



The last day of the online debate against atheist Professor Dan Ryder, Dawkins comes out re agnosticism, Noah's ark and slurping snakes make for a great read of the evidence for creation in Evidence NEWS 4/12 from the world wide team at Creation Research with John Mackay typing on the run today as he transits to Florida.

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1. NEW QUESTIONS

BLOOD GROUPS: How could four major blood types (A, B, AB, and O) and two Rhesus factors (positive and negative), come from only one pair of humans? What blood type were Adam and Eve? Is there any possibility genetic mutations generated blood type changes? Answer by Diane Eager [HERE](#)

NOAH'S ARK: How did Noah fit all the animals on the ark?

Answer by John Mackay [HERE](#)

2. HOW SNAKES DRINK, reported in *New Scientist* 20 February 2012 and *Journal of Experimental Zoology* 6 February 2012 DOI: 10.1002/jez.1710. David Cundall of Lehigh University, Pennsylvania had observed boa constrictors sucking up water through a small hole in their mouths, as if they were drinking through a straw. However, he was unable to measure any suction when he tried using pressure sensors in the mouths of three different species of snakes. Furthermore, snake tongues are too small for them to lap up water, and

they can't tip their heads back to scoop in water. He and a group of colleagues have now made a detailed study of the structure of snakes' mouths and throats, and the way the muscles work when they are drinking. They found the extensive folding of the surface inside a snake's mouth and throat that enables it to expand to envelop large prey, also acts like a sponge. Water flows into the sponge-like structure by capillary action and is squeezed down the snake's throat using muscle and bones of the head. This means the snake can take up water against gravity without having to make an airtight seal with its mouth and apply suction. Kurt Schwenk, of the University of Connecticut, commented. "How animals drink is surprisingly complicated. I think they've pretty much nailed it in snakes." The researchers concluded: "The sponge mechanism of drinking may represent a macrostomatan exaptation of mucosal folds, the evolution of which was driven primarily by the demands of feeding."

Link: [New Scientist](#)

ED. COM. In case you are wondering what "macrostomatan exaptation" means let us explain. "Macrostomatan" means big mouth. An "exaptation" is defined as "a biological adaptation where the biological function currently performed by the adaptation was not the function performed while the adaptation evolved under earlier pressures of natural selection." (See [Biology Online](#) dictionary) In other words, the research team believe the snakes evolved big mouths to eat big prey, and then found they could use the extra folds in their mouths to drink with. However, as Kurt Schwenk commented, the process of drinking is quite complicated. As the research team found it is not enough to have the folded surface, the snake also needs the coordinated muscle movements.

Drinking water is such a fundamental function for living it is not a good idea to leave it to chance. Exaptation, therefore, is a typical evolutionary non-explanation for how snakes obtained the ability to drink water. If it came about by natural selection for eating large prey, the evolutionist has to explain not only how the presence of large prey enabled the snake's mouth to grow and develop the right muscle contractions for drinking, as well as the unhinging jaws that snakes also need to eat large prey, but more importantly how did it drink prior to this in order to survive. The fossil evidence shows snakes' mouths have remained unchanged since snakes first were fossilised; which is totally consistent with them being designed for both eating and drinking. The fact that the folded structure facilitates both is an example of good design, not lucky accident. (Ref. reptiles, serpents, biomechanics)

3. DEVIL DNA REVEALED, as reported in *New Scientist* and BBC News 17 February 2012, and *Cell* vol. 148, pp780-791 17 February DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2011.11.065. Tasmanian Devils (carnivorous marsupials found only on the Australian Island of Tasmania) are being wiped out by a facial cancer transmitted from one animal to another when they bite each another during mating and fighting. An international team of researchers has analysed the DNA of 104 tumours from 69 animals and have worked out the tumour originated in a female animal over 15 years ago. They compared the cancer genome with the normal Tasmanian Devil genome and found 17,000 mutations. Researchers suspect some of the mutations involve immunity genes, which could explain how the tumour can be passed to other individuals. It is very rare for tumours to spread from one individual to another as immune systems normally recognise cancer cells as being foreign. The researchers also state that their study "reveals the pattern of evolution" and spread of the tumour with "evidence of a selective sweep in one geographical area and persistence of parallel lineages in other populations."

Links: [BBC](#), [New Scientist](#)

ED. COM. So, number one: these mutations cause disease. The mutations that have occurred in this tumour have turned what was once useful tissue into a source of misery and death. Number two: The process that spreads it is the result of Devilish violent behaviour. Number three: The "selective sweep in one geographical area" simply means that one

variation of the tumour was able to survive long enough to spread further and cause more disease.

Altogether, the changes found in the facial tumour cells remind us that we are not looking at evolution here – we are looking at what mutations do best: the destruction of life. Mutation and natural selection are real processes, but they are part of the overall degeneration or devolution of the world brought about following man's rebellion against his Creator. We can confidently say this disease would not have occurred in the original good world that God made. Even if only for the fact that 'In the beginning' all animals ate plants, so there was no struggle for existence, and no fighting for food or mates.

