



Greetings from John Mackay and the Creation Research team world wide and welcome to EVIDENCE NEWS with EDITORIAL COMMENT No. 2, 1st March AD2006.

#### INDEX

1. COMING EVENTS
2. WEBSITE UPGRADE
3. DR. HENRY MORRIS DIES
4. NEW DEBATES COMING UP
5. MUTANT CHICKENS HAVE TEETH
6. NEW HUMAN DISEASES RAPIDLY EMERGING
7. TOXIC TOADS EVOLVING INTO ECO-NIGHTMARE
8. IT'S A GOOD TIME TO REMEMBER
9. CREATION HAS NO PREDICTIVE POWER
10. VOLCANIC VENTS TOO HOT FOR EVOLVING LIFE
11. POLKINGHORNE'S GOD REVEALED
12. CREATIONIST DEBATE CHAMPION COMMENDS POLKINGHORNE DEBATE
13. OLDEST TYRANNOSAUR FOUND
14. EVOLUTION SUNDAY CELEBRATED IN USA CHURCHES
15. ANCESTRAL FOSSIL SNAKE FOUND
16. CORAL GENE COMPLEXITY
17. FISHY EAR STORY
18. PERMANENT PLANT GENES
19. ROBUST SKULLS FOR CRAB CRUNCHING
20. ENDOSYMBIOSIS OBSERVED
21. DONATIONS

1. COMING EVENTS - For information on coming events for Creation Research please visit [www.creationresearch.net](http://www.creationresearch.net) and click "Coming Events" then click your country.

2. WEBSITE UPGRADE Take a new look at [www.creationresearch.net](http://www.creationresearch.net). Check out Fossils ONLINE (available Australia only at this stage) and since all new websites have problems, let us know as soon as you find one by contacting [info@creationresearch.net](mailto:info@creationresearch.net)

3. DR. HENRY MORRIS passed into the presence of his Creator and Saviour, Jesus Christ, on Saturday evening (February 25) at 87 years of age. Co-author of The Genesis Flood, with Dr John Whitcomb in the early 1960s he is rightly regarded as the founding father of the modern creationist movement. Dr. Morris was founder and President Emeritus of the Institute for Creation Research USA. He had in recent days suffered a series of debilitating small strokes and had been receiving care in a San Diego area convalescent hospital. According to his son, Dr. Henry Morris III (Executive Vice President of the Institute for Creation Research), the elder Dr. Morris "remained cogent and alert up until the last few moments. My brother John (President of ICR), my sister Mary, and my sister Rebecca were with him just prior to his passing." In a note emailed late Saturday night to ICR board members and friends of the family, Dr. Morris III shared that "Dad has had a wonderfully full life, much blessed by our Lord, and we are rejoicing". Please pray for the family, the staff of the Institute for Creation Research, and for all those whose lives will continue to be changed by the many books and articles authored by this great man of God during his long and productive life.

4. NEW DEBATES COMING UP: Dr Paul Marston, department of Physics, University of Central Lancashire UK , vs. John Mackay, 28th April. Dr Geoff Ollerton, Senior Lecturer, Ecology,

University of Northampton, vs. John Mackay, 10th June, Northampton. For more details, see [www.amen.org.uk/cr](http://www.amen.org.uk/cr)

5. MUTANT CHICKENS HAVE TEETH, according to reports in ScienceNOW 21 Feb 2006 and Scientific American 22 Feb 2006. Chicken embryos with a mutation called "talpid2" have been found to grown tiny conical protuberances on their jaws similar in shape to crocodile teeth. The discovery was made by Matthew Harris of the University of Wisconsin when he took a close look at an embryo's beak that had fallen off. The mutation usually causes embryos to die before 12 days of development, before their jaws develop, but Harris's embryo had survived to be 16 days old and its jaw was beginning to form. Harris and colleagues from University of Wisconsin and University of Manchester are studying how molecular signals work in developing jaws and have found that a growth controlling gene called "sonic hedgehog" was activated in the sides of developing jaw in normal embryos, but was activated in the centre of the jaws in mutant embryos. They were able to mimic this change in molecular signalling in normal embryos using a genetically engineered virus. The embryos developed teeth-like protrusions for a brief time but they were reabsorbed into the beak. There is no way of knowing whether talpid2 mutant chickens keep their "teeth", because the mutation is lethal and no embryos ever grow into a fully formed chicken. The scientists claim their studies prove that birds, which don't have teeth, evolved from archosaurs, extinct crocodile-like reptiles that did have teeth.

