Evidence News 02/14 – 26th February 2014

Uganda has done it and defied Obama's bullying tactics to legalise Homosexuality, as evolutionist greens push governments to not cull man-killing critters, while sharks prove un-evolvable, DNA shows a multiple coding system, and a chilli-tomato may be created. Just so you know, we stand with Uganda against Homosexuality, so see our latest items on Elton's non homosexual history, and don't miss the Ham Mackay Creation Event down under in mid March click.

Meanwhile welcome to Evidence News 02/14 with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research Team around the globe.

http://www.creationresearch.net
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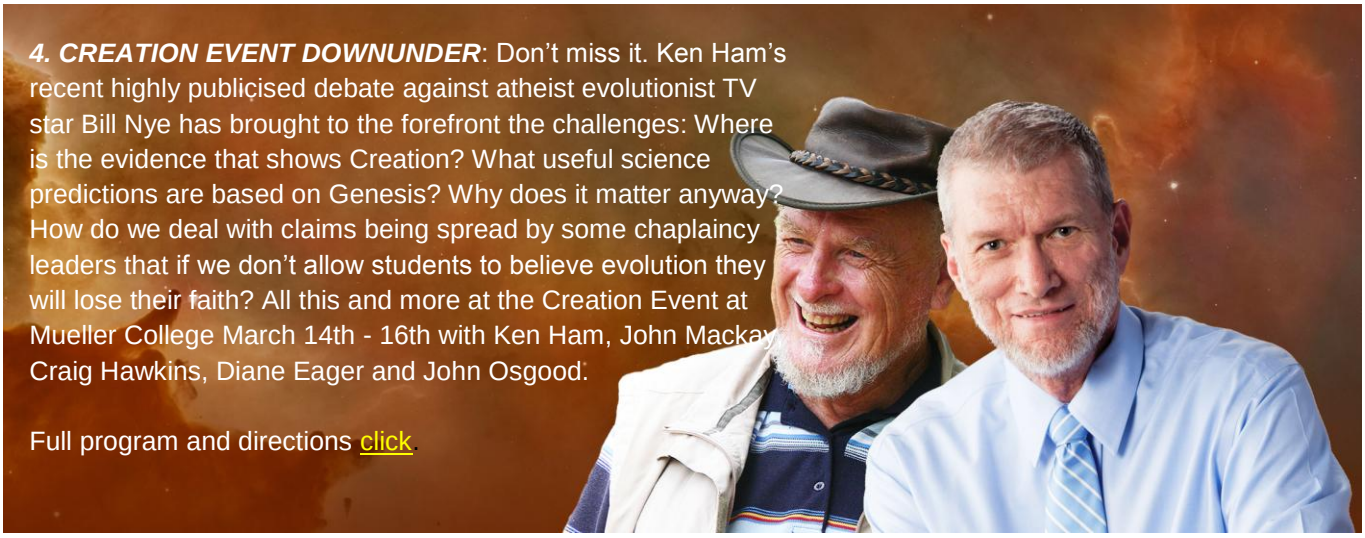
1. NYE'S CHALLENGES TO CREATIONISTS? The best response Prof Ed Neeland has found is click.

2. NEW QUESTION: Shark Killing - When a shark eats a human should it be hunted down and killed? Answer by John Mackay.

3. *TOTALLY FREE* so please help. We are trying to make the Ken Ham John Mackay Down Under Creation Event at Mueller College Mid March free to all, so get behind us with your prayers and gifts to help with costs. Donate via the web click.



5. SHARKS DO IT SLOWEST according to articles in Nature News and New Scientist 8 Jan 2014 and *Nature* DOI: 10.1038/nature12826. Scientists have sequenced the genome of an Australian shark, known as the Elephant Shark, because of its enormous snout. The scientific name for this shark is *Callorhinchus mili.* It is not classified as a true shark, but a member of a group named chimaeras. Like rays, skates and true sharks, it has a skeleton made of cartilage, rather than bone, and the researchers found it lacked genes for calcium-binding phosphoproteins, which are used in converting cartilage to bone. The research team also reported: "We find that the *C. milii* genome is the slowest evolving of all known vertebrates, including the 'living fossil' coelacanth". According to Nature News: "Because the elephant shark is an early jawed vertebrate and has changed little since bony fishes appeared around 420 million years ago — making it the slowest-evolving of all known vertebrates — it serves as an important baseline for comparative genomics".
Links: Nature News, New Scientist

ED. COM. Now let's be objective! Since no-one has any 420 million year old elephant shark DNA to compare it with, this genome study can only show scientists what genes this shark has now. The fossil record is not much help either to evolutionists even using their vast dates. Because sharks do not have a bony skeleton, fossils of whole sharks are rare. The oldest whole shark fossil (not an elephant shark) is dated as 409 million years (see National Geographic news 1 October 2003). However, even we at Creation Research have hundreds of fossil shark teeth and denticles in our collection, and the only change they reveal is that some sharks used to be a lot larger than any living shark. Otherwise, shark denticles and teeth have the same structure as those of living sharks, and so provide no evidence sharks used to be anything else. Objectively, there is no evidence that this creature has evolved at all, slowly or quickly. So is it time again to state the obvious? Sharks have provably produced after their own kind as God made them to, and secondly, evolution again turns out to be a lie forced on innocent students with only one purpose in mind: to make them abandon the real Creator. (Ref. genetics, genome, fossils, ichthyology)

