

CREATION

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What a nerve!

Whales have been in the news yet again. On 5th May the BBC News website (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/32548856>) reported on an amazing discovery made by a research team based at the University of British Columbia.

The team had travelled to Iceland to investigate at first hand some of the anatomical adaptations of rorquals. This family of whales specialize in "lunge feeding", whereby they suddenly engulf huge volumes of seawater along with the prey animals it contains. It has been



A humpback whale lunge feeding at Port San Luis, California. Image: Sandy/Chuck Harris, Flickr, under Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial 2.0 Generic licence.

reported that some rorqual whales can actually gulp more than their own volume into their balloon-like expansible mouths. The whales then contract the powerful muscles in the floor of their mouths to expel the water through their baleen plates, leaving behind the fish or krill that they feed upon.

Needless to say, the muscles of the whale's mouth won't contract until a message from the brain arrives via a nerve telling them to do so. The nerve must therefore be able to traverse successfully a hugely variable size of mouth. This leads to an intriguing problem: nerves don't normally stretch. In fact, stretching a nerve can lead to serious problems, as medics who have to deal with the injuries of athletes know only too well. The article quotes Dr Guy Bewick, a neuroscientist at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland: "I've studied nerves and muscles all my career, and one of the things that you really try and avoid - in the clinical situation or just personally - is stretching your nerves. Nerves are generally really quite fragile things; they're quite well protected and they don't withstand stretch well at all."

So how do these whales cope? The research team has made the astonishing discovery that the nerves in the mouths of

these whales are able to stretch "like a bungee rope". They are the only animals known to have this ability. The team found that the nerve cable, resembling a thick white cord, could be stretched to twice its length and would repeatedly spring back to its original size. When the team examined the nerve fibres under a microscope they found that the fibres were themselves wound tightly into a central core and would "unfold" as the cable stretched. The thick white outermost layer was also full of tough, stretchy fibres of a protein called elastin.

The article tries to invoke an evolutionary origin for this extraordinary feature, but it sounds like a mere Just So story. Likewise, a similar story in the 9th May issue of New Scientist magazine says, "The specialised nerves are one of the key anatomical components that had to evolve to make the systems work. Only the nerves from the part of the body involved in lunge feeding were stretchy, which means they had evolved specifically for this task." But surely this is a tendentious statement, implying that the nerves were working towards a goal, whereas evolution is supposed to operate by sheer blind chance. How, then, could lunge feeding have developed slowly, by chance, over millions of years? Surely these whales needed highly stretchable nerves from the very outset for their mode of life to be successful. This speaks of a design feature, which in turn implies a Designer.

Zombie worms

Zombie worms, more properly known as *Osedax* worms, are fascinating but somewhat gruesome creatures. Discovered

only in 2002, they live on the sea floor as far down as four kilometres. There they bore into the bones of the corpses of whales, turtles and other animals that have sunk into the depths. Lacking both a mouth and a digestive system, they feed by penetrating the corpse with tendrils which take up the fatty molecules they need to survive.

The feeding activity of the zombie worms leaves characteristic boreholes and this has attracted the attention of two researchers at Plymouth University, UK. They have discovered boreholes closely similar to those of present-day *Osedax* worms in the fossilised flipper of a plesiosaur and the rib and shell of an "ancient" sea turtle (reported on the BBC News website at <http://goo.gl/134YSm>, accessed 03 June).



A flipper of a plesiosaur fossil similar to this mounted museum specimen has been found with boreholes thought to be made by *Osedax* worms. Image: CSM.

What does this mean? To you or I, it would seem to be straightforward evidence to suggest that whales, plesiosaurs and "ancient" sea turtles all lived at about the same time, as their corpses were all fed upon by the same worms. Not so, according to the researchers. Following the required evolutionist paradigm, Dr Nicholas Higgs is quoted as saying that "Our discovery shows that these bone-eating worms did not co-evolve with whales, but that they also devoured the skeletons of large marine reptiles that dominated oceans in the age of the dinosaurs".

He goes on to say that "*Osedax*, therefore, prevented many skeletons from becoming fossilised, which might hamper our knowledge of these extinct leviathans." His co-author, Dr Silvia Danise, adds "The increasing evidence for *Osedax* throughout the oceans past and present, combined with their propensity to rapidly consume a wide range of vertebrate skeletons, suggests that *Osedax* may have had a significant negative effect on the preservation of marine vertebrate skeletons in the fossil record...By destroying vertebrate skeletons before they could be buried, *Osedax* may be responsible for the loss of data on marine vertebrate anatomy and carcass-fall communities on a global scale."