Scientific American article: <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?articleID=000E9965-99A6-13FB-99A683414B7F0000>

ED. COM. All this study proves is the embryos with a growth disturbing mutation have abnormal growths in their jaws. As the mutation is lethal it cannot have had a role in any evolution of reptiles into birds. Whilst no living birds have teeth, some fossil birds did, but this is no evidence for evolution. Losing a structure is the opposite of evolution but is no problem for Biblical creation. The Bible tells us the world started out perfect but has been devastated by the Fall of man and Noah's flood. As part of the general downward trend many creatures have died out, including it would seem, birds with teeth. On this basis, we predict that hen's teeth will remain as rare as. (Ref. embryology, dentition, development)

6. NEW HUMAN DISEASES RAPIDLY EMERGING according to a report in BBC online news 20 Feb 2006. Scientists speaking at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) conference claim that new infectious diseases are emerging at faster rates than ever before. Every year scientists discover one or two new infectious diseases in humans. Many of these such as HIV (AIDS) and avian influenza (bird flu) are coming from animals. Professor Mark Woolhouse, an epidemiologist at the University of Edinburgh, UK has catalogued over 1,400 disease causing agents. He commented to the BBC: "This accumulation of new pathogens has been going on for millennia - this is how we acquired TB, malaria, smallpox, but at the moment, this accumulation does seem to be happening very fast. So it seems there is something special about modern times - these are good times for pathogens to be invading the human population." Some of the reasons given for the increase in new diseases are changes in land use and agricultural practices, global travel and trade and hospitalisation. Prof Woolhouse also commented: "Pathogens are evolving ways to combat our control methods."

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4732924.stm>

ED. COM. Many sceptics have claimed creation cannot be used as a basis for science because it cannot be used to make predictions. Over the last few years we have made the following predictions about human diseases and we are pleased to see AAAS scientists confirming we were right. In 2002 we wrote: "The fact that new bacterial diseases are being discovered is good evidence that the world in general, and humans in particular, are degenerating - is exactly what you would expect if you take Biblical history seriously." (See Beware of Bartonella, 21 Mar 2002). Last year following a report that a US trade expert claimed 30 new diseases had emerged in the last decade we wrote: "These new diseases are no surprise to someone who accepts the Biblical framework, rather than the evolutionary one. The Biblical picture of Creation indicates that the world began good without any diseases, but following man's rebellion against the Creator, the earth began a long progression downhill from good to bad to worse to the present day. This

degeneration commenced with God judging man's sin by cursing the ground with thorns and thistles and imposing the biological phenomenon of death. The world further degenerated following God's judgment at the flood which destroyed the original balanced environment and soil, and the ideal atmospheric conditions. The flood was followed by an increasingly erratic climate with the coming of winter and summer, ice and snow etc. Human diseases have been on the increase as a result of this degenerate trend, which includes the degeneration of the human genome. WE PREDICT on the basis of this history, that we will see even more new diseases in the next 50 years, in man, animals and plants, as evidence of this trend." As for the present report, please note: the fact that some organisms can combat our control methods is not evolution either. Our control methods are eliminating (selecting out) germs already resistant to our control methods. (See "Soil Superbugs Found" ENEWS 8 Feb 2006). (Ref. predictions, diseases, devolution)