6. CHILLI PEPPER GENETICS described in Science Shots 19 January 2014 and *Nature Genetics* 19 January 2014 doi:10.1038/ng.2877. An international team of scientists has completed the genome of the hot pepper, *Capsicum annuum*. The spicy heat in peppers comes from a chemical named capsaicin. The scientists compared the pepper's genome with that of its "tame cousin, the tomato" and "discovered the gene responsible for fiery capsaicin production that appeared in both plants". The gene codes for an enzyme named capsaicin synthase (CS). Science Shots goes on to explain: "While the tomato carried four nonfunctioning copies of the gene, the hot pepper carried seven nonfunctioning copies and one functioning copy. … The researchers believe the pepper's capsaicin-creating gene appeared after five mutations occurred during DNA replication, with the final mutation creating a functional copy". The article ends with: "One researcher even suggests that geneticists could activate one of the tomato's dormant genes, enabling capsaicinoid production and creating a plant that makes ready-made salsa".

Link: ScienceShots

ED. COM. You may be wondering why God would make a food that you can give to your worst enemy, or can be served straight between his eyes as pepper spray. We suggest the answer lies in the fact that many "toxins and terrible tastes" in plants function to stop you eating it until the seeds inside are mature and ready for dispersal. At that point such inhibitors are turned off, and animals eat the fruit and disperse the seeds, thus benefitting both eater and eaten. So it is not just enough to have a gene that makes capsaicin. That gene has to be turned on and off. If its regulators are damaged and the gene gets turned on, and left on, the plant will go on making the fiery chemical, and you end with a vegetable that is really a weapon, rather than a food. Such a loss of regulation is a degeneration of the plant, and fits the Biblical history of plants – originally all good, but now degraded. Change, yes. Evolution, NO!

Likewise, given that evolution is all about how non-peppers with non-CS genes somehow randomly evolved new genes as they 'peppered' towards the present, we do wonder what evolutionists think the selective advantage was of evolving, then holding onto, seven non-functioning copies of a gene whilst waiting for an eighth copy to evolve into a functioning CS gene. Given that mutations are well-known for destroying genetic information, it makes more sense to believe the plant started with functioning genes, but mutations have caused some to become defunct. Furthermore, if geneticists do manage to change one of the tomato's non-functioning genes into a functioning Salsa-CS gene, it will not be achieved by random evolution. It will happen because intelligent scientists have correctly read the code for a functioning CS gene and transferred that information into the tomato genome. Note that the Science Shots writer describes this process as "creating" a plant that has a new function. They can't avoid the obvious. (Ref. botany, spices, genetics)

7. DID YOU MISS? If Adam ate plants and God called it good, should we only eat plants to please God and stay healthy? Answer here.

HOMOSEXUALITY - are you born that way? Answer by John Mackay

8. DNA DOUBLETALK discovered, according to ScienceDaily 12 December 2013 and ABC News in Science 14 December 2013 and *Science* vol. 342. p1367 DOI: 10.1126/science.1243490. It has long been known that genes are sequences of DNA "letters" which code for amino acids, which are the building blocks of proteins. Proteins are used to build the body structure and control body functions. However, genes also need to be regulated, i.e. turned on and off at the right times. One of the ways genes are regulated is by transcription factors (TFs) – proteins that bind to DNA at specific binding sites also coded for by DNA. Thus DNA can code for proteins and for gene regulation. A team of scientists led by John Stamatoyannopoulos of University of Washington have found that many genes in the human genome contain code that is used for both functions. The pieces of DNA information that code for the building blocks of proteins are named codons. The researchers named the codons that are also used in regulatory code "duons". The team looked for transcription factor binding sites in more than 80 types of human cells and found "almost 15% of human codons are dual-use codons ('duons') that simultaneously specify both amino acids for proteins and TF recognition sites". Stamatoyannopoulos commented: "For over 40 years we have assumed that DNA changes affecting the genetic code solely impact how proteins are made. Now we know that this basic assumption about reading the human genome missed half of the picture. These new findings highlight that DNA is an incredibly powerful information storage device, which nature has fully exploited in unexpected ways". The researchers hope their discovery will help how changes in DNA cause disease. Stamatoyannopoulos explained: "The fact that the genetic code can simultaneously write two kinds of information means that many DNA changes that appear to alter protein sequences may actually cause disease by disrupting gene control programs or even both mechanisms simultaneously". The research is part of a big project named ENCODE, which is studying where genetic information is stored and regulated.
Links: ABC, ScienceDaily

ED. COM. The description of DNA as "an incredibly powerful information storage device" reminds us that like manmade storage devices such as a DVD or computer hard disc, the storage medium does not create the information. All such information is placed on the medium by an outside intelligence who uses the properties of the device to hold that information, but the information originated in the mind the person who composed it, coded it and then placed the code on the storage medium. The fact that the DNA is proving to be an even greater storage

device than any man-made device, reminds us again that there is no excuse for failing to acknowledge the brilliance of the Creator, who designed and created DNA and encoded the information on it. (Ref. biochemistry, genetics, nucleic acids)

9. FROM THE ARCHIVES: ENCODE Project, Shark Teeth Didn't Evolve, Plant Genes
Items from Evidence News are archived under their individual headings in a searchable archive named the Fact File on the Creation Research website. Make the most of this useful resource.

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