The fossil record shows the Devils were once much larger and more robust, and lived all over Australia. Now they are confined to one island, and as a result are severely inbred, which has decreased their size, and increased their mutational load which has undoubtedly increased their susceptibility to disease in general. For more on the devolution of the Devil see [Tasmanian Devils Evolving Early Motherhood](#) Evidence News 24 Sept 2008. (Ref. marsupials, carnivores, carcinogenesis)

SEE DEVILS on our great DVD *Darwin's Evolution; a Very Unnatural Selection*. For a free preview click [HERE](#)

4. WE'VE ALL LOST 20 GENES according to reports in ScienceNOW and *Science*, vol. 335 pp. 823-828 17 February 2012 DOI: 10.1126/science.1215040. As more human genomes are studied, scientists are finding many differences between individuals. Some of these may be just harmless variations, but others may cause genes to become non-functional. As genome technology improves scientists are able to work out which variations actually cause genes to become defunct.

Scientists working on the 1000 Genomes Project have carried out a detailed study of nearly 2951 possible "loss of function" variants of protein coding genes to see which ones rendered the gene useless. They found 1285 of these really did result in loss of function. The research team estimate that the average person is carrying around approximately 100 loss of function genes, many of which are known to be associated with genetic diseases. As we have two copies of each gene deactivated copies are usually compensated for by an intact copy. However, researchers estimate that all humans are carrying approximately 20 genes where both copies are useless, meaning everyone has about 20 missing genes.

ED. COM. Our first report on the 1000 Genomes Project stated: "We predict that when the '1000 Genomes Project' is completed it will confirm the Bible's teaching that the human race is going downhill, devolving and not evolving." See [Defunct Genes for All](#) Evidence News 9 February 2011. This more detailed study is one more study confirming the predictive value of Creation Research.

The data collected by this project will certainly help us understand genetic diseases and maybe help find ways of treating them. Therefore, it is very useful, however, **we now predict:** the study won't find any new genes evolving to give human beings useful functions they did not already have. It will only find more gene loss and dysfunction. As we also said in our previous article: The only way to escape from this degeneration is to get a new body in the New Heaven and Earth which Christ the Creator and Saviour promises for all those who put their faith in Him. (Ref. genetics, degeneration, mutations)

SEE ALL OUR PREDICTIONS Click [HERE](#)

5. DAWKINS NOW NOT SURE THERE IS NO GOD, according to a report in the *Daily Telegraph* 24 February 2012. Richard Dawkins and Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, were involved in a public dialogue on the nature and origin of human beings.

During the discussion Dawkins admitted he was less than 100 percent sure there was no creator. This startled the chairman of the discussion, philosopher Sir Anthony Kenny, into asking Dawkins: "Why don't you call yourself an agnostic?" Dawkins answered that he did. Sir Anthony then challenged him: "You are described as the world's most famous atheist." Dawkins replied that he was "6.9 out of seven" sure of his beliefs, and added, "I think the probability of a supernatural creator existing is very very low."

During the discussion the Archbishop said he was "inspired" by the "elegance" of Dawkins' explanation for the origins of life, and agreed with much of it. He also said that the explanation for the creation of the world in the Book of Genesis could not be taken literally. He claimed: "The writers of the Bible, inspired as I believe they were, they were nonetheless not inspired to do 21st Century physics."

Link: [Telegraph](#)

ED. COM. So Dawkins is 1.4 percent less than 100 percent sure there is no Creator? (6.9 out of 7 is 98.6 percent) By calling himself an agnostic Dawkins puts himself in the same category as his hero Charles Darwin, who said he had "never been an atheist in the sense of denying the existence of a God...I think that generally (& more and more so as I grow older) but not always, that an agnostic would be the most correct description of my state of mind." (Letter to John Fordyce, 7 May 1879)

It seems the Archbishop of Canterbury is also a follower of Darwin, preferring the theories of men who were not there in the beginning to the word of God who was there. However, the question that Dawkins and the Archbishop both need to answer is: What kind of god would create using a process of struggle, disease, famine and death? Certainly not the God revealed in Genesis who is declared in the new Testament to be Jesus Christ, who created the heavens and earth and declared it to be "very good", before it was ruined by man's rebellion. Darwin's world was never good, for life evolved only by death and struggle. Sadly, by the end of his life Darwin had rejected the Bible, and rejected Jesus Christ as the Son of God. However, as they say, while there is life there is hope, and who knows, maybe Dawkins' 1.4 percent doubt in atheism could be turned into 1.4 percent faith in the Creator. Who knows, we may see him a Christian yet. Enough people pray for the man. (Ref. world view, religion, philosophy)

See also [Dawkins and Anglican Bishops](#) and for the story of how Charles Darwin descended into disbelief see "The Descent of a Man" available as a PDF [HERE](#)

6. FROM OUR ARCHIVES: Each week we publish links to previous items relevant to this issue's topics: [Snakes](#) [Marsupials](#) [Human Genes](#)

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.

7. DONATIONS: Lots of high school students coming up next week, plus public meetings and Field trips along with all the behind the scenes research and support staff, so please become involved in sharing the cost and the blessings as you becoming part of the worldwide support team today via our secure Web: [CLICK](#) or send gifts to the following addresses.

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