7. "TOXIC TOADS EVOLVING INTO ECO-NIGHTMARE" reports an article on BBC online news, 15 Feb 2006, about a study of Australian cane toads also reported in the Daily Telegraph, news@nature and Nature, vol 439, p803, 16 Feb 2006. Cane toads from the USA were introduced into Australia over 70 years and are gradually spreading over the northern regions of Australia. Biologists at the University of Sydney have studied the rate of advance of the invasion front and compared the size of the toads found at the front with toads in older more established populations. Ben Phillips, one of the researchers, explained the results: "During an invasion process the individuals at the front are there because they have moved the furthest. We showed that the toads that are the first to arrive at the front are the ones with the longest legs, and the ones last to arrive have shorter legs. The front toads also have much longer legs than the older populations in Queensland." Amphibian ecologist David Skelly of Yale University commented to news@nature that this study is "one the first known examples of a vertebrate rapidly evolving in a new environment." He went on to say: "People have this deep seated feeling that vertebrates don't evolve on these sorts of timescales. But this work shows that it can happen."

ED. COM. What ever cane toads are up to in Australia, they are not evolving. All that is happening here is that the toads which are winning the race across Australia, are the ones that already have a gene for longer legs. As a result of leaving the others behind the faster toads are becoming temporarily separated from the shorter legged toads. Therefore toads at the invasion front can only mate with toads of similar leg length and thus reinforce the long legged tendency. WE PREDICT THAT when the short legged toads catch up to the front line they will breed with the long legged animals once more, resulting in a return to the average leg length seen in older established populations. When this happens will the evolutionists claim they are devolving? (Ref. Bufo, ecology, evolution)

8. IT'S AGOOD TIME TO REMEMBER a previous article on Toad/ Snake evolution from Evidence News, 2 Feb 2005. AUSSIE SNAKES ARE EVOLVING, according to articles in BBC News Online, 8 Dec 2004, and Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), vol. 101 p17150, 7 Dec 2004. The BBC article begins: "Snakes in Australia have evolved to counter the threat of invasive poisonous cane toads, scientists have found." Cane toads were introduced into Australia in the 1930's and have had a devastating effect on native animals that normally eat frogs and toads, because the toads have highly toxic chemicals in their skin. Ben Phillips and Richard Shine of the University of Sydney studied changes in head and body sizes of snakes in regions of Australia that have been invaded by cane toads. They compared two snakes, the red-bellied black snake and the green tree snake, both of which are poisoned if they eat cane toads, with two species that are less susceptible to cane toad poison. They found that the susceptible snakes have smaller heads in comparison to their overall body size. Because snakes swallow their prey whole, snakes with smaller heads are limited to smaller prey and are less likely to eat a cane toad large enough to kill them. "These results provide strong evidence of adaptive changes in native predators as a result of the invasion of toxic prey" wrote Ben Phillips. PNAS classifies this study as an example of "contemporary evolution". BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4073359.stm>

ED. COM. The change in snake head size is not really adaptation, and is certainly not evolution. Adaptation is the built in ability of organisms to cope with changes in their environment. However,

when a snake's head has grown big enough to eat a large poisonous cane toad, it is too late to adapt once it has eaten one. What has really happened over the last 70 years in cane toad infested regions of Australia is that snakes that already had large heads have been killed by eating cane toads, leaving only snakes that already had small heads to reproduce. ScienceNOW (the online news service associated with the journal Science) called it "survival of the pinheads". This is the process of natural selection, and selection, natural or otherwise, is not evolution. Creation Research has said this many times, and will go on saying it. To select something is to choose it from an already existing group of alternatives. It does not explain how the alternatives came into existence, and it certainly does not make them change into other alternatives. All it does is eliminate some alternatives, which is the opposite of evolution. (Ref, snakes, toads, adaptation)

9. CREATION HAS NO PREDICTIVE POWER is one of the most common criticisms made by skeptics and evolutionists alike. We have deliberately kept records of all the items we have predicted over the years, and now it's available all as a complete file. To receive this attachment which will help you answer one of the most fallacious argument of all evolutionists, contact [info@creationresearch.net](mailto:info@creationresearch.net) and ask for "Creation Predictions" attachment.

