



Greetings from John Mackay and the Creation Research team world wide and welcome to EVIDENCE NEWS with EDITORIAL COMMENT.

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1. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAKES FOOLS of themselves as they release TV DOCUMENTARY about Turkish quadruped human family. For background :in March 2006 several science news services reported a story about a family of brothers and sisters who walked around on all fours. In spite of the fact that medical tests indicated they had a genetic defect that caused a malfunction in the part of the brain that controls movement, many scientists and now National Geographic have let their prejudice for evolution become proof of evolution as they join those who claim that the family are evidence that humans evolved from a quadruped ape. For those who may have seen the National Geographic documentary here is our original report and comment on the family. Evidence News 22nd March 2006

"FAMILY MAY PROVIDE EVOLUTION CLUE" is the headline of an article on BBC Online News, 7 Mar 2006, about a family in a remote part of Turkey where four sisters and one brother walk on all fours. One sister can walk on two feet sometimes, and another brother walks on two feet with difficulty. Medical tests indicate all were born with a brain disease called cerebellar ataxia, which affects the part of the brain that controls balance and co-ordination. The affected children use their hands to help them move around, putting the weight on their wrists and lifting their fingers off the ground. Prof Nicholas Humphrey of the London School of Economics (LSE) claims: "I think it's possible that what we are seeing in this family is something that does correspond to a time when we didn't walk like chimpanzees but was an important step between coming down from the trees and becoming fully bipedal." However, Humphreys notes that this palm down method of quadrupedalism is not the way apes walk. Chimps and gorillas are knuckle walkers, i.e. they support their weight on the backs of curled up fingers. This means ape fingers are built for strength rather than dexterity. By keeping their fingers off the ground the Turkish children are still able to use them for skilled work like crochet and embroidery, as for other humans. Humphreys suggests that this was how our direct ancestors walked as it would have enabled the fingers to be used for manipulating tools, and the brain disease suffered by the Turkish children caused them to revert to an ancestral form of walking. He went on to say, "Because of the peculiar circumstances they were in, they kept walking as infants." A team of researchers at the Max Planck institute in Germany believes the family are suffering from a defect of a gene on chromosome 17 that was important in the evolution of two-legged walking.

ED. COM. This story is a bizarre mixture of medical facts and evolutionary imagination. The closest Prof. Humphreys gets to the truth is the claim that the affected children kept walking as infants. However, that has nothing to do with evolution. Human children crawl on all fours before they stand and walk because they must wait until their brains mature and they develop strength in their legs and trunk. Because of a genetic defect the Turkish children's brains did not develop properly, so they continue to use their arms to compensate for their lack of balance and co-ordination in their legs. The idea that progression from crawling to walking represents an evolutionary transition is a belief in recapitulation, i.e. that human development from conception to adult is a repetition of evolution from amoeba to man. This is a totally discredited idea based on fraudulent claims made by the nineteenth century evolutionist Ernst Haeckel. Cerebellar ataxia is a rare genetic defect, but it is likely that in the remote part of Turkey where the family live there has been inbreeding, so genetic defects are more likely to be expressed. This is a sad reminder that the human race is degenerating downwards, not evolving upwards, and it is outrageous of evolutionists to exploit the misfortune of this family to falsely promote their beliefs. (Ref. bipedalism, gait)

2. TREES RETURNING says November Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences USA (PNAS, vol 103 p17574, 14 Nov 2006), as it reports there are significant gains in tree numbers in the USA and China, even though Brazil and India have lost trees. 22 of the 50 significant forest regions of the globe have gained trees.

ED.COM. Our own research would agree with this report as we have talked to many old timers over the past decade in the USA who vouch for this fact. But tree gain is also true for many parts of the UK where historic paintings of the geology sites we visit show forests today where there was cleared land in the 1700's. Even the Scottish moors are rapidly being covered, much to the disgust of those who like their barren bleakness. Our perspective - God made trees for us to use and appointed us to have dominion over the planet (Genesis 1:1-31), so by all means "if you want to use a tree, cut one for you and one for me, and then plant three! (Ref. green, conservation, forest)

3. GOOD NEW POLYSTRATE trees found Monday 20th November at Cape Kidnappers NZ on Creation Research field trip. Like the more famous Joggins, the cliffs in this area show no trees some years, then following winter cliff falls, new ones get exposed. The new trees are not far from where John Mackay found the fossil of a Giant Swan some 10 years ago. PICTURES see [www.creationresearch.net](http://www.creationresearch.net) home page right EVIDENCE NEWS.

