

## Evidence News 02/10 - 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010AD - Dinosaurs

WELCOME to a Dinosaur of an Evidence News 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010 with EDitorial COMment. Lots of new theories, some new finds plus great support for Biblical Creation and Noah's flood. John Mackay and the Aussie team are out this week at both our Jurassic sites so g'day from them and the Creation Research team worldwide and thanks for your financial support which helps with this research.

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).

Evidence News comes to you in PDF format so you need Adobe Reader which is freely available from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). This week's Evidence News Index follows - to view the entire e-news please click <http://www.creationresearch.net/enews/ENEWS0210-100324-dinosaurs.pdf> (if the link doesn't work just copy and paste it into your web browser).

(Please Note: within the PDF file you can click on the Index Line to go directly to the news item.)

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### INDEX

1. **TWO NEW JURASSIC SLIDE SHOWS**
2. **MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS THESE DINOSAUR DVDS**
3. **DON'T MISS AUSSIE FIELD TRIPS**
4. **CREATION BANNED IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASSES**
5. **CLIMATE GAFFES UNDERMINE CONFIDENCE IN SCIENCE**
6. **TRICHOMONOSIS KILLED T REX**
7. **DINOSAURS HAD ORANGE FEATHERS**
8. **OLDEST DINOSAUR FOUND**
9. **ONE THIRD OF DINO SPECIES MAY HAVE TO GO**
10. **DINO STAMPEDE IN CHINA**
11. **CLAWS FOR CLIMBING NOT KILLING**
12. **PTEROSAUR WINGS ARE UNIQUE**
13. **DINOSAURS ATE BABIES**
14. **SNAKES ATE DINOSAURS**
15. **DINO BIRD EVOLUTION REVERSAL**
16. **ASTEROID EXTINCTION THEORY CONFIRMED**
17. **DEFEND CLIMATE CHANGE LIKE EVOLUTION**
18. **"ATHEISM, NOT GOD, IS ODD"**
19. **DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE**

1. **TWO NEW JURASSIC SLIDE SHOWS** on our web museum as our Jurassic Ark Project progresses with further fossil excavations and plantings. One show tells the history of the site, showing how it has been excavated over the years, and developed into an outdoor museum with gardens and displays involving much digging, draining, tree planting, mulching, watering and doing battle with droughts, floods and goats. See the development of a major Creation Research resource, click [HERE](#).

The second slide show looks at the evidence revealed by our excavation of fossilised logs from a massive and catastrophically deposited log jam. The trees show signs of being ripped up, smashed, transported and deposited and their identification is further support of Genesis. To see this evidence and more click [HERE](#).

### **2. MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS THESE DINOSAUR DVDS:**

**Jehovah's Park – The Monsters God made** - This 1½ hour documentary/interview (for high school age & up) will answer every question you ever had about dinosaurs. Great for all who've been confused by the nonsense of evolution. Unique footage filmed around the world to show that

## Evidence News 02/10 - 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010AD - Dinosaurs

dinosaurs are the monsters God made. Better than Jurassic Park. Running time 80 minutes. Click [HERE](#) to go to our Web Shop, then click on "Great DVDs", then scroll down to find "Jehovah's Park" and order your copy today.

**Dinosaurs - the Rest of the Tail** - Full of robot dinosaurs. Children love it. Adults are fascinated by it. A 30 minute documentary filmed around the world to help young people know dinosaurs are the work of God's hand. Watch them climb on Noah's Ark. (Suits 7 years +). Click [HERE](#) to go to our Web Shop, then click on "Great DVDs", then scroll down to find "Dinosaurs – the rest of the tail" and order your copy today.

**3. DON'T MISS AUSSIE FIELD TRIPS** see [www.creationresearch.net](http://www.creationresearch.net) HOME PAGE left. 10 day fossil finding July trip from our Gympie, Jurassic Ark site, down to the Polystrate trees of Newcastle, PLUS the 14 day August trip to the Aussie Outback with a high possibility of Lake Eyre having lots of water – a once in a lifetime opportunity.

**4. CREATION BANNED IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASSES**, according to the "Policies of the Non-Government Schools Registration Board applicable to the registration and review of Non-government schools 2009/2010" of South Australia. Section B4 states: "The board requires the teaching of Science as an empirical discipline, focussing on inquiry, hypothesis, investigation, experimentation, observation and evidential analysis. The Board does not accept as satisfactory a science curriculum in a non-Government school which is based on, espouses or reflects the literal interpretation of a religious text in its treatment of creationism or intelligent design."

