



Welcome to the next episode on “Why do black Zebras have white stripes?”, mixed with volcanoes accused of the little ice age, while the present day Himalayas produce a melt down on climate. Meanwhile don’t miss the now happening ‘Online Debate John Mackay vs Dan Ryder’: “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/>

and an unofficial DVD of this debate by a skeptic is also on YOUTUBE.

Read on and enjoy this Evidence News 03/12 with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research team worldwide.

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**1. NEW QUESTION:** “POLYSTRATE FOSSILS? Apart from fossil vertical trees, are any other fossils found as polystrates?” This week’s answer is by John Mackay [click](#).

**DID YOU MISS THE QUESTION:** “If the earth is young, why do the Green River Shales in Wyoming show rocks took vast ages to form?” Read the answer by John Mackay [here](#).

**2. A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM WITH JOHN MACKAY in Ontario. Don’t miss Noah’s Flood!**  
[CLICK](#) for information.

**3. ZEBRA STRIPES CONFUSE BITEY FLIES** claim scientists in reports in BBC News 9 February 2012, ABC News in Science 10 February 2012, and *Journal of Experimental Biology*, doi: 10.1242/jeb.070680. Scientists in Hungary and Sweden have carried out a series of experiments to see if the striped pattern of zebras has any advantage in protecting the animals from biting flies. They noticed that dark coloured horses were more attractive to tabanid flies (otherwise known as horseflies) than white horses and they found that dark horses reflected horizontally polarised light, and that is what attracted the flies. The researchers then wondered whether the black and white pattern on zebras would be more or less attractive to the flies. To test this they set up models with dark and light colours and striped patterns similar to zebra patterns in a field in Hungary to see which ones attracted the most flies. They found the dark models attracted the most flies, but the black and white striped models attracted as few or fewer flies than the white models.

The researcher wrote: “This work provides an experimentally supported explanation for the underlying mechanism leading to the selective advantage of a black-and-white striped coat pattern”. They concluded “that zebras have evolved a coat pattern in which the stripes are narrow enough to ensure minimum attractiveness to tabanid flies”. They also added: “The selection pressure for striped coat patterns as a response to blood-sucking dipteran parasites is probably high in this region [Africa]”. Not all scientists agree that this explains the origin of the zebra pattern. Matthew Cobb, an evolutionary biologist from the University of Manchester told BBC News: “Above all, for this explanation to be true, the authors would have to show that tabanid fly bites are a major selection pressure on zebras, but not on horses and donkeys found elsewhere in the world ... none of which are stripy”.

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

ED. COM. Perhaps we should consider all the facts here. 1. Horsefly attacks provably make horses lose condition. 2. Horses elsewhere don't have stripes. 3. If there was any way of selectively breeding striped horses farmers would be doing it. 4. In spite of their name, horseflies bite other animals and even chew on people – ouch don't I know it! Therefore if this new evolutionary theory is correct, then fly infested countries should be populated by striped farmers riding striped horses out to inspect their striped cattle.

Matthew Cobb's criticism is correct, however, his criticism does not get to the real issue of explaining the origin of the stripes. The real question is how does being attacked by flies change the genes that control colour patterning in an animal's skin? The scientists who did this experiment are correct in claiming there is a “selection pressure” for stripes in places where flies abound. However, that only works once the animals already have pigment and stripes. Avoiding flies is a useful characteristic when you already have stripes, but it does not explain how the characteristic came about. Here is a good example of the difference between natural selection and evolution. Natural selection is a real ecological process, and explains why living things with certain characteristics survive in the environments they are found in. Evolution is supposed to be a story about how those characteristics came into being. It was Darwin who first confused and falsely equated the selection of an already existing characteristic with the selection being the explanation of how the characteristic came about, i.e. its origin. He was wrong then, and this equation is still wrong today. 153 years after Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, it is time scientists and other academics applied some critical thinking to this issue and realise they have been bluffed by a theologian – Darwin, whose only formal qualifications were in theology and whose anti-God theological agenda was the motivation behind his façade of science. (Ref. ecology, insects, pigmentation)

**4. ICE MELT UNDERESTIMATE** reported in *Nature* doi:10.1038/nature10847 published online 8 February 2012 and *The Guardian* 8 February 2012. Scientists in Boulder Colorado have used data from a NASA satellite project named GRACE (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment) to calculate how much the world's glaciers and ice caps are melting. They calculated that from January 2003 to December 2010 the Glaciers and Ice Caps (GIC) lost mass at a rate of  $148 \pm 30$  Gigatons per year. According to the research team: “The GIC rate for 2003–2010 is about 30 per cent smaller than the previous mass balance estimate that most closely matches our study period. The high mountains of Asia, in particular, show a mass loss of only  $4 \pm 20$  Gt yr<sup>-1</sup> for 2003–2010, compared with 47–55 Gt yr<sup>-1</sup> in previously published estimates”. Jonathan Bamber, a glaciologist at Bristol University, who was not part of the research team, commented: “The very unexpected result was the negligible mass loss from high mountain Asia, which is not significantly different from zero”.

