



WELCOME to the first Evidence News with EDitorial COMment for AD2007. Lot's of exciting evidence exposing the fallacies in evolution has come to light since our December issue as well as much information pointing to God's handiwork as Creator. We trust you enjoy the reports below and look forward to seeing some of you at the Creation Research meetings schedule included in this Evidence News.

INDEX

1. SNAKES RECYCLE POISON
2. WEB GIVE TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE
3. WHITEST BEETLE
4. SHEDDING LIGHT ON SUPER REFLECTIVE PROTEINS
5. AUSSIE MASSIVE MEGAFUNA DEPOSIT FOUND
6. FOSSIL LEAF INSECT
7. JURASSIC SHRIMP LIVES
8. TWO HEADED FOSSIL
9. OLDEST GLIDING MAMMAL
10. UNCHANGED AMBER MICROBES
11. CLIMATE CHANGE AND CHRISTMAS DOWN UNDER
12. SQUIRRELS AND SPRUCE BOOM AND BUST
13. TECHNICAL CHALLENGE ON DESIGN
14. WHO'S SPEAKING WHERE?
15. DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE

1. SNAKES RECYCLE POISON according to reports in news@nature, New Scientist News 29 Jan 2007, and New York Times and Science Frontline, 30 Jan 2007. Scientists studying the Japanese grass snake "Rhabdophis tigrinus" have discovered it can eat poisonous toads and store their poison in glands on the back of its neck. Female snakes also transferred poison to eggs, therefore offspring have some poison already stored when they hatched. Researchers also found snakes with poison already stored behaved differently towards predators such as hawks, compared with snakes that had not acquired toad poison. When attacked, snakes with stored poison adopted an arch-necked defensive posture, so the predator was more likely to strike the region containing the glands and cause poison to leak out. Snakes without stored poison tended to slither away and hide when confronted by predators. This snake is the first vertebrate found to sequester poison from another vertebrate. Some poisonous frogs are known to get their poison from insects in their diets, and some invertebrates, eg. sea slugs, make themselves unpalatable for predators by storing chemicals obtained from food.

New York Times article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/30/science/30observ.html?em&ex=1170392400&en=3e66361d7ebd9d6a&ei=5087%0A>

Science Frontline article: http://www.sflorg.com/sciencenews/scn013007_01.html

ED. COM. This Japanese snake is a rear fanged snake, i.e. it does not have poisonous front fangs to attack prey with. It does secrete saliva, but this is injected into its food from its back teeth as an aid to digestion. Therefore, it is not dangerous or poisonous except to anything it is already swallowing. Snakes do not chew their food, so being able to inject digestive chemicals in their food using their teeth is good design. Toads use their skin to excrete waste products. In a 'very good' world, where all animals ate plants, nothing would try to eat toads, so toxic waste products in the skin would not threaten anyone. It was only after the world degenerated because of human sin and God's judgement, that animals began to prey on one another and defence mechanisms were selected for. Therefore some characteristics, such as digestive chemicals in snake saliva and waste products in toad skin gained a secondary use as 'weapons'. It is interesting in the study described above that the snakes' behaviour changed when they had the extra poison so they do seem to have an understanding of what the results of eating toads achieves. Predators and poison are issues raised by sceptics to challenge the Biblical story of the Garden of Eden where there were no predators, and the world was "very good", but this snake reminds us poison is one result of the increasing degeneration occurring as the world continues to go from good to bad to worse.

2. WEB GIVE TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE on www.creationresearch.net click DONATIONS.

3. WHITEST BEETLE found according to reports in BBC Online News 18 Jan 2007 and News Scientist, 27 Jan p16. Researchers at Exeter University have found the whitest natural occurring substance in the scales on a beetle named "Cyphochilius". White light consists of all colours or wavelengths of the visible light spectrum combined together. Surfaces appear coloured because they reflect some wavelengths of visible light more than others. If a surface reflects all wavelengths equally it appears white. The Cyphochilius beetle's scales consist of randomly arranged interweaving filaments which scatter all wavelengths of light in all directions so the beetle appears a brilliant white. The scales are extremely thin, about 5 micrometres thick. According to Pete Vukusic who led the study, the scales are "25 times thinner than some of the whitest papers". He also commented to the BBC: "The degree of whiteness, given the scale's thinness, is the really impressive thing. We can create this quality of white synthetically, but the materials need to be much thicker. This could have many applications." The researchers suggest that the beetle evolved this whiteness so that it is camouflaged amongst white fungi where it lives.