ED. COM. It is interesting to note the use of the phrase "Religious Text" which means the South Australian Government is definitely targeting Muslims, Jews and Christians. "Religious Text" also means Australian Aboriginal myths about origins are therefore not excluded as they are oral, and a visit to any school in Australia (Public or Private) reveals teachers who are forced to tell Aboriginal dreamtime stories to students. Evolution has thus become one more pagan myth that teachers are forced to teach as science.

We are all in favour of "inquiry, hypothesis, investigation, experimentation, observation and evidential analysis". However, like all human activities, science is not done in a mental vacuum. Evidence is interpreted according to a world view. This is especially true for evidence relating to origins, as the past cannot be directly observed. The South Australian government with its Wrandy Premier is only allowing a one world view – atheistic evolution. By banning any reference to other world views they are banning a proper understanding of the nature of science and its place in human learning and we predict the quality of science education and research will continue to decline as a result. (Ref. Philosophy, religion, atheism, education)

**5. CLIMATE GAFFES UNDERMINE CONFIDENCE IN SCIENCE**, according to an article in the Telegraph 7 Mar 2010. The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) have issued statements saying the recent revelations from the e-mail and data leak from Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia could undermine the reputation of science as a whole. They are especially critical of Phil Jones and his colleagues failing to respond to legally binding requests for release of the data used in their climate models. The RSC stated: "The apparent resistance of researchers from the CRU at the University of East Anglia to disclose research data has been widely portrayed as an indication of a lack of integrity in scientific research. The true nature of science dictates that research is transparent and robust enough to survive scrutiny. A lack of willingness to disseminate scientific information may infer that the scientific results or methods used are not robust enough to face scrutiny, even if this conjecture is not well-founded. This has far-reaching consequences for the reputation of science as a whole, with the ability to undermine the public's confidence in science. The RSC firmly believes that the benefits of scientific data being made available and thus open to scrutiny outweigh the perceived risks."

Both societies suggested that climate data be released into the public domain and kept in an independent repository where it can be accessed for analysis and experiment. The resistance of

## Evidence News 02/10 - 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010AD - Dinosaurs

the CRU scientists releasing their data for others to analyse led Dr Don Keiller, deputy head of life sciences at Anglia Ruskin University, to comment: "What these emails reveal is a detailed and systematic conspiracy to prevent other scientists gaining access to CRU data sets. Such obstruction strikes at the very heart of the scientific method, which is the scrutiny and verification of data and results by one's peers." Professor Darrel Ince, from the department of computer science at the Open University, commented: "A number of climate scientists have refused to publish their computer programs; what I want to suggest is that this is both unscientific behaviour and, equally importantly ignores a major problem: that scientific software has got a poor reputation for error."

ED. COM. Creation Research has already warned about this problem. In Evidence News, 19 Nov 2009 we wrote: "Environmental scientists should be careful what they teach people. If they have been found to be teaching false claims people will lose their respect for ALL scientists. In the end this could be worse for the environment because people will ignore scientists over other issues they can, and should, do something about, e.g. good water, soil and vegetation management, farming practices that are good for animals and humans, etc."

(See "People 'Tired' of Climate Claims" [HERE](#)). It is good to see scholarly societies catching up with us, but it is not good that people lose confidence in real science. Good science is part of our God given mandate to rule over the earth. We can only do this wisely if we conduct science with the same honesty that should be applied to any other human activity. (Ref. politics, academic, peer review)

**6. TRICHOMONOSIS KILLED T REX**, suggest articles in ScienceDaily, and PLoS 30 Sep 2009. Many dinosaur jaws have holes in them that have been attributed to bites from other dinosaurs or bacterial diseases. Physical trauma and bacterial infection usually cause irregular holes, but some dinosaur specimens have distinctive smooth edged holes in them. Ewan D.S. Wolff of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Steven W. Salisbury of the University of Queensland and colleagues have studied the jaws of numerous tyrannosaurid dinosaur specimens and found 10 specimens, including the "Sue" of the Field Museum of Chicago, had multiple smooth edge holes extending through the full thickness of the jaw. They noted these holes were similar to those caused by a single celled parasite named *Trichomonas*. This parasite is known to infect birds, especially predatory birds, where it causes ulcers in the mouth and throat and erodes the jaws. In advanced cases the bird is unable to eat. The dinosaur researchers suggest that the tyrannosaurs spread the infection by biting one another in fights, or by preying on other infected dinosaurs and by cannibalism. Wolff commented: "The lesions we observe on Sue suggest a very advanced stage of the disease and may even have been the cause of her demise."  
ScienceDaily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/09/090929133117.htm>

