

The Chinese have done it again and a walking cactus has been found, while in South America, new fossil horsetails again confirm their species as a stubbornly unevolving hindrance to Darwin's theories; and we share a new question on how fast fossils form which is well and truly in line with the topic they asked me to speak on at Adelaide Uni last Monday about the evidence for a young earth. So from John Mackay and the Creation Research Team world wide – enjoy more of the evidence confirming God said what He meant and meant what He said in Genesis.

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1. IT'S INCONTROVERTIBLE HOW OLD THE EARTH IS! How can you believe in a young earth



when the Green River Shales in Wyoming have varve layers that show vast amounts of time was required to form the rocks? For this week's answer from John Mackay who is often out there doing field geology and has many fossils from these beds in his collection click [HERE](#).



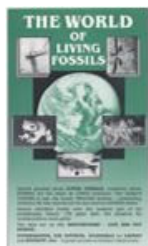
2. OLDEST HORSETAILS FOUND, according to an article in ScienceDaily 4 May 2011. Alan Channing, of Cardiff University, Wales, and colleagues from Wales and Argentina, have found fossilised horsetail plants in blocks of chert in southern Patagonia. The fossils have been exquisitely preserved by the process of permineralisation, where water containing dissolved silica has percolated through the plants and the silica has precipitated out within the plant, creating a perfect three dimensional replica of the plant structure. The preservation is so detailed the researchers were able to see the microscopic structure of the plant tissues and compare them with living horsetails. Horsetails have the scientific name *Equisetum* and the researchers describe the new fossils as having "all the morphological and anatomical characteristics of the extant (living) crown group *Equisetum*". The new fossils have been given the scientific name *Equisetum thermale* because the researchers claim it grew near a hot spring, like many horsetails do today. The fossils are dated as 150 million years, so according to Channing, "*Equisetum thermale* appears to be the oldest record of the genus *Equisetum* and at the very least records that anatomically, essentially modern *Equisetum*-like horsetails have a history extending back to the Late Jurassic". According to ScienceDaily "these findings support the idea that *Equisetum* is an extremely ancient genus that has undergone little evolutionary innovation over the last 150 million years".

ScienceDaily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/05/110504183413.htm>

ED. COM. To say that horsetails have "undergone little evolutionary innovation" is another way of saying horsetails haven't changed, irrespective of how long you believe they have been on the earth. We know from other fossil horsetails that they were once much larger than they are today,

but their internal structure has not changed, so horsetails are considered a classic living fossil – a living organism that is the same as its fossils. Like all living fossils horsetails are good evidence for the Biblical history of the world. Horsetails were created as fully formed plants, according to their kind. Because the original earth was “very good” and was watered by a rising mist each day horsetails were able to grow to great heights. Following Noah’s flood the environment degenerated and horsetails were not able to grow as large, but they have reproduced after their kind, and have never shown any evidence of evolving from or to another kind of plant. (Ref. botany, palaeobotany, vascular plants)

See present day giants [here](#).



SEE OUR DVD “THE WORLD OF LIVING FOSSILS” Charles Darwin was forced to admit the fossils didn’t help his evolutionary theory at all. Nearly one hundred and fifty years later, the fossils still point to creation. This 40 minute documentary has been very successful in public high school classrooms. (Suits high school +)

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3. WALKING CACTUS FOUND, according to articles in *Nature News* 23 Feb 2011 and *National Geographic News* and *Nature* vol. 470, p526, 24 Feb 2011. Researchers in China have found approximately 30 fossils of a strange creature with a worm-like body and ten pairs of jointed legs. The legs seem to be covered in a spiky exoskeleton, which inspired the scientists to give it the scientific name *Diania cactiformis*, and the nickname “walking cactus”. The fossils were found in Yunnan Province in south western China and are dated as being 500 million years old. The 6cm long creatures belong to an extinct group of animals known as lobopodians, worm-like creatures with legs, similar to living velvet worms, but with longer legs. Lobopodians are believed to be the ancestors of arthropods – jointed legged animals that include insects, spiders and crustaceans. The fact that *D. cactiformis* seems to have jointed legs appears to confirm this belief. Previously discovered fossil lobopodians seemed to be completely soft bodied. Jianni Liu, a palaeontologist from the Early Life Institute at Northwest University in Xi’an, China, who studied the fossil commented: "A lot of scientists had long suspected that arthropods evolved from lobopodians. But we did not have a single fossil we could point at and say, 'This is the first lobopodian with jointed legs'. Now, with the 'walking cactus', we do. It is important because it could be seen as a missing link from lobopodians to arthropods".

