



WELCOME to a great month of responses to both our research in the field and our TV programs worldwide. We've been encouraged, and we know you will be as you enjoy this Evidence News with Editorial Comment No.12, 21st September AD2006 from John Mackay and the Creation Research team world wide.

INDEX

1. TV PROGRAMS REPORT
2. TASMANIANS DON'T MISS JOHN MACKAY
3. MATEY MITES MAKE FERNS MATE
4. DOG BREED DIVERSITY EXPLAINED
5. BECOME A REGULAR DONOR TO CREATION RESEARCH
6. TEN YEARS ON, AND NO LIFE ON MARS
7. BARE FACTS ON BEAR HAIR
8. HUMAN EVOLUTION GENES FOUND
9. TASMANIAN ITINERARY
10. DONATIONS

1. TV PROGRAMS REPORT

CANADIAN TV - WATCH THE VANCE NELSON and JOHN MACKAY series broadcast across Canada during July on <http://www.crossroads.ca/broadcas/program.htm> - click 'For older programs, check the archives', then August 8/9/10 Programs. Response has been fantastic.

BBC BROADCASTS JOHN MACKAY ON HARDtalk worldwide. One viewer writes, "EXCELLENT!!!!!! We can't wait for the reviews from the anti-Christian web sites. Well done." Great responses from as far apart as Ukraine, Israel, India, USA, New Zealand etc. HARDtalk can be watched on line <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/hardtalk/5321286.stm> This page introduces the programme and it is linked from there. Requires RealPlayer or similar.

UK TEACHERS TV programme broadcast featuring John Mackay in a 4 minute slot at the start of the pre-discussion report. The discussion is worth watching particularly for Steve Fuller's (Warwick University) comments. Other participants are Nigel Mcquoid director for schools for the Emmanuel Foundation, David Perks a science teacher and Andrew Copson from the British Humanist Association. Watch the programme by following this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/q6eru> Warning -this is a huge file to download.

2. TASMANIANS DON'T MISS JOHN MACKAY IN SEPTEMBER/OCT Details Contact: Craig Hawkins (03) 6383 4811 or Email: craig@seahorse-australia.com.au OR SEE ITINERARY AT END or go to www.creationresearch.net click coming events.

3. MATEY MITES MAKE FERNS MATE according to an article in ScienceNOW and Science vol. 313, p1255, 1 September 2006. Ferns and mosses reproduce differently from flowering plants. Instead of producing pollen male plants, they produce sperm, which have to swim to female plants. The sperm can only swim two to three centimetres (one inch), but botanists have observed that female plants can be fertilised and produce sporophytes (the equivalent of seeds) even if the nearest male plants are up to 20cm (8 inches) away. To see if the sperm are getting any help from moss and fern loving bugs, such as mites and springtails, scientists at Lund University, Sweden set up an experiment with male and female clusters of silver moss in dishes coated with plaster of Paris. The plaster trapped any sperm attempting to swim away from male plants. If male and female plants were placed together so they were touching, the females produced sporophytes, but if they were separated by a few centimetres they didn't. However, if mites and springtails were allowed to crawl around the dishes containing the plants, the female plants produced sporophytes

even if they were separated from the males. The researchers then studied mites to see if they were attracted to fertile plants, rather than just randomly moving around. Five times as many mites visited the fertile plants, so researchers suggest the plants produce some kind of food reward for the insects, in the same way as flowers provide nectar for their pollinators. Current evolutionary theory states that insect mediated plant fertilisation evolved when flowering plants evolved about 140 million years ago, but the Lund university researchers commented that mosses, ferns, mites and springtails supposedly evolved about 300 million years before flowering plants. In their concluding paragraph they write: "Mosses, springtails, and mites are extant representatives of taxa that originated after the early phase of land colonization (circa 440 to 470 million years ago). Animal-mediated fertilization in mosses therefore potentially antedates similar syndromes in other plant groups."