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6272485.stm>

ED. COM. Let us state the ignored obvious: if scientists find "many applications" for this research they will have proved that it takes a mind with knowledge and understanding to recognise how it works, and creative design to make something that achieves the same result. They will then have irrefutable proof that the beetle shell is a similar result of creative design and clever engineering. The story about camouflage is a typical meaningless excuse to include the word evolution with every story about biology. The beetle may be able to hide from predators among fungi because it is already white, but that does not explain how it got to be white. It may have always been white and eaten white fungus, so that any other degenerate version which had lost total reflectivity (so it appeared coloured) got eliminated after predation came on to the planet and coloured beetles amongst white fungus were just easy pickings. (Ref. insects, bio mimicry, nanotechnology)

4. SHEDDING LIGHT ON SUPER REFLECTIVE PROTEINS, described in an article in news@nature 8 Dec 2006. Scientists at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, have found a group of proteins in octopus skin that reflect all wavelengths of light from any angle. The researchers found the proteins in cells called leucophores that form the bottom layer of octopus skin. According to zoologist Roger Hanlon: "Protein reflectors are very odd in the animal world." The proteins are able to reflect all wavelengths of light from any angle and can match the intensity of the surrounding light. "This is beautiful broadband reflection," said Hanlon at a meeting of the Materials Research Society in Boston in November 2006. Further studies of cuttlefish skin show that the brightness of the leucophores is enhanced by flat platelets contained in a layer above the leucophores, but scientists need to do more research to find out how these work.

Scientists hope that once the structure and optical properties of the proteins and cells of octopus skin are understood they could inspire the development of super-reflective materials. The news@nature article concludes: "Hanlon sees his discovery as a call to arms for materials scientists to find applications for the bounty being discovered by zoologists. He's sure they'll find a use for it: after all, he says, the military are always interested in playing with light."

ED. COM. Optical engineering requires precision design and engineering. If engineers are able to copy the structure and optical properties of these proteins and platelets they will have MORE irrefutable evidence that octopus skin was designed by a smarter, more creative Engineer. Therefore, they are without excuse for not recognising the Creator and giving Him the glory due to His name. (Ref. photonics, biotechnology, biomimicry)

5. AUSSIE MASSIVE MEGAFUNA DEPOSIT FOUND, according to articles in news@nature 24 Jan 2007, Nature, vol. 445, p422, and ABC News in Science 25 Jan 2007. Researchers in Museums and Universities all over Australia have been studying a "treasure trove of fossils" discovered in 2002 in caves in the Nullarbor Plain - a vast arid region in southern Australia. The fossils include giant kangaroos, tree kangaroos, giant wombats, thylacines (Tasmanian Tigers) and a tree climbing lion-like carnivore named "Thylacoleo". All the giant animals and many other marsupials are now extinct, and there is ongoing debate as to whether climate change or human activity caused their disappearance. Gavin Prideaux of the Western Australian Museum and colleagues analysed the carbon and oxygen isotope in some kangaroo and wombat teeth from the cave fauna and concluded the climate was similar to today's climate and the megafauna must have been adapted to an arid environment. However, Prideaux commented to news@nature, "There's no way you could have such a high diversity of herbivores living on a few saltbushes and grasses." The research team sum up their findings as: "The diverse herbivore assemblage implies substantially greater floristic diversity than that of the modern shrub steppe, but all other faunal and stable-isotope data indicate that the climate was very similar to today."

news@nature article: <http://www.nature.com/news/2007/070122/full/070122-7.html>

ABC article: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/2007/1832750.htm>

ED. COM. Prideaux is right about a large diversity of giant animals not being able to survive in the current environment of the Nullarbor Plain. This Nullarbor area of Australia was named because it is almost treeless (Null - none, Arbor - tree) and the vegetation is sparse and not very nutritious. Present day tree kangaroos are only found in rainforests, and a giant tree climbing carnivore would need some big trees and an abundance of prey to survive. These fossils are more consistent with the view that the Australian climate has degenerated and such decline began long before the motor car, the industrial revolution and the farming of flatulent dairy cows. The biblical account records that ever since Noah's flood the whole world has been drying out. This undoubtedly was one factor in the demise of large creatures. As post flood humans spread out over the world they began to hunt large animals and ALSO contributed to the extinction of the megafauna. Note that none of these changes are evolution. Extinction and decrease in animal size are the opposite of evolution, but exactly what you would expect from the Biblical history of the world. (Ref. Global warming, climate change, giants)