ED. COM. Disease spread by biting has recently had a lot of publicity with the facial tumour disease in Tasmanian Devils. If this Dinosaur disease was spread the same way it gives us some insight into the origin of disease. In the original good world that God made, all animals were vegetarian therefore a biting disease could not have occurred. It is only after animals became predators and scavengers and started biting each other that this disease could have commenced. (Ref. protozoa, fossils, bones, diet)

ORIGIN OF DISEASE See our DVD "Did a Good God Make Bad Bugs?" - ORDER [HERE](#) at our webshop, click on "Great DVDs", then scroll down to "Did a Good God Make Bad Bugs" to order your copy.

**7. DINOSAURS HAD ORANGE FEATHERS**, according to BBC News, Nature News, ScienceNOW and ScienceDaily 27 Jan 2010. Researchers in China and UK claim to have found evidence that some dinosaurs had gingery-brown feathers and one, named *Sinosauropteryx* had a striped tail. This dinosaur is described by Mike Benton from the University of Bristol, UK as having "a very clear rim of feathers running down the top of its head like a Mohican, all the way along its back. The researchers found fossilised granules, the size and shape of melanosomes in the "feathers" found with this fossil. Melanosomes are granules that contain melanin, the brownish-black pigments found in skin, hair and feathers and come in two shapes depending on what colour

## Evidence News 02/10 - 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010AD - Dinosaurs

pigment they produce. Round melanosomes produce a russet coloured pigment, elongated ones produce grey-black pigment. The researchers had previously found melanosomes in the fossilised feathers of a bird named *Confuciusornis*. The melanosomes were not evenly distributed along the tail of *Sinosauroptryx*. There were alternating bands with and without them, indicating the creature had russet and white stripes on its tail.

Mike Benton commented that the presence of melanosomes confirms that the filaments “really were feathers”. He explained; "Critics have said that these visible spiny structures could be shredded connective tissue. But the discovery of melanosomes within the bristles finally proves that some early dinosaurs were indeed feathered." He also said: "Our research provides extraordinary insights into the origin of feathers. In particular, it helps to resolve a long-standing debate about the original function of feathers – whether they were used for flight, insulation, or display. We now know that feathers came before wings, so feathers did not originate as flight structures. We therefore suggest that feathers first arose as agents for colour display and only later in their evolutionary history did they become useful for flight and insulation." However, evolutionary biologist and bird expert Alan Feduccia of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, disagrees. He has long been sceptical of claims that dinosaurs had feathers and argues Benton and his colleagues "make a leap of faith going from *Confuciusornis* to *Sinosauroptryx*." Feduccia suggests that if the granules really are melanosomes they could have come from skin.

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8481448.stm>

ScienceDaily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/01/100127134245.htm>

ED. COM. Feduccia is correct. Even if the fossilised granules are melanosomes that does not prove the filaments on *Sinosauroptryx* were feathers. It is not pigment that makes feathers – it is the structure, and these pointed fibres simply do not have the structure of feathers. Feduccia and colleagues have closely studied this fossil and concluded that the filaments were collagen fibres, not feathers. There is no reason why melanosomes could not have coloured skin or skin-derived structures, just as they do in many kinds of living creatures today. USEFUL LINK "Feathersaurus Flops" click [HERE](#). (Ref. Pigmentation, fossils)