Link: [Guardian](#)

ED. COM. The “very unexpected results” of this current study i.e. lack of melting of the glaciers of “high mountains of Asia” (Himalayas), which have been the centre of much controversy in the climate debate, follows from the IPCC prediction these glaciers would all have melted by 2035. The IPCC later admitted this was an error, but it left a strong impression in the minds of politicians, journalists and other promoters of man-made global warming that the glaciers were in danger of disappearing. However, the results should not be all that surprising because the warming that certainly occurred in the latter half of the twentieth century has ceased, and the world has not warmed for over a decade, which included the period of this study. This study is a good example of the difference between actual data, as provided by the GRACE satellites, and computer models as used by the IPCC. Computer models can be very useful, but they are only as good as the data fed into them. When new technology enables more and better data to be collected, and that data disagrees with the models, it is the models that have to be thrown out. (Ref. glaciation, remote sensing)

SEE OUR FULL AND SEARCHABLE [CLIMATE FILE](#).

**5. VOLCANOES CAUSED LITTLE ICE AGE**, claim scientists, according to a report in ScienceDaily 30 Jan 2012. The Little Ice Age was a period of widespread cooling that began in the 1300s and lasted into the 1800s. It was a time of cool summers and freezing winters, where advancing glaciers destroyed towns, and rivers regularly froze over, which resulted in the famous “ice fairs” on the Thames. A new study of ice cores and dead plant material from Baffin Island in Canada led by scientists at the University of Colorado Boulder, indicates the little ice age was precipitated by a series of massive eruptions from four tropical volcanoes over a fifty year period in the 13th century, followed by further eruptions in the mid 15th century. They suggest the cooling was further sustained by masses of sea ice moving down from the Greenland coast and eventually melting there in the North Atlantic. This would have interfered with the distribution of heat via ocean currents. The researchers ran a computer simulation of various sea ice conditions from about 1150 to 1700 A.D, which showed several large, closely spaced volcanic eruptions could have cooled the Northern Hemisphere enough to trigger expansion of Arctic sea ice. The simulation did not include changes in solar radiation. Bette Otto-Bliesner of the US National Center for Atmospheric Research, who was part of the research team, explained: “Our simulations showed that the volcanic eruptions may have had a profound cooling effect. The eruptions could have triggered a chain reaction, affecting sea ice and ocean currents in a way that lowered temperatures for centuries”.

Link: [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. Although this study did not include changes in the solar radiation, we know from other studies that the sun’s radiance does change, and Galileo was the first to record massive and prolonged decrease in sunspot activity during the Little Ice Age. Therefore, we can conclude from this new study, along with others, that in the absence of industry and motor vehicles between 1300 and 1700, a significant and prolonged climate change was entirely caused by natural phenomena – volcanoes, ocean currents and the sun.

Written records from this time tell us life during this cool period was a time of famine and misery due to crop failures in the cool summers, and much hardship during the freezing winters. Ice fairs are only fun if you can afford warm clothes, and have good food and a warm home to go to afterwards. There is a quite reasonable historical theory that the age of exploration - Columbus *et al* - began during this time because people wanted to escape freezing Europe.

Prior to the Little Ice Age there was a period known as the Medieval Warm Period, which also was certainly not caused by industrialisation. This new study confirms that the cycles of climate that are well documented over the last few thousand years are due to changes in phenomena that are beyond human control. Keep this in mind when the promoters of man-made global warming want to cool the climate downwards to pre-industrial levels. Rather we should be putting our efforts into things we can control, studying and learning and using our God given brains to live with things we can’t control, and putting our trust in the God who is the one who can control such things as volcanoes, the sun and ocean currents. (Ref. climate, weather, natural cycles)

## Evidence News 03/12 – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012

**6. FROM OUR ARCHIVES:** Each week we publish links to previous items relevant to this issue's topics: [selection](#) / [rapid fossil](#) / [climate](#).

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.

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