



It's a fossil rich, fact filled Evidence News that backs up Darwin's original complaint that the fossil record was no real help for his theory of evolution, so read on and judge for yourself and greetings from John Mackay and the Creation Research team world wide and welcome to EVIDENCE NEWS number 4/07, 24th April AD2007 with EDitorial COMment.

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1. BIGGEST CORAL DEATH SURVEYED, as reported in Carib Journal, 11 April 2007 and ABC News 13 April 2007. In March 2005, an earthquake in Aceh, Indonesia, raised the island of Simeulue by 1.2 m (3 ft 11 ins), and lifted most of the surrounding coral reef out of sea. Scientists have now completed a survey of the uplifted reef and describe it as the "greatest mass death of corals ever recorded". This has given scientists a unique opportunity to study coral death and recovery. Andrew Baird, a scientist involved in the work observed: "Amazingly, the uplifted corals are so well preserved we could still identify each species, despite these colonies having been exposed for two years. Some species suffered up to 100 percent loss at some sites, and different species now dominate the shallow reef." He went on to explain, "This is a unique opportunity to document a process that occurs maybe once a century and promises to provide new insights into coral recovery processes that until now we could only explore on fossil reefs." The corals are now re-growing around the newly created shoreline, and according to Stuart Campbell of the Wildlife Conservation Society – Indonesia Marine Program, "At many sites, the worst affected species are beginning to re-colonize the shallow reef areas. The reefs appear to be returning to what they looked like before the earthquake, although the process may take many years."

<http://caribjournal.com/2007/04/11/mass-coral-death-in-indonesia-due-to-earthquake/>

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/2007/1896440.htm>

ED. COM. A similar uplift of coral occurred with the recent earthquake near the Solomon Islands, where a whole island was suddenly lifted over 1 metre (3') out of the sea bringing its coral reef with it. The corals rapidly died and it will be interesting to see how long it takes for the coral reef to re-form around the island. This editor has worked on Caribbean coral reefs that have been uplifted over 10 metres, and yet the living reefs had re-established very well. These events, along with the evidence from fossil corals remind us that the history of the world is not one of slow growth and slow burial. Fossil corals show evidence of rapid catastrophic processes, and the rapid re-growth observed in living corals reminds us that coral reefs do not take millions of years to form or reform. In fact the evidence from Australia after the crown of thorns destruction of the Great Barrier Reef shows that corals grow exceedingly rapidly when there is no competition from pre-existing corals, and slow down as the reef is repopulated. (Ref. ecology, environment, disaster, catastrophism)

2. T REX PROTEINS FOUND, according to reports in Science, 13 Apr 2007 and BBC News Online. In 2005 Mary Schweitzer of North Carolina State University reported finding remnants of fibrous tissue and blood vessels in a Tyrannosaurus bone. There was some debate over whether this was really original organic material because, as Schweitzer commented to the BBC, "The pathways of cellular decay are well known for

modern organisms. And extrapolations predict that all organics are going to be gone completely in 100,000 years, maximum." The T Rex bone was believed to be 68 million years old. Schweitzer and a team of other scientists have now carried out more studies on the bone and found seven small fragments of collagen, a tough fibrous protein found in bones, ligaments and tendons. Like all proteins it is made up of strings of amino acids, and the researchers worked out the amino acid sequence in the fragments. They then compared them with the amino acid sequence in collagen from living creatures. Two of the fragments matched sequences found in chickens; one matched frog collagen; one matched both chicken and frog; one matched newt, one matched newt, fish and mouse; and one matched "multiple organisms". Scientists claim these results confirm the theory that dinosaurs evolved from birds. BBC article:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6548719.stm>

ED. COM. These results simply show that dinosaurs had their own kind of collagen, which has some sequences in common with other animals because it has to serve the same function. It is interesting that evolutionists are prepared to put uniformitarian principles aside when it suits them. If known decay rates for living tissue show that all organic matter should be gone in thousands of years, they should accept these findings as evidence that this dinosaur bone is not millions of years old if they truly believe the present is the key to the past, but then that would make evolution impossible as Dinosaurs could not evolve into birds in only 100,000 yrs. (Ref. reptiles, preservation, biochemistry)