10. VOLCANIC VENTS TOO HOT FOR EVOLVING LIFE, according to a Royal society press release, 13 Feb 2006 and ScienceNOW, 15 Feb 2006. A current theory on the origin of life is that the first living organisms evolved from chemicals around hydrothermal vents - deep sea volcanoes, because numerous strange "primitive" bacteria are found living on the sides of these. A team of scientists led by David Deamer of University of California, Santa Cruz set out to test this theory by finding a volcanic pool devoid on any signs of life and pouring in "a can of primordial soup containing the building blocks of proteins, DNA as well as fatty acids that could form rudimentary cell membranes." They found such a pool in Kamchatka on the east coast of Russia, but when they tested the water a few hours after adding the biological building blocks they found most of the added material was no longer dissolved in the water but was bound to the clay lining the pool. According to Deamer, the molecules were "nailed down, so they can't interact." Deamer commented to the Royal Society, "The results are surprising and in some ways disappointing. It seems that hot acidic waters containing clay do not provide the right conditions from chemicals to assemble themselves in 'pioneer organisms'. We don't know what to make of this yet, but these results do appear to narrow down some of our ideas about where life could have begun. One possibility is that life really did begin in a 'warm little pond', (as proposed by Darwin 140 years ago) but not in hot volcanic springs or marine hydrothermal vents."

ED. COM. Scientists hoping to find the origin of life by experimenting with chemicals will continue to be disappointed because they are looking in the wrong place. Living cells are made up of the chemicals that Deamer's team used in their study, but living cells work because of the organisation of the chemicals, in the same way that a complex machine won't work until its component parts are put together in the right way by the outside intelligence of the machine's creator. The key to understanding the origin of life is not in the chemistry, but in finding the source of information that organises the chemicals. We suggest that origin of life researchers start by copying "In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1). If they really want results, they will have to play Creator. (Ref. abiogenesis, biochemistry, thermophiles)

11. POLKINGHORNE'S GOD REVEALED during an interview for a UK radio programme named "Speaking of Faith" 10 March 2005. The following statements were made by Dr. John Polkinghorne, ex Physics prof at Cambridge, leading theistic evolutionist now Anglican clergyman and theologian at Liverpool Cathedral, as part of a discussion on creation and evolution.

POLKINGHORNE: I think we live in a world of true becoming, that's to say I don't think the future is fixed. I don't think God fixed it. I think God allows creatures to be themselves.

INTERVIEWER: Does God know it?

POLKINGHORNE: If we live in a world of true becoming, so that we play our little parts in making the future and I believe God's providence plays a part in making the future, and also the laws of

nature that God has ordained play a part in constraining the form of the future. If that's the sort of world that in which we live, then I think, actually, even God doesn't know the future.

Interview can be heard online at: <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/programs/quarks/>

ED. COM. Whichever "god" John Polkinghorne is referring to, it is not the Creator God of the Bible, Who does know the end from the beginning. Christian theologians have traditionally described God as being omnipotent (all powerful) and omniscient (all knowing) and Omni present (all present - every where). Polkinghorne's evolver god is not powerful enough to make a complete universe, and now we find this god doesn't know what is going to happen to the universe he started. We suggest a new theological term for such a god: "omnignorant". It also follows that such a god will be omnipotent, and consequently omnipleasant as he/it/she pleases everybody. We recommend you put your trust in the true Creator God - the Lord Jesus Christ who is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. (Revelation 22:13) (Ref. origins, eschatology, apostasy)

12. GET YOUR COPY OF THE POLKINGHORNE- MACKAY DEBATE. AVAILABLE ON [www.creationresearch.net](http://www.creationresearch.net) click WEBSHOP click DVDs. Dr. Duane Gish (ICR-USA) wrote: Yesterday I received the DVD of your debate with John Polkinghorne at Liverpool Cathedral. You gave a superb presentation. You had carefully and thoroughly studied every facet of the question to be debated. You splendidly applied the Word of God just as it should be interpreted. I did not note any flaws in the way you presented the evidence for the Biblical and scientific evidence for creation. You immediately, without hesitation, forcefully refuted every major argument that Polkinghorne offered. Your delivery was outstanding. Your attitude toward your opponent was gentle and your humor was both entertaining and effective. To anyone with an open mind, regardless of his view point, you won the debate handily. Happily, there was a large audience to witness the debate. ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY.