**8. OLDEST DINOSAUR FOUND**, according to ScienceDaily, 4 Mar 2010 and *Nature*, vol 464, p95, 4 Mar 2010. An international team of researchers has found the bones of 14 individuals of a creature named *Asilisaurus kongwe* in Middle Triassic rocks in Tanzania. The creature is a member of a group named Silesaurs, considered to be the closest relative to dinosaurs. *Asilisaurus* is described as being 0.5 to 1 metre (1.5 to 3 feet) tall at the hips, and were 1 to 3 metres (3 to 10 feet) long, weighed about 10 to 30 kilograms (22 to 66 pounds), walked on four legs, and likely ate mostly plants or a combination of plants with a little meat. This is very different to the usual theories about dinosaur precursors, which were believed to be two legged carnivores. Randall Irmis, curator of palaeontology at the Utah Museum of Natural History commented: "The crazy thing about this new dinosaur discovery is that it is so very different from what we all were expecting, especially the fact that it is herbivorous and walked on four legs." He went on to say: "The research suggests that at least three times in the evolution of dinosaurs and their closest relatives, meat-eating animals evolved into animals with diets that included plants." According to the *Nature* Editor's summary, "the real interest is the early date, showing that we still know very little about the earliest stages of dinosaur and pterosaur evolution". The fossils were found in Middle Triassic (Anisian) rocks, around 245 million years old. This date was estimated on the basis of the other fossils found at the site, i.e. crocodile-like creatures named cynodonts and dicynodonts. This makes the new fossils at least 15 million years older than the oldest dinosaurs.

ScienceDaily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/03/100303131530.htm>

ED. COM. Notice that the fossils were dated by the presence of fossils that are already believed to be older than dinosaurs because of prior belief in evolution. There is no evidence this creature evolved from or into any other animal. It is simply different from other “sauruses”. If it had been found in a layer of rock that had already been given a younger date no-one would claim it was a dinosaur ancestor. The belief in meat-eating dinosaurs evolving into plant eating dinosaurs three times over is also based on an already held belief in evolution, rather than real observations. When evolutionist claim something evolved independently two or more times it usually means they

cannot reconcile their fossil dates and their evolutionary trees – an indication that one or both of these beliefs is wrong.

**9. ONE THIRD OF DINO SPECIES MAY HAVE TO GO**, according to an article in PLoS One 27 Oct 2009 and Fossil Science, 1 Nov 2009. A new study of dinosaur growth patterns indicates that some dinosaurs classified as different species, and even different genera, are actually the same species at different stages of life. Dinosaur experts John Horner and Mark Goodwin analysed the bone structures of the dome headed *Pachycephalosaurus* with that of another dome headed dinosaur named *Stygimoloch spinifer*, discovered in Montana in 1973, and a skull discovered in South Dakota 2006 given the fanciful name of *Dracorex hogwartsia* in honour of Hogwart's Academy of Harry Potter books. Horner and Godwin's study indicates *Stygimoloch* was a sub-adult form of *Pachcephalosaurus*, and *Drocrex* was a juvenile form that showed some thickening of the skull but had not developed a dome. Recent research indicates that the elaborate horns, frills and nodules on dinosaur heads were not for fighting or defence, but were for courtship displays or species recognition. Therefore, they may have varied enormously between different stages of life. They are made from a kind of bone called metaplastic bone, which can be quickly formed, broken down and rebuilt. For this reason a three horned dinosaur named *Torosaurus* is no longer classified as a separate species, as are several duck-billed hadrosaurs and maybe even *Nanotyrannus*, a miniature version of *T. rex*. Horner suggests that one third of named dinosaur species may be simply different growth stages of other named species.

Fossil Science:

[http://www.fossilscience.com/research/New\\_analysis\\_of\\_dinosaur\\_growth\\_may\\_wipe\\_out\\_one-third\\_of\\_species.asp](http://www.fossilscience.com/research/New_analysis_of_dinosaur_growth_may_wipe_out_one-third_of_species.asp)

ED. COM. The classification of living Species is determined by their ability to interbreed. All stages of their life cycle can be observed, as can any variation within a live species. This cannot be done for fossils. They don't mate or eat or do anything so there is much guess-work about fossils that are not identical to try to answer the question - are they more than one species. As there is no scientific kudos or naming rights for finding another specimen of an already known species, we have no doubt that many similar fossils have been given new species names on the most trivial differences.

