



When push comes to shove, those who claim God used millions of years of evolution (theistic evolutionists), are really trying to out-shove everybody, particularly in theological colleges at the moment. But which Creator are they actually promoting? It can't be the Creator of Genesis who is the Christ of the New Testament who made all things very good, since good is one thing that evolution isn't. Now combine that with Van Gogh's mutants, a new dino dig slide show, plus a look at the real history of worms and it makes for another great Evidence News 08/12 from Creation Research with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research Team worldwide

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1. NEW QUESTION: FIRE BREATHING DRAGONS: How could dragons/dinosaurs breathe out flames without burning themselves? ANSWER by John Mackay and Diane Eager [CLICK](#).

2. SEE A DINOSAUR DIG – [CLICK](#).

3. VAN GOGH PAINTED MUTANTS, according to articles in ScienceDaily 29 March 2012 and Nature News 30 March 2012. Some of Van Gogh's most famous paintings are of sunflowers, but some of the flowers in Van Gogh's painting do not have the distinctive sunflower structure of a large central disc with a single row of bright yellow petals. They are just masses of petals. Plant biologists at the University of Georgia have discovered Van Gogh was not artistically inventing a different sunflower, but accurately depicting a mutant sunflower. A normal sunflower head is actually a mass of tiny individual florets that make up the central disc, surrounded by a row of ray florets, which form the row of petals. The disc florets produce pollen and seeds, but the ray flowers do not. The function of the ray flowers is to attract insects to pollinate the flowers.

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The University of Georgia researchers have discovered a genetic mutation that results in sunflowers producing the flower structure Van Gogh depicted in his paintings. They found a mutation in a gene named *HaCYC2c* which results in the central disc florets making petals instead of their normal small tubular structure. The mutation is in the part of the gene that acts as an on/off switch. The gene is normally turned on in ray florets, but is normally off in disc florets. They also found another mutation of the same gene which results in the plant producing small tubular florets instead of normal ray florets. This mutation stops the transcription of a gene needed for normal ray formation. John Burke, who led the study, explained: "It looks like this gene is a key player in determining ray versus disc morphology in sunflowers. Basically, if you turn the gene on in the wrong place, it'll cause disc flowers to look like ray flowers. Conversely, if you knock the gene out, it causes the ray florets to become more disc-like".
Links: [Nature News](#), [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. This study is a reminder of what mutations really do – they degrade genetic information. They do not improve it, and they do not and cannot create information from nothing. The mutant flowers Van Gogh accurately painted may be attractive as cultivated ornamental flowers, but they are not improved flowers. They produce fewer seeds and would be disadvantaged growing in the wild.

In the beginning God created plants as fully functioning plants, each after their kind. Any genetic changes since then have produced degenerate versions of the same plants, not new kinds. Many of these degenerate versions we have kept alive in our gardens because we like the colour or shape effect, but they would never survive in the wild. God also described all He had made as very good. Therefore, plants such as sunflowers were the ideal combination of functionality and beauty. Wild sunflowers are both. The mutant sunflowers with extra petals may be attractive, but they are less functional as they produce less seeds. The flowers with defective ray flowers have defective petals and we find them less attractive. Mutations, even attractive ones, are a reminder the world is degenerating, not evolving upwards, just as we are told in Genesis. (Ref. botany, flora, genetics)

4. AUSSIE COLLEGE aims God and Science Seminars at schools. Tabor College, Adelaide, South Australia has set up an institution named the Graeme Clark Research Institute, which is conducting "God and Science" seminars for teachers and students. According to their brochure: "The debate about creation and evolution remains a contentious issue, and contemporary concerns coupled with technological advances often add to the dilemma for many young Christian people. Science can be an uncomfortable topic in Christian schools but it need not be. Christian schoolteachers need a framework for thinking through the hype surrounding these topics in order to identify the genuine core concerns".

The institute has established "strategic partnerships" with The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, based at Cambridge University, UK; The Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology (ISCAST); and St John's College, Durham University, UK. Their advisory board includes Denis Alexander, Director of the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St Edmunds College, Cambridge.