4. SEA URCHIN SURPRISE reported in news@nature, biologynews.net 9 Nov 2006 and Science, vol. 314, p398, 10 Nov 2006. Scientists have decoded the genome of the California purple sea urchin and have identified 23,300 genes made from 814 million DNA code letters. The scientists were surprised to find 7,077 of the sea urchin genes are also found in humans. Most surprising was that some of the "in common genes" are associated with hearing, balance, and sight in humans, but the sea urchin does not have eyes and ears. The vision genes were found to be activated in the animal's tube feet. Gary Wessel of Brown University, who participated in the project, commented: "Nobody would've predicted that sea urchins have such a robust gene set for visual perception. I've been looking at these organisms for 31 years - and now I know they were looking back at me." Some of the eye and ear genes were thought to be unique to vertebrates. The gene study also showed that sea urchins have a complex immune system.

ED. COM. Seven thousand out of 23,300 genes is approximately 30%, but no-one has yet claimed sea urchins are thirty percent human. Next time someone claims that humans are 98% chimpanzee remember this! Finding genetic information that is used in eyes of vertebrates but in tube feet in sea urchins simply shows that the information carried on genes can be used in different ways. It is not evidence that one kind of creature changed into another. Neither is this type of phenomenon a new discovery, but rather an ignored old one because it doesn't fit evolutionary theory. In the 1970's, prominent embryologist Gavin de Beer wrote a book entitled Homology: an Unsolved problem (1971 Oxford University Press). He pointed out that "homologous" structures are not always controlled by the same genes, and the same genes in different organisms can control different structures.

The following two quotes from de Beer's book are from an article entitled Homology and Heterochrony: The Evolutionary Embryologist Gavin Rylands de Beer (1899-1972) by Ingo Brigandt, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh: "It is now clear that the pride with which it was assumed that the inheritance of homologous structures from a common ancestor explained homology was misplaced; for such inheritance cannot be ascribed to identity of genes." (de Beer, '71, p 16)

"But if it is true that through the genetic code, genes code for enzymes that synthesize proteins which are responsible for the differentiation of the various parts in their normal manner, what mechanism can it be that results in the production of homologous organs, the same 'patterns', in spite of their not being controlled by the same genes? I asked this question in 1938, and it has not been answered." ('71, p 16) (Ref. echinoderms, genetics, invertebrates)

5. PLANT IRON STORE REVEALED, as described in an article in ScienceExpress 2 Nov 2006. A team of researchers led by Mary Lou Guerinot of Dartmouth College, New Hampshire has used a combination of gene studies and x-ray imaging techniques to work out where iron is stored in plant seeds. They found that the iron is stored in the developing vascular (fluid transport) tissue in the seed and involves a protein named VIT1, which transports the iron into internal storage depots inside plant cells called vacuoles. The researchers are hoping their findings can be used to develop grain crops with higher iron content." (ScienceExpress is the advanced online publication site for the Journal "Science')

ED. COM. Iron is an essential mineral for plants and animals, and the decreasing availability of it after Noah's flood, was probably why some animals took to scavenging and predation. For example, mosquitoes live on nectar and plant juices, but females cannot get enough iron to make eggs from these sources. This is why female mosquitoes seek out a meal of blood when they are ready to lay their eggs. If plants had a higher iron content mosquitoes wouldn't need to bite people. Plants get their iron from the soil, and in the original good world described in Genesis the mineral content of the soils would have been sufficient for the needs of the plants, and for the animals and people that ate them. The worldwide flood of Noah degraded the soil and we know from agricultural history many places in the world have soils lacking in essential minerals. Plants have degenerated since then, as well, and may not be able to accumulate and store iron as well as they did in the original good world. Studies such as the one described above may help us to find out how and why many plants are no longer a good source of iron. Perhaps even to redevelop iron rich weed food sources for mosquitoes and eliminate malaria for good. (Ref. degeneration, diet, nutrition)

6. GYMPIE FLOOD TREE SITE EXCAVATION PICS ON  
<http://www.creationresearch.net/research/Fossil-Log-Jam.htm>

The excavation project was a great success as a good group of helpers turned up to excavate the fossil logjam we discovered quite a few years ago. All logs excavated, regardless of size, had been smashed. Some logs were up to 1/2m thick and look as if they had been karate chopped into separate blocks. The deposit is in strongly cross-bedded sandstone with pebble beds indicating the direction of water flow. The trees are mainly pine and as such are no help to evolution.

We already take school and public field trips to this site - now it can be even better evidence that the rocks did not take millions of years to get there and a flood explanation actually works.

WITH YOUR HELP we can turn into a great outdoor creation flood museum site. DONATE TO THIS PROJECT on [www.creationresearch.net](http://www.creationresearch.net) CLICK DONATIONS.

7. PERCHING PLANE LANDS LIKE A BIRD, according to an article in New Scientist, 14 Oct 2006, p32. Ephraim Garcia of Cornell University, New York is developing an aircraft that can land vertically like a bird. When birds land they flare their wing feathers and angle them against the airflow. They then flare the tail feathers and bend them down to produce drag and slow the bird enough to land safely. Garcia's plane has wings which rotate upwards, forcing the fuselage down, and a tail attached to a long articulated boom that can drop down. Changing the angle of the wings

and tail produces the same drag effect as a bird produces with its wing and tail movements. If Garcia's design is successful it could be used for small, pilotless surveillance planes to enable them to land on a building if they need to keep observing one location for a long time, rather than remaining airborne and using up fuel. Garcia is still working on the landing undercarriage, but suggests that "spikey feet like a bird, with vibration-absorbing legs" would work. Ron Fearing, a specialist in "bio-inspired flight" commented that using the tail to change from flying to perching mode is a "nice idea" and added, "Being able to provide this manoeuvrability to an aircraft is a very challenging problem."

