

Evidence News 0211 - 16th February 2011 AD

Well the evolutionists have really put their foot in it during the last week and John Mackay and the Creation Research Team worldwide have had fun checking and reporting it for this second ENEWS of 2011. So welcome to Evidence NEWS 2 11, with EDitorial COMment, now available in 2 FORMATS – for EMAIL scroll down – for PDF click below INDEX.

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1. SNAKE LEG LOSS described in articles in ScienceShots and ScienceDaily 7 Feb 2011, ABC News in Science and BBC News, 8 Feb 2011, and *Journal of Vertebrate Palaeontology* vol. 31 p2, Jan 2011. No living snakes have legs but three fossil snakes have been found with tiny back legs. A group of French and German scientists have used a high tech x-ray scanner to study the internal structure of the limbs of a fossil snake named *Eupodophis descouensi*. The x-ray images revealed the miniscule snake limbs were similar in structure to lizard legs. However the legs had thinner walls and were not as dense as the other bones in the snake. The researchers described the bones as “regressed” and made two suggestions for how this occurred: the limbs had a slower growth rate than the snake’s other bones; or they did not grow for as long a time. The fossil was found in Lebanon Cretaceous rocks and is dated at 95 million years old. Links [ABC](#) [BBC](#) [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. One of the other fossil snakes found with legs is “Najash rionegrina”. The scientists who gave it this name stated it was named after the serpent in Genesis 3 - “from the Hebrew ‘Najash’ for the legged biblical snake”. (For more information [click here](#)) Some living boas and pythons have small spurs projecting from their pelvic regions that are used in mating. Given the increasing evidence of snake leg loss, the spurs are most probably truly vestigial organs that still retain a modicum of function.

As for the latest leg bearing fossil snake, we accept the research team’s suggestions as reasonable, and that the limb bones were not responding to normal growth stimulating hormones as the snake’s other bones were. However, there is no evidence this creature was ever anything else but a snake. The rest of the fossil

shows it was a very snakey snake that “went on its belly”, just as Genesis 3:14 says. Whatever caused the leg shrinkage and subsequent loss in present day legless snakes - it was a result of degeneration downwards, not evolution upwards. (Ref. reptiles, serpents, devolution)

2. NEW FLOOD SLIDE SHOW To see slide on Aussie flood damage and the first repairs to our Jurassic Ark site – DAMAGE click [HERE](#) REPAIRS click [HERE](#) To receive the full damage report click [HERE](#)

3. HUMAN BRAIN HAS DOWNSIZED, according to articles in Sky News 6 Feb 2011 and *Discover* magazine 20 Jan 2011. Psychologists David Geary and Drew Bailey of the University of Missouri have conducted a study of human brain sizes using fossil and present day skulls from Europe, the Middle East and Asia. They found the average size of human brains has shrunk since the time of Cro Magnon man – the original cave man, believed to have lived in Europe up till 17,000 years ago. They concluded that brain size decreased as population density increased. Geary explained: “As complex societies emerged, the brain became smaller because people did not have to be as smart to stay alive.” Other scientist have suggested our brains have just become more efficient, or as we have become more civilised we have become like domestic animals which tend to be smaller in body and brain than their wild equivalents. Kathleen McAuliffe, who wrote the *Discover* magazine article was so surprised to find out human brains seem to be on the way down she contacted a number of experts to confirm the facts. She wrote: “The more I learn, the more baffled I become that news of our shrinking brain has been so underplayed, not just in the media but among scientists.” Christopher Stringer, a paleoanthropologist at the Natural History Museum in London, agreed it was strange that it was not widely known, and commented: “Scientists haven’t given the matter the attention it deserves. Many ignore it or consider it an insignificant detail.”

Links: [Discover](#) [Sky News](#)

ED. COM. We know from personal experience that Dr. Christopher Stringer is right – the provable decrease in human brain size has been ignored. Creation Research has been telling people this for many years, and opponents have even accused us of making it up. See the evidence on decreasing human brain size for yourself [click here](#) for the Creation Research slide show. In spite of the belief that humans are evolving upwards, the actual evidence is we are going downhill, consistent with the Biblical history of the world, that God made everything very good, including human brains, but sadly “everything” has been degenerating since man sinned against his Creator as recorded in Genesis 3. It’s the basic reason we need revelation from God, as man’s brain is corrupted and the resulting bias to evil makes us unable to independently discover truth.

Today there is only one way to get a better brain. You have to ensure you will have a resurrection body in the New Heavens and Earth by putting your trust in the Creator Jesus Christ who died and rose again to pay the penalty for the very sin that began the corruption of all things - brains included. (Ref. anthropology. intelligence, cranium)

4. WEATHERED PREDICTIONS ON CLIMATE. “Back in March 20, 2000, The Independent, a British newspaper, reported Dr. David Viner of [the UK's Climate](#)

Research Unit warning that within a few years snowfall will become “a very rare and exciting event” Indeed, Viner opined, “Children just aren’t going to know what snow is.” Similarly, David Parker, at the UK’s Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research, said that eventually British children could have only “virtual” experience of snow via movies and the Internet.

The last three winters in the UK were forecast by the UK Met Office to be mild and snowless. Instead, brutal cold and snow in the UK has the UK Met Office on their heels. Indeed the cold and snow was a throwback to the age of Dickens in the early 1800s. UK MPs called for Official Parliamentary Probe into whether the UKMO reliance on their ideology and CO2 models had biased their predictions.

In the United States, NOAA echoing the UN IPCC, claimed snow would retreat north with the storm tracks and major cities would get more rain and mild winters. The Union of Concerned Scientists said in 2004 scientists claim winters were becoming warmer and less snowy. In 2008, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. bemoaned that children would be robbed of the childhood joys of sledding and skiing in the DC area due to global warming. A year later, the area set a new seasonal snowfall record with 5 to 6 feet of snow and sleds and skis were the only way to get around. The winter of 2009/10 was the coldest ever in parts of the southeast, and in parts of Siberia and the coldest since 1977/78 or 1962/63 in many parts of the United States, Europe and Asia.”

From <http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/6440/Is-It-Really-The-Warmest-Ever>

Cited without prejudice, unusually, by the BBC. Check out full article -last para is telling. (Ref. global warming, predictions, weather)

5. LUCY GETS BONE GRAFT according to the reports in BBC News, ScienceNOW ScienceDaily and Nature News 10 Feb 2011, and ABC News in Science 11 Feb 2011 and *Science* vol. 331, p750, 11 Feb 2011. Donald Johnansen, (the palaeontologist who found “Lucy”) and two colleagues have found a foot bone they claim proves that “Lucy” and the other creatures classified as *Australopithecus afarensis* had an arched foot like a human foot and walked upright. One of the researchers, William Kimbel, director of the Institute of Human Origins at Arizona State University, told the BBC: "It is the fourth metatarsal bone, which resides on the outside of the middle part of your foot, and which helps support the well-developed arches of the foot that we see in the soles of modern human feet. The bone that was recovered from the Hadar site has all the hallmarks of the form and function of the modern human foot." Carol Ward, also of University of Missouri commented: "The development of arched feet was a fundamental shift toward the human condition, because it meant giving up the ability to use the big toe for grasping branches. Our ancestors had finally abandoned life in the trees in favour of life on the ground."

The researchers give their reason for classifying it as belonging to an *Australopithecus afarensis*, (the scientific name for Lucy) as follows: “This specimen was recovered from the Hadar locality AL 333 in 2000 during sieving of eroded Denen Dora 2 submember surface deposits of the Hadar Formation. Since 1975, these deposits at the 333 locality have yielded more than 250 hominin fossils that eroded from an in situ horizon dated to ~3.2 million years ago. We assign AL333-

160 to *A. afarensis*, the only hominin species in an assemblage of >370 hominin specimens so far recovered from the Hadar Formation.”

Bruce Latimer, a palaeoanthropologist at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio says the bone will resolve a debate about Laetoli footprints. These are a series of footprints found in volcanic ash dated as 3.6 million years old. The prints are distinctly human-like, made by a being with an arched foot and human-like stride. Latimer commented: "When I saw those footprints being excavated, I thought, gosh, you'd lose these on a modern day beach, they have an arch and a totally human gait." However, the prints were classified as being Australopithecine footprints because of the age of the rock, although some palaeontologists doubted they could be *Australopithecus afarensis* because there was no evidence it had a human-like foot. Latimer went on to say: "This work certainly puts a nail in the coffin of that argument,"

ABC: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2011/02/11/3135522.htm>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-12412662>

ScienceDaily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/02/110210141213.htm>

ED. COM. What is left unsaid in this article is actually more important than what was written. Note well - the bone was not attached to "Lucy" or to any of the other bones classified as *Australopithecus afarensis*. It was an isolated bone. It was classified as *A. afarensis* only because it was found in the same sediment layer as the *A. afarensis* bones, therefore the strata is dated as too old for human beings according to the preconceived evolutionary timetable.

The original report in *Science* details researchers' precise measurements of the bone and its comparison with human, chimpanzee and gorilla bones. Although it is slightly shorter than the average adult 4th human metatarsal, its shape does fit the human range for all other measurements, and is distinctly different from chimp or gorilla foot bones.

We do agree the Laetoli footprints were made by the same kind of being that owned the metatarsal bone described above, but the only living contender with such a bone is the present day human being. The already held belief that human beings had not yet evolved when the strata formed, is the only reason for not believing this bone to be human.

Furthermore, this bone does not confirm Latimer's claim that this bone proves *A. afarensis* made the Laetoli footprints. Laetoli is in Tanzania – a long way from Afar in Ethiopia, where the *A. afarensis* fossils were found, so there is no direct connection between the Laetoli prints and the new toebone fossil.

This is not the first time scientists have claimed a so-called "human ancestor" walked upright on the basis on one isolated foot bone. In 2001 *Time* magazine published an article claiming that a single toe bone proved a creature named *Ardipithecus* walked upright. But the toe bone was found 16km (10 miles) away from the rest of the *Ardipithecus* bones and since then more bones of this creature have been found which show it was an ape with flat foot and grasping toes, good for climbing trees. No retraction has been noticed in *Time* Magazine. Check out the *Ardipithecus* story in our [Evidence Web Fact File](#). Insert "Ardipithecus" in the search box. (Ref. hominids, gait, ape-men)

6. DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH *WORLDWIDE* can be sent to the following addresses or use our secure Web site: <http://www.creationresearch.net> and click DONATIONS. Donations in USA/UK are tax deductible. See instructions online. CANADA TAX DEDUCTIBLE SUPPORT FOR OUR COLLEAGUES click [HERE](#)
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