Link: [Tabor College](#)

ED. COM. Denis Alexander and the institutions named above are well known for promoting the view that Scripture must be interpreted according to the teachings of modern secular evolutionary scientists, so Tabor College is running away from what most atheists see very clearly. If you want to make God the author of evolution you must ask: What kind of god would use millions of years of struggle, disease and death, to create and then declare it to be very good? (Genesis 1:31) Atheist Oxford Professor Peter Atkins' answer to this was such a god must be "a very malign god". (malign as in cancer that will kill you – not nice - nasty awful etc)(Peter Atkins, BBC1 *Big Questions*, 8 February 2009) The god that Tabor will eventually teach you to believe in is one they are evolving as they go. Science has become their defacto god and evolutionists their prophets!

We suggest any promoters of theistic evolution learn from the history of their hero Charles Darwin. He started as a bright young theological graduate, but by his acceptance of evolution and on to the end of his life he declared himself to be an agnostic and denied Christ was the Son of God. To see his progression into disbelief, recorded in his own words, see our article *Charles Darwin: the Descent of a Man*, available as a PDF [here](#).

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Students and teachers do need a framework of thinking to understand the creation versus evolution issue and the role of science, however, such a framework must start with Scripture, not with any man-made definition of science. (Ref. education, philosophy, theology, world view)

Our previous report on Denis Alexander [here](#).

5. FREE THEISTIC EVOLUTION DEBATE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL [CLICK](#).

6. DID YOU MISS: Did God use Evolution? Human Genome expert Dr Francis Collins says so. Answer by Ed Neeland [here](#). AND Isn't the creation evolution debate just science versus religion? Answer by John Mackay and Diane Eager [here](#).

7. 'HOW UN - KIND' – WE USED TO BE WORMS, according to reports in PhysOrg 5 March 2012 and ABC News in Science 6 March 2012. Researchers from the University of Cambridge, University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum have studied 114 fossils of an extinct worm-like creature named *Pikaia gracilens* and concluded it was "the most primitive member of the chordate family, the group of animals that today includes fish, amphibians, birds, reptiles and mammals". The fossils were found in the Burgess Shale fossil beds in the Yoho National Park, Canada and are dated as 505 million years old.

A detailed examination of the fossils indicated the creature had a notochord – a rod of cartilage in its back. (This is incorporated into the spine of vertebrates.) It also had blocks of muscle, called myomeres on either side of the notochord, and had blood vessels. The researchers suggest it swam in an eel-like fashion, moving its body in a series of side-to-side curves. Simon Conway Morris of the University of Cambridge, one of the researchers, explained: "The discovery of myomeres is the smoking gun that we have long been seeking. Now with myomeres, a nerve cord, a notochord and a vascular system all identified, this study clearly places *Pikaia* as the planet's most primitive chordate. So, next time we put the family photograph on the mantle-piece, there in the background will be *Pikaia*". Jean-Bernard Caron of University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum commented: "It's very humbling to know that swans, snakes, bears, zebras and, incredibly, humans all share a deep history with this tiny creature no longer than my thumb".

Links: [ABC](#), [PhysOrg](#)

ED. COM. The claim that this creature is the ancestor of such diverse living things as swans, snakes, bears, zebras and human beings is a reminder that the theory of evolution is diametrically opposed to the description of creation in Genesis. Swans, snakes and humans etc are visibly different kinds, whereas Genesis 1 tells us ten times God created living things 'each after their kind', i.e. as separate creations that reproduce their own kind and not some other kind. To have this phrase repeated ten times in one chapter should tell the readers that the Creator God really means you to notice this, so it is deliberate ignorance and rebellion to claim God created using evolution when He so clearly says He didn't.

As regards to the eel-like *Pikaia*, the evidence we have is 114 similar fossils which actually show it was a fully functioning creature of its own distinct kind, so we should politely note that there is no evidence this creature evolved from any other creature or turned into any other creature, unless you already believe evolution, and as a result just slot the new fossil find into a suitable gap. To believe the kind we now call *Pikaia* became the different kinds we call swans, bears, etc is blind faith, and an anti-Biblical faith. The only change this creature has provably undergone is to become extinct, i.e. it is part of the massive loss of biodiversity that has occurred since the world started degenerating due to human sin and God's judgement. This is also the opposite of evolution. (Ref. animals, invertebrates, fossilisation)

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8. FROM OUR ARCHIVES: Each week we publish links to previous items relevant to this issue's topics: Chordate Evolution, Dawkins & Theistic Evolutionists, Flower Genes Remember all news items and quotes in Evidence News are archived as individual items in 'Fact File' on our Evidence website: <http://evidencweb.net/index.php>. Make use of this resource.

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