Here we have the interesting proposition that a **lack** of evidence (i.e., fossil skeletons absent and presumed to have been destroyed) can be taken to indicate a past history of *Osedax* activity. Strangely, I thought that science was supposed to be based on good evidence, not the lack of it. But why let facts get in the way of a good story?

Notice also the evolutionist assumption that fossils were formed by skeletons being covered in sediment only gradually, leaving plenty of time for the *Osedax* worms to wreak their destruction. Of course, if creatures were fossilised because they were buried suddenly in great quantities of sediment in a catastrophic global flood then the worms might not have been able to reach their prey, altering the scenario drastically.

Oh dear, the convoluted "logic" of evolutionism! Its mental gymnastics have more wriggles, twists and turns than a worm.

Dinosaur cannibalism

Talking of evolutionist dogma, a good example of its insidious distortion is seen in an article about dinosaur cannibalism on the BBC News website (<http://goo.gl/G91ML0>, accessed 03 June 2015). This article discusses a study of a fossilised skull of a 500 kg *Daspletosaurus* dinosaur - a tyrannosaur similar to, but a little smaller than, *Tyrannosaurus rex*. The researchers found that the skull had damage, including bite marks, attributable



A fossilized *Daspletosaurus* skeleton. Image: ScottRobertAnselmo, Wikimedia Commons, <http://goo.gl/Q93iz4>, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

to combat and possible scavenging by another large tyrannosaur.

Notice that the article is concerned entirely with this creature's skeleton, yet what do we find? The article is accompanied by two illustrations, one of which shows a pair of *Daspletosaurus* covered in downy filaments, with feathers on their tails and with the beginnings of wings on their forelegs, even though no evidence whatsoever is presented in the article for the existence of these features! Such is the power of the evolution myth.

Fossil bird

Far more convincing than the contrived illustration of a *Daspletosaurus* dinosaur is the discovery of a new fossil bird in China. Dubbed *Archaeornithura meemannae*, the two specimens discovered have clear indications of plumage, just like present-day birds; and funnily enough they belong to the same group as present-day birds, the Ornithuromorpha.

Based on dating of the surrounding rocks, the fossils are supposedly 130 million years old, leading to the excited comment in an article on the BBC News website (<http://goo.gl/dwLxup>, accessed 03 June) that this “pushes back the branching-out of this evolutionary group by at least five million years”. Really? As we have remarked in past issues of the CSM journal, it is remarkable how often a new discovery “pushes back” the origin of this or that group still further into the mists of time, so that all the required evolution has supposedly occurred still further out of sight and within an ever-dwindling time-frame.

One is reminded of the story of the man who declared that there were fairies in his back garden. When confronted by sceptics saying that none could be found, he simply responded that they should look further back. The suggestion that perhaps there were no fairies, and never had been, was something he could not accept. Any comparisons with evolutionist dogma here? I couldn't possibly comment...

Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist

by Dr David Rosevear

4 April p.7 – Mean migration

“Tiny geolocators were attached to blackpoll warblers as they migrated between North and South America. The birds flew 2770 kilometres [1730 miles] over the Atlantic Ocean without stopping.”

It is one of the most extraordinary migratory feats known. These 12g [3 teaspoons of sugar] birds have a wingspan of 20cm (8in). Before flying they gorge themselves to put on fat, and re-absorb some of their organs. The journey is performed in 2-3 days, but if they splash down they drown. They make use of a



Blackpoll warbler. Image: P. J. Turgeon, in the public domain.

following wind, but return by the safer land route.

If these little marvels had evolved their migratory patterns by trial and error, how would they have made it?

4 April p.26 – Tapping the incredible weirdness of water

Water, that occupies 70% of the Earth's surface, is anomalous in 72 of its properties. Alone among everyday liquids it expands upon freezing due to its hydrogen bonds to oxygen. Superheated steam is monomeric H_2O , and is lighter than air. But liquid water is a polymer whose molecular weight and density increase with lower temperatures down to a maximum at 4°C. At 0°C it freezes into an open network with oxygen atoms joined in a tetrahedron to four hydrogen bonds, so that ice floats upon water. Plants and fish can survive beneath the ice, and the surface ice will then melt as the seasons change.

“This is what allowed water to become central to the development of life.”

Well, not quite! While water is a necessity (two thirds of our body is water) it is the information in our genes that defines physical life. That couldn't 'develop'. It had to be created.