6. FOSSIL LEAF INSECT found according to Nature, vol. 445, p128, 11 Jan 2007. Scientists at the University of Bonn have found the "first example of a fossil 'leaf insect' from the fossil record" in the Messel formation in Germany, dated as 47 million years old. The fossil is "remarkably well preserved" and "resembles modern leaf insects of the Phasmatodea order which includes stick insects." The insect has been named "Eophyllum messelensis".

ED. COM. A fully formed creature that can be classified alongside living leaf insects is just what you would expect to find as a result of insects having been created as separate kinds that reproduced after their kinds, regardless of how and when they were entombed in the fossil record. Remarkably well preserved fossils occur when living organisms are rapidly and deeply buried, so they don't decompose. (Ref. arthropods, fossilisation, species)

7. JURASSIC SHRIMP LIVES, according to a report in New Scientist News 10 Dec 2006 and ABC (Australia) News in Science, 11 Dec 2006. Researchers carrying out a census of marine life have turned up a shrimp that was believed to have been extinct for 50 million years. The creature, named "Neoglyphea neocaledonia", was found alive and well living in the Coral Sea near Australia. The researchers have also found many previously unknown species of sea creatures. Fred Grassle, chair of the project's scientific steering committee, commented to New Scientist: "Each expedition reveals new marvels of the ocean - and with the return of each vessel it is increasingly clear that many more discoveries await marine explorers for years to come."

New Scientist article:

<http://environment.newscientist.com/article/dn10756-marine-census-reveals-jurassic-shrimp-and-more.html>

ABC article: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/2006/1808557.htm>

ED. COM. The living "Jurassic shrimp" was recognised because it looked the same as the fossil shrimp found in Jurassic rocks. So it can be added to the ever growing list of living fossils. No matter how old you believe Jurassic rocks are, this find shows that shrimps have reproduced after their kind since these rocks were deposited. Not a comforting evidence for evolutionists, but consistent with the 10 fold Genesis statement that they were created to do this. As the scientists involved in this project find more new and wondrous things living in the sea, they should be reminded of Psalm 107:23-24, "Others went out on the sea in ships . They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep." (Ref. crustaceans, arthropods, oceans)

8. TWO HEADED FOSSIL found according to a report in BBC News Online, Times Online, The Telegraph (UK) and New Scientist News 20 Dec 2006. Palaeontologists have found a fossilised reptile with two heads buried in Cretaceous rocks in north eastern China. The fossil has been identified as a choristoderan, an extinct aquatic reptile with a long neck that grew to about one metre (3 ft) in length. The two headed fossil is a baby, about 7cm (2.8in) long, and was found in a fossilised nest of other baby choristodera. The creature had two heads and necks attached to a single body, and is the only known two headed fossil. Living two headed reptiles have been found, and are the result of a defect called "axial bifurcation" that occurs during embryonic development. The Times article comments: "The find is remarkable because it is extremely rare for any dead animal to be preserved as a fossil. The vast majority decompose without leaving a trace of their existence. For a specimen as rare as a mutant with two heads to survive defies the laws of probability." The Telegraph article is entitled "Fossil of two-headed 'dragon' found in China".

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6195345.stm>

Times article: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-2512103,00.html>

Telegraph article:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/12/20/ufossil120.xml>

New Scientist article:

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn10827-twoheaded-lizard-spied-in-a-fossil.html>

ED. COM. The Times is right about fossilisation - it doesn't occur just because something dies, as scavengers and bacteria usually destroy dead animals. Fossils are formed ONLY when things are buried rapidly and deeply, as has happened with this nest of baby dinosaurs. The two headed dinosaur was most likely the result of the same defective development that causes two headed reptiles to form today. This is a degenerative process that usually causes the animal to die early in life because the two heads fight one another. To put it in a biblical perspective, it formed only after Adam's sin as two heads are not better than one, and are the provable result of degeneration. It also is a maximum age of Noah's flood as this is the first time rapid burials of degenerate creatures occurred. Therefore, it is a good reminder of the Biblical history of the world. The world was created "very good" but after man rebelled against his creator, God judged the world in several ways including sending a massive flood. (Ref. deformities, reptiles, teratology)