3. GORILLA-LIKE JAW CASTS DOUBT ON HUMAN ANCESTOR, according to a report in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol. 104, p6568, 17 April 2007. Scientists at Tel Aviv University have studied the jaw of a recently discovered "Australopithecus afarensis" fossil and found that it "closely matches that of gorillas". They were surprised at this because "A. afarensis" is believed to be a human ancestor and should have a jaw more like a chimpanzee – the ape believed to be closest to humans on the evolutionary tree. The researchers claim their findings "cast doubt on the role of A. afarensis as a modern human ancestor." An Australopithecine named "A. robustus" also has a gorilla-like jaw, but another fossil named "Ardipithecus ramidus" has a chimp-like jaw and the Tel Aviv researches suggest the evolutionary tree for humans needs to be re-drawn.

ED. COM. The most famous "Australopithecus afarensis" is "Lucy", a fossil commonly presented as a human ancestor in evolutionary museums and displays. These results add to the overwhelming evidence that Lucy and all Australopithecines were apes. The fact that they are now extinct only proves that there were more kinds of apes in the past than there are now. It does not prove that they evolved into people. Extinction of apes is the opposite of evolution, but fits the Biblical history of the world, where many kinds of creatures were separately created but some have died out as the world degenerated. The study described above also reminds us that most of the fossils claimed to be ape-human intermediates are woefully incomplete, and as more bones are found they show that the original specimens were either fully ape or fully human. This is also what you would expect from reading Genesis, which tells us the humans and animals were made as completely different beings. (Ref. hominids, mandible, bias )

4. OLDEST WHOLE FOSSIL TREE FOUND, as reported in New Scientist, 18 April 2007, p17, news@nature, Nature, vol 446, p904, 19 April 2007 and BBC News Online 19 April 2007. Palaeontologists have found an eight metre specimen of fossil tree that had been previously known only from its trunk and its crown in separate pieces. The tree, named "Eospermatopteris" has been known from a large number of fossil stumps found in the 1870's in a rock quarry at Gilboa in New York State. Specimens of the crown of the tree have also been found previously but had been classified as a separate plant named "Wattieza", rather than the tops of "Eospermatopteris" plants. The new specimen has the crown attached to the trunk so palaeontologists can see the structure of the whole tree. Reconstructing fossil trees is not always easy, according to palaeontologist Brigitte Meyer-Berthaud, a palaeontologist at the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development in Montpellier, France, because the aerial portions of trees are often broken off and transported away. She commented: "We can find many different parts of the tree, but generally they are not connected." The newly discovered tree is dated as being 385 million years old, and was similar in structure to tree ferns, cycads and palm trees, having a crown of fronds which they gradually shed and replaced as they grew, leaving a characteristic pattern on the trunk. The researchers commented in their article in Nature: "It is therefore interesting to see how instantly recognizable and, in a significant sense, 'modern' the tree-like architecture of Wattieza seems to be. Indeed, phylogenetically divergent modern forms including tree-ferns, cycads and palms are fundamentally similar in structure." The new specimen is eight metres (26 ft) tall, but some of the stumps that had been previously found are twice the diameter of this specimen, indicating the tree could grow to a much greater height. BBC article:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/6568233.stm>

ED. COM. The usually unmentioned fact that many of the original Gilboa trees were found as polystrate fossils is evidence of rapid burial and strata formation. The data that many of the trees have been broken up

and the pieces carried away separately indicates the trees have been subject to destructive and large catastrophic forces involving moving water that was deep enough to cover the trees. The fact that it is now extinct, whilst cycads, tree ferns and palm trees are still here, shows that there were once more kinds of trees than there are now. The fact that it was so large indicates that the world was once a better place for tree-fern-like plants to grow. Its "modern" architecture simply shows that it is made with a design that works, and has been used in other plants. All of this fits the Biblical history of the world. Genesis tells us that God made a good world full of separately created living things, but because of human rebellion God has judged it by subjecting it to decay and by rapid catastrophic processes, commencing at the time of Noah's flood. (Ref. fossilisation, catastrophe, plants)