13. OLDEST TYRANNOSAUR FOUND, according to reports in Nature, vol. 439, pp 665 & 715 and news@nature, 9 February 2006. Xu Xing of the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Paleoanthropology, China, and colleagues have found two skeletons of a 3 metre dinosaur, similar to a tyrannosaurus in rocks dated as 160 millions years old - twice as old as T. rex. This makes it the oldest of the tyrannosauroid dinosaurs. At 3 metres long the animal was much smaller than T rex but, according to news@nature, "its gaping, beak-like face armed with teeth, and its powerful legs, show that it too would have been a ferocious killer." The most surprising feature of the creature is that its nose has "large, fragile and highly pneumatic (air filled) cranial crest that is among the most elaborate known in any non-avian dinosaur". The researchers suggest this was some kind of display structure for species identification or sexual signalling, like the crests found in some birds. One Nature article was illustrated with an artist's impression of the creature's head and neck showing it covered with coarse filaments like feather down, rather than reptilian scales. The BBC article was accompanied by an illustration of the whole animal. Their creature was covered with downy filaments and had longer coarser filaments hanging from its upper limbs. The dinosaur has been named "Guanlong wucaii" which means "crested dragon from the five colours". The "five colours" refers to the colourful rocks in the region where the fossil was found.  
news@nature article: <http://www.nature.com/news/2006/060206/full/060206-5.html>  
BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4692962.stm>

ED. COM. The creature's name is interesting - the Chinese know a dragon when they see one. The mixture of facts and evolutionary assumptions in these reports is also fascinating. The bones, including the crest are facts. The claims that this dinosaur was a savage killer, that it was covered with downy filaments, and its classification as a "non-avian" dinosaur (meaning a dinosaur that is not a bird) are ideas imposed on the facts. Powerful legs and sharp teeth do not make an animal a savage killer. You have to observe its behaviour to know that. However, the evidence suggests it didn't get into too many fights as the large, fragile air filled crest would have been easily damaged. The filamentous covering and the term "non-avian" are part of a determined effort to fix the belief in people's minds that dinosaurs evolved into birds. This is not science - it is brainwashing. (Ref. reptiles, tyrannosaurs, dragons)

14. EVOLUTION SUNDAY CELEBRATED IN USA CHURCHES, as reported in The New York Times, 13 Feb 2006. On 12 February 2006 ministers in several hundred American protestant churches preached that evolution was true and condemned those who oppose it. "Evolution Sunday" followed a letter writing campaign called the Clergy Letter Project begun by a groups of academics and clergy in Wisconsin begun in 2005 which has persuaded many thousands of clergy to affirm that the theory of evolution is a "a foundational scientific truth" and to reject it is "to deliberately embrace scientific ignorance and transmit such ignorance to our children." At one participating church, St Dunstan's Episcopal Church the Rev. Patricia Templeton told her 85 strong congregation that "A faith that requires you to close your mid in order to believe is not much faith at all." Since then the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has joined in the call for churches to back evolution, and teach against those who believe in creation, as part of AAASs campaign against the Intelligent Design movement - reported in BBC online news 20 Feb 2006. According to the New York Times, "Most of the signatories to the project and those preaching on Sunday were from mainline Protestant denominations. Their congregations have shrunk sharply over the last 30 years. At the same time, the number of evangelical and fundamentalist Christians has risen considerably, and many of them because of their literalist view of the Bible, doubt evolutionary theory."