Because it involves the breaking of hydrogen bonds, more energy is required to raise the temperature of water than with other liquids – high heat capacity. This makes it a good heat reservoir in both our bodies and our planet. An island such as the UK has smaller swings in temperature because of the heat capacity of surrounding seas - think Sahara or Siberia.

When water is confined in capillaries or in aquaporins in cell membranes, the H-bonds are stripped away and the water flows very much faster. This enables kidneys to function and blood to reach all parts of the



Not only is water essential for life (though it does not develop life), it also acts as a heat sink that ameliorates temperature change. Image: K. Tuck, www.rgbstock.com.

flesh. This newly discovered property is now being exploited by using membranes with aquaporins to let water through while stopping salt, to produce fresh water from sea water.

The Earth was clearly designed to be inhabited (Isaiah 45:18).

4 April p.28 – Beyond belief

People have been subjected to brain scans whilst being questioned about their beliefs. Facts that are obviously true elicited little response, but in contrast, disbelief produced longer and stronger activation in regions associated with deliberation and with emotion.

Why do people all have built-in religious beliefs? How did they evolve?

“We tend to believe that agents cause events.” Well yes, we call that the law of cause and effect. So we look for a First Cause.

“Likewise, our psychology has evolved to seek out patterns because this was a useful survival strategy.” So we are primed to see agency and purpose everywhere. **“And agency and purpose are two of religion’s most important features – particularly the idea of an omnipotent but invisible agent that makes things happen and gives meaning to otherwise random events. In this way, humans are naturally receptive to religious claims, and when we first encounter them – typically as children – we unquestioningly accept them.”**

How surprising then that the majority of folk end up as don’t knows and don’t cares! Since our beliefs are apparently built on sand and are also stubbornly resistant to change, the *NS* deputy editor believes that the world would be a better place **“if we all stopped believing in our beliefs quite so strongly.”**

The Leader column (p.5) refers to belief in Jesus’s resurrection, and says that no believers **“can really know what happened 2000-odd years ago (sic) in Jerusalem.”** Yet there is clear evidence that the New Testament was written and widely distributed well within the lifetime of witnesses (see *Authenticity of the New Testament: the Gospels*, by Bill Cooper, CSM). And down the ages there has been the testimony of countless millions of born-again disciples whose lives were transformed.

4 April p.41 – Alternative lifestyle

We are familiar with the idea that light enables plants to photosynthesise, and that this is a source of food for animals and ourselves. But bacteria can grow by

ingesting minerals and gases, both at hydrothermal vents in the dark ocean depths and from rotting vegetation. These bacteria can form symbiotic relationships with animals and so enter the food chain without benefit of light. An example is the bacteria that thrive on rotting organic matter on the sea bed, that are the main food source of clams that in turn are eaten by sea-birds. Worms at hydrothermal vents can have these bacteria living on their skins. It seems that a variety of life forms fill all conceivable niches on our home planet. ‘Lord, how manifold are your works!’

18 April p.28 – The unexpected origin of human values

(You, gentle reader, may also find this explanation unexpected!)

Monkeys were given food rewards for certain responses. If some monkeys were given better rewards, the others objected. They seem to have a sense of fairness, just like the innate sense in young children. It is then concluded that our sense of fairness, right and wrong, evolved as man developed from an ape-like ancestor.

We find different standards of fairness where some people reckon that all humans are created equal, if not born equal. Most folk recognise that some have qualities or positions that make them of special worth, so their rewards are greater, leading to inequality in lifestyles.

“Somewhere between 50,000 and 150,000 years ago, evolution put a kilogram of magic inside each human’s skull. The 22 billion neurons that make up the brain gave us the intellectual wherewithal to invent culture - that cumulative body of information we acquire through teaching, imitation and other transmission. With minor exceptions, humans are the only animals that have culture, and we are therefore unique in



Culture, such as art, is an attribute not shared with any of the animals. A creative God made humans in His image; therefore they too are creative. Image: S. Gjenero, www.rgbstock.com.

our ability to respond to environmental changes by evolving culturally, rather than waiting millions of years to evolve biologically into new creatures.”

Rather than concerning ourselves about getting our fair share like the monkeys, we are taught to esteem others better than ourselves. Our Saviour, who created us, came here as a servant.