9. OLDEST GLIDING MAMMAL found according to reports in BBC News Online 13 Dec 2006 and Nature, vol 444, p889 14 Dec 2006. Palaeontologists in China have found the fossil of a squirrel sized animal in rocks dated as 125 million years old. This makes it at least 65 million years older than the previous oldest flying mammal - a rodent dated as being 30 million years old. The new fossil is very well preserved and has a clear imprint of a fur covered fold of skin stretching between its fore and hind limbs. The creature had long limbs, similar to living gliding mammals, but it is so different from other mammals that it has been classified as a new order of mammals. It has been given the scientific name "Volaticotherium antiquus" which means "ancient gliding beast". One of the scientists who studied the fossil, Dr Jim Meng of the American Museum of Natural History, commented: "This new evidence of gliding flight in early mammals is giving us a dramatically new picture of many of the animals that lived in the age of the dinosaurs." The Editor's introduction in Nature comments: "This discovery shows that mammals were living highly diverse lives during this relatively early stage of their evolution."

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6176061.stm>

ED. COM. Fossil evidence shows mammals have been living "highly diverse lives" as long as they have existed. The fossil record of mammals IS one of fully formed functional creatures well designed to live in a variety of environments. The fact that this new and extinct mammal is so different to living mammals that it must be classified into a new order, is a sign that there was once a greater variety of mammals living on the earth but some have died out. It is not evidence for evolution, but for extinction and loss - the opposite of evolution. (Ref. gliders, Mesozoic, classification)

10. UNCHANGED AMBER MICROBES reported in Nature, vol 444, p835, 14 Dec 2006. Italian scientists have examined droplets of amber from the largest known deposit of Triassic amber in the Dolomites of northern Italy. They describe their findings: "Here we describe 220-million-year-old droplets of amber containing bacteria, fungi, algae and protozoans that are assignable to extant genera. These inclusions provide insight into the evolution and palaeoecology of Lower Mesozoic micro-organisms: it seems that the basal levels of food webs of terrestrial communities (biocoenoses) have undergone little or no morphological change from the Triassic to the Recent."

ED. COM. What the scientists really mean is the micro-organisms that were living when this amber was formed are the same as micro-organisms that are alive today. If the amber really was 220 million years old, this study would only prove that microbes have multiplied after their kind in a most spectacular way, and they haven't evolved into anything else. It also raises the interesting question of what algae, fungi, bacteria and protozoans were all doing up a tree to be quickly entombed in amber which is fossilized tree sap. (Ref. preservation, ecology, resin)

11. CLIMATE CHANGE AND CHRISTMAS DOWN UNDER for this editor meant sitting in front of the roaring log fire in Ballarat, Australia trying to get warm. I pondered the snow falling on nearby hills which helped put bush fires out, even though the hail stones didn't damage even the sign at the local lake which warned "we do not recommend swimming here". Understandable since the lake is also bone dry. We conclude that the evidence is definitely against global warming this mid summer as Melbourne reached its lowest recorded temperature due to winds from the arctic which lashed Australia's south east. When I returned home to Tropical Queensland, I noticed that the brilliant pumpkin crop that had flourished due to a very mild Aussie summer, had strange markings on it which I had never seen before. On consulting a book on plant diseases - I discovered they'd been caused by the temperature being too low as the pumpkin ripened. December in the Tropics and Christmas in Australia is obviously suffering so much global warming it's been cold enough to kill you. Far better to stick with the Biblical record from the God who was there rather than the weather experts who weren't. The Bible records that the weather has become increasingly erratic since the time of Noah's Flood. Global climate change - yes, global warming - no, and it started long before the invention of the motor car and the increase in factory output of CO2. The world's governments may never find a solution to the problem of climate change, but they will surely find ways to tax it.

