



Greetings from John Mackay and the Creation Research team worldwide and welcome to EVIDENCE NEWS with EDITORIAL COMMENT No 5, 27th April AD2006.

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1. UK MEDIA FRENZY ON JOHN MACKAY IN SCHOOLS as the left wing national newspaper, UK Guardian, launched a full page attack on John and Creation Research's meetings in the UK. The Guardian was followed by full page coverage in the Independent, and on Monday a full interview for a TIMES educational supplement. Your support for our schools work, in prayer and with your finance, is needed more than ever before as the fight is brought right to our front door. The team in the UK over the next few weeks for the Family Conference in Wales and for public school meetings includes Vance and Korelei Nelson, Dr Diane Eager, John Mackay, Andrew Forbes and Randall Hardy. Pray for safety on all field trips, for great blessing on the weeks teaching, and for the schools. Humanists are threatening to protest outside schools to prevent programs going ahead. Anglican clergyman Michael Roberts is boasting that he has put pressure on the school to cancel us. Roberts is the clergyman who lost badly in a debate against John Mackay a few years ago. THE INTENSITY OF THE ATTACK starts with the Guardian page headlined with: "Star of creationist circuit flies in hoping to stir the faithful in small towns of Britain... "Far away from lofty pulpits, a small band will gather to welcome their champion... "Next week, an Australian will jet into Heathrow for a lecture tour that will gladden the hearts of the small but dauntless band of British creationists, believers in the biblical account of the origins of the world." Details <http://www.guardian.co.uk/religion/Story/0,,1755769,00.html?qusrc=rss>, <http://www.amen.org.uk/cr/temp/guardian060418.JPG>

2. FULL UK ITINERARY [www.amen.org.uk/cr](http://www.amen.org.uk/cr)

3. FOSSIL SNAKE HIPS FOUND, as reported in Nature, vol. 440, p1037 and New Scientist online 19 April 2006. Palaeontologists from the Argentine Museum of Natural History have found a 1.5 metre (5 feet) long fossil snake with small legs that are attached to its backbone, in Cretaceous rocks of the Candeleros Formation in Argentina. Some living snakes, such as pythons, have small spurs projecting from the pelvic region but these are anchored to their ribs. The new fossil has two sacral vertebrae, forming a clear demarcation between trunk vertebrae and tail vertebrae. The sacral vertebrae form an anchor point for some tiny pelvic and lower limb bones. The limb bones consist of a femur (thigh bone), fibula (small shin bone) and the top of a tibia (main shin bone) and are very small, certainly not large or strong enough to be used for walking. The rock formation where the fossils were found is classified as a terrestrial (dry land) formation, and this has revived a debate between evolutionists over what type of creatures gave rise to snakes. In the early twentieth century palaeontologists claimed that snakes evolved from land dwelling burrowing lizards. However, recent fossil snakes with limbs were found in rocks classified as marine deposits, so some snake experts claimed that snakes evolved from marine creatures and then slithered onto land. The scientists who found the new fossil claim it proves the land evolution theory. The new fossil snake has been named "Najash rionegrina" which the Nature authors state comes "from

Hebrew 'Najash' the legged biblical snake; and 'rionegrina' for Río Negro Province, Argentina, where the fossil was found."

ED. COM. The name of this fossil is interesting. The authors certainly show they have some concept that the serpent mentioned in Genesis 3 had legs, and God's curse on the serpent to crawl on its belly in the dust implies it lost its legs. According to Strong's Concordance, the word translated "serpent" in the King James Bible is "Nachash", which is derived from a similar Hebrew word that means to hiss or whisper, related to the hissing sound made by a snake. As the limb bones in this new fossil are incomplete, it is impossible to really tell how functional they were. Living snakes, such as the python, which have very small limbs do use them to hold each other for mating, and as such they still are functional features for the snake, although too small to use for walking. If the legs of this fossil snake are evidence of limbs in the process of being lost, this is no help to the theory of evolution. Limb loss or shrinkage is a degenerative change, i.e. a change from complex to simple and the opposite of evolution. Finally, we would like to remind those evolutionists involved in debating a terrestrial or marine origin of snakes, that the rocks in which a fossil is found tell you only where the fossil creature got buried, not where it lived. (Ref. reptiles, degeneration, bones)