5. FOSSIL FLEW LIKE BIPLANE, according to an article in BBC News Online, 22 Jan 2007. Fossil researchers Sankar Chatterjee and Jack Templin have studied a fossil name "Microraptor gui" and concluded that it flew like a World War 1 biplane. This fossil is a small dinosaur-like creature whose forelimbs and hind limbs were surrounded by feather-like imprints. Scientists suggested that it glided with its limbs spread out in tandem like the four wings of a dragonfly. Chatterjee and Templin claim that the creature held its hind limbs below its body so that the "wings" were positioned one above the other like early aircraft. Their evidence for this model is that both dinosaur and bird hip joints move in a vertical plane, rather than a horizontal one, and that the feathers appear to be asymmetrical. For these to function aerodynamically the narrow side should face forward, as it would if the legs were held under the body. Chatterjee commented to the BBC that there were striking parallels between bird flight and the development of aircraft. "We see that the Wright brothers came up with a design for which there was no precedent in nature at the time. This shows us that if there is a problem in engineering, sometimes there are only one or two possible solutions." BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6287367.stm>

ED. COM. If there is a "problem in engineering" it takes an engineer with a creative mind to solve it. If this creature did glide like a biplane, it didn't get that way by chance random processes any more than the Wright brothers aircraft evolved by chance. Otherwise, half evolved Microraptors would have fallen out of the sky, just like many of less well designed aircraft that preceded the Wright brothers. Flying is something you have to get right first time, or you don't get a chance to breed or evolve. (Ref. engineering aeronautics, aviation)

6. BIGGEST TERROR BIRD FOUND, according to articles in news@nature and ScienceNOW 25 Oct 2006 and Nature vol. 443, p929, 26 Oct 2006. The biggest bird skull ever found has been discovered in Argentina. The skull is 71.6cm (28in) long and has a huge hooked beak and belongs to a type of extinct bird called a phorusrachid or "terror bird". Phorusrachids are believed to have lived in South America between two and sixty million years ago. Their closest living relatives are believed to be seriemas, carnivorous birds that are about 50cm (20in) tall. Luis Chiappe of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles commented: "There's little doubt it was used for killing prey and tearing apart chunks of flesh." A 43.7 cm (18 in) long slender leg bone named a tarsometatarsus was also found with the skull. This is also a record size and indicates the bird could run fast. Chiappe also commented that terror birds "were like dinosaurs without a tail, and became the mega-predators of the continent."

ED. COM. Fossilised bones enable scientists to estimate a bird's size, but bones cannot tell you what the bird ate. As this bird is extinct, no living scientist has seen it eat anything. The huge hooked beak could just as easily have been used to eat plants. If it was the ancestor of the present day seriemas, that is good evidence that birds have gone downhill, not evolved upwards. Genesis tells us that all birds and animals were created to eat plants, but as the world degenerated some become violent and took to eating flesh rather than fruit. After Noah's flood the environment became much harsher and mankind was given permission to eat birds and animals. Therefore, it would be harder for large birds to survive, because of lack of food and being hunted by humans. This has happened to other birds, such as the giant Moa, so it could have happened to phorusrachids. (Ref. diet, Aves, degeneration.)

7. OLDEST FOSSIL BEE FOUND, according to a report in BBC Online News and Science vol 314, p614, 27 Oct 2006. A bee preserved in amber, believed to be 100 million years old has been found in northern Burma. The bee is very small, about 3mm long, and has been classified as belonging to a new family and genus, because it has some features that are different to living bees. It has branched hairs that trap pollen grains like living bees but has narrow hind legs more like wasp. George Poinar of Oregon State University commented to the BBC: "This fossil may help us understand when wasps, which were mostly just meat-eating carnivores, turned into bees that could pollinate plants and serve a completely different biological function." BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6084974.stm>