New York Times article:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2006/02/13/national/13evolution.html?\\_r=1&th&emc=th&oref=login](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/02/13/national/13evolution.html?_r=1&th&emc=th&oref=login)

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4731360.stm>

ED. COM. Which god do the "Evolution Sunday" churches think they are worshipping? It is certainly not the God of the Bible, who has given a clear record of the origin and history of the world that cannot be reconciled with evolution. The Bible states that God created a very good world that has been corrupted because of human sin and has been going down hill ever since, and human beings can only be saved from this mess by the Creator Himself - the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the opposite of evolution, which teaches that the very things that corrupt the world, such as disease, death, hunger and the struggle to survive are the very processes that brought humanity into existence. Why should anyone trust a god who would do this and claim "it was good"? Whilst we don't believe that truth is determined by numbers, we are not surprised that many mainstream denominations who have compromised the Scriptures are shrinking. If you preach that Darwin is right and the Bible is wrong, it is not surprising that people wont come to your church; you have no more to offer them than they can already get in biology class - struggle toil and eternal death. (Ref. religion, apostasy, theology)

15. ANCESTRAL FOSSIL SNAKE FOUND, according a report in ABC (Australia) News in Science, and Nature, 16 Feb 2006. Palaeontologists at the Riversleigh fossil site in Queensland, Australia have found two snake skulls of an extinct snake named "Yurlunggur" preserved in "soft freshwater limestone" dated at 20 to 25 million years old. "Yurlunggur" is an Arnhem Land Aboriginal term for "rainbow serpent" (a mythical dreamtime creature believed by tribal aborigines to have a role in creation). Snake skulls are very fragile and generally do not fossilise well but these fossils are "exceptionally preserved" and the researchers were able to recover them by dissolving away the limestone. Using the size of the skulls and some vertebral bones also found at Riversleigh as a guide, scientists believe the snakes would have been about 6 metres (20 feet) long with a body 30 cm (one foot) thick. John Scanlon, who described the fossils in Nature claims the fossils prove that snakes evolved from a large predatory lizards like goannas and mosasaurs because it has some lizard-like features not seen in "modern" snakes.

ED. COM. Actually, any theory that says snakes used to have legs and they have lost them and they are now just crawling along the ground sounds rather like the account in Genesis 3 where God cursed the serpent and condemned it to crawl in the dust for the rest of its days. We've said it before, but it's obvious we need to say it again - losing limbs is actually the opposite of evolution. When thalidomide was the "in" drug in the 60's, and children were born without limbs, nobody said they were evolving. Everybody knew they were degenerating. Snakes are no different. Let's get some consistency into scientific reporting. Most of the Nature paper is devoted to fitting the fossils into an evolutionary tree by comparing the minutiae of their bones to other snakes and reptiles

Although they comment on the size of the snake and the fact that it is extinct, none of the Riversleigh scientists suggest any reason for why snakes are no longer so large, and why this one has died out. This is explained by Genesis, which tells us the world was started very good, and even after sin came, the environment was still good enough for man to live nearly 1000 yrs. In such a world, animals that grew all their lives, such as most of the reptiles, could have become much bigger than today. After the flood, Genesis records a degenerating environment and diminishing lifespan and therefore a smaller size for such creatures..

Although palaeontologists remark about how well preserved the skulls are none seem to ask how a snake could be exceptionally well preserved in limestone made from water dwelling shells. It would have to be drowned and encased in rapidly forming rock. Altogether these fossils provide more evidence for Biblical creation than they do for evolution. (Ref. serpents, fossilisation, Australia)