12. SQUIRRELS AND SPRUCE BOOM AND BUST. According to a new study published in the journal Science on Thursday, December 21, 2006 (DOI: 10.1126/science.1135520), spruce trees in the Canadian Yukon, and parts of Belgium and Italy, have evolved a synchronized boom and bust approach to seed production in an attempt to thwart Red Squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) that feed on their seeds. Yahoo News (UK/Ireland) calls it "an evolutionary battle of wits for the survival of the species" between the spruce trees and the squirrels, and reports that "the phenomenon, known as masting, involves all of the trees in large regions synchronizing seed production so that they either produce massive amounts of seed, or no seed at all, in a given year." Since the number of seed-bearing cones produced by one tree can vary dramatically, from 500 cones one year to 10 the next, the squirrel population will therefore be well fed one year, and starve the next, thus reducing the number of seed predators, allowing more seeds to survive. But research challenges this conventional evolutionary explanation! Researchers periodically captured and recaptured tagged squirrels to assess how many female squirrels were pregnant. At the same time, they recorded the number of cones produced by spruce trees in the squirrels' habitat. "Squirrels can somehow predict which years trees will produce massive amounts of seed, a new study reveals. The animals produce an extra litter of pups months ahead of these unusually large harvests." According to Andrew McAdam of Michigan State University, one of the scientists involved in the study, "the reason it's so interesting is that we often think of seed predators, such as these squirrels, as going along with the trees' game." He explains that "this is the first time that this type of anticipation has been documented in animals such as squirrels." Scientists have not determined how squirrels can predict the size of the spruce cone harvest almost half a year in advance, but suggest perhaps the animals can detect higher levels of certain hormones in the cone buds that appear on trees a year before the large harvest. Perhaps they notice more of these cone buds in the spring ahead of the harvest and have an extra litter based on this visual cue. The Yahoo report concludes that the squirrels are beating the spruce trees in the "battle of wits."
(Ref. <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn10839-squirrels-accurately-predict-bumper-harvests.html>)
Science (DOI: 10.1126/science.1135520)

ED COM. Winning at games or wars require superior strategies planned well in advance. The victor is the one who best anticipates the opponent's most likely moves, and develops the most effective counter-measures. Squirrels certainly have intelligence, and their collective survival strategy is clever. That is not proof that squirrels evolved, but it is proof that the squirrels brain is capable of solving such problems. Trees, on the other hand, are clearly not intelligent, therefore any "behaviour" used by spruce trees to defeat predators must rightly be attributed to their Designer, who created them on the third day as food for creatures such as squirrels (Genesis 1:11-13). Since both spruce trees and squirrels still survive, the score must be even.

13. TECHNICAL CHALLENGE ON DESIGN as evolutionist writes; "Eukaryotes, such as ourselves, have several different biochemical mechanisms for generating energy, including glycolysis, Krebs's cycle and oxidative phosphorylation (based on the principle of chemiosmosis), the latter of which provides us with the most efficient use of food molecules, and is therefore considered to be the most advanced. However, the principle of oxidative phosphorylation via chemiosmosis seems very, very complicated, as if it were tailored to 'fit on the end of' the Krebs's cycle and glycolysis metabolic pathways, rather than as if it had been instantly designed from scratch. In other words, the design seems far too cumbersome, having to use huge ATP synthase enzymes, as well as several large transport proteins, all of which seems a bit wasteful for something designed instantly by an intelligent entity."

OUR COMMENT: Just because enzymes are large does not make them wasteful. They actually need to be large to do their work. There is more to an enzyme than just the reaction centre. Enzymes must regulate, and this means they must interact with other molecules in the cell. Furthermore, some enzymes need to be bound to cell membranes, in precisely the right place, in order for them to work. Like catalysts in industrial chemical processes, enzymes have to be in the right place at the right time and under the control of already existing feed-back and regulation mechanisms. Otherwise the whole system will not work. Study each enzyme in depth, and then try to make a smaller version of each one that actually does the same job, and you will find out the weakness of your evolving theory. Since these enzymes work with greater efficiency than any man made machine, you should stand back in awe as you remember the modern science of nanotechnology gets much of its inspiration from the way biological molecules work. At a philosophical level: why does something that is designed "instantly" have to be simple? Time doesn't make systems complicated, knowledge and power does. The old rule applies -the smarter you are the faster the job gets done whether it is big or small. Furthermore, our sceptical friend admits that oxidative phosphorylation looks as if is "tailored to fit at the end of Krebs's cycle". Things that are "tailored" are the result of design and craftsmanship, not chance random processes.