ED. COM. One well preserved dead insect is not going to explain how one kind of insect could turn into another. The fact that this insect is not the same as a living bee or wasp indicates there were once more

different kinds of insects, and this one has since died out. It is not evidence that it turned into another kind of insect. Whatever it was, it was a fully formed functioning insect that could pollinate flowers. The belief that bees, which eat nectar and pollen, evolved from carnivorous wasps is pure faith, because no-one has observed it happen. According to Genesis all animals originally ate plants, so wasps would have started out feeding from plants and only became carnivorous when the supply of plant food decreased as the environment degenerated. (Ref. arthropods, diet, Hymenoptera)

8. MODERN COMPLEX EMBRYOS FOUND IN OLD ROCKS, according to reports in Science vol 312, p1587, 16 June 2006 and Nature, vol. 440, p680 10 Aug 2006. Palaeontologists have found fossilised embryos in rocks that date back to the time of the earliest forms of life. According to Science, one group of embryos, from rocks in the Doushantuo deposit in China, dated as 580 to 600 million years old, "resemble those of modern bilaterians such as annelids and molluscs. If they check out it could mean that a wide array of complex animals existed before the 'Cambrian Explosion'". Another group of scientists have used an x-ray technique to study the internal structure of fossil embryos from the late Neoproterozoic and earliest Phanerozoic era (around 500 million years old) and found they had an internal structure that is similar to modern complex animals, such as arthropods.

ED. COM. These findings are good evidence that complex creatures have existed from the beginning and have reproduced after their kind, just as Genesis says. Furthermore early embryos are tiny delicate structures that can only be preserved if they are rapidly buried where oxygen and bacteria cannot destroy them. This means the rock layers they were found in did not form by slow gradual deposition. This was a rapidly formed deep deposit – just what you would get from a major flood. (Ref. embryology, cells, reproduction)

9. WEIRD AUSSIE WHALE FOSSIL FOUND, according to reports in ABC (Australia) News in Science and news@nature 16 Aug 2006, and ScienceNOW 18 Aug 2006. Six years ago a surfer at a beach near the town of Jan Juc on the south eastern coast of Australia found some unusual fossil bones and took them to Monash University. The fossils have been identified by scientists as an extinct whale. The fossil skull had some specialised features only seen in baleen whales, but it had huge eyes and large teeth, and the size of the bones indicated the animal was very small for a whale – about 3.5 m long. Living baleen whales are very large and do not have teeth – they are filter feeders. Erich Fitzgerald of Monash University said: "This animal was capturing big single prey, which is unusual for a baleen whale. It used the front of its mouth to grip its prey and rip it apart." He also said its size, shape and characteristics made it impossible to fit the fossil into existing branches of the evolutionary tree for whales. The fossil has been dated as 25 million years old and scientists claim that it shows that baleen whales once had teeth.

ABC article: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/s1715433.htm>

ED. COM. The fact that this creature had features seen in living baleen whales, but not toothed whales, does not prove that it changed into a baleen whale. It is evidence that there were unique creatures of a separate kind from both living baleen and toothed whales, exactly as you would expect on the basis of Genesis 1. Neither does the fact that it had teeth prove that it was a fierce predator. It simply proves it was not a filter feeder. An animal cannot be proven to be a predator until it is observed to hunt prey – impossible for an animal only known as a fossil. Instead of wasting time trying to fit this creature into evolutionary trees, and making unsubstantiated claims about its diet, scientists should concentrate on what they have actually found. The fact that it is now extinct is evidence that the world has degenerated and many living creatures have died out, exactly what you would expect on the basis of the rest of Genesis. (Ref. cetaceans, extinction, diet.)

10. LIVE PICTURES OF LIVING FOSSIL reported in BBC News Online 15 June 2006. Earlier this year dead specimens of a previously unknown rodent were found by scientists in a market in Laos. The animal was found to be a living version of a rodent that was believed to extinct for 11 million years. (See "New Rodent is Living Fossil," Evidence News 22 Mar 2006) An expedition of scientists led by David Redfield of a Florida State university have now captured and filmed a live specimen of the animal and confirmed it is the same animal found in the hunters market. Mary Dawson, curator emeritus of vertebrate palaeontology at the Carnegie Museum who worked on the identification of the rodent commented: "This is a truly exciting discovery. Dr Redfield's sighting of the living animal is the first to be recorded scientifically. These are the first photographic images of the recently discovered 'living fossil' *Laonastes aenigmamus*."