ED. COM. Garcia's machine did not build itself, and if it works, Garcia, not the machine should get the praise for making it work. However, birds have been flying and landing in a far more efficient way than any aeroplane for as long as man has been around to observe them, and this is powerful testimony that a far smarter engineer designed birds, so it is really foolish to give the praise to the birds. Ron Fearing and other engineers who look to biology for their inspiration to solve their "very challenging problems" should give glory to the Creator who has shown them the answers to the problems in the living things He has made. (Ref. bio mimicry, biotechnology, aeronautics)

8. FLAMINGO FEEDING described in ScienceNOW 31 Oct 2006. Larry Witmar of Ohio University has studied the blood vessels of flamingos and compared them with other birds. He found that flamingos have two expandable blood filled sinuses under each side of the tongue. When these are filled with blood they enlarge and stiffen the tongue. This would enable the bird to feed more efficiently. Flamingos are filter feeders, i.e. they suck water into their mouths and strain out plankton. Unlike other filter feeders, flamingos hold their heads upside down as they feed and use their tongue like a piston to pump the water through their mouths. Flamingo jaw bones have a distinctive depression where it underlies the sinuses. No other birds have this depression, so scientists suspect that the sinuses are unique to flamingos. Ornithologist Richard Prum of Yale University commented: "This is pioneering work. Flamingos evolved a whole new way to feed, with a new orientation of the head, and nobody has come up with a role for the vascular (blood vessel) system in foraging before." Evolutionary biologist Marcel van Tuinen of University of North Carolina says the jawbone depression could be used to trace the origin of filter feeding as the flamingo's method of feeding resembles that of baleen whales.

ED. COM. No-one has observed flamingos evolving from another bird, let alone from a baleen whale. Finding filter feeding structures in both flamingos and baleen whales is a good example of how each kind of living creature is a unique combination of non-unique parts - exactly what you would expect from the description of creation in Genesis, which tells us that birds and whales were made as fully functioning creatures, according to their kinds. (Ref. design, Aves, ornithology)

9. HUNGARIAN/ ROMANIAN WEB LATEST Check [www.creationresearch.eu](http://www.creationresearch.eu)

10. HUMBLING HUBBLE as Goddard Space Flight Centre director, Dr Ed Weiler, said (Wednesday, 1 November 2006) Hubble has fundamentally changed what scientists know about the universe. "The universe doesn't read our textbooks," he said. "It has this bad habit of not doing things we say it should."

ED.COM. Perhaps Weiler would have been better phrasing it "the Heavens declare the glory of God!" Psalm 19:1.

11. UK MEDIA FEELS THREATENED as Guardian newspaper plans another seminar on teaching evolution - but this time it's closed to the public. UK creationist Paul Garner who attended the first one writes: "Three of us attended the previous "Creationism" seminar held by The Guardian - but that was open to scientists as well as educators. This event is being restricted to science and RE teachers - so if you know of any teachers sympathetic to creation, please let them know about this. It would be good to have some creationist representation at this event."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/newsroom/story/0,1929365,00.html>

Creationism and Intelligent Design - do they have a place in the school curriculum? - Friday December 1, 2006

**Evidence News 15/06 – 22nd November 2006**

A free half-day seminar for science and RE teachers.

Speakers include Professor Simon Conway Morris of Cambridge University, Tim Radford of The Guardian, Andrew Copson of the British Humanist Association. Chaired by Professor Michael Reiss, Professor of Science Education at the Institute of Education.

Talks from leading authorities in science and philosophy will be followed by an open question and answer session with an expert panel.

Places are limited and booking is essential. To book a place, please download a booking form and return it to the education department at the Newsroom.

CONTACT Paul on mail@pagarner.force9.co.uk (Paul's report of the previous seminar is available from his email address)

12. NEW ZEALAND DEBATE crowd filled the North Harbour Stadium conference centre, to hear Prof. Paul Rainey spend most of his time claiming creation could not be science, and then for a few minutes used his own research on Pseudomonas bacterial colonies changing shape as evidence of molecules becoming man and then in question time begged off most questions with generalities, instructions to questioners to read the literature for themselves, or by claiming it wasn't his field, while John Mackay spent his time explaining creation and defeating evolution. MORE DETAILS AND PICS, see [www.creationresearch.net](http://www.creationresearch.net) home page left.

13. KIWIS LAST OPPORTUNITY TO SEE JOHN MACKAY IN NORTH ISLAