



Drowning Dinos, Black German fossil feathers, new living fossils and heaps more exciting finds that only heap more on the evolutionary pile, and don't miss the follow up Online Debate John Mackay vs Dan Ryder starting next week: "Be it resolved that the genetic and fossil evidence supports the evolution model and refutes the biblical creation model", online at:

<http://blogs.ubc.ca/markbergen>

<http://blogs.ubc.ca/markbergen/2012/01/19/dan-ryders-opening-argument/>

<http://blogs.ubc.ca/markbergen/2012/01/21/john-mackays-opening-argument/>

Now enjoy this Evidence News 02/12 with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research team worldwide.

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<http://www.creationresearch.net>

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1. NEW QUESTIONS

A. "AIDS and Kuru? You people are pathetic. If you really believe in the myth of Noah then tell me which of Noah's sons took AIDS or Kuru on board the Ark? Somebody had to or those terrible diseases which must have been created wouldn't be here, if, as you claim there was no evolution?" [Answer](#) by Diane Eager.

B. “THE BIG BANG? Where in relation to Earth’s history, do the proponents of the Big Bang think that this event occurred? Could it possibly have happened?” This week’s [answer](#) by John Mackay

2. DON'T MISS YOU TUBE DVDS ([click](#)) - made possible by generous web supporters.

3. MEDIA REPORTS DEBATE as hundreds gather to hear creationism, evolution
<http://www.kelownacapnews.com/news/138712449.html>

4. UNIQUE FOSSIL FILTER FEEDER FOUND, according to ScienceDaily 18 Jan 2012 and PLoS One doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0029233. Scientists at the University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum in Canada have found the fossils of a strange creature that was shaped like a tulip but was actually an animal. The animal was about 20cm (8in) tall and was anchored to the sea floor by a stalk with a disc-like structure, called a holdfast, at the base. At the top of the stalk it had a bulbous cup, called a calyx, that enclosed its feeding and digestive system. The researchers described the internal structure as follows: “A prominent organ, represented by six radially symmetrical segments with comb-like elements, surrounds an internal body cavity with a large stomach, conical median gut and straight intestine.” The calyx had a number of small holes so the researchers suggest it was an “active filter feeder” – pumping water through the calyx and extracting food particles. The fossils were found in Yoho National Park, British Columbia and are part of the famous Burgess Shale fauna – fossilised soft bodied creatures buried in fine grained rock dated as 505 million years old. The newly described fossil has been given the scientific name *Siphosauctum gregarium* but the researchers are having a hard time putting it into a place in the animal classification system. Lorna O'Brien, one of the researchers, explained: “Most interesting is that this feeding system appears to be unique among animals. Recent advances have linked many bizarre Burgess Shale animals as primitive members of many animal groups that are found today, but *Siphosauctum* defies this trend. We do not know where it fits in relation to other organisms”. The researchers suggest they were “probably buried en masse more or less *in-situ* by rapid mud flow events”.

Link: [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. Fitting this creature into the classification system is only a problem if you believe the classification system represents lines of descent in an evolutionary tree. However, it is not a problem if all animals, including these strange extinct creatures, were created as separate kinds, and the classification system is simply a sensible means of organising our knowledge of them. Classifying other Burgess Shale animals as “primitive members of many animal groups” is a contrivance based on evolutionary assumptions, not on scientific observations. No-one has observed any of the Burgess Shale fauna evolve into anything else. They appear in the fossil record as fully formed distinct creatures, and sadly most creatures in this fossilised “wonderful life” (as Stephen Jay Gould described them) have died out and we only know of them because they were rapidly and deeply buried. The Burgess Shale fauna, including these newly described creatures, remind us that the real history of animal life of earth is one of decreasing variety and extinction, fossilised only via rapid burial. This is exactly what you expect from the Biblical history of the world, i.e. creation of many separate unrelated kinds, followed by degeneration and watery catastrophe, resulting in creatures being “buried en masse more or less *in-situ* by rapid mud flow events”. (Ref. fossilisation, zoology, invertebrates)

5. HOW OLD IS THE BURGESS SHALE? Vance Nelson made a trip to the famous Walcott Quarry excavation of the Burgess shale in the Canadian Rockies which helps provide an answer evolutionists won't like. Vance reports the fossil containing rocks at the quarry were listed as “505 Million Years Old”; but at the visitors' centre the same fossils were listed as “515 MYO” inside the centre, and “530 MYO” outside the centre! Vance says he didn't realise he was walking soooo slowly. Vance's trip also resulted in some fabulous living fossil photos.

See www.creationresearch.net/research/Research-Canadian-fossils.php

6. NOTABLE QUOTABLE From Prof. Stephen Gould (former Professor of Geology and Paleontology, Harvard University) “...our ability to classify both living and fossil species distinctly and using the same criteria, fit splendidly with creationist tenets.”

Stephen Jay Gould (1941-2002), ‘A quahog is a quahog’, *Natural History*, vol.88 (7), 1979, pp. 18-26.

7. EUROPE FREEZES as temperatures plunge to lowest in three decades, Rome has snow for the first time in 27 years, flights are grounded, governments argue over gas supplies, the UK Met Office issues nine warnings for ice disruptions to transport, and over two hundred people die of cold or in accidents caused by freezing weather throughout Europe.

References: [BBC Daily Mail](#)

ED. COM. Do you remember back in 2000 climate experts were predicting snow and ice would be a rare event in Britain and future children would not know what snow was? Reference: [Independent](#) 20 March 2000. (Ref Climate, deniers, politics)

SEE OUR HUGE CLIMATE FILE [click](#).

8. DVD NOW AVAILABLE USA, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA “The Amazing Design of Life”. Dr Ed Neeland, Professor of Synthetic Chemistry at University of BC, was interviewed by John Mackay on the creation of life. Dr Ed does a wonderful job demolishing evolutionists’ arguments and showing how only the Creator Christ could make life in the brilliant manner it needs to be able to work. Suitable for high school and above, this DVD is hot off the press. We’d encourage you to make use of it and share it with students and teachers. Ed’s professional background in synthesizing molecules and trying to make organic things work, gives him a marvellous perspective on just how clever you have to be to make “life”. Time: 30 min. \$20 POST FREE. [CLICK](#) to preview or click [PURCHASE USA](#) or [PURCHASE CANADA](#) or [PURCHASE AUSTRALIA](#)



9. CAMBRIAN CRUSTACEANS “SURPRISINGLY MODERN” claim scientists in a report in PNAS online, doi: 10.1073/pnas.1115244109, 17 January 2012. Geologists from University of Cambridge, UK and University of Regina UK have found “diverse crustacean appendages of Middle and Late Cambrian age from shallow-marine mudstones of the Deadwood Formation in western Canada”. The fossils are fragments of legs and mandibles (jaws) but are so well preserved they can be compared with living crustaceans. The researchers reported: “Detailed similarities with living forms demonstrate the early origins and subsequent conservation of various complex food-handling adaptations, including a directional mandibular asymmetry that has persisted through half a billion years of evolution”. They went on to say: “The earliest radiation of crustaceans is largely cryptic in the fossil record, but ‘small carbonaceous fossils’ reveal organisms of surprisingly modern aspect operating in an unfamiliar biosphere”.

ED. COM. That last sentence is an admission that evolutionists don’t know where crustaceans came from, and the earliest ones they find are just like living ones. It would be quite correct to label these living fossil fragments. The modern appearance of these fossil fragments is no surprise to us. They fit perfectly into the Biblical history of the world, which tells us living things were created as fully functional creatures in separate kinds. Since then creatures have multiplied after their kinds. Therefore, crustaceans have always been crustaceans, and any that got buried and fossilised during the history of the world are just like crustaceans living on the earth today. (Ref. invertebrates, fossilisation)

10. LIVING FOSSILS? The term “living fossil” was first used by Charles Darwin in *The Origin of Species*. He wrote: “These anomalous forms may almost be called living fossils; they have endured to the present day, from having inhabited a confined area, and from having thus been exposed to less severe competition”.¹

“Species and groups of species, which are called aberrant, and which may fancifully be called living fossils, will aid us in forming a picture of the ancient forms of life.”²

Darwin, C. R. 1859. *On the origin of species by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life*. London: John Murray. 1st edition, 1st issue, (1) p107, (2) p486.

ED.COM. The term living fossils has come to mean any creature in which for all practical purposes, the fossil one is the same as the living one. The best known example is the Coelacanth. No wonder we have such success in using the fossil record in debates against evolutionists – it certainly never helps them. Furthermore, Darwin was wrong about them being anomalies. They are very common. There are examples from every form of life – plants, animals and microbes. To read about the extent of them see our Article “A World Full of Living Fossils”. Download PDF [here](#).

11. DINO DEATH POSE RECREATED, according to an article in New Scientist 23 November 2011. Many dinosaur fossils are found with the head and neck bent backwards and the tail arched over their back – a position technically known as the opisthotonic death pose. This position is very common but scientists have not been able to explain why it happens. Alicia Cutler and colleagues from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah have carried out an experiment with dead chickens to see if they can recreate the pose. They placed some chickens on a bed of dry sand for three months to see if desiccation and muscle contraction would produce the pose, and they placed some chickens in cool fresh water. The chickens placed in water went into the arched neck with head thrown back position almost immediately. Leaving them in water for a month increased the severity of the distortion, but most of the movement occurred when they were first immersed in the water. Cutler commented: “Although the roads to the opisthotonic death pose are many, immersion in water is the simplest explanation”. Link: [New Scientist](#)

ED. COM. The opisthotonic death pose is very common and seen in many fossils, some of them very large, from all over the world. If it takes sudden immersion in cool fresh water to produce the pose it is evidence that fossils were not slowly and gradually buried over long periods, but were suddenly and catastrophically drowned. One hunter in Canada commented years ago that when he shot moose and only got them in the lungs, as they drown in their own blood they will arch their head back and die like that. As we researched his comments, we encountered one man who said his mother died from fluid accumulation on the lungs and just as she died, she did exactly the same. Submersion in water of a non-decayed body and drowning are both sources for this phenomenon. But where would large amounts of cool fresh water come from along with lots of fresh undecayed bodies? You could try the flood of Noah as the fountains of the great deep bursting forth accompanied by 40 days and nights of rain? (Genesis 7:11-12) (Ref. fossilisation, flood, vertebrates)

12. ARCHAEOPTERYX HAD BLACK FEATHERS, according to reports in ScienceDaily 24 January 2012 and ABC News in Science 25 January 2012 and *Nature Communications*, 2012; 3: 637 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms1642. An international team of scientists has carried out a detailed study of an Archaeopteryx feather, and have found fossilised melanosomes, microscopic pigment-containing granules, in the feather. These granules have been previously seen in other fossils but have been thought to be bacteria. In 2006 one of the research team noted that fossilised squid ink sacs contained melanin granules and looked for melanosomes in other fossils, such as feathers. The research team examined an Archaeopteryx feather with an electron microscope and carefully measured the size and shape of the melanosomes. They then compared them with melanosomes in 87 species of living birds of various colours, and claimed they were 95 percent certain Archaeopteryx had black feathers. The scientists also used the microscope to study the fine structure of the feather and found the barbules and melanosomes within them were arranged in an identical fashion to living birds. Barbules are the tiny interlocking projections on the barbs of a feather that give it strength, especially during flight. The overall structure of the feather indicated it was a “covert” – wing feathers that cover the primary and secondary flight feathers. Melanosomes are thought to contribute to the strength and resilience of bird feathers as well as being a colour pigment. Ryan Carney, an evolutionary biologist at Brown University, who is the lead author of the *Nature Communications* report commented: “We can't say its proof that Archaeopteryx was a flier. But what we can say is that in modern bird feathers, these melanosomes provide additional strength and resistance to abrasion from flight, which is why wing feathers and their tips are the most likely areas to be pigmented. With Archaeopteryx, as with birds today, the melanosomes we found would have provided similar structural advantages, regardless of whether the pigmentation initially evolved for another purpose”.

Links: [ABC](#), [ScienceDaily](#)

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ED. COM. This study confirms that Archaeopteryx feathers were fully formed feathers with all the fine structure seen in feathers of living birds. Therefore, it is no help to a theory that claims feathers evolved from reptile scales. Archaeopteryx is sometimes described as a “flying dinosaur” or an “early bird”, and is considered to be the archetypal “transitional form”. However, all studies of the creature reveal it is a fully formed functional creature. The fact that it has an unusual combination of features, not seen in living creatures today, does not mean it is in the process of changing from one kind to another. Instead it is simply a “curious mosaic” as described by Stephen Jay Gould. (Gould, S.J. and N. Eldredge. “Punctuated equilibria: the tempo and mode of evolution reconsidered.” *Paleobiology*, 3 (1977): 115-151. p. 147) For more on “feathered dinosaurs” see our answer to the question “Don’t feathered dinosaurs prove the birds evolved from dinosaurs?” Click [here](#).

The squid ink connection is interesting. Creation Research has recently acquired a beautifully preserved fossil squid with an intact ink sac and we were able to extract some of the ink and write with it. See “Fossil Ink Should Make You Think” [here](#). (Ref. vertebrates, fossils, pigment)

13. FROM OUR ARCHIVES: [Fossil Birds](#); [Dinosaurs](#); [Noah's Flood](#) Each week from now on we will be publishing links to previous items relevant to the day's topics.

Remember also that all news items and quotes in Evidence News are archived as individual items in the Fact File on our Evidence website: <http://evidencweb.net/index.php>. Make use of this resource.

14. DONATIONS: Thousands of University, College and High School students will be reached this year. So we need you to be involved in sharing the cost and the blessings of the research and teaching, so become a part of the worldwide support team today or via our secure Web site: [CLICK](#) or send gifts to the following addresses.

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