16. CORAL GENE COMPLEXITY reported in New Scientist, 3 Dec 2005 and ScienceNOW 6 Dec 2005. Ulrich Technau, a molecular biologist at University of Bergen, Norway and colleagues have begun surveying the active genes in a coral named "Acropora millepora" and a sea anemone named "Nematostella vectensis," and were surprised to find these creatures had extended gene families that were believed to only occur in vertebrates. Furthermore, their results indicate that these organisms have over 20,000 genes - more than flies or nematode worms, and not far behind vertebrates. The results were surprising because they don't fit the standard evolutionary sequence of simple animals evolving into complex animals with corals and anemones at the bottom, nematode worms and flies above them and vertebrates at the top. The study has led some scientists to suggest that half a billion years ago there must have been a common ancestor with complex genome that gave rise to ecdysozoans (flies and worms) cnidarians (corals and anemones) and vertebrates, and some time later the ecdysozoans (flies, etc.) lost a lot of genes in their evolution. Peter Holland, an evolutionary developmental biologist at Oxford University commented: "We've been thinking so much about the origin of new genes that we haven't put enough emphasis on gene loss. This work highlights gene loss as something important"

ED. COM. Finding groups of genes that exist in corals and vertebrates, but not in worms, is only a problem for a theory that tries to link them all into one continuous evolving genetic line, but belief in common ancestors in the absence of fossil or living evidence is pure faith. The findings described above are no problem for Biblical creation, which states that the different kinds of animals were separately created. Therefore, they would contain whatever genes the Creator knew they would need. Explaining the findings by gene loss from a common ancestor is also no help to the theory of evolution. Gene loss is the opposite of evolution, but if any gene loss has occurred, it also fits with Biblical Creation. Gene loss is a degenerative process and the Bible tells us the world started out perfect but has gone downhill due to man's sin and God's judgement. (Ref. invertebrates, phylogeny, genetics)

17. FISHY EAR STORY reported in ScienceNOW, news@nature 18 Jan 2006 and Nature vol 439, p318, 19 Jan 2006. One of the problems involved in evolving from a fish to a land dwelling animal is building the middle ear, an air filled cavity containing a bone that conveys sound from the eardrum to the inner ear. Palaeontologists at Uppsala University, Sweden have studied the skull of a fossil fish named "Panderichthys" believed to have evolved 370 million years ago, about the same time the first land dwelling animals were evolving and compared it with another fish and an "early tetrapod" (four legged land dwelling animal). Like sharks and rays "Panderichthys" had a hollow tube called a spiracle through the roof of the mouth supported by a bony strut called the hyomandibula. The Uppsala researchers found that the fossil fish had "a wide, straight spiracle rather than a narrow one, and a shortened hyomandibula." They concluded that the spiracle was evolving into the middle ear cavity and the hyomandibula was evolving into the sound transmitting bone. Hans Thewissen of Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, a leading expert in the evolution of the ear, commented: "It's neat to see that transition." The news@nature article describes the Uppsala scientists' findings as "capturing a snapshot of evolution in action." The Uppsala researchers suggested "Panderichthys" used the spiracle to convey water to the gills directly from the outside rather than through the fish's mouth, much the same as in living sharks

and rays. These fish have breathing tubes that enable them to inhale water but avoid taking in grit and mud through their mouths when they are lying on the sea bed.

ED. COM. This study and the comments made about it illustrate the vast difference between observed facts and evolutionary faith. The facts are this fish had a wider breathing hole and shorter supporting bone than other fish. The idea that the breathing hole and supporting bone were turning into an ear is pure faith. Thewissen's comment exposes a fundamental flaw in evolutionary claims about transition. Transition is an active process. If it did occur, it could only be observed in living things, where scientists could observe ongoing processes. Fossils are dead and buried and are not doing anything. (Ref. evolution, respiration, fish)

18. PERMANENT PLANT GENES reported in Nature, vol. 435, p388 26 May 2005. (Whole item quoted) "Short pieces of RNA that play a key role in plant development have been doing their job since before the evolution of flowers, say Michael Axtell and David Bartel of the Whitehead Institute in Massachusetts. They used microarrays to measure the accumulation of 63 microRNAs and other RNAs that silence genes in *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a plant of the mustard family. They applied the same probes to species of wheat, pine (*Pinus resinosa*, pictured), fern and moss. Despite the fact that these plants diverged hundreds of millions of years ago, they contain some of the same microRNAs acting on similar target genes."