ED. COM. Genesis tells us that living things were created by God as fully formed and completely functional organisms from the beginning. All plants were made on the third day of creation, while the animals that help pollinate them were made on the fifth and sixth days. Such a complex interdependent symbiotic relationship between mosses, ferns and insects (along with the relationship between flowering plants and pollinators) is a challenge both to those who want to make the days of Genesis long periods, as well as those who proclaim evolution. Such plants would have died out if their pollinators or sperm carriers were not created within their own lifespan. Therefore, if you want to make Genesis days millions of years, you have thrown the whole of Genesis out. (Ref. symbiosis, ecology, bryophytes)

4. DOG BREED DIVERSITY EXPLAINED, according to reports in ScienceShots in Science Online and Genome Research, Online 29 June 2006 and New Scientist, 1 July 2006, p18. Researchers at Uppsala University have compared the complete mitochondrial genomes from fourteen domestic dogs, six wolves, and three coyotes. They found the domestic dogs showed a greater variety in their DNA than the wolves, whom they are believed to have evolved from. The researchers concluded: "This suggests that a major consequence of domestication in dogs was a general relaxation of selective constraint on their mitochondrial genome. If this change also affected other parts of the dog genome, it could have facilitated the generation of novel functional genetic diversity. This diversity could thus have contributed raw material upon which artificial selection has shaped modern breeds and may therefore be an important source of the extreme phenotypic variation present in modern day dogs." Matthew Webster of Trinity College Dublin, who took part in the research, commented to New Scientist, "Our findings highlight the importance of mutation in driving evolution. With weaker natural selection, you can get a lot more changes in proteins that can be important in the future of the species." Robert Wayne, an evolutionary biologist at John Hopkins University commented that mutations tended to accumulate more quickly in mitochondrial DNA than in the main store of DNA in the nucleus and therefore, "Much of the variation we see in dogs may have to do with pre-existing variation from the ancestral wolf-dog population. Relaxation of selection is likely to be only part of the answer."

ED. COM. "Relaxation of selective constraint" means that dogs with genetic mutations that would have caused them to die out in the rough and tough naturally selecting world of wild animals, were able to survive and breed only because human beings cared for them. In other words: survival of the fittest had been eliminated. Natural selection was claimed by Darwin to give rise to new species, but in the case of wolves natural selection had obviously eliminated genetic novelties, and therefore had an anti-evolutionary effect. Robert Wayne's comment is no help to the theory of evolution either. If wolf populations already contained many of the variations we see in domestic dogs, then dogs have reproduced after their kind - just as Genesis says, even if you arbitrarily give the wild wolf and the domestic dog different species names. (Ref. domestication, canines, genetics)

5. BECOME A REGULAR DONOR TO CREATION RESEARCH TODAY-see www.creationresearch.net click DONATIONS. Tax deductions available.

6. TEN YEARS ON, AND NO LIFE ON MARS, comments an article in the New York Times, 8 Aug 2006. In August 1996 NASA scientists and President Bill Clinton announced to the world they had

found evidence of life on Mars. Their evidence was highly magnified images of rows of tiny blobs that looked somewhat like strings of bacteria, and organic molecules found in a rock named ALH84001. Bill Clinton commented: "Today, rock 84001 speaks to us across all those billions of years and millions of miles. It speaks of the possibility of life. If this discovery is confirmed, it will surely be one of the most stunning insights into our universe that science has ever uncovered." The rock is a meteorite that scientists agree originated on Mars, but "skeptics have found non-biological explanations for every piece of evidence that was presented". The blobs were quickly rejected by biologists as being at least 100 times too small to contain all the proteins, nucleic acids and metabolic machinery needed for the most basic life. The organic molecules were identified as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) that also exist in the environment where the rock was found in Antarctica, as well as in comets and meteorites that no-one has ever claimed contain life. Another line of evidence that did not receive as much publicity, was the finding of carbonate and magnetite particles in the rock, similar to those produced by living organisms on earth. However, in 2001 a group of scientists were able to produce the same carbonate and magnetite grains by chemical processes. In spite of the failure of all the evidence in rock AHL84001, a flourishing science called "astrobiology" has grown up in the past ten years as scientists continue to look for signs of life outside of the earth.

