



DON'T MISS KEN HAM AND JOHN MACKAY SEPTEMBER SEMINAR IN BRISBANE [more details](#) and what a way to start Evidence News 14/13 with EDitorial COMment from the Creation Research Team World Wide.



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1. APPENDIX EVOLVED 32 TIMES, according to an article in ScienceNOW 12 February 2013 and Comptes Rendus Palevol doi.org/10.1016/j.crpv.2012.12.001. The appendix has long been considered to be a non-functional left over from evolutionary ancestors. Darwin suggested the human appendix was the shrunken remains of a part of the intestines known as the caecum, and he suggested it once had a role in digesting leaves, fruit and other fibrous matter eaten by our monkey ancestors, but this is no longer needed in omnivorous human beings. The claim that the appendix is useless was disputed several years ago by scientists who found evidence that it acts as a “safe house” for good bacteria during bouts of inflammation of the large intestine. An international team of scientists has now carried out a survey of 361 living mammals, including 50 species now considered to have an appendix, to further check this claim.

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They looked at the animals' diets and plotted the data on a mammalian evolutionary tree, taking note of changes in diet according to their place in the evolutionary tree. Their results showed: "No correlation was found between appearance of an appendix and evolutionary changes in diet, fermentation strategy, coprophagia, social group size, activity pattern, cecal shape, or colonic separation mechanism". Because they did not find a link with diet changes they claim their results support the "safe house" theory rather than being associated with digestion. They found that the 50 species with an appendix are scattered so widely across the evolutionary tree that they concluded the appendix has evolved independently at least 32 times. They went on to say: "These results, together with immunological and medical evidence, refute some of Darwin's hypotheses and suggest that the appendix is adaptive but has not evolved as a response to any particular dietary or social factor evaluated here".

ED. COM. It has long been known that the appendix contains lymphoid tissue, i.e. collections of immune cells, and is part of a whole system of lymphoid tissue associated with the digestive system to keep microbes in their proper place. However, this has been ignored in the popular science media to keep up the pretence of "vestigial organs" as evidence for evolution. The "safe house" theory advanced in 2007 finally made biologists admit that the appendix might be useful after all and they are reluctantly taking it off the vestigial organ lists.

By calling the appendix "adaptive", the scientists who did this study really mean an appendix is a useful thing to have, but that does not explain how it could pop in and out of existence during evolution. Since no-one has ever seen an animal without an appendix develop one, the idea that the appendix evolved even once by naturalistic processes is blind faith. Now it seems evolutionists need 32 times as much faith as creationists who believe God created each separate kind of mammal, with or without an appendix as needed. (Ref. phylogeny, immunity, mammals)

For more details on the appendix and other organs considered to be vestigial remnants of evolution see the Creation Research article Vestigial Organs [here](#).

2. CHALLENGE ARTICLES NOW AVAILABLE: [click](#) to see list. Thanks to Dr Diane Eager who has been transferring these behind the scenes.

Check out:

[CLIMATE CHANGE - Australian Rainfall Cycles](#): real data of Australian rainfall cycles 1890-2006.

[FOSSIL THORNS - Biblical Thorns](#): In 2007 and 2009 John Mackay found fossil plant stems with sharp thorny projections. Are these fossils "thorns", in the way the Bible refers to thorns?

[CARBON 14 DATING - Dinosaur Bones](#): Is it possible to carbon date dinosaur bones? What does that mean for evolutionists who believe dinosaurs are millions of years old?

[SQUID INK FOSSILISED - Fossil Ink Should Make You Think](#): Our simple experiment challenges evolutionists' belief about the age of a beautifully preserved fossil.