If Horner and colleagues are correct in interpreting the bony excrescences on dinosaur heads to be for courtship display and species recognition they may be quite different for males and females, as well as at different stages of life, and this would further decrease the number of named species. Horner's suggestion about dinosaur horns also fits with Genesis. In the original good world, animals would not have to fight for food or mates. Therefore, horns on any animal were for peaceful purposes, such as indicating age, sex and species. Later in the history of the world, animals that already had these structures used them in the struggle for life that began after the world degenerated because of human sin and God's judgement. (Ref. nomenclature, classification, ontogeny)

**10. DINO STAMPEDE IN CHINA** reports BBC News, 6 Feb 2010. Scientists in China have uncovered approximate 3,000 dinosaur foot prints all facing the same way in a 2,600 sq m (0.64 acre) rock slope in the Zhucheng area, dated at 100 million years old. The prints are very well preserved and are from dinosaurs of many sizes, ranging from 10cm (4 in) to 80cm (2ft 9in), and at least six different kinds, including tyrannosaurs, coelurosaurs and hadrosaurs. Fossil experts said they could be "a migration or a panicked attempt to escape predators. "

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8502076.stm>

ED. COM. A mass of footprints like this does indicate a lot of dinosaurs were running away from something. As tyrannosaurs are considered to be the top predators in the dinosaur world, we wonder what the researchers think they were running away from. For the foot prints to be so well defined and preserved they would have been made in soft sediment and then quickly covered by another layer of sediment. This could occur if the dinosaurs were running away from rapidly rising water, as in a very big flood. (Ref. fossil, sedimentation)

**11. CLAWS FOR CLIMBING NOT KILLING**, according to an article in *New Scientist*, 10 Sep 2009, p10. *Velociraptor* is a dinosaur with sharp sickle shaped claws that everyone, including the producers of *Jurassic Park*, assumed were for tearing open prey. However, in 2005 Phil Manning, of the University of Manchester, UK, and colleagues showed that *Velociraptor's* foot claw could puncture skin and help the dinosaur cling to prey, but was not sharp enough to rip the skin open. Now a study of the biomechanics of the hand claws has shown the claws are strong enough to support the animal's weight.

Mann suggests *Velociraptor* climbed trees using its hand claws, pounced on its prey and clung onto the prey using its foot claws while subduing it by biting. Peter Makovicky, a palaeontologist at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, agrees that small clawed dinosaurs may have been climbers, but their descendants adapted the claw for other purposes, such as latching onto prey, much as big cats with their sharp, curved claws do today. He pointed out that dromeosaurs *Utahraptor* and *Achillobator* also had curved claws, but as they could grow to six metres (20 ft) long and weigh several hundred kilograms, "You'd be hard put to find a tree they could climb."

ED. COM. As this study indicates sharp claws can be useful for climbing trees and gripping objects. Genesis tells us that all animals started out vegetarian. The study described above shows that *Velociraptor* was well equipped for climbing trees, gripping branches and grabbing fruit. If you lived with *Velociraptors* the only thing you may have had to fear was that it ate all the mangoes before you did.

As an aside - there may not be any living trees that a 6m or 20ft dinosaur could climb, but there are in the fossil record. Dinosaurs are not the only things that were big in the past. Even if the large dromeosaurs didn't climb trees this study reminds biologists not to interpret all biological structures and functions in terms of evolutionary "kill or be killed" stories before they do some real research. (Ref. diet, locomotion, arboreal)

**12. PTEROSAUR WINGS ARE UNIQUE**, according to articles in National Geographic News and Discovery News 4 Aug 2009, and ABC News in Science 5 Aug 2009. Fossil experts have conducted a detailed study of a fossil pterosaur named *Jeholopterus ningchengensis*, found in Inner Mongolia in 2000. The creature was approximately 30 cm long with a 35 cm wingspan. The fossil is very well preserved and the researchers used ultra-violet light to show the details of the wing structure. They found the wings contained three layers of fibres arranged in a criss-cross pattern. Alexander Kellner, a palaeontologist at the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, suggested these gave the wings strength, prevented tears and enabled the creature to adjust the wing surfaces, giving better control in flight. The researchers also found hair-like structures that covered the pterosaur's body, including part of the wing membrane, that had "a completely different structure that is not known in any living organism today," according to Kellner. The pterosaurs claws had horny coverings, indicating that in life the claws were longer than the bones indicate and were suitable for climbing trees. The fossil is dated at 140 to 130 million years and is remarkably well preserved. Kellner commented: "It must have been rapidly buried after it died, perhaps by a river or maybe inside a lake. Otherwise its soft tissue would have rotted away quickly and not been preserved."

ABC: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2009/08/05/2646567.htm>

Discovery: <http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2009/08/04/pterosaur-features.html>

National Geographic: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/08/090804-pterosaurs-wings-fossil-hairs.html>

ED. COM. The unique features found in this fossil do present a problem for the evolutionists, simply because no-one has found anything that could be interpreted as a half evolved pterosaur. It is hard to imagine how a half evolved pterosaur could survive in the struggle for existence. Flying is a dangerous occupation. You get it right the first time, or you lose out permanently in the struggle for life. The more we study pterosaurs the more complex, and brilliantly designed for flying we see they are. It makes far more sense to believe that pterosaurs were created ready to fly. (Ref. pterodactyls, wings, reptiles)

**13. DINOSAURS ATE BABIES**, according to a report in ScienceDaily 6 Aug 2009. Large dinosaurs with big teeth like *T rex* are usually portrayed as savage killers that hunted the big vegetarian dinosaurs and ripped them to pieces, or fought to the death with each other. However, Oliver Rauhut, palaeontologist at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) in Munich, and his colleague David Hone have reviewed the fossil evidence and concluded that the big predatory dinosaurs fed on juveniles and babies, rather than adult prey. Rauhut explained: "Animals such as Tyrannosaurus are often seen as the perfect 'killing machines' with extremely powerful bites, which were able to bring down even the largest possible prey. But the very few fossils that reflect the hunt of predatory dinosaurs on large herbivores tell a tale of failure – the prey either got away, or both prey and predator were killed."

Direct evidence of what dinosaurs ate from fossilised stomach contents and coprolites (fossil dung) indicates that "juveniles or much smaller prey species were ingested and the latter were swallowed whole." Hone commented: "Even modern predators prefer old and sick animals or unexperienced young individuals. These are an easy prey to bring down and the risk of injury for the predator is much lower. This strategy was probably the same in dinosaurs." Rauhut and Hone also suggest that the bones of juveniles swallowed whole would be a good source of minerals in the diet of large dinosaurs. Modern day crocodiles are able to digest bones of small animals with their very strong stomach acid. Maybe dinosaurs could do the same. The researchers also commented that juvenile dinosaurs were relatively rare in the fossil record and suggested this was because many had been eaten by predators.

ScienceDaily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/08/090806112357.htm>

ED. COM. The more scientists study *T. rex* the more it sheds its fierce predator image. It had shallow rooted teeth, tiny arms and could not run fast. Therefore, it is more likely to be a scavenger rather than hunter. Rauhut and Hone's collection of evidence fits into Biblical history which tells us that all animals started out vegetarian, but after the Fall of Man the world began to degenerate and death entered the world. By Noah's day some animals had become scavengers and ate dead things. After Noah's Flood the environment was a lot tougher so animals ate whatever they could to survive, including juveniles of their own kind. This may have provided minerals for the adults, but it would have hastened the extinction of the species. (Ref. diet, nutrients, fossil)

**14. SNAKES ATE DINOSAURS**, according to articles in ScienceDaily, BBC News and PLoS Biology, 2 Mar 2010. An international team of scientists has found a fossil snake buried with several dinosaur eggs and a newly hatched baby dinosaur. The snake was about 3.5m (11 ft) and had a mouth large enough to swallow whole the half metre (1ft 9in) dinosaur hatchling. The baby dinosaur was a sauropod *Megaloolithus*. The snake has been named *Sanajeh indicus*, meaning "ancient gaped one from India" in Sanskrit. The researchers interpreted the presence of snake and eggs together as "ethofossil" preservation of feeding behavior. The snake, eggs, eggshell and hatching must have been rapidly buried to preserve their delicate structure. Shanan Peters, a geologist from the University of Wisconsin, one of the research team explained: "Sedimentation was unusually rapid and deep for this formation – a pulse of sand, probably mobilized during a storm, resulted in the preservation of this spectacular association."

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8545450.stm>

ScienceDaily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/03/100301201941.htm>

ED. COM. The researchers' word "ethofossil" comes from "ethology" – the study of animal behaviour. However fossils are dead, so it is impossible to study their behaviour. Anyone studying the fossils can just as easily argue the eggs, dinosaur hatchling and snake were all deposited together in the same sediment, after being all swept up by a flood. (Ref. reptiles, serpents, growth)

**15. DINO BIRD EVOLUTION REVERSAL** according to articles in PNAS 9 Feb 2010, and ScienceDaily 10 Feb 2010. Scientists experimenting with a model of a feathered fossil named *Microraptor gui* have challenged the theory that birds evolved from dinosaurs. *Microraptor* seemed to have feathers on all four limbs and there was much speculation as to how it could fly. Some scientists suggested it flew like a biplane. Now a group of Chinese and American scientists have built a three dimensional model of the fossil and tested it to see if it could fly. They found it could

## Evidence News 02/10 - 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010AD - Dinosaurs

glide downwards, but would not have been able to fly from the ground up. According to John Ruben, a professor of zoology at Oregon State University, who wrote a commentary on recent research into the birds from dinosaurs theory, this new research adds to other studies that “pose increasing challenge to the birds-from-dinosaurs theory”. Ruben claims the evidence indicates that birds did not evolve from dinosaurs, but some dinosaurs may have evolved from birds. He said: “We’re finally breaking out of the conventional wisdom of the last 20 years, which insisted that birds evolved from dinosaurs and that the debate is all over and done with. This issue isn’t resolved at all. There are just too many inconsistencies with the idea that birds had dinosaur ancestors, and this newest study adds to that.” He also wrote in a commentary in PNAS: “When interpreting the paleobiology of long extinct taxa, new fossils, and reinterpretations of well-known fossils, sharply at odds with conventional wisdom never seem to cease popping up. Given the vagaries of the fossil record, current notions of near resolution of many of the most basic questions about long-extinct forms should probably be regarded with caution.”

ED. COM. Only die hard evolutionists have to worry about new fossils “sharply at odds with conventional wisdom” turning up. If they accepted what Genesis said, i.e. that animals and birds were created in separate kinds to multiply after their kind, they wouldn’t be worried at all. It is about time palaeontologists admitted that birds are birds and dinosaurs are dinosaurs, and stopped trying to turn one into the other.

As an amusing aside: In the original version of Ruben’s article the word “pesky” appeared before the words “new fossils” in the first sentence. The editors of PNAS claimed this was a “printer’s error” and revised the sentence to read as quoted above. (Ref. flying, locomotion, evolution)

**16. ASTEROID EXTINCTION THEORY CONFIRMED** according to articles in BBC News and ScienceDaily 4 Mar 2010 and Science *Science* Vol. 327, p1214, 5 March 2010. An international panel of scientists has reviewed the evidence that an enormous asteroid impact was responsible for the extinction of the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous period, 65 million years ago and concluded that it was. They looked at evidence from rocks around the Cretaceous-Tertiary (KT) boundary, which is considered to mark the end of the dinosaur era and the beginning of the age of mammals. The reviewers decided that the presence of iridium-rich rocks and “shocked” quartz in the rocks close the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary. Joanna Morgan, from the Department of Earth Science and Engineering at Imperial College, one of the reviewers commented: “We now have great confidence that an asteroid was the cause of the KT extinction. This triggered large-scale fires, earthquakes measuring more than 10 on the Richter scale, and continental landslides, which created tsunamis. However, the final nail in the coffin for the dinosaurs happened when blasted material was ejected at high velocity into the atmosphere. This shrouded the planet in darkness and caused a global winter, killing off many species that couldn’t adapt to this hellish environment.”

Gareth Collins, another member of the review panel from the Department of Earth Science and Engineering at Imperial College London, commented: “Ironically, while this hellish day signalled the end of the 160 million year reign of the dinosaurs, it turned out to be a great day for mammals, who had lived in the shadow of the dinosaurs prior to this event. The KT extinction was a pivotal moment in Earth’s history, which ultimately paved the way for humans to become the dominant species on Earth.”