18 April p.40 – Eye of the beholder

A goldfish appears bright yellow because it absorbs almost all the light that shines on it, and reflects the remaining golden colour back. This light enters our eyes where it is recorded by cones in the retina that send a signal to the brain. The cones contain three types of opsins. These are proteins sensitive to red, green and blue light, for long, medium and short wavelength light respectively. A deficiency in one type of

opsin causes colour blindness. The retina also contains rods that allow us to see in low light without colour.

The brain can distinguish about a million shades of colour produced by combinations of the signals from the three opsins.

Goldfish have four opsins, dogs but two and mantis shrimps twelve. Did opsins evolve? **“Since that common ancestor, though, the story of opsin evolution in mammals has been a history of loss.”**

That is the opposite of Darwinian evolution. Fish, that are thought to be our ancestors, have four opsins, including one that responds to UV light. They see things invisible to us.

Biologist Shozo Yokoyama of Atlanta, Georgia has recently suggested that the only way an opsin for the UV range could transform to one for blue would be if the seven necessary alterations in the protein



The eyes of a mantis shrimp have twelve different opsins, far more than “higher” mammals or humans. Image: Silke Baron, Flickr, <https://goo.gl/zrcfSP>, under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic licence.

code came in a precise sequence. This sounds beyond the realms of probability, but the article claims that it must have happened. It's amazing what schemes an evolutionist will concoct in order to explain the inexplicable.

The eye is very complex in its structure and chemistry/physics, but it is useless without the optic nerve and that area of the brain that converts the electrical signals into an image for the mind. One would normally explain much less complex systems as having been designed. It seems that evolutionists have a blind spot when it comes to explaining design in nature.

25 April p.8 -Christianity's meteoric rise

According to this article, Saul of Tarsus was on his way to arrest the early Christians in Damascus when a meteor exploded overhead.

Saul, aka St Paul, claims to have been blinded by a great light, and to have heard

the voice of the Lord Jesus speaking in the Hebrew tongue.

The meteor that fell in Chelyabinsk, Russia in 2013 was three times brighter than the sun (cf. Acts 26:13). **“The three biblical accounts [Acts 9, 22 & 26] differ over whether his companions also heard this voice, or a meaningless noise. Chelyabinsk produced a thunderous explosive sound.”** Three days later, Saul of Tarsus received his sight back when ‘scales fell from his eyes’. William Hartmann says this was due to **“photokeratitis, a temporary blindness caused by intense ultraviolet radiation.”** Other experts say a meteor explosion would cause much more damage, as with Chelyabinsk and with the Tunguska meteor in 1908.

“Paul’s Damascene conversion and subsequent missionary journeys around the Mediterranean helped build Christianity into the religion it is today.



Fiery trail of the meteor that exploded above Chelyabinsk city in February 2015. Hundreds of people were affected by the explosion, but we are not aware that any of them are claiming to be an apostle or to have heard the voice of Jesus Christ. Clearly, what the apostle Paul experienced was not a meteor impact! Image: Alex Alishevskikh, Wikimedia Commons, <https://goo.gl/wjQ4MV>, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic licence.

If his conversion was indeed as Hartmann explains it, then a random space rock has played a major role in determining the course of history.

“That’s not as strange as it sounds. A large asteroid impact killed off the dinosaurs, paving the way for mammals to dominate the Earth. So why couldn’t a meteor influence the evolution of our beliefs?” Notice how a Just So story about the extinction of dinosaurs is called upon to confirm a far-fetched theory that is intended to undermine the miraculous power of the Lord Jesus to change an anti-Christian zealot into a man who suffered and was ultimately martyred for his Saviour. **“I would label it as informed speculation’ says Cooke. ‘But like so many other things in the ancient past there is no real concrete evidence, no smoking gun.’”**

The seeming confusion over who heard what is easily explained. Acts 9 was a report by Luke, whereas Acts 22 was the testimony of Paul himself. Doubtless his companions heard a voice, but did not catch its message, which wasn’t meant for them.

25 April p.10 – Ancient virus is embryo protector

It is often put forward that our DNA has a high proportion (9%) of viral DNA. The story goes that viruses invaded our bodies and while they may have caused illness or even death in many hosts, they took up residence in others. These bits of viral DNA became part of human DNA, passed down future generations. The process even has a scientific name: endogenisation.

Koalas were invaded by KoRV, koala retrovirus a century ago (before we knew about DNA). It triggered leukaemia in the marsupials, but those that have survived retain KoRV in their sperm and eggs.

Some scientists have suggested that, far from invading, the viral DNA actually originated in their hosts.

This article tells us of a virus that springs to life in the very first cells of human embryos.

