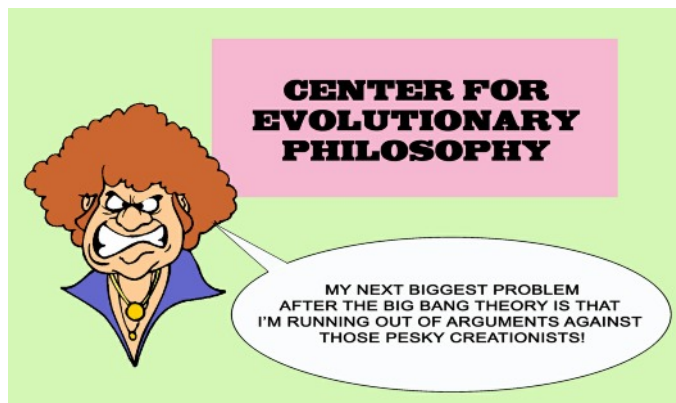
So cosmogony, the origin of the universe, is not a science. It is a load of crazy ideas. And they say Creation is nonsense.

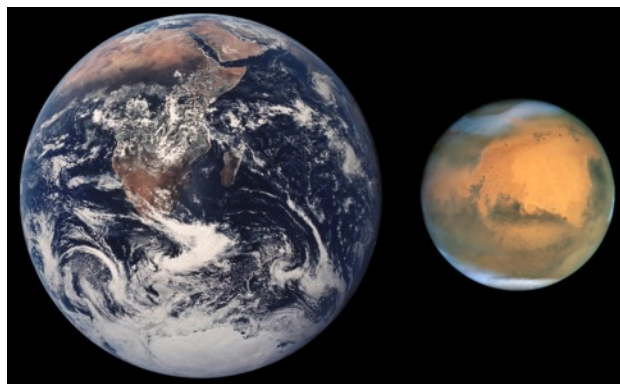
The universe is so obviously designed that scientists recognise this as the Anthropic Principle. To avoid a Creator, some have postulated a multiverse, where we are in the best one out of an infinite array of universes. That explains away how ours got it right.

We are told by the Creator that He made everything in six days, and then rested. This was a pattern for our own toil. The Sabbath was made for man. So what do we know about before the beginning? The Lord Jesus Christ speaks of the glory He shared with the Father before the world

was. He said: 'You loved Me before the foundation of the world'. He is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He has chosen us before the foundation of the world, according to His foreknowledge.

I like that scenario better.





A comparison of Earth and Mars. Image: Wikipedia.

diseases.” It seems there is a library of 50,000 mutations on record that are known to cause disease.

The fact that **“we can lose a surprising number of genes without any noticeable effects on health”** means that over the generations humans accumulate a large burden of mutations. Our general strength and well-being have deteriorated irreversibly. This is a theme of the book *Genetic Entropy* (available from www.csm.org.uk/shop).

8 December p.8 – Mars shake and bake

NASA’s Curiosity Mars rover scoops up buckets of material from the surface and bakes it to up to 1,100°C. They are particularly looking for carbon and hydrogen that might have come from organic matter that had once been alive.

A **“tantalising whiff”** of these elements has been picked up from this analysis.

“This taste of carbon is intriguing, but it is a far cry from recent feverish speculation that the rover had found definitive evidence for organic compounds on Mars... it is still unclear whether the carbon is Martian material or something from Earth that was trapped in the rover. Even if the carbon is from Mars, it may come from inorganic sources, such as carbonate rocks.”

Gravity on Mars is less than on Earth, so there is five times as much heavy hydrogen (deuterium, ^2H) compared to ^1H there than here. The Red Planet has little atmosphere.

15 December p.19 – Deep down, we’re all faulty mutants

“Nobody’s perfect. Even healthy people have at least 400 faulty genes, including a few that could lead to life threatening

15 December p.20 – Fish grows proto-hands, not fins

“Fossils show that limbs evolved from fins.” No they don’t! Fossils show creatures with fins and others with limbs. This conclusion is mere speculation. Limbs and fins are controlled by different genes, and the information in the genes can mutate, but not develop into something useful.

