

The big guns in the evolutionist world have even been seeking to explain original sin in the past few weeks - but yet again they have ended up shooting their own feet and it makes for another great read this week, so **welcome to Evidence NEWS 03 11 with Editorial COMMENT, from John Mackay and the worldwide team. ENews is available in 2 FORMATS – for EMAIL scroll down – for PDF click below INDEX.**

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**1. NATURAL SELECTION IS ORIGINAL SIN** claims Nobel laureate Christian De Duve<sup>1</sup> in an interview in *New Scientist*, 26 Feb 2011, p27. De Duve claims natural selection has enabled man to become the most successful species on the planet, but the same processes will lead to our destruction through our depletion of natural resources and destruction of habitat. De Duve’s dire prediction is based on the fact that natural selection has no foresight, and he claims this has become coded into our genes and resulted in humans possessing short sighted selfishness and a lack of forward planning for future generations. He explained: “You need wisdom to sacrifice something that is immediately useful or advantageous for the sake of something that will be important in the future. Natural selection doesn’t do that; it looks only at what is happening today. It doesn’t care about your grandchildren or grandchildren’s grandchildren.” De Duve calls this naturally selected selfishness the “original sin” and declares: “I believe that the writers of Genesis had detected the inherent selfishness in human nature that I propose is in our genes, and invented the myth of original sin to account for it.” His solution to the problem caused by natural selection is to act against it via birth control to limit the population, and give more power to women because they “are less aggressive than men, and they play a larger role in the early education of the young and helping them overcome their genetic heirloom.”

ED. COM. De Duve is right about natural selection being both a process that can only act negatively in the here and now, as well as a phenomenon that involves no forward planning. Natural selection is basically a destructive process that removes living things, and has never been observed to build them up. However, De Duve’s thesis about the origin of original sin in Genesis defies logic if he really believes in Darwinian evolution. Firstly he assumes some ancient scribes ‘created’ Genesis to explain selfishness and to make us feel bad about it. But if we actually evolved as De Duve believes, then our evolution was the result of such ‘natural selection’, so any natural selfishness would not be noticed by us as we had never seen anything to compare it with. We would assume it was normal and therefore OK, or maybe all there is – or perhaps even good? Therefore, we would see no need to make up a story that portrays such ‘naturally selective’ selfishness as bad.

The only reason we have a sense that right and wrong exist, and therefore selfishness is bad is related to the fact that Genesis records we were made in the image of the moral Creator God, who stamped His Image upon us; which included an innate moral sense of right and wrong. Despite the fact Genesis 3 states we have been corrupted by disobedience to our Creator (the original sin), all cultures and individuals still possess a sharp sense that right and wrong exists, even if we can no longer agree as to what actions are actually right or wrong.

WE PREDICT that eliminating the next generation via unnatural selections in both birth control, and by giving increasing influence to women, will not provide any solution to mankind’s ‘original sin’ problem. Women are not less aggressive than men – they just express it in a less physical way, but it is just as selfish and destructive.<sup>2</sup> In fact, WE ALSO PREDICT that in countries where women are gaining such

disproportionate influence and power, it will take less than a generation for them to prove that women can become just as corrupt and evil as the worst of men. The only solution to this original sin problem will come from neither science nor politics, but from both men and women turning to the Creator Christ in repentance and faith. (Ref. evolution, behaviour, morals)

1. *De Duve is professor emeritus at the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL), Belgium and Rockefeller University, New York. He co-won a 1974 Nobel prize work on cellular structure.*
2. *A female editor put that sentence in.*

**2. NOW IN 3D** - our new imaging machine delivers as we trial a new method of creating 3D fossils online. Now sneak a peek at the great demo trilobite comparing our old 3D image with the new one on [www.evidencweb.net/new3d.php](http://www.evidencweb.net/new3d.php) and keep watching for more as we upgrade our web museum. Lots to do yet but it has been wonderfully encouraging. Should have next part of the web upgrade up in a week or so. Tim, Chris, Beau, Steve, Diane and a whole team are working behind the scenes on the new website. Special thanks to those whose gifts have assisted with this project.