ED. COM. This interpretation of the evidence is based on the belief that difference between Cretaceous and Tertiary rocks represents the passage of time. However, Cretaceous rocks are classified as such because they have particular kinds of dinosaurs in them, e.g. Tyrannosaurs, Triceratops, duckbilled dinosaurs. Tertiary rocks are classified as such because they don’t have dinosaurs, but do have mammals. If these layers did represent the passage of time then the dinosaurs were already dead when the iridium was deposited. Geologist Derek Ager suggested that the iridium rich layer is the result of the extinction, not the cause. He notes that many Cretaceous rocks are formed from deposits of marine forams (microscopic shells) but if 99% became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous era and this would have “caused a halt in the build up of carbonates and resulted in a long break in deposition that allowed meteoric dust to accumulate.” He also points out the iridium-rich dust can come from volcanoes. (See Derek Ager, The New

Catastrophism, Cambridge University Press, 1993) The asteroid theory does not explain how many other reptiles, such as crocodiles (supposedly older than dinosaurs), along with mammals and other creatures survived the event. It cannot be just their size - dinosaurs came in all sizes, and some were quite small. The idea that dinosaur extinction led to humans dominating the world is totally fanciful. The fact that some animals die may allow already existing animals to flourish, but it won't make them develop into any other animals or humans. (Ref. geology, death, K/T boundary)

**17. DEFEND CLIMATE CHANGE LIKE EVOLUTION** says Timothy E. Wirth, as reported in an article in the *Washington Post*, 15 Feb 2010 entitled "Series of missteps by climate scientists threatens climate-change agenda". The article includes this paragraph: "U.N. Foundation President Timothy E. Wirth, whose non-profit group has highlighted the work of the IPCC, said that the pirated e-mails gave "an opening" to attack climate science and that the scientific work "has to be defended just like evolution has to be defended."

Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/14/AR2010021404283.html?hpid=topnews>

ED. COM. Defenders of evolution (including politicians and lawyers bent on forcing schools to teach evolution and banning creation; plus journalists and popular personalities like Richard Dawkins pouring scorn on those who criticise evolution; as well as peer reviewers keeping any evidence against evolution out of the mainstream literature; along with academics being threatened with dismissal if they express any anti-evolutionary ideas.) Wirth is right – defending man-made global warming is like defending evolution. (Ref. controversy, politics)

**18. "ATHEISM, NOT GOD, IS ODD"** says *New Scientist* 6 Mar 2010, p3 & p 26-27. Recently militant atheists such as Richard Dawkins have been loudly condemning religion as "self-indulgent, thought-denying skyhookery" and reviving the old enlightenment claim that as people become more educated they turn away from religious beliefs. This would appear to be true from the results of a survey of university students in the UK. In 2007 a survey of 728 students revealed 48.9 per cent claimed not to believe in any god, and 49.6 per cent claiming no religious affiliation. The Oxford University sample had the highest rate of atheism: 57.3 per cent. Richard Dawkins, who was an Oxford Professor prior to his recent retirement, would be pleased. However, surveys of the general public indicate the education and religion are not such opposites. For example: a 2008 British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey by David Voas of the University of Manchester revealed 25 per cent of white British men aged between 25 and 34 claiming "no religion" have degrees, whereas around 40 per cent of those describing themselves as religious had degrees. The overall trend is the same for women. According to *New Scientist*, "The picture is more complicated across different ethnic groups, although the overall trend remains the same." This apparent contradiction has confounded social scientists so much they have now decided they should study atheism in the same way religion has been studied. In 2008 an international and interdisciplinary organisation named the "Non-religion and Secularity Research Network" was set up to study godlessness. The *New Scientist* editorial summarises the apparent problem: "If you're one of those committed atheists in the Richard Dawkins mould who dreams of ridding the world of religious mumbo-jumbo, prepare yourself for a disappointment: there is no good evidence that education leads to secularisation. In fact, the more we learn about the 'god instinct' and the refusal of religion to fade away under the onslaught of progress, the more the non-religious mindset looks like the odd man out."

ED. COM. The high percentage of students claiming to be atheists is probably because humanists and atheist have driven agenda in the academic world for decades and made all mention of God in public life unacceptable. Furthermore, high profile atheists like Richard Dawkins have heaped vitriolic insults at Christians and, unless they have really strong convictions, undergraduate students do not have the confidence to stand out against the accepted world view. What *New Scientist* calls the "god instinct" is the knowledge that exists in all people that they are made in the image of God and can see the evidence of His work in the creation which the Apostle Paul refers to in Romans 1:18-25. Some people deliberately deny, and delude themselves they are not accountable to their Creator and therefore worship themselves or the earth. Their time is coming! (Ref. sceptics, humanism, scoffers)

**Evidence News 02/10 - 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010AD - Dinosaurs**

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