



Spectacular Giants is our theme for Evidence News 05/12 with EDitorial COMment as a great field trip with High Schoolers this last week in Tennessee also produced some great giant fossil finds. ([CLICK](#) to see some). Don't miss one writer's input on Dawkins inner chimp and keep watching for the coming week on Australia's Monash University Campus. We are still waiting for the UBC University Film Group to finish editing the debate in Canada. We will advise when this is available. Also some of you have asked why there are no items listed on our coming events pages. The reason is simple; one group has made it their agenda to undermine or destroy our meetings in churches and public venues and this group even employs people to track where we are in order to do this, so please pray for us.

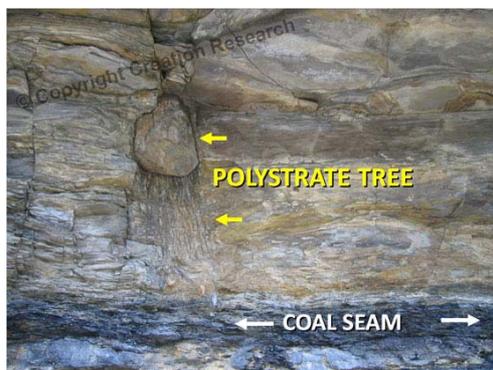
Read on and enjoy this Evidence News 05/12 with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research team worldwide.

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1. NEW QUESTION ON EVOLVING SNAILS: “The teacher at my son’s school has been showing them how all the evidence collected on snails in the British Isles is just a small part of the overwhelming evidence that all creatures have evolved and were not created. Can you help me know what I should say? What is this snail evidence that has been collected and how do we handle it?”

ANSWER by Simon Terry [CLICK](#).

2. GIANT FOSSIL FLEAS FOUND, according to reports in Nature News, ScienceShots 29 February 2012, and *Nature* DOI:doi:10.1038/nature10839 published online 29 February. Chinese and French palaeontologists have studied nine flea specimens from Daohugou and Huangbanjigou in China. The insects varied from 8 to 21mm (0.3 to 0.8in). Living fleas vary from 1 to 10mm (mostly less than 5mm) in length. The fleas had robust mouthparts with saw-like projections on their siphon-like structure they used to feed. Modern-day fleas have a smooth siphon.

Michael Engel a fossil insect expert at University of Kansas, commented: “The mouthparts are certainly overkill for piercing the hides of early mammals and birds. It really appears as though they were specialised for working their way into some heavy hides, such as those on dinosaurs”. They also lacked the spring loaded legs that enable today’s fleas to jump so spectacularly. The research team concluded: “Their special morphology suggests that their earliest hosts were hairy or feathered ‘reptilians’, and that they radiated to mammalian and bird hosts later in the Cenozoic”. Engel suggests the fleas were ambush specialists, “hiding in the periphery and then scrambling onto the host for brief periods to feed before bolting again” and added “they could have attacked dinosaurs or possibly pterosaurs”. The writer of the Nature News article commented: “But perhaps the only way to be sure would be to find fossil fleas caught in the act of feeding on dinosaurs”. The Daohugou specimens are dated as 165 million years old and the Huangbanjigou specimens as 125 million years old. This makes them the oldest fossil fleas as well as the biggest.

Link: [Nature News](#)

ED. COM. Both people and dogs are probably glad such big fleas are extinct, and only little fleas are left, but did you notice the uniformitarian thinking – today’s fleas bite animals, therefore fleas have always bitten animals. The Nature News writer is correct in saying the only way to know what they ate would be to find one in the act of eating. Since these fleas are dead, no-one can observe them eating anything, so the belief these newly discovered fossil fleas used their robust mouthparts to attack dinosaurs is pure speculation. Their large strong siphon with saw-teeth would have been just as effective for penetrating plants and feeding on plant juices. Furthermore, if these have been correctly classified as the oldest fossil fleas, then they provide no evidence for evolution of fleas from any other kind of insect. The fact they are extinct is evidence there were once more kinds of fleas than there are now.

Altogether, these fossil fleas are good evidence for the Biblical history of fleas: they were created as fully functioning creatures that ate plants and the world was once a much better place for vegetarian fleas, and therefore dogs and people, but it has gone downhill due to human sin and God’s judgement. Many giant forms have died out as part of the overall degeneration of the world and some creatures have survived by becoming parasites. (Ref. insects, arthropods, parasites)

3. DAWKINS’ DOUBTS REVEALING as his admission he is now only 6.9 out of 7 sure there is no God drew our calculation that 6.9 out of 7 makes him a 98.6 percent atheist. (See our report [here](#).) One of our colleagues has written: “Interesting how you worked out that Richard is 98.6 percent sure there is no God. Isn’t 98.6 percent about how much the evolutionists think we share in our DNA with the chimps? Perhaps it is Richard’s inner chimp talking, and his 1.4 percent humanity is coming through”. Good one Chris!