3. "AUSTRALIA'S SCIENCE LITERACY FALLS" claims the Australian Academy of Science, who carried out a survey of "science literacy" in 1,515 Australian adults of varying ages and educational backgrounds in July 2013, and then compared it to a similar survey done in 2010. They were disappointed to find "the proportion of 18-24 year-olds who correctly answered that it takes one year for the Earth to orbit the sun fell to 62%, from 74%", but they were encouraged to find there was "a small increase in the number of people who know that the earliest humans did not live at the same time as dinosaurs – 73% compared with 70% - and the number of Australians who believe that evolution is occurring was steady at 70% compared with 71% in 2010". However, the steady belief in evolution was not all good news for the Academy who admitted there were "tentative, but less significant falls in the proportion of 18-24 year olds who believe that evolution is occurring or that humans are influencing the evolution of other species". Overall the survey showed "knowledge levels amongst young people have dropped more than other groups over the last 3 years". Australian Academy of Science Secretary for Science Policy, Professor Les Field, commented: "It's a worrying wake-up call to see scientific literacy

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declining among young adults, and to a lesser degree among the broader Australian adult population”. Other questions included in the survey were: “What percentage of the earth’s surface is covered by water?” and “What percentage of the earth’s water is fresh water?” 39% of those surveyed gave the correct answer for the earth’s surface and only 9% for the freshwater question – a decrease from 13% in the 2010 survey.

Links: [Australian Academy of Science](#), [Survey Results PDF](#)

ED. COM. So you didn’t know the answers to the two water questions either? According to the academy, the correct answers are: Approximately 70% of the earth is under water, but only 3% of earth’s water is fresh. However, the survey is most revealing about the Academy’s ignorance of what science actually is. There were seven questions in this survey, but only three can be classified as about observable scientific facts, i.e. the one about the earth’s orbit and the two on earth’s water. The other four questions were:

Is the following statement true or false? The earliest humans lived at the same time as dinosaurs.

Do you think that evolution is occurring?

Do you think that humans are influencing the evolution of other species?

In your opinion, how important is science education to the Australian economy?

The dinosaur question is actually about history, and can therefore only be answered on the basis of records of those who were there at the time. The other questions are about personal beliefs. As such, this survey hardly counts as a good test of scientific literacy of Australians. It is interesting to see that the constant claim in the popular media that evolution is a fact combined with the brain-numbing repetition in school courses, and the word “evolution” to describe all biological processes, has still not increased to the number of believers, especially among young people, and is correlated directly to an increase in those who don’t know how long a day is. As to the people who reject evolution, one high school science teacher said; “You guys must be having an impact!” Keep supporting us ...we need to make a bigger impact yet both on evolution and on the right answers about the day that God made! [DONATIONS](#). (Ref. statistics, education, philosophy)

4. WARMING FORESTS PRODUCE CO₂ according to an article in ABC News in Science 23 July 2013.

Forests can act as “carbon sinks”, i.e. they take in more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than they release because it is used to build the structure of the trees. Environmentalists hope that planting new forests will help remove carbon dioxide from the air, and therefore help in the fight against climate change. An international team of scientists have studied the relationship between fluctuations in global atmospheric CO₂ between 1959 and 2011, as well as short-term fluctuations in temperatures in the tropics to see if warmer temperatures change the amount of carbon dioxide taken up by tropical forests. As described by the ABC: “Using data from a global network that measures atmospheric carbon concentration, and changes in precipitation, they found that tropical temperatures were the main driver of global CO₂ levels: the higher the temperatures, the higher global CO₂ levels”. Pep Canadell of the Global Carbon Project based in Canberra, Australia, commented: “When they get warmer than average, forests in the tropics do not like it, and overall, they tend to put more CO₂ into the atmosphere than they take out”. After running a computer model of earth’s systems the researchers concluded that “at warmer temperatures photosynthesis of trees actually fell, while the respiration of microbes in the soil increased”.

Link: [ABC](#)

ED. COM. Yet another study showing that warmth and CO₂ go together, but the warming is actually increasing the CO₂ and not vice versa This is not surprising. Warm moist environments are just what microbes, along with fungi and small invertebrates thrive in – and when they are alive and active they produce CO₂. This study is another reminder that carbon dioxide is a natural product of many biological and geological processes – most of which are out of control of human beings. How long will the politicians continue to ignore the truth so they can play gods over the environment and charge us for living on earth. (Ref. environment, greenhouse gases, rainforests)

5. FROM THE ARCHIVES: [Australian Survey](#), [Appendix Not Useless](#), [CO₂ and Rainforests](#).

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6. DONATIONS: Get involved in sharing the cost and the blessings of the research and teaching by becoming part of the worldwide support team today via our secure [Web Site](#), or send gifts to the following addresses: Donations in USA/UK are tax deductible.

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