



Plant discovery shows they were designed to be eaten, as people pondering dinosaur strata pollen ask how, while Aussie Bower birds use farming techniques, and evolutionist Academics advise that creationists won't go away so they must develop war plans to cope. Whew – a busy week on the battle front of creation vs evolution and John Mackay and the Creation Research Team worldwide happily bring you this week's Evidence News 12/12 with EDitorial COMment.

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### 1. **NEW QUESTION**

If God made everything, where did God come from? [ANSWER](#) by John Mackay.

**2. DON'T MISS THE NEXT PUBLIC TRIP TO JURASSIC ARK.** It's looking beautiful after recent rains and with all the new Murals completed by our Artist Steve Cardno it's downright amazing.

DATE June 16th

TIME 8.30AM

MEET AT SHELLY BEACH CALOUNDRA 8.30am for stop 1 and then onto Gympie for stop 2. Finish around 4pm.

YOU MUST BOOK via [info@creationresearch.net](mailto:info@creationresearch.net) or phone Anne on 07 32064467.

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COST \$25.00 per person or \$55.00 per family (includes BBQ and Guide Booklet).

HOPEFULLY SEE NEW Dinos by then.

**3. GENE SPURT FOR GRAZED PLANTS** according to articles in University of Illinois News 1 August 2011 and ScienceDaily 3 August 2011. It has long been observed that some plants can not only re-grow after being partially eaten by grazing animals, but actually experience a growth spurt, with an increase in overall size and reproductive fitness, i.e. more flowers and fruit, beyond what they had before. A group of scientists have found one of the ways this happens by studying two different cultivars of *Arabidopsis thaliana* (mustard cress) that differ in how well they re-grow after grazing. The researchers simulated the effects of grazing by clipping the plants' central stems and then observed the re-growth of stems and leaves and level of seed production, then compared these to unclipped plants of the same cultivar. One cultivar, named Columbia, responded with a large increase in overall growth as well as producing more seeds than unclipped plants. The other, named Landsberg erecta, continued to grow steadily but did not boost its growth or fruitfulness after clipping. The researchers then studied the cells and chromosomes of the two cultivars before and after clipping and found the Columbia had duplicated its chromosomes many times over, but the Landsberg erecta had not. Ken Paige of the University of Illinois, who led the study, explained: "The overall DNA content goes up in one of the cultivars after clipping, but it doesn't change in the other. And we think it's that added boost that increases its reproductive success". The researchers suggest the extra DNA in the cells enables the plants to increase the production of proteins needed for re-growth and flower and seed production. The cells with extra chromosomes are also larger, so the overall size of the plant is larger. The increase in chromosome number is called endoreduplication, and involves duplicating the plant's entire set of chromosomes. The increase can be quite dramatic. Arabidopsis plants all start life with 10 chromosomes, but after being grazed on, the cells in regrowth areas have been found to develop repeated chromosome duplications with some plant cells ending up with 320. Daniel Scholes, who was also involved in the study, commented: "We tend to think that what you inherit is what you're stuck with. But we're finding that plants are increasing what they have, and for the first time we're beginning to understand how they do that, and why". Ken Paige went on to say: "We've tracked the plants through generations, so we know that the ones that get eaten actually have up to a three-fold reproductive advantage over the ones that are never eaten. Now we are beginning to understand the molecular mechanisms that make this possible".

Link: [ScienceDaily University of Illinois](#)

ED. COM. By duplicating its original chromosomes at the nibbled ends, the plant is not gaining any new genetic information. The plant is obviously duplicating the DNA information it already has and as a result it can make more use of the DNA information which is hugely beneficial to the plant, and at the same time results in a guaranteed food supply for any creatures that eat them. The process described above is only one of a number of mechanisms built into plants that maintain them as a perpetual food supply for animals.

Genesis tells us God made the green plants as food for both animals and man in a fully vegetarian and sustainable world. Plants were a designed part of a planned ecosystem which meant there was no evolutionary struggle between plants and herbivores – they were made for each other and made to survive and the evidence above is fully supportive of this.

After the Fall of Man, God cursed the ground, and both plants and animals and man have degenerated in many ways. The cultivars in the study described above that do not respond to grazing with a growth spurt seem to have lost this ability and as a result they now have a more fragile existence since they can be eliminated much more easily by grazing. Natural selection can only act against them. Change yes; Evolution no. (Ref. botany, vegetation, polyploidy)

**4. DID YOU MISS:** If the earth is young, why do the Green River Shales in Wyoming show rocks take vast ages to form? [Answer](#).

**5. CREATIONISTS WON'T GO AWAY** according to University of Manchester palaeontologist Russell Garwood, writing in Nature vol. 485, p281, 17 May 2012, doi:10.1038/485281a. After lamenting the recent Tennessee State Law that “encourages teachers to discuss the ‘weaknesses’ of evolution” and creationist critiques of fossil discoveries such as a “tyrannosauroid dinosaur covered in feathers” and fossil harvestmen that are examples of “evolutionary stasis”, Garwood says scientists must find a way to beat the creationist threat. However he does not suggest direct engagement with creationists. Garwood claims: “Direct debates with creationists are risky. Organized discussions only support the ‘evolution is in crisis’ lobby”. Instead he suggests: “If research is to appear that will attract an obvious creationist interpretation, an accompanying blog post could explain the work and highlight flaws in any anti-evolution attacks”. He concludes: “Ignoring the creationist threat will not make it go away. As scientists, we owe it to the schoolchildren of Tennessee and elsewhere to find another way to beat it”.

Link: [Nature](#)

ED. COM. Garwood is correct – creationists won't go away if evolutionists ignore us. But then again we won't go away if they don't ignore us either. However, simply posting ‘virtual’ highlights of “flaws in any anti-evolution attacks” on blogs without actually engaging with what non virtual i.e. real creationists are saying, will just become yet another form of straw man burning. We are reminded of a quote attributed to Mahatma Gandhi: “First they ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they fight you, then you win”. We have been ignored, then ridiculed – now a virtual fight – hang around for the victory party. For more information about the Tennessee education law see our report: “AAAS opposes Tennessee ‘anti-evolution’ law” [here](#).

**6. OLDEST INSECT POLLINATION FOUND**, according to articles in ScienceDaily 14 May 2012 and European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) News 16 May 2012. An international team of scientists have found fossils of tiny insects named thrips covered in pollen grains preserved in amber dated as 105 – 110 million years old from the Basque region in Spain. This makes them the oldest evidence for insect pollination.

According to ESRF “The pollen grains are very small and exhibit the adherent features needed so that insects can transport them”. They also report: “These insects exhibit highly specialised hairs with a ringed structure to increase their ability to collect pollen grains, very similar to the ones of well known pollinators like domestic bees”. The researchers believe the pollen to be from a cycad or ginkgo tree. The researchers pose the question: “For which evolutionary reason did these tiny insects collect and transport Ginkgo pollen 100 million years ago? Their ringed hairs cannot have grown due to an evolutionary selection benefitting the trees”. They suggest the thrips used the pollen to feed their larvae, which they kept in the female cones of cycads for ovules of ginkgo trees.

Link: [ScienceDaily](#), [ESRF](#)

ED. COM. The question about why insects should evolve specialised pollen transporting hair when it is the trees that benefit is a good one. However, the suggestion about feeding their larvae does not answer it. That could only benefit the thrips, once they had hairs and knew where to find pollen, and figured out their offspring would benefit from it. None of which explains where the genetic information for the hairs came from in the first place.

This discovery is another reminder that plants and animals were created in not only a functioning ecosystem, but a designed one in which living things mutually benefitted each other. This study also reminds us of why the day-age theory of reading Genesis 1 will not work for those who want it to,

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claiming each of the 6 days of creation were really millions of years long. Genesis tells us that all the plants, including the flowering and fruiting plants, were created on day Three. Yet creatures that collect and transport pollen and seeds were not made until days Five and Six. If the days were long periods of time most pollen producing plants would have died out for lack of pollinators. Genesis 1 only makes sense if you take God at His word and read it at face value.

DON'T MISS fossil orchid [Pollen in Amber](#).

**7. BOWERBIRDS CULTIVATE FRUIT FOR MATES**, according to articles in ScienceDaily and Current Biology, 24 April 2012, DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2012.02.057. Male Bowerbirds attract mates by building a shelter of sticks and leaves and decorating it with objects collected from the surrounding environment. A team of researchers in Taunton National Park in Queensland, Australia noticed a plant named *Solanum ellipticum* was growing more profusely around the bowers than in other places, and the fruit of the bower plants was greener than those elsewhere. It turns out the birds were decorating their bowers with the fruit. The researchers tested the birds for colour preference and found they liked the greener fruit. When the fruit dried, shrivelled up and lost its colour the birds threw them out of the bowers and replaced them. The seed in the cast out fruits germinated and grew around the bowers. The birds clear the areas around the bowers of grass and weeds making a good place for seeds to germinate and grow. Bowerbirds can maintain a bower in the same place for up to 10 years so it is good for them to have a plant that will live for several years growing around their bowers. Joah Madden, who led the study, commented: "Until now, humans have been the only species known to cultivate plants for uses other than food. We grow plants for all kinds of things - from drugs, to clothing, to props that we use in our sexual displays such as roses - - but it seems we are not unique in this respect. We do not believe bowerbirds are intentionally growing these plants, but this accumulation of preferred objects close to a site of habitation is arguably the way any cultivation begins. It will be very interesting to see how this mutually-beneficial relationship between bowerbirds and these plants develops".

Link: [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. This quirky, but mutually beneficial relationship does not need to develop. It already works. Madden's theory that "accumulation of preferred objects close to a site of habitation is arguably the way any cultivation begins" shows his evolutionary mindset. According to evolution primitive humans went from hunting and foraging to farming. However, Genesis tells us human beings were created to cultivate plants. Man's first home was a garden and Adam was instructed to tend it. After Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden they practised farming, growing crops and tending domestic animals. It was only after further rebellion against God that Cain and his descendants became nomads and lost the ability to farm and went straight into building cities. (Gen 4).

**8. FROM THE ARCHIVES:** Each week we publish links to previous items related to this issue's topics: [Pollen in Amber](#), [Bowerbirds](#), [Dinosaurs Ate Grass](#). Remember also, all our news items and quotes are archived as individual items in the Fact File on our Evidence website [here](#). Make the most of this useful resource.

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