Bill Clinton's 1996 statement: <http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/snc/clinton.html>

ED. COM. Did you notice the great publicity the popular media gave the latest evidence that this rock didn't contain life? The relentless, but fruitless, search for life in outer space is motivated by a belief that if life can be found on other planets that will prove that it must have evolved by chance on earth and everywhere. No-one has yet proved that life can evolve from non-life anywhere, let alone on earth. Finding living organisms, even in very strange places, merely proves they exist or have existed. It does not tell us how they got there. God could have put bacteria on Mars if he wanted to. However, Genesis tells us that the reason God made the heavenly bodies, was for "signs, and times and seasons" (Genesis 1:14), so it is unlikely they will be life supporting. (Ref. meteorites, planets, extra-terrestrial)

7. BARE FACTS ON BEAR HAIR follow questions about a recent report of a hybrid between a grizzly bear and a polar bear (see "Wild Grolar Bear Found", Evidence News, 31st May 2006). A number of our readers have asked us how can we explain the fact that polar bears seem so well designed to live and hunt in a harsh environment filled with ice and snow, if the world was created good and ice and snow were not on earth till after Noah's Flood. The standard evolutionary explanation is polar bears evolved white hair as an adaptation to camouflage them so their prey doesn't see them until it is too late. It has also been widely stated that the white hairs act like fibre-optic filaments and convey sunlight to their skin, which is black, to help keep the bear warm. This last suggestion was tested by Daniel Koon, physicist at St. Lawrence University in New York, who obtained some polar bear hair from a New York zoo and measured how much light of different wavelengths could travel through the length of an individual hair. He found that less than 0.001% of light was conveyed through the hairs. Koon's experiment is reported in Applied Optics, 37, 3198-3200 (1998).

ED. COM. The main prey of polar bears is seals, which they catch when the seals come up for air in gaps in the sea ice. Seals would only see a shadow through the ice if they see anything. Being white would not disguise this, so the evolving camouflage story doesn't really make sense. Polar bears are also scavengers and will eat any dead animals and birds they come across, and in the summer they will eat kelp and berries. They don't need to be camouflaged to catch dead things or ambush berries. Polar bears are better explained by the Biblical history of the world, which tells us the world started out good, but has gone bad. Air cavities and lack of melanin are what causes "grey" hairs in aging people and animals. These hairs are actually white. Thus, white hair is produced by loss of function, and is no help to the theory of evolution, but fits with Genesis. The fibre-optic story was a nice idea, but it must be consigned to an "urban myth" list. It is infra-red light that gives heat from the sun, not visible light, and there isn't enough light of any wavelength in the arctic to keep a polar bear warm. The reason polar bear hair appears white is that it does not have melanin pigment, plus it has cavities filled with air within the hair shafts which scatter light. After Noah's flood bears and humans spread out through North America and due to degeneration

of genes some bears (and humans) lost their ability to make pigment in the hair and became white. But white bears would stand out in green forests and grasslands, and although no other animals would hunt them for food, humans would. Therefore, white bears would be disadvantaged in places where humans live, but could survive in places where humans rarely went as long as they could find food, such as the high arctic. Thus, white polar bears are the result of degeneration, selection, adaptation and survival of fittest, but not evolution. (Ref. Ursus, ecology, fur)

8. HUMAN EVOLUTION GENES FOUND, according to reports in ScienceNOW, news@nature, Nature Advanced Online Publications 16 Aug 2006, and BBC News Online and The Independent 17 Aug 2006. A team of researchers led by biostatistician Katherine Pollard have compared sections of the human genome to that of chimps and several other animals to search for gene changes that could explain how humans evolved larger brains. They found a group of genes called HAR genes that showed a large difference between the chimp and human versions. They studied one of these genes called HAR1 in humans, chimps and several other vertebrates. In one sequence of 118 letters they found 18 differences between the chimp and human version. Katherine Pollard commented: "It's evolving incredibly rapidly. It's really an extreme case. We found 18 differences between chimps and humans, which is an incredible amount of change to have happened in a few million years." When they compared the chimp genome with other vertebrates they found very few differences. For example, there were only two changes between chickens and chimps, who are believed to be separated by 310 million years of evolution. The HAR1 gene is most active when the cerebral cortex, or outer layer of the brain, is forming. This is the layer of cells involved in complex distinctively human functions such as language, and consciousness. The other surprising thing about the HAR1 gene is that it is not a protein coding gene. Previous attempts to find genes that explain the difference between human and ape brains have concentrated on differences in proteins. In 2004 a gene called ASPM, which also has a function in forming the cerebral cortex, was found to be distinctly different between chimps and humans and scientists claimed that it helped create the human brain from an ape brain. The HAR1 gene was found in one of the regions in between genes that had been written off as being non-functional. The researchers have not identified a function for the gene, but they have found that it codes for a short strand of RNA - a molecule similar to DNA that is used to transfer genetic information around the cell. Pollard's team suspect the RNA coded by the HAR1 gene is used in regulating proteins involved in organising the cerebral cortex.

