

Evidence News 08/11 – 20th April 2011

TENNESSEE is at it again with evolutionists hopping mad about what's happening in our USA HQ State, and Dawkins has spilled the beans, while flying fossils come down to roost to give us a great week's Evidence NEWS 08/11 – with EDitorial COMment. And don't forget our new FAQ web [Ask John Mackay.com](#) is now iPhone friendly so check out the new questions and now you can also 'like' us on facebook – so click [here](#), and welcome from John Mackay and the world wide team at Creation Research.

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1. KING SOLOMON'S BOWL OF PI? On a lecture trip during April 2011 we were asked: "1 Kings 7:23 states that King Solomon's temple had a metal bowl which was 10 cubits across and 30 cubits around. This would make the mathematical constant π (pi) equal to 3. How could you Christians believe in a Bible which contain such blatant mathematical errors since everybody knows that π is not 3 but 3.14159." This week's [answer](#) is by John Mackay with diagrams by Diane Eager.

If you missed last week's question [click](#).

iPhone / Android Users - due to the great response to our new [AskJohnMackay.com](#) we have made it even more accessible so you can view it from your iPhone wherever you are plus now you can 'like' us on facebook so click [here](#).

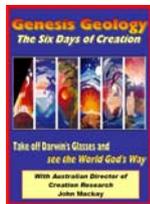
2. OLDEST FLYING FOSSIL FOUND, according to an article on ABC News, in Science 6 April 2011 and PNAS 10.1073/pnas.1015948108 4 April 2011. Insects are believed by evolutionists to be the first creatures that evolved flight, but the fossil evidence for when this happened is scanty. Richard Knecht of Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology has found the fossilised full body impression of a flying insect in rocks from the Late Carboniferous Wamsutta Formation of Massachusetts, dated as 312 million years old. This makes it the oldest fossil of a flying insect and it appears to be the full body impression of a Mayfly that has landed in mud.

Previous fossil evidence of insects consisted of mostly wings or fragments of body parts. Conrad Labandeira, curator of palaeoentomology at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC commented: "Most fossil insects, when you look at them, you don't really have a lot of surface detail. This is a very valuable type of preservation. You can actually see some of the movements of the appendages. This gives you some idea of the scope of movement of the legs ... That gives you some information that we don't normally get from body fossils".

Link: [ABC](#)

ED. COM. This fossil is a "trace fossil" i.e. an impression left by the activity of an animal, rather than the buried remains of the animal. The impression had to be made in soft sediment, and then rapidly covered over by another layer of sediment, which then hardened quickly in order for the impression to be preserved. As such, trace fossils remind us that fossils are not made over time, but by the right physical/chemical processes happening quickly.

The fossil certainly seems to be made by a fully formed Mayfly, and if it really is the oldest fossil Mayfly it therefore provides no evidence for evolution. Since Mayflies are still here this fossil actually does prove that from the time this imprint was formed until now, Mayflies have reproduced after their kind. It really does fit the Biblical description of the origin of living things, i.e. created as fully functioning organisms in distinct and unrelated kinds. (Ref. arthropods, fossilisation, invertebrates, palaeontology)



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3. COAL MINE SHARK FOUND, according to articles in the University of Kentucky News 4 April 2011 and Public Broadcasting WUKY 7 April 2011. A miner in western Kentucky has found the teeth and jaws of a very large shark whilst working 700 ft (213.36 m) down a coal mine. The specimen was embedded in a layer of shale, approximately 8 inches (20.32 cm) above the coal seam. The specimen has been identified as belonging to an extinct shark named *Edestus*. Specimens of *Edestus* have been found in Kentucky before, but this is the largest so far as fossil experts from University of Kentucky estimate it was about 20 feet (6 metres) long.

Steve Grebb of Kentucky Geological Survey commented: "In Kentucky and surrounding areas, *Edestus* jaw specimens have been found in marine shales above the Springfield and Herrin coal beds, which would be upper Middle Pennsylvanian in age, or about 307 million years old. The region was, of course, under a shallow sea at the time these sharks were around". (Middle Pennsylvanian is an American name for a section of the geological column which the British label the Carboniferous period.)

The fossil has been taken to the University of Kentucky, where Grebb will work with Frank Etensohn, a paleontologist in the University of Kentucky Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences to study it more closely. The scientists said it would help them understand what the area was like during the Carboniferous period. Etensohn commented: "Probably we had just as far as you could see wet, swampy, mucky kind of conditions over Kentucky. And then very rapidly, the sea came in. And it's in these shallow seas that kind of inundated these coal swamps where these sharks were living".

Links: [University of Kentucky News WUKY](#)

ED. COM. Notice the curious mixture of uniformitarian and catastrophic interpretation here. These geologists are sticking to the story of coal being formed slowly and gradually in a state wide swamp, but invoke a rapidly rising sea level in order to explain how a 20 foot (6 m) shark could get buried and fossilised just above the coal.

We will await a more detailed geological report on this mine and fossil site, but as this editor and several of our geologists have collected and worked extensively in the Kentucky Coal fields, we suggest a better explanation for this find will prove to be that mats of lush vegetation were first flooded into place and then this first flood deposit was again inundated by a newer flood current carrying a sediment rich in marine creatures which were dumped on the vegetation which fermented to form coal, while leaving a layer of silt and buried dead marine creatures on top. The upper layer of silt then solidified into the "marine shales" described above. We show many of these mixed deposits on our Documentary DVD 'Darwin on the Rocks' available worldwide from our [Webshop](#). Go to Great DVDs.