4. LONG DINOSAUR STORY reported in news@nature 20 Mar 2006. In 2002 palaeontologists exploring the Gobi desert have found "several leg bones, part of a breastbone and six vertebrae, each twice the size of a loaf of bread". Daniel Ksepka of the American Museum of Natural History, New York described the bones for the museum's journal and concluded that they came from a previously unknown dinosaur that had one of the longest necks of any dinosaur. Ksepka claims the animal probably had 14 or 15 of the huge vertebrae making up its neck. This means the dinosaur's neck would have been eight metres long. The bones had a V shaped notch indicating that the bones were held together by a strong ligament to support the animal's neck, which the scientist believe was held out in front of the body, not upright like a giraffe. The dinosaur has been named "Erketu ellisoni" and is believed to be a plant eater related to a group of large dinosaurs known as titanosaurs because of their enormous size. Mark Norell, who studied the specimen with Ksepka, commented: "On the weirdo index, this is pretty weird."

news@nature article: <http://www.nature.com/news/2006/060320/full/060320-2.html>

ED. COM. Some readers of this newsletter may remember another story about dinosaur necks where palaeontologists found eight neck bones, and no head, and decided they had found a dinosaur with an unusually short neck. (See Short Dinosaur Story, Evidence News 13 July 2005.) This time they have found six neck bones, but no neck and shoulders, and have decided they have an unusually long necked dinosaur. As different dinosaurs have different numbers of neck bones there is no way of really knowing how long a dinosaur's neck was unless you have them all. This story reminds us that it is always worth comparing what the palaeontologists actually found with what they have constructed in their minds and put in the text books as fact. (Ref. sauropods, reconstruction)

5. LEFTOVER SNAIL STUDY described in ScienceNOW Science Shots, 27 Mar 2006. (whole item quoted) "Lefties unite! It's the rare marine snail whose shell coils to the left rather than the right. It's even rarer for these lefties to find a similarly whorled mate. But they do have one advantage over their dextral (righty) counterparts: Analyses of shell scars (dark line) on several fossilized snail species—telltale evidence of crab attacks—indicate that left-coiling morphs are better at cheating death. According to a report published online 21 March in Biology Letters, predatory crabs tend to be right-handed too, making it tough for them to open a left-coiling shell."

ED. COM. This study does seem to indicate that left handed snails have a survival advantage over right handed ones, therefore, if survival of the fittest is supposed to explain why animals have particular characteristics, we wonder why most snails are not left handed. (Ref. evolution, fossils)

6. ULTRASONIC FROG FOUND, according to reports in Nature, vol. 440, p333 and news@nature, 15 Mar 2006 and ABC (Australia) News Online, 16 Mar 2006 and New Scientist, 18 Mar, p21. Scientists studying a rare Chinese frog have discovered it can communicate by

ultrasound – very high pitched sounds that are above the range that human ears can hear. The frog is named the "concave eared torrent frog", because unlike other frogs, the male frog's ear drums are recessed into its head, and it lives in places where there are lots of turbulent flowing streams and waterfalls. Albert Feng, an acoustic specialist at the Beckman Institute at the University of Illinois, Urbana recorded the male frog's audible and ultrasonic sounds and then played the sounds to other male frogs to see if they responded. They did. He then blocked their ears with clay and played ultrasonic sounds again. The frogs did not respond, indicating that their unusual ears enabled them to hear the ultrasounds. Hearing ultrasound requires thin eardrums and small middle ear bones. Being recessed into the head protects the eardrum and makes the middle ear smaller. Female frogs do not have recessed ears, but researchers have not tested them to see what sounds they can hear. The suggestion has been made that ultrasound enables the frogs to communicate in an environment filled with constant low frequency noise from the waterfalls and turbulent water. Feng commented: "Nature has a way of evolving mechanisms to facilitate communication in very adverse situations."

news@nature article: <http://www.nature.com/news/2006/060320/full/060320-2.html>

ED. COM. Ultrasonic communication may explain why this frog can live successfully in this type of environment, but the constant noise of flowing water does not explain how the frog's larynx, ears and brain were formed so that it can produce, hear and successfully interpret ultrasounds. Feng's statement about "nature" evolving mechanisms to cope with adverse environments is pure faith. There is no known mechanism where a noisy environment can alter the genes involved in building a frog's head so that it has all the features needed for ultrasonic communication. It is a far more logical faith to believe that a purposeful Creator made a frog with all such features, and it probably exists in other as yet untested frogs. (Ref. sound, ecology, amphibians)

7. DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE can be sent to the following addresses or use our secure Web site: [www.creationresearch.net](http://www.creationresearch.net) and click DONATIONS.

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