BBC articles: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4797257.stm>
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3392143.stm>

ED. COM. This is a classic example of the difference between observation and assumption. The differences in DNA letters (and the RNA they code for) are real scientific observations. However, the claim that one gene changed into the chimp and human varieties of the gene over a period of six million years is a pure faith belief, based on an apriori belief in evolution. No-one has observed any genes changing from one to the other. The fact that the gene was found in a non-protein coding region is also significant. Non-protein coding DNA used to be called "junk DNA," and was written off as useless evolutionary leftovers. However, scientists are now recognising that these regions could code for many control mechanisms, such as the RNA molecule found in the research described above, that is why chimps aren't reading this report and you are. The real differences between kinds of living creatures lie in how they are put together, rather than what they are made from. As shown in this research, genes that code for small RNA molecules can be quite small, but they have a big effect. This is further proof that the 98 percentage similarity between chimp and the human DNA claimed by the evolutionists is meaningless, even if it was true. (Ref. genetics, development, cerebrum)

9. TASMANIAN ITINERARY SEPTEMBER

Fri 29th. 7.00pm Public Debate with the Atheist Foundation of Australia Inc. Topic: "Is Evolutionary science reliable?" Horton Auditorium Scotch Oakburn Senior School Penquite Rd Newstead.

Contact: Craig Hawkins (03) 6383 4811

Sat 30th. 7pm Combined churches meeting Topic: Exposing the Ape Man. Gateway Baptist Church Wellington St. Launceston

Evidence News 12/06 – 21st September 2006

OCTOBER

Sun 1st. 10am Topic: Christ as Creator. Newstead Baptist Church Wentworth St Newstead

Sun 1st. 6pm Topic: The rocks cry out the evidence the Bible is true from the beginning. Matrix Church Tram Sheds Inveresk.

Wed 4th. 12-1.30pm Seminar Topic: Exposing Evolution, Confirming Creation. Lecture Room 3 University of Tasmania Launceston.

Wed 4th. 7pm seminar Topic: Designosaurs - the evidence shows dinosaurs were the monsters God made. Newstead Baptist Church Wentworth St Newstead

Thur 5th. 7pm seminar Topic: Origin of the Races. Newstead Baptist Church Wentworth St Newstead

Fri 6th. 7pm Youth meeting Topic: Giants in the Land - evidence that the Bible is true History. Newstead Baptist Church Wentworth St Newstead

Sat 7th. 7.30pm Family evening Topic: Giants in the Land - evidence that the Bible is true History. Hobart Church of Christ 20 Liverpool St Hobart.

Sun 8th. 10am Topic: Worship the Creator. Hobart Church of Christ 20 Liverpool St Hobart.

Sun 8th. 6pm Topic: God's signature in Creation - Allah or Christ? Kingborough Family Church 11 Glory Place Huntingfield.

10. DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE can be sent to the following addresses or use our secure Web site: www.creationresearch.net and click DONATIONS.

USA: P.O. Box 281 Hartsville TN 37074 (Donations in USA are tax deductible. Make checks to Creation Education Society)

UK: P.O. Box 1 Ashton under Lyne Lancs. OL6 9WW (Donations in UK payable to Creation Research Trust are tax deductible - a Gift Aid Declaration is required - available from <http://www.amen.org.uk/cr/trust/giftaid.pdf>)

AUSTRALIA: P.O. Box 260 Capalaba Qld 4157

CANADA: P.O. Box 31034, 15 Westney Road North, Ajax, ON L1T 3V2

NEW ZEALAND: P.O. Box 40480 Glenfield, Auckland

IF YOU no longer wish to receive our updates please reply with REMOVE EN in the subject. To assist us please include your name as well as e-mail address (and organisation name, if any).