Researchers in Spain **“injected zebrafish [embryos] with the *hoxd13* gene from a mouse. The protein that the gene codes for controls the development of autopods, a precursor to hands, feet and paws.... One full day later, all of those fish whose cells had taken up the gene began to develop autopods instead of fins. They carried on growing for four days but then died.”**

Zebrafish naturally carry *hoxd13* but produce less of the protein than creatures with limbs. This experiment surely rules out any possibility of fins evolving into limbs.

15 December p.38 – Alimentary thinking

Here is an article about the complex nervous system that controls our stomach and intestines. It supposes that it evolved

500,000,000 years ago, but that cannot disguise the evidence that it was designed.

This “**second brain**” has glial cells that support half a million neurons with 40 neurotransmitters. (This hardly compares with the 85 billion neurons and 100 neurotransmitters of our brain). Yet it produces half of our body’s dopamine (a signalling molecule associated with pleasure) and most of our serotonin (the ‘feel-good molecule that fights depression’). The two ‘brains’ are connected by the vagus nerve. Signals from the gut to the head can explain why certain foods make us feel good. This ‘second brain’ oversees digestion, mixing foods in the stomach and coordinating muscle contractions to move it through the gut. Neurons in the gut detect any invading pathogens and may trigger diarrhoea or alert the brain in the head to start vomiting. We are fearfully and wonderfully made!

22/29 December p.8 – Sceptics misuse leaked IPCC report

The recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates a shift in the experts’ understanding of the climate. It offers some justification for the view of sceptics that climate change is not the result of human activity.

“The key sentence examines evidence of the link between the sun’s activity and climate. It concludes that the link is slightly stronger than previously thought.”

The IPCC has also changed its 2007 prediction on droughts. **“Then it concluded that a world beset by more intense droughts was ‘likely’.** But the authors of the new report have taken



Flooded haymeadows in southwest England. Are climatologists’ models of drought reliable? Image: CSM.

heed of recent criticisms that the statistical measure of drought favoured by climatologists is unreliable. The draft quotes studies that show recent ‘decreasing trends in the duration, intensity and severity of drought globally’.

“Another common expectation of a warmer world also bites the dust: more frequent tropical cyclones... After a review of past cyclone counts, it concludes that ‘tropical cyclone data provides low confidence that any reported long-term changes are robust’ ...Elsewhere the report reassures us that the ocean circulation, and with it the Gulf Stream, is ‘unlikely’ to collapse in the coming centuries – a doomsday scenario that was ‘too early to assess’ in 2007.”

However, temperatures are still forecast to rise, ice to melt and sea levels to rise, but how much of this can be blamed on human activity is less clear.

22/29 December 2012 p.88 - Feedback

This festive edition of *New Scientist* concludes with secular good wishes;

“Compliments of the season and a happy new year to all of you.”

By contrast, our Queen, in her Christmas broadcast, quoted from the carol *In the bleak mid-winter* and hoped that we would ‘give Him our hearts’.

Further Comments:

Evolutionists find no comfort in this quarter’s review by *New Scientist*, as you have just read:-

How could their universe start in a highly ordered state? (13/10 above)

They find that their ‘singularity’ makes its study impossible (1/12).

Dark matter remains an enigma (10/11).

Neither the Higgs particle nor super-symmetry theory is helpful in explaining the shortcomings of their standard theory (10/11 & 24/11).

Evidence for past life on Mars is lacking (27/10 & 10/11) or uncertain (8/12).

The basis of radiometric dating has been undermined (17/11).

The expected evolution of fins into hands doesn’t work (15/12).

They were wrong about early mammals with dinosaurs (6/10).

Mutations in DNA conflict with the idea of progressive evolution (15/12).

There is evidence for intelligent design with coral/Gobi fish (17/11), with bees (24/11) and with the neurons in our guts (15/12).

However, there is one thing of which the evolutionists are certain, that is, Creation by an Intelligent Designer is superstitious nonsense. So do not expect a paradigm shift (20/10) until the Creator returns with power and great glory.

Bees that bite

The BBC News website has recently published an article demonstrating that our knowledge of the biology of even such seemingly well-known creatures as bees is still far from complete (see <http://goo.gl/Ee9Yv>).