4. BIGGEST FOSSIL PENGUIN FOUND, according to ABC News in Science and *New Scientist* 28 February 2012. An international team of scientists led by Daniel Ksepka of North Carolina State University has studied almost complete fossil penguins found in New Zealand and concluded the birds were 1.3 metres (4ft 3in) tall and weighed approximately 60kg, making them the tallest heaviest penguins known. The largest living penguin, the Emperor Penguin, is approximately one

metre (3ft 3in) tall and weighs around 40kg. The fossil penguin would have looked similar to a modern day penguin, but had a longer beak and was more slender with longer flippers. Ksepka commented: “Modern penguins are chubby little dudes”. The new fossil has been named *Kairuku grebneffi* and is dated as 27 million years old.

Tatsuro Ando of the Ashoro Museum of Paleontology in Japan claims “The Kairuku penguins were the last generation of so-called ‘giant penguins’, the term indicating any fossil penguins that were much larger than the living largest Emperor penguin”. According to the ABC article “Stig Walsh, senior curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at National Museums Scotland, suspects that even taller penguins might be unearthed in the future but, for now, *K. grebneffi* is the height and weight champ”.

This is not the oldest penguin. The oldest penguin, Waimanu, also found in New Zealand, is believed to be 60 million years old. The scientists believe the earliest penguins could both fly and dive deeply but lost their ability to fly after the cretaceous extinction. Penguin DNA is closest to tubenose seabirds, such as albatrosses and petrels, which can dive to significant depths.

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

ED. COM. There may be some dispute as to which fossil penguin holds the record for size and weight, since fossil penguins found in Peru are reported to have been 1.5m tall and “nearly twice as heavy as an Emperor Penguin”. (See reports [BBC News](#) and [Evidence News](#)) Whichever fossil holds the record, the significant point is that penguins used to be bigger and there were more varieties of them. The theory they used to be able to fly and dive is a belief based purely on faith in evolutionary theory, but not on any evidence. The oldest fossil penguin known was a non-flying bird just like living penguins. Therefore, penguin fossils also confirm Genesis, i.e. living creatures were created as distinct kinds, with some variation in height and weight, but fully functioning penguins that show no sign of having been anything else. The only change in penguins revealed by fossils is that they were once taller and more slender, but only the “chubby little dudes” have survived, probably caused by the coming of the ice cold mentioned first in the days of Job (see chap 6ff). (Ref. birds, ornithology, palaeontology)

5. MORE GIANTS FOUND IN OLDEST FOSSIL FOREST, claim scientists in reports in ScienceShots and ScienceDaily 29 February 2012 and *Nature*, vol. 483, p78, 1 March 2012, DOI: 10.1038/nature10819. In the 1920s a large number of fossil tree stumps were found in a quarry near Gilboa in New York. This was claimed to be the remains of a fossil forest dated as 385 million years old. The stumps were from an extinct tree named *Eospermatopteris* or simply called “Gilboa Trees”. These are now known to be trees that grew up to about 10 meters (33ft) in height and looked something like a palm tree or a tree fern. The quarry was later filled in, but in 2010 it was excavated again and scientists were able to search for fossils and map the site.

Along with the *Eospermatopteris* bases they found two other plant fossils. One was a giant club moss with an 11cm (4.3in) diameter trunk and a height of at least 3.9 metres (12.8ft). The scientists were surprised to find “many woody horizontally-lying stems, up to about 15cm thick, which they have demonstrated to be the ground-running trunks of another type of plant [*aneurophytalean progymnosperm*], only previously known from its upright branches”. Chris Berry, Cardiff School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, one of the researchers, stated: “All this demonstrates that the ‘oldest forest’ at Gilboa was a lot more ecologically complex than we had suspected, and probably contained a lot more carbon locked up as wood than we previously knew about”. He went on to say: “Seven years ago colleagues Linda and Frank found us a fossil of a complete Gilboa tree. That was amazing. But this time we’ve got the whole forest!”

Link; [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. Today’s club mosses are weedy pencil thin plants with a maximum height around half a metre (18in) that were used in Christmas wreaths, until they became rare and their spores were found to be flammable. When their stems were 11cm across and 3.9m long you would not have twisted them into cute wreaths that sat in your window.

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This fossil site is a reminder the earth was once clearly a better place for plants to grow, and was full of enormous plants that have either died out or dwarfed significantly. Genesis tells us in the beginning the earth was watered each day by a rising mist (Gen 2:5-6). This would have provided ideal conditions for plants. The abundance of woody material found here and elsewhere also indicates the atmosphere had more carbon dioxide and oxygen.

Whilst Gilboa is a spectacular fossil deposit, we wait for more detail before calling it a forest, since the tree bases overlap, and the horizontally lying trunks are directional. If the vertical trees did grow there then the horizontal logs indicate it has been buried by flood conditions very rapidly so that many logs have taken the direction of the current. If the vertical logs can be shown to have also been dumped then it is far more likely this is a total flood dump deposit, where the trees grew elsewhere and a massive flood ripped up one forest, then transported and dumped the lot. (Ref. wood, botany, fossilisation)

SEE OUR [JURASSIC ARK](#) EXCAVATION – it's much bigger than Gilboa. Your support is vital to our research.

6. FROM OUR ARCHIVES: Each week we publish links to previous items relevant to this issue's topics: [giant insects](#), [giant birds](#),

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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