MIXED MARINE AND LAND FOSSILS we have found associated with coal seams:
KENTUCKY

<http://www.creationresearch.net/research/Research-Fossil-First-New-Discoveries.htm>

TENNESSEE

<http://www.creationresearch.net/research/Research-Land-Plant-Fossils-Mixed-Sea-Shells.htm>

<http://www.creationresearch.net/research/Research-Fossil-First-USA.htm>

<http://www.creationresearch.net/research/Research-Fossil-First-Mystery.htm>

WALES CARBONIFEROUS

<http://www.creationresearch.net/research/Wales-fossil-plant-limestone.htm>

The Jaw can easily be identified as a shark because sharks are still living today, even though this particular species is extinct. All of which is no help to the theory of evolution, as this shark appears fully formed in the fossil record and then disappears. It simply indicates there were once more shark species than there are today, but some have died out. Altogether, this fossil and its surrounding geology fit better with the Biblical history of creation followed by a catastrophe rather than slow gradual uniformitarian geology and evolution. (Ref, fish, fossilisation, ichthyology, palaeontology)

4. DAWKINS DEFINING MOMENT revealed in an interview with Howard Condor on Revelation TV 10 March 2011. Outspoken atheist and anti-creationist Richard Dawkins was asked what made him decide to reject God. The conversation went:

Condor: So, was there a defining moment where you made a decision that you didn't believe in God?

Dawkins: Yes... I suppose, I switched from Christian theism to some sort of deism about the age of fourteen or fifteen. And then switched to atheism about the age of sixteen - fifteen, sixteen.

Condor: And was there a particular point, or something you read, or an experience you had that said, yes this is it, God does not exist?

Dawkins: Oh well, by far the most important was understanding evolution. I think the evangelical Christians have really sort of got it right in a way, in seeing evolution as the enemy. Whereas the more, what shall we say, sophisticated theologians are quite happy to live with evolution, I think they are deluded. I think the evangelicals have got it right, in that there is a deep incompatibility between evolution and Christianity, and I think I realised that about the age of sixteen.

ED. COM. Dawkins "deep incompatibility between evolution and Christianity" can easily be seen if you try to tell street kids about Christ. They will ask you questions about dinosaurs, about science, about how did we get different coloured skin if we came from Adam and Eve and more. But most of their questions relate to Science vs Genesis, about evolution vs creation. The street kids know just like the sixteen year old Dawkins, that evolution and Genesis tell mutually exclusive stories about the origin and history of the universe and of mankind. One of them has to be wrong!

Theologians who call themselves evangelical Bible-believers and claim that evolution is not a gospel issue should be made to listen to Dawkins' interview. We have been trying to get them to see Dawkins point since Ken Ham and John Mackay founded the Creation work in Australia. Tragically, Dawkins and many others have chosen to turn their backs on their Creator because they have been led to believe they can trust Darwin, and therefore they know it is 100% logical that they cannot trust God's Word. As Jesus Christ put it, "if you don't believe Moses – how can you believe me!" They regard as imbeciles any theologians who can't see this. (See Luke 19 , John 5). Dawkins has issued a similar more detailed challenge to theistic evolutionists in his book *The Greatest Show on Earth*. Go to our Evidence Web for [quote and reference](#). Another similar sceptic's testimony from physics professor Bob Park can be found [here](#) as well. (Ref, philosophy, world view, atheism, theistic evolution)

5. "TENNESSEE PASSES ANTI-EVOLUTION BILL" claims American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Policy Alert, 13 April 2011 and *Science*, vol. 332 p295 15 April 2011. The House of Representatives in the US state of Tennessee has voted in a law enabling teachers to address scientific controversies, including but not limited to "biological evolution, the chemical origins of life, global warming, and human cloning". The Bill states: "Toward this end, teachers shall be permitted to help students understand, analyze, critique, and review in an objective manner the scientific strengths and scientific weaknesses of existing scientific theories

covered in the course being taught”. It also prohibits education authorities from prohibiting teachers from doing this.

Representative Bill Dunn who introduced the Bill was surprised at the intensity of opposition to the bill from the scientific community, especially the way they have misconstrued the bill as an anti-evolution Bill. In an interview with *Science* he explained: “The bill is set up to focus on scientific facts. It does not change the state board's curriculum or mandates in any way. Currently there's a chapter on Darwinian evolution and it doesn't delete or change that.” After receiving many angry communications, including one so bad his wife wanted to report it to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations, he concluded that “if you dare even question or call something controversial, there seems to be this Pavlovian response [among scientists]. But instead of drooling at the mouth, they foam at the mouth.”

A copy of the bill (two pages) can be downloaded from:

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/107/Bill/HB0368.pdf>

ED. COM. Bill Dunn is correct – scientists are just like any other human beings who react when their world view is challenged. If evolution was just a scientific theory AAAS and other science organisations would be delighted that students are being encouraged to analyse, critique and review scientific evidence. That is how science is advanced. However, the theory of evolution makes claims that go way beyond the limitations of the scientific method, and it is important that students learn this. The scientific method can only be applied to events and processes happening in the present, when scientists are around to observe them.

Evolution is a story about a lot of unique events that occurred in the past, e.g. the formation of the first cell from chemicals, the formation of the first multi-cellular animals and plants, and so on, all of which are believed to have occurred before any human scientists were there to observe them. Events that happened in the past may have left evidence that can be examined in the present, but it is important that students learn to distinguish between the evidence and stories about the evidence. Sometimes the same evidence can be explained by different stories. In those cases you have to look for other sources of information, such as history or the testimony of reliable witnesses who were there. Evolution has no witnesses, Biblical Creation does. And like the Biblical God based account, evolution has profound moral and social implications, but these are all atheistic. (Ref. philosophy, politics, atheism)

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