Evidence News 01/07 – 9th February 2007

THE EVOLUTIONIST CONTINUES: "It seems more plausible to believe that the oxidative phosphorylation pathway developed after glycolysis and Krebs's cycle, as a way to make the already existing system more efficient, i.e. as a way to 'make do' with what was already in place, and incorporate it into an improved scheme, rather than completely redesigning it."

OUR COMMENT. Please note that your thesis means that before the complex mechanism of Chemiosmosis came about, which produces ATP molecules by passing hydrogen ions through huge turbine-like ATP synthase enzymes, there had to be some biochemical machinery already present in the cell that produced Hydrogen ions, and then concentrated them into a specific area of the cell - exactly what the electron transfer chain now does.

But your stage by stage theory means the horrifically complex biochemical details of the basic electron transfer chain, the first part of oxidative phosphorylation, make no sense, as the electron transport chain only works with the Krebs cycle functioning - one is both pointless and useless without the other. If you assume this system evolved in stages then what is the point of a cell having a pre-existing mechanism for making and concentrating hydrogen ions? They are not much good for anything else, apart from digesting food - a destructive process that occurs outside cells. Large amounts of Hydrogen ions are in fact dangerous if let loose anywhere inside a cell. Therefore, if the process originated within an evolving cell, it would destroy it - which means that it is absolutely vital that the whole system was designed as a complete process from beginning to end. Both the editors of this newsletter studied biochemistry as evolutionists, and remember being impressed by the size and complexity of Krebs's cycles and its associated metabolic pathways, as displayed on wall sized charts in university biochemistry labs (and somewhat daunted by having to learn it all). However, we recognised that the complex multi-step system enabled energy to be efficiently extracted from food, and be constantly regulated according to the cell's needs at any one time.

EVOLUTIONIST CONTINUES: "Thus, the entire mechanism for energy release in cell seems very clumsy and cumbersome for an intelligent design, but ingenious for a gradually changing, gradually improving system that began as a simple, inefficient metabolic pathway, and developed, evolved, into a highly efficient energy release mechanism."

OUR COMMENT. No eukaryotic cells show any sign of having ever had a simpler system, so the belief that one existed is blind faith. If there was simpler system that worked why would a more complex one evolve? The punch line: test your "step by step" theory by trying to make a copy of the Krebs system to find what you actually have to do to make it work, remembering that the scientist who worked out how the process of chemiosmosis works, (just one part of the whole process), received a nobel prize for his creative intelligence. We recommend you swap your blind faith to objective faith in the creator Christ. In the end your theories won't satisfy your intellect, let alone your eternal soul. Neither will they deal with your sin. Jesus promises to do both and that if you seek him with all your Heart you will find him. We did.

14. WHO'S SPEAKING WHERE?

USA geologist, Robert Stewart, begins a 4 week series at Knights Chapel in Tennessee. In New Zealand Kathy and Jim Creak commence the year with a Creation Research display at a 3 day homeschooling conference, followed by a Sunday evening Creation Research DVD presentation in one of the churches. Diane Eager and Tim Stokes join us in the head office for the Web museum project. Aussie forester, Craig Hawkins, commences ministry in Tasmania at Beauty Point and John Mackay speaks around South East Queensland on Climate change and Creation. Details see www.creationresearch.net click Coming Events, then your country. Romulus Campan starts a new TV series in Romania.

15. DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE can be sent to the following addresses or use our secure Web site: www.creationresearch.net and click DONATIONS.

USA: P.O. Box 281 Hartsville TN 37074 (Donations in USA are tax deductible. Make checks to Creation Education Society)

UK: P.O. Box 1 Ashton under Lyne Lancs. OL6 9WW (Donations in UK payable to Creation Research Trust are tax deductible - a Gift Aid Declaration is required - available from <http://www.amen.org.uk/cr/trust/giftaid.pdf>)

AUSTRALIA: P.O. Box 260 Capalaba Qld 4157

CANADA: P.O. Box 31034, 15 Westney Road North, Ajax, ON L1T 3V2

NEW ZEALAND: P.O. Box 40480 Glenfield, Auckland

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