ED. COM. The origin of arthropods is only a mystery for those who believe they evolved from a creature that was not an arthropod and this new fossil definitely does not resemble any living arthropod. *Diania cactiformis* does seem to have the same body plan as lobopodians, although its legs are much larger in relation to its body than is seen in other fossils identified as lobopodians. To date the only evidence we have are the fossils found by the Chinese researchers, which show *Diania* was already a fully formed creature, distinct from any other creature at the time of its fossilisation.

The fact that the creature no longer exists does not mean it evolved into something else. It just means that it is dead, and therefore has perished as part of the overall degeneration of the world that has been occurring since the good created world was corrupted by man’s sin and has suffered under God’s judgement. You can really be dogmatic – ALL the evidence we have of fossil and living arthropods is that they have always been arthropods – just as God created, according to their kinds. (Ref. invertebrates, extinction)

4. LIVE OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND? Now you can see our printed Creation News [online](#).

5. MISSED LAST WEEK’S CLIMATE CHANGE QUESTION? “According to NASA, the CO2 level has never been above 300 parts per million for the last 650,000 years prior to the 1950’s, yet it’s now 380 ppm, showing the increase is due to man’s activity since the

Industrial Revolution. Do you have any material to refute this claim? NASA article: <http://climate.nasa.gov/evidence>.” For our answer, click [here](#).

6. EARLY FLOWERING FOSSILS FOUND, as reported in ScienceShots and *New Scientist* Short Sharp Science 30 March 2011 and *Nature* vol. 471, p625, 31 March 2011. Fossil hunters in China have unearthed the fossil of a modern-looking flowering plant in rocks dated as “Lower Cretaceous” – around 122 to 125 million years old. This makes it one of the earliest flowering plants ever found. It has been named *Archaeofructus liaoningensis*, and resembles a present day buttercup. The plant has slender stems and three-lobed leaves and a five-petalled flower. It has been classified as a eudicot, a group of flowering plants described in the *Nature* editor’s summary as “the relatively derived (advanced) group that dominates the flowering plants in the world today”. The summary concludes: “The fossil confirms the presence of the eudicots at this time and documents an early burst of angiosperm evolution”.

ScienceShots reminds us that Darwin considered the origin of flowering plants “an abominable mystery” and they now claim the new fossil helps solve Darwin’s problem about the origin of flowering plants by pushing back the date of when flowering plants diversified to the early Cretaceous period, and therefore, giving the flowering plants a few million years longer to evolve than Darwin thought they had. *New Scientist* brings up a theory that the evolution of flowering plants hastened the demise of the dinosaurs. Their article comments: “While birds, mammals and insects began feeding on the new plants, each going through a period of intense diversification in an event called the Cretaceous Terrestrial Revolution, there is only limited evidence that non-avian dinosaurs were into flower power. Gymnosperms probably continued to provide them with most of their nourishment, and it’s possible that these dinosaurs’ fate was ultimately sealed because they didn’t join the flower revolution”.

Link: [New Scientist](#)

ED. COM. Shifting the existence of flowering plants back by a few million years actually does not tell you where they come from so the presence of this fossil does nothing to solve Darwin’s abominable mystery. By hiding behind their evolutionary speculations the editors and authors of *Nature*, *Science* and *New Scientist* are all trying to avoid stating the obvious – this fossil is a fully formed flowering plant that shows no sign of evolving from, or into, any other kind of plant.

According to evolution flowering plants used to be seaweed, which moved onto land and became mosses, then ferns, then conifers before finally becoming flowering plants. This is entirely a belief by faith and finds absolutely no support by this discovery. From the evidence, it is far more logical to believe that flowering plants have always been flowering plants, which is fully consistent with the record left by the Creator in Genesis 1. (Ref. botany, palaeobotany, angiosperms)

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