ED. COM. If these microRNAs, and the DNA that coded for them, really existed for hundreds of millions of years they are good evidence that genetic information is remarkably resistant to changing. Because control genes are essential to proper growth and development they have to be fully functional to be of any use. In all the plants studied the microRNAs were fully functional and worked with fully functioning genes. This is good evidence for purposeful creation. (Ref. RNA, genetics, plants)

19. ROBUST SKULLS FOR CRAB CRUNCHING, according to a report in New Scientist, 29 October 2005, p15. Robust Australopithecines are a group of extinct "hominids" that have large jaws, robust teeth with thick enamelled and large crests on their skulls that indicate they had powerful chewing muscles. Their scientific name is "Paranthropus". It was believed these creatures "evolved their heavily enamelled bulbous teeth to chew tough tubers, fruits, seeds and nuts" but carbon isotopes studies of their teeth showed they were not strict vegetarians. Anthropologists wondered how their diet differed from those of other Australopithecines that lived alongside them but had less bulky skulls and teeth. Alan Shabel of the University of California, Berkeley, analysed carbon isotopes in Paranthropus teeth and found they were similar to bones and teeth from animals that eat crabs and snails, such as the marsh mongoose and otter. Shabel commented that "thick teeth would have been essential for coping with the inevitable grit that would have contaminated any crab delicacy." According to New Scientist, "a taste for the crustaceans may explain the puzzling bulky skulls and molars of the robust Australopithecines that lived alongside early humans".

ED. COM. Large, thickly enamelled teeth set in strong robust jaws might be useful for crunching crustaceans, but that does not explain how the teeth, bones and muscles came about. Finding a function for some feature, or explaining why it is useful feature to have does not its origin. Until the evolutionists can explain how trying to bite a crab with small teeth and jaws changes the genes for teeth, bone and muscle growth they have not explained anything. What they have found is evidence that animals that already had a powerful chewing apparatus can use it to eat things that other animals would have difficulty eating. This fits with Genesis, which tells us the animals were created to eat plants in the original good world. Robust Australopithecines would have eaten tubers, seeds, nuts but after Noah's flood these became less abundant, so the Australopithecines took to eating anything else they could. Because they already had big teeth and strong jaws they were able to exploit a food source that other animals could not. (Ref. diet, degeneration, explanation)

20. ENDOSYMBIOSIS OBSERVED, as reported in Science vol 310, p287, 14 Oct 2005 and New Scientist, 22 Oct 2005, p23. Endosymbiosis is the theory that cells containing complex membrane

bound structures cells such as chloroplasts and mitochondria evolved as a result of one type of single cell engulfing another. In a evolutionist's "little green dream come true" Japanese scientists have observed a single celled organism engulf another cell, which then continues to live in a symbiotic relationship with the engulfing cell. Noriko Okamoto and Isao Inouye of University of Tsukuba have studied a single celled organism named Hatena, which has photosynthetic "plastid" (membrane bound structure) within it. When the cell divides the whole plastid stayed in one of the daughter cells. The other cell develops an engulfing apparatus and engulfs an algal (single celled plant) cell. The algal cell loses its flagellum and some of its internal membranes and support structures, but keeps its nucleus and mitochondria. Thus, the "plastid" in the Hatena is actually an internal symbiotic cell. Debashish Bhattacharya of University of Iowa commented, "If this cell is in any way typical, endosymbiosis was an amazingly strong and immediate force in photosynthetic cell evolution."

ED. COM. The process described here may be "endosymbiosis", a symbiotic cell living within another, ("endo" means "within") but it does nothing to explain the origin of mitochondria, chloroplasts and other complex cellular structures. Neither does it explain the evolution of photosynthesis. The algal cell already has mitochondria and photosynthetic apparatus. (Ref. symbiosis, photosynthesis, microbiology)

21. DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE can be sent to the following addresses or use our secure Web site: [www.creationresearch.net](http://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

IF YOU no longer wish to receive our updates please reply with REMOVE EN in the subject. To assist us please include your name as well as e-mail address (and organisation name, if any).