“Not only does the virus seem to protect embryos from other viruses, it also assists genes as they build the body plan of a new human.”

The HERV-K virus has been discovered in 3-day-old human embryos that are a collection of eight cells. The cells were full of viral protein products. **“Further experiments revealed that HERV-K appears to produce a protein that prevents other viruses penetrating the embryo, suggesting it protects it from circulating viruses such as influenza. It seems to play a crucial role in the genetic activity of the embryonic cells, helping to ferry genetic instructions to the cellular protein factories.”** It had been shown in 2001 that the presence of a viral gene is essential for the formation of the human placenta.

It would seem, then, that this viral DNA was necessary in the first embryo (Cain). Far from our being **“creatures controlled by viruses”**, viral DNA is part of our created genome.

This article suggests a different interpretation. **“Tantalisingly, the stowaway virus might even provide clues to what makes us different from chimps and other non-human primates.”**

The only ‘human primates’ I know about are archbishops.

2 May p.11 – Low-key Milky Way lacks dark matter skeleton

The difficulty here is that nobody has found evidence for cold dark matter in our galaxy, which is not good for the big bang theory.

“If the Milky Way lacks a dark matter disc, this has implications for physicists

hunting the elusive substance. Dark matter makes up 80 per cent of the universe's matter but only interacts with ordinary matter via gravity, so it is difficult to detect directly." Like the emperor's clothes!

The article claims that the Milky Way galaxy was born with a halo of dark matter. It continues: "We want to know how we got here and how the universe works. Our society and civilisation is the first one that has creation stories that might actually be true. The Milky Way is great, but how did it get that way?"

With no evidence for the reality of dark matter, their creation story doesn't appear very promising.

Interestingly, the *NS* Editor's Pick of this week's **Letters (p.54)** includes this:

"Science is belief based on evidence; faith, on the other hand, is belief irrespective of evidence."

2 May p.30 – Human Universe

This Special Issue asks a number of questions; e.g. **1. Was the universe made for us?**

"Science also teaches us that the laws of physics are ridiculously, almost unbelievably 'fine-tuned' for you and me. Take the electromagnetic force. It has a value that is perfectly set for getting stars to bind protons and neutrons to create carbon – the building block of life as we know it. Or the strong nuclear force, which binds the insides of protons and neutrons. If it were even a tiny bit stronger, the whole world would be made of hydrogen; if it were weaker, there would be no hydrogen at all. In either case, life as we know it wouldn't be possible. Even the amount of energy contained in empty space seems perfectly set to allow intelligent life to flourish. That's not all. All told, about 12

parameters have been identified as being just right for life...

"One end of the spectrum puts us truly back in the centre. The extreme anthropic principle posits that the universe is so perfect that it must have been made for us, either by an intelligent creator or, more likely, because of some fundamental feature of the cosmos that drives it towards intelligent life..."

"Most physicists have no time for ideas like this. 'To say that this is all for us? That is just completely bizarre'..."

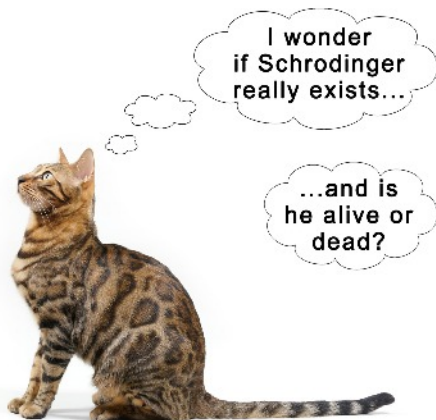
The alternative is a multiverse.

"This line of reasoning has been bolstered by the possible existence of a multiverse, versions of which emerge from both quantum mechanics and standard cosmology." [This refers to string theory, for which there is no observational evidence.] **"With lots of other universes, each with their own physical constants and laws, the mystery of our own fine-tuned universe evaporates. We can only be in one that is fine-tuned for carbon-based life."**

But there's more: question **2. Does consciousness create reality?**

Is the world a figment of our own minds?

"With its multiverse and [Schrodinger's]



cats both alive and dead, quantum mechanics is certainly weird. But some physicists have proposed that reality is even stranger: the universe only becomes real when we look at it.”

Then there’s question 8. **Could we become Gods?**

But be careful. That is how all this nonsense started in the Garden of Eden!