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5082264.stm>

ED. COM. A "living fossil" is a creature whose fossil and living specimens are the same. This is no help to a theory that claims one kind of creature turned into another. Every time scientists find a "living fossil" they are finding proof that living creatures have reproduced after their own kind, just as Genesis says. (Ref. rodents, Asia, mammals)

11. MODERN BIRD SURPRISE reported in New Scientist online news, news@nature, Geotimes 15 June 2006, Science Vol. 312 p1640 and BBC News Online 16 June 2006. Palaeontologists have found five well preserved specimens of a fossil bird in a quarry near Changma in Gansu Province China. The birds appear well equipped for both flying and swimming and were similar to present day loons and grebes. They had a thin flexible furcula (wishbone), a large crest on the breastbone and impressions of flight feathers around the wings. The foot bones have muscle attachments similar to those of present day swimming birds and are surrounded by impressions of webbed feet. The fossils are dated as Early Cretaceous, between 105 and 115 million years old, but according to Jerald Harris of Dixie State College, Utah, who was part of the expedition "no one expected to find a bird this modern in rocks this old." He also commented: "With a few exceptions, you could put any of its bones next to those of a modern bird and you would be hard pressed to see major differences." Because of the fossils' similarity to present day birds the researchers suggest that modern birds evolved from an aquatic ancestor. The news@nature article comments: "Be they pelicans or penguins, bowerbirds or budgies, all of today's roughly 10,000 species of bird might trace their roots back to an ancestor that splashed into life in a pond or lake some 110 million years ago, in the early part of the Cretaceous period."

news@nature article: <http://www.nature.com/news/2006/060612/full/060612-12.html>

Geotimes article: <http://www.geotimes.org/june06/WebExtra061506.html>

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5085686.stm>

New Scientist article: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn9341-feathered-fossils-suggest-aquatic-ancestry-for-birds.html>

ED. COM. Finding a fossilised "modern" bird is no surprise to Creation Research. The idea that other birds such as pelicans, penguins, bowerbirds and budgies are descended from this newly found fossil is pure imagination. All our observations of birds are that they reproduce after their own kinds. The fact that some only exist as fossils simply proves that some kinds have died out and are a good reminder that the world is degenerating, not going from simple to complex. (Ref. Aves, bones, waterfowl)

12. KILLER KANGAROOS AND DEMON DUCKS reported in The Australian and BBC News Online, 12 July 2006, and the Daily Telegraph (UK) 13 July 2006. Palaeontologists excavating the Riversleigh fossil deposit in northwest Queensland have found fossils of 20 new species including a "meat eating kangaroo with long fangs" and a giant bird nicknamed by the fossil hunters as the "demon duck of doom." Other finds include "galloping kangaroos with long forearms that could not hop" and a "prehistoric lungfish which closely resembles modern day lungfish". Another unusual feature of the fossils is that they are black, indicating the environment was not rich in oxygen. The researchers believe this indicates the site was once a deep lake. Other fossils have indicated that the area was once covered in dense rainforest. The site is believed to contain fossils of thousands of extinct creatures. Michael Archer of the University of New South Wales commented: "This would have been a very weird place, to our eyes."