VITAL – those of you who are brave enough to download the new programs - please let us know if you have any problems with the new 3D viewing program.

**3. UK HIGH COURT JUDGES RULE** “..the laws and usages of the realm do not include Christianity, in whatever form,” ... regarding homosexuality and fostercare. [CLICK](#) for details.

**4. “ANTI EVOLUTION” BILLS** have been introduced in four US States, according to AAAS Policy Alerts, 24 Jan 2011, 7 Feb 2011, 24 Feb 2011. The states of Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee and New Mexico have introduced bills into state legislatures that protect teachers from being penalised for allowing students to, “understand, analyse, critique, and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories” on such topics including “biological evolution, the chemical origins of life, global warming, and human cloning.” In each report the American Association for the Advancement of Science has described these bills as “Anti-evolution”. AAAS policy alerts are archived at: <http://www.aaas.org/spp/policyalert>.

ED. COM. The leaders of AAAS seem to have forgotten that understanding, analysing, critiquing and reviewing are the very processes that advance science and teach students how to think about scientific ideas. To allow such processes is not “anti” any idea. By calling these bills “anti-evolution” AAAS reveal their fear that the theory of evolution might not stand up to honest scrutiny if the normal processes of scientific analysis were allowed. (Ref. politics, law, philosophy, scientific method)

**5. HUGS LAST BUT THREE SECONDS**, according to articles in ScienceNOW 28 Jan 2011 and *Journal of Ethology* 18 Jan 2011 DOI: 10.1007/s10164-010-0260-y. Emese Nagy, a psychologist at the University of Dundee, UK has analysed the duration of post-event hugs using video recordings from the 2008 Olympic Games and found the average hug was 3 seconds. This study follows a number of previous studies going back to 1911 that show people and animals tend to function in three second bursts. According to ScienceNOW “Goodbye waves, musical phrases, and infants' bouts of babbling and gesturing all last about 3 seconds. Many basic physiological events, such as relaxed breathing and certain nervous system functions do, too. And several other species of mammals and birds follow the general rule in their body-movement patterns. A 1994 study of giraffes, okapis, roe deer, raccoons, pandas, and kangaroos living in zoos, for example, found that although the duration of the animals' every move, from chewing to defecating, varied considerably, the average was, you guessed it, 3 seconds.” Nagy studied videos of 188 hugs between athletes from 32 nations and their coaches, teammates, and rivals. As expected, hugs between athletes and coaches were longer and those between rivals were shortest, but the average was three seconds. These results confirm an idea current among psychologists that “intervals of about 3 seconds are basic temporal units of life that define our perception of the present moment” or the “feeling of nowness” tends to last 3 seconds. Colwyn Trevarthen, a psycho-biologist at the University of Edinburgh agrees the three second pattern is of paramount importance, but explained the body has many rhythms, some faster some slower. He commented on human sense of time: “We're not talking about something crude and automatic. We're talking about something flexible and highly expressive. It's biological. It's mental. It's spiritual. This is the timing of the human spirit.”

ED. COM. How interesting that the “timing of the human spirit” should be based around three, when the Bible tells us human beings are made in the image of God, who is a tri - unity or trinity – a three in One. The Bible also tells us that God stamped his image onto the very fabric of creation (Romans 1:20). Some

well known examples are Time which exists as past, present and future, each distinct, but you can't have one unless you have all three. They are inextricably linked. Space contains three basic yet distinct dimensions of length breadth and height that cannot be separated. It is our prediction based on Romans 1:20 being accurate that the more we study the world around us and the living things in it, the more we will find threes are one of the most basic relationships in Nature. (Ref. perception, psychology, relationships)

**6. GOD'S SIGNATURE IN CREATION – ALLAH OR CHRIST?** This DVD [shows](#) the evidence Christ the real Creator is a Trinity of Father, Son and Spirit. This fully illustrated Bible and Science message from John Mackay is a tremendous help and blessing in these days of intense Islamic claims that the Koran is better than the Bible. (Senior High school +) 1 Hour.