Anyone who has strayed too close to an active beehive will know from painful experience just how effective their stings can be. But what can bees do about creatures that are too small for them to sting? The article reports that instead of stinging, they bite. What’s more, the bite includes an anaesthetic.

Dr Alexandros Papachristoforou, a biologist at Greece's Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, has found that bees will bite colony pests such as varroa mites and wax moth larvae and at the same time introduce the anaesthetic, 2-heptanone, stunning the pest and making it easy to expel it from the hive.

If a population of mites in a hive is left unchecked it can sap the strength of workers, making them much more susceptible to viruses, disease and other



The greater wax moth. Larvae of this species are destructive pests in beehives. Image: dhobern, Wikipedia, under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic licence.

debilitating conditions; whereas wax moth larvae burrow through the comb in hives, gradually destroying the cells where broods are raised and honey stored.

For bees, the elimination of these pests is a serious business. One wonders therefore how they could have survived before they “evolved” an effective strategy to combat them. Equally, being ejected from its host habitat is a serious blow to the survival of a mite or wax moth larva. So if the theory of Evolution is true, why have they not developed resistance to the bees’ anaesthetic? Perhaps it simply isn’t true...

Bad language

Time and time again, when reading articles written by those who subscribe to the theory of Evolution, one is struck by the use of bad language. The writers refer to such-and-such a creature as having “solved” a “problem” in its development (and presumed evolutionary history) - as if the creature had purposely set out to imbue itself with better characteristics and had the wit and intelligence to know what to do and how to achieve it! Or sometimes the writers refer to “Nature”, giving it a mystical and all-embracing quality of effectiveness, so attributing to the natural world a quasi-godlike status.

But this is errant nonsense. If an evolutionist really believes what he has subscribed to, then there was nothing but the material world and blind, purposeless chance. There was no mindedness to “solve” a problem to facilitate survival; all one can say is that what exists exists. So the language used to describe this supposed evolution is completely inappropriate.

Evolutionists will doubtless respond that their use of such expressions is merely a form of words, but the game is given away by the frequency with which it occurs. The phraseology is really a tacit recognition of a supernatural aspect to the existence of life, but at the same time denying the honour rightly due to its true Creator. Let’s take a look at an example - selected as one from among many possibilities simply because it has occurred recently and not because of any prejudice intended to its author.

An article published by staff of *Our Amazing Planet* (see <http://goo.gl/Bznfy>) reports on recent research into the pygmy mole cricket. This little insect can burrow and jump - but occasionally finds itself landing in water, a potential death-trap to a small creature. Fortunately it almost always escapes, and the researcher has discovered how it manages this trick: it has specialised behaviour and oar-like legs thought to be unique. Full marks to the researcher for some clever research, but note the inappropriate language. This is what he is reported as saying (abridged):

"Pygmy mole crickets have solved the most difficult task of jumping from the surface of water... For small insects, water can be a deadly, sticky trap: water grabs and holds an insect, offering it as an appetizing snack for an alert fish. Pygmy mole crickets turn the stickiness of water to their advantage and use this property to enable jumping... This is an animal that has to do many things with its legs: dig burrows in the ground, jump rapidly to escape predators on land, and get itself out of water before it is eaten or drowns... It has solved a hugely difficult problem with a multifunctional mechanism that can propel jumps on land and water."

A great solution indeed. By its Creator.

CSM on Facebook

CSM has recently started a Facebook page. If you use Facebook, please “Like” us and tell all your fellow Facebook users. See <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Creation-Science-Movement/160127110749224> or scan the following QR code on your mobile phone.



Conference report

We are delighted to report that CSM's one-day conference, held in the Royal Maritime Club in Portsmouth, was a great success. About 100 people heard lectures by four speakers and afterwards had a chance to see the nearly completed Genesis Expo. Please contact us if you would like a speaker for an event you are organising in your area.

Creation Science Movement

PO Box 888, Portsmouth PO6 2YD, UK

Founded 1932, Registered Charity 801745
www.csm.org.uk; info@csm.org.uk; 02392 293988