ED. COM. Michael Archer is right – the world once was a very different place to that of today. These finds add to the evidence that Australia was once populated by an abundance of large animals that have since died out or shrunk. This is the opposite of evolution, i.e. loss of species, not emergence of new species. These fossils actually fit better into the Biblical history of the world. In the beginning living things were created as separated kinds and they lived in a very good world. Many animals and birds would have been able to grow to much larger sizes than they can today because the environment provided more food and less stress. The environment degenerated significantly after Noah's flood with the coming of the first winters and summers. As a result, many large animals have completely died out or failed to grow to their former size. (Ref. devolution, palaeontology, degeneration)

13. GREAT DYING PRODUCED MOBILE CREATURES, according to an article in ABC (Australia) News in Science and Science vol 314, p1289, 24 Nov 2006. The "Great Dying" is a term commonly used for a mass extinction believed to have occurred at the end of the Permian age, about 250 million years ago, that wiped out approximately 95 percent of the Earth's marine species and 70 percent of its land species. Scientists at James Cook University, Queensland, Australia and the Field Museum, Chicago have carried out a statistical analysis of the number and type of organisms over the past 540 million years using information from the Paleobiology Database. They analysed 1176 fossil assemblages of marine life from Cambrian to recent and came to the conclusion that immobile creatures such as crinoids and stationary shellfish that were mainly filter feeders were largely wiped out and were replaced by mobile creatures, such as crabs and snails. According to Peter Wagner of the Field Museum, the results "show that the end-Permian mass extinction permanently altered not just taxonomic diversity but also the prevailing marine ecosystem structure." As such, scientists claim it is a "warning on how we treat the ecosystem now". Wagner commented: "Studies by modern marine ecologists suggest that humans are reducing certain marine ecosystems to something reminiscent of 550 million years ago, prior to the explosion of animal diversity."

Paleobiology Database: <http://paleodb.org>

ABC article: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/2006/1796479.htm>

ED. COM. We don't hear any evolutionists claiming to be excited about all the new species that will evolve after the current reduction of modern ecosystems. The fact is, losing 95% of marine species is the opposite of evolution. Extinction means that whole species have died out permanently. This may leave unoccupied spaces in the environment, but that cannot produce new living things. Furthermore, finding different fossils in Permian and Triassic rocks is no proof that one evolved into the other. These rocks were given different names because geologists saw that they had different fossils in them, not because anyone observed Permian fossils evolving into any other type of fossils. (Ref. ecology, catastrophes, taxonomy)

14. OLDEST LAMPREY FOUND, according a report in Nature, vol. 443, p981, 26 Oct 2006. Scientists from University of Witwatersrand, South Africa and University of Chicago have found a fossilised Lamprey (a jawless fish) in Devonian rocks in South Africa. It is dated as being 35 million years older than the previous oldest specimen. The new fossil is remarkably similar to living lampreys, and the researchers comment that lampreys are "ancient specialists that have persisted as such and survived a subsequent 360 million years" and therefore "lampreys might be described as 'living fossils'."

ED. COM. Darwin coined the term "living fossil" but they are no evidence for evolution. Living fossils are creatures whose fossils are the same as living examples. In this case, the researchers' comments are another way of saying that lampreys have multiplied after their kind, just as Genesis tells us that living things were made to do. (Ref. fish, vertebrates, palaeontology)

15. HEADS DOWN FOR PLESIOSAURS, according to an article in New Scientist, 4 No 2006, p17. Leslie Noe of the Sedgwick Museum of Cambridge, UK has studied the way the neck bones of a plesiosaur named "Muraenosaurus" fit together and worked out how flexible the creature's neck would have been. He concluded the animal's neck was most flexible when it head was pointing down, but it could not have held its head up high out of the water. This suggests that the animal used its neck as a feeding tube to enable it to collect food from the sea floor. New Scientist suggests this also means that this creature was not the Loch Ness monster, which is often portrayed as a long necked creature holding its head up in swan-like fashion. ED. COM. A neck that was suitable for gathering food in a head down position indicates that this animal was a grazing animal rather than a hunting animal. This fits with Genesis, which tells us all animals were originally created to eat plants. It may also give us a clue as to why these animals died out. After the catastrophic destruction of the sea floor during Noah's flood as the fountains of the deep burst open, the amount of food growing on the sea floor would have been drastically reduced and this been the start of the demise of plesiosaurs. Post Noahic season effects on the shallow water around continents would have also affected their life style. (Ref. diets, extinction, reptiles)

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