

ED. COM. This is another example of bacteria being able to carry out chemical processes that are difficult for intelligent, educated industrial chemists. When universities or chemical companies want to find new and better ways of using chemical reactions they employ the smarter chemists. The fact such clever scientists had to resort to copying bacteria is proof that bacteria were designed by a much cleverer chemist.

BACTERIAL BATTERIES USE MUD POWER to clean up pollution and power under-water sensors according to a report in *Science* vol. 295, p425, 18 Jan 2002. Microbiologists have found bacteria that can generate electricity using underwater organic sediments. The bacteria, *Desulfuromonas acetoxidans* are a type of geobacteria, whose main claim to fame is the ability to detoxify toluene and other organic solvents. As such they are also useful in pollution control. The amount of power they produce is not very great but it is enough to power scientific instruments used to measure water currents and temperature - important information used in weather reporting.

ED. COM. Bacteria are proving to be a wonderful resource in many ways. Putting them to work to clean up pollution or power scientific instruments is a good application of the mandate we were given at creation to rule over the earth and the living creatures on it. It also reminds us that God promised to supply all our needs.

Even before bio-technologists put bacteria to work in such high-tech ways, bacteria had (and still have) essential functions in maintaining the quality of the environment and providing food for all other living things including humans. Bacteria are essential for breaking down leaf litter and any biological debris into nutrients for plants. Nitrogen fixing bacteria provide fertiliser by converting atmospheric nitrogen into ammonia which plant roots can absorb. People have used bacteria to make and preserve foods such as cheese and yoghurt for thousands of years. As far as we can tell bacteria have always been able to carry out complex chemical processes.

Bacteria: After their Kind

Further evidence that bacteria have not evolved, but were created as fully functioning organisms, comes from the fact that the oldest bacteria discovered to date are the same as those living today. Microbiologists have found live bacteria in salt crystals they claim are 250 million years old. The bacteria are a type of *Bacillus*, a large and varied genus found all over the world. Partial analysis of the bacteria's preserved DNA suggests it is similar to *Bacillus marismortui* that lives in present-day high salt environments e.g. the Dead Sea. (Ref. 10) No matter how old scientists believe these bacteria are, the fact that they can immediately be classified into a genus of living

bacteria is good evidence such bacteria have reproduced their own kind all the time these bacteria were trapped in the salt crystals, i.e. bacteria have not evolved.

The fossil record of bacteria also indicates they have reproduced after their kind. Here is another item from the Creation Research newsletter.

OLDEST FOSSIL AUSSIE found as evolutionist Birger Rasmussen (University of Western Australia) claims discovery of sulphur deposits containing fossil micro organisms, as reported in *Nature* Vol 405, p676, 8 June 2000. The fossils consist of microscopic filament layers within the rocks, similar in size and structure to living filament forming bacteria. The filaments were embedded deep in rocks near Sulphur Springs in northwest Western Australia. The rocks are believed to have originally formed around geothermal vents (underwater volcanic sources) and are claimed to be 3,235 million years old, 2,700 million years older than the previously claimed "oldest" bacteria.

ED. COM. Today's geothermal vents host many bacteria which extract chemical energy needed to sustain life from sulphurous inorganic matter. They live in harsh environments only by carrying out complex chemical processes that modern industrial chemists envy. If the Western Australian fossils have been correctly identified, this discovery does verify that from the time Sulphur Spring rocks formed up to the present, filament forming bacteria have not evolved into anything else. They are evidence that complex, fully functioning bacteria have been on earth from the beginning and have reproduced their own kind ever since. The Biblical record in Genesis says this is how life was created to function (Gen 1:11-31).

For further evidence that the fossil record supports creation, but not evolution, see Evidence from Fossils. Number 2 in the Evidence series from Creation Research.



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