9 May p.9 – Long-lost relatives found at bottom of Arctic Ocean

We do not have any of the actual cells of these creatures. Their genome has been pieced together by computational methods and we don’t know how the Lokiarchaea used their genes. ‘Found’ in a region of hydrothermal vents along the Arctic mid-ocean ridge, it is suggested that they lacked a mitochondrion. What we do know is that we are their descendants!

These prokaryotes were ‘discovered’ by analysing DNA extracted from underwater sediment near Loki’s Castle. Though lacking a true cell nucleus, they **“appear to have more than 100 genes coding for sophisticated cellular functions such as deforming cell membranes and forming and transporting bubble-like vesicles around the cell – functions that are usually only seen in eukaryotes like us.”**

“Archaea can be particularly difficult to collect and culture in a laboratory, so we may never get a good look at our long-lost prokaryotic cousins.”

So much conjecture from so little evidence!

23 May p.14 – Broken leg bone reveals switch to life on land

Notice how often palaeontologists claim that their fossil find is very special; the oldest, biggest, or perhaps marking a critical step in the proposed evolution of life. **“This is the world’s oldest known**

broken bone from a four-legged animal – and it must have broken on land.

“A broken leg bone pushes back the emergence of our four-legged ancestors from water on to land by at least 2 million years.”

Computer calculations of the strength of the bone indicate that this ancient 1.5-metre-long *Ossinodus* from what is now Australia broke its forelimb when it fell 85 cm, 333 million years ago, perhaps from a log or rock. Water cushions a fall in the sea so it must have been on land. (The calculated height of its fall is also dependent on the hardness of the surface it landed on.)

“Even though we still haven’t found the exact origins of land animals, this brings us closer to a more robust understanding of the transition from aquatic to terrestrial lifestyles, says Daeschler.”

One has to admire what a little imagination and a computer can come up with. It is a few years now since Per Alberg showed that the first creature to leave the sea for the land waded ashore at Elgin in the Moray Firth.

I’m sure that this won’t be the last such claim.

30 May p.16 – The dinosaur that laid blue-green eggs

“The American robin’s egg lends its name to a striking shade of blue, but the hue may have been colouring eggs long before the bird evolved – perhaps long before any bird evolved. It may have been the colour of their dinosaur ancestor’s eggs 150 million years ago.”

So what’s the evidence for this sweeping assumption? The colour of many birds’ eggs comes from a blend of two chemicals found with the calcium carbonate of the



Model of an *Oviraptor*, along with its eggs, in a park in Austin, Texas, USA. Here the model eggs have been given a dull white colour, not blue-green. Image: Michael F, Flickr, <https://goo.gl/phswWT>, under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic licence.

shells. These are bilverdin and protoporphyrin.

Now studies of the fossil shells of *Oviraptor* dinosaurs in China reveal that these same two chemicals were present in them, in a ratio suggesting their shells had been blue-green.

To its credit, the article concludes: “The similarity to modern birds probably reflects similarity in lifestyle, says Sander. The Chinese dinosaurs incubated their eggs in open nests, rather than burying them. Coloured eggs would be camouflaged from predators.”

30 May p.18 – Thousands of new plankton revealed by giant sea survey

“It’s the world’s largest ecosystem, producing half of all the oxygen that comes from photosynthesis – but we know very little about the oceans’ microscopic plankton.” A research ship, *Tara*, sailed the world’s seas from 2009 to 2013 collecting 35,000 plankton samples from the upper layers of

the water. Preliminary studies of their genes suggest there may be up to eight times as many species as those thousands previously known. A picture shows several beautifully coloured specimens, in a great variety of shapes and sizes.

“And the ocean’s microbial community has some striking similarities to the community inside our guts... they have an almost identical abundance of genes involved in replication, ion transport and cell motility.”

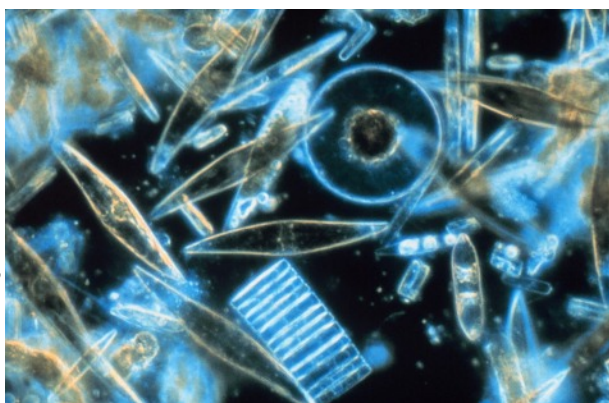
A Designer would be expected to use similar mechanisms to achieve reproduction and movement in similar microbes.

The oxygen output of these myriads of tiny creatures is indispensable to the health of the world’s air-breathing populations.

6 June p.55 – Letters: What’s the matter with dark stuff?

From M.S. of Thailand

“*New Scientist* has developed an annoying habit of declaring confidently that ‘Dark matter’ makes up 80 per cent of the universe’s matter...’ without



Marine diatoms form just part of the enormous diversity of life that comprises plankton. Image: G. Taylor, NOAA, in the public domain.

qualification (for example, 2 May, p11). I was under the impression that dark matter is a hypothesis in search of confirmation - or did I miss the part where it was discovered and explained?"

The editor writes:

"The overwhelming view among physicists is that something unseen makes up 80 per cent of the universe's matter, and that this 'dark matter' refuses to interact with normal matter except via gravity. What exactly dark matter consists of is an open question, but not its existence."

The editor supposes that if that is the view among secular physicists, then it is a fact. But the big bang theory itself is an unprovable hypothesis, buttressed by unseen, unconfirmable dark matter, dark energy, an inflation field and probably a multiverse. The alternative that 'in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth' is equally unprovable, but is regarded as our creation myth.

13 June p.14 – Wolves hang with monkeys to hunt

Herds of gelada baboons, up to 700 strong, graze the grasslands of eastern Africa. Packs of Ethiopian wolves roam among these monkeys, hunting for rodents. The presence of the baboons means their success rate in rat catching more than doubles. They do not molest the young baboons, and the baboons ignore the wolves, even though they will flee from feral dogs.

"It's an unusual pact, one that echoes the way dogs started to be domesticated by humans... and although the process remains shrouded in mystery, one hypothesis is that it started when wolves began following roaming human groups to take advantage of the large carcasses they left behind after hunts." Just so!

The implication is that humans have evolved from cousins of the geladas. Some time ago, it was claimed that a fossil jaw-bone was a hominid, because of its shape. However it turned out to be a fossil jaw from a gelada baboon.

(As an aside it is mentioned that the wolves have also been observed foraging for rodents among herds of cattle.)

13 June p.16 – There's blood in those dino bones

Evolutionists have been reluctant to recognise the presence of soft tissue in fossils because proteins and DNA would not survive for millions of years. Either the finds are contaminated by modern tissue or the millions of years are a big mistake. The latter is, of course, unthinkable, since it would make evolution impossible.

"But now we've found what appears to be real dinosaur blood inside a bog-standard fossil bone." They were looking to study bone fossilisation but instead they found blood-like cells and collagen (a structural protein) from **'75-million-year-old dinosaur fossils – 10 million years before *Tyrannosaurus rex*.'**

"Although the cells are unlikely to contain DNA, those extracted from better preserved fossils using the same technique may do so, she says – but there is still no evidence that they do."

This week the BBC website carried a piece on this news, but quoted experts saying that the finds could not possibly be DNA since it could not remain stable for millions of years.

13 June p.26 - The prodigal sun

We are all aware of the danger of over-exposure to our sun's UV light. However, our local star, that 'greater light to rule the day', is the source of almost all the earth's energy, and drives photosynthesis of the



Life on earth would not be possible in the absence of the sun - just one of the very many things that God created and declared to be "very good". Image: S. Gjenero, www.rgbstock.com.

seas' plankton and terrestrial foliage to refresh our atmosphere.

Our sun also acts upon our skin to produce essential Vitamin D. It is reported here that another such benefit is that UV radiation reacts upon the stores of nitrate in our skin to produce nitric oxide. This gas dilates blood vessels to improve circulation, lowering blood pressure. **"High blood pressure is the world's leading cause of premature death and disease, because it leads to stroke and heart disease."**

The average blood pressure in the UK is lower in the summer than in winter and lower worldwide near the equator than at higher latitudes. Cyclists taking nitrate supplements improved their performance significantly following irradiation with UVA light. The NO produced dilates blood vessels bringing more oxygen to the muscles.

Surveys show that sunlight also delays aging.

Our sun is part of the 'very good' Creation of the first week.

20 June p5 – No end in sight

"How long can we keep on looking for dark matter?"

"We have been aware of the need for dark matter since the 1930s. Without this stuff, we can't make sense of the rotation of galactic clusters, or how galaxies formed in the first place. And yet, to date, we have found nothing. Even CERN's Large Hadron Collider, our best and by far most expensive tool for finding it, has so far drawn a blank. How much longer can we keep looking?"