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**7. PITCHER PLANTS GO BATTY**, as described in reports in *Biology Letters* 26 Jan 2011, doi: 10.1098/rsbl.2010.1141 and ScienceNOW 25 Jan 2011 and BBC Earth News 26 Jan 2011. Pitcher plants are so named because they have elongated goblet shaped leaves that attract insects with aroma and visual patterns and then trap them in fluid in the base of the pitcher. Because the plants get nutrients from digested insects they are able to grow in acid bogs that would not otherwise provide enough nutrients for the plants. When studying pitcher plants in Borneo in the 1980s, ecologist Jonathan Moran noticed an unusual pitcher plant with long narrow pitchers that lacked aroma and patterns and caught fewer insects than other pitcher plants, but still grew well in the nutrient poor soils. A group of biologists led by Ulmar Grafe of the University Brunei Darussalam have now followed up Moran's observation and discovered that the plant is used as roosting place by bats, and the plants feed on bat droppings. The bats wedge themselves in the narrow mid section of the pitcher above the liquid in the bottom of the trap. Mother bats with young will also settle down in the pitchers and suckle their young. Following chemical analysis of the leaves the researchers concluded the plants get about one third of their nutrients from bat droppings and urine. This plant is not the first pitcher plant shown to feed on animal droppings. Recently scientists discovered the giant montane pitcher plant attracts tree shrews with nectar secreted on the lid of the pitchers. While they are feeding on the nectar their backsides protrude over the pitcher. The ScienceNOW article reports: "Indeed, pitcher plants are turning out to be less carnivorous than biologists once believed—another species digests leaf litter. Moran predicts that the plants will yield more surprises 'that we can't even dream of yet'."

Link: [BBC Earth News](#)

ED. COM. We agree with Moran – when pitcher plants are fully investigated WE PREDICT there will be more surprises – but why would we? Recent research has shown they have far more complex interactions with other living things than just a simple predator and prey relationship. A recent review article in the *Annals of Botany*, entitled *Traps of carnivorous pitcher plants as a habitat: composition of the fluid, biodiversity and mutualistic activities* gives the following background information: "Carnivorous pitcher plants (CPPs) use cone-shaped leaves to trap animals for nutrient supply but are not able to kill all intruders of their traps. Numerous species, ranging from bacteria to vertebrates, survive and propagate in the otherwise deadly traps. (Ann Bot doi: 10.1093/aob/mcq238) The article also points out that not all pitcher plant fluid is toxic or contains sufficient digestive enzymes to kill all the insects that land in it, and the organisms that live in the pitchers dispose of the prey providing both them and the plant with nutrients.

The plant that digests leaf litter is *Nepenthes ampullaria* and it lives in rainforests where there is plenty of leaf litter to fall on it and provide it with nutrients. Pitcher plants living in more open settings can't get enough nutrients from leaf litter. OUR PREDICTION is based on the fact that God made everything very good with no death as Genesis reads, so the original function of pitcher plants would not have been to eat animals no matter where they grew. These new research findings give this more support to the thesis that in a very good world "carnivorous" plants recycled leaf litter and animal droppings – a very good function. (Ref. ecology, botany, food chain)

**8. INCREDIBLE CREATURES THAT DEFY EVOLUTION DVD Set Parts 1-3** The *Incredible Creatures* series enters the fascinating world of animals to reveal sophisticated and complex designs that shake the traditional foundations of evolutionary theory. Dr Jobe Martin has been fascinating students for the past 20 years as he lectures on these remarkable animals that cannot be explained by traditional evolution. (Primary School +) – 50 minutes each DVD.

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