"But pragmatically, the real issue is not the science, but the money. Most physicists would say it's worth persevering with the search, given its potentially huge ramifications. But how long can they persuade their funders to keep paying for it? Consider the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, which, despite its potential impact, now receives no public money and relatively little private support. That's easily explained: the scale of the task and the limits of our technology mean the chances of finding intelligent aliens seem slim. Given a few more years of null results, dark matter might come to seem a less worthwhile investment to cash-strapped funding bodies too."

If a Creator made our universe, and made man in His image (as Scripture proclaims) then there was no big bang and neither dark matter nor aliens exist.

20 June p.7 – Brimstone below

"There may not be hellfire, but there's brimstone deep below us in Earth's core. Geologists estimate that 90 per cent of Earth's sulphur – known by ancient alchemists as brimstone – is in the core."

20 June p.19 – Wind turbines with owl wings could make energy silently

When turbines run fast, they produce noise that people and wildlife do not like. Many turbines are artificially governed to limit



Crystals of sulphur deposited in a foul-smelling fumarole at Pozzuoli, near Naples, Italy. Most sulphur, however, is far below the earth's surface. Image: wernerb, www.rgbstock.com.

the rate of rotation and prevent too much noise, but this makes them less efficient. Now scientists from Cambridge have copied the wings of the owl, that silent hunter, by placing bristles on the blades of wind turbines. These break up sound waves (a feature unique to owls).

“The fins replicate the owl’s evenly spaced bristles, disrupting surface



Noise pollution associated with wind turbines could be reduced significantly through copying the design of owls' wings. Image: skeeze, www.pixabay.com, in the public domain.

pressure on the aerofoil and reducing the sound waves it produces.” Noise is cut by a factor of 10. Turbines could now run faster without getting louder.

Copying the Creator’s design would prove a sound investment.

Quote:

“...interstellar eavesdropping has yet to detect any signals that withstand close scrutiny. Even if brimming with life, to us, the galaxy seems to be a very quiet, rather lonely place... Now, new results suggest this loneliness may extend out into the universe far beyond our galaxy or, instead, that some of our preconceptions about the behaviours of alien civilizations are deeply flawed. After examining some 100,000 nearby large galaxies a team of researchers led by The Pennsylvania State University astronomer Jason Wright has concluded that none of them contain any obvious signs of highly advanced technological civilizations.”

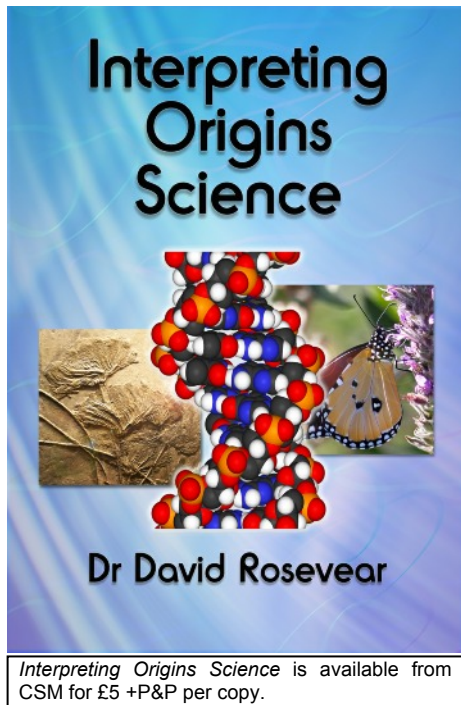
Lee Billings, *Scientific American*, 17 April 2015 (<http://goo.gl/Hn8BEV>, accessed 08 June 2015).

Letters

"I was so glad to receive your latest journal as I tend to keep several and then read them in a batch, as I so enjoy your pithy comments and they make good bedtime reading! May The Lord be with you."

R K-H, Lincolnshire

"I have just read *Interpreting Origins Science*. It is the best book I have ever read on this topic. I have ordered another five for family and friends. It has greatly encouraged me to believe that God's Word is true from beginning to end. Thank you."
SY, East Sussex



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YOU!**



CSM readers have a huge pool of wisdom, knowledge and information, but we're not hearing from you as much as we'd like. Even if something seems unimportant to you, it could be a great blessing to someone else. So please send us your comments, notes, articles, etc. Thank you!

Articles in the Journal are generally by the editor, R. Cambridge, unless otherwise stated. "Cuttings & Comments" is a regular commentary by Dr David Rosevear about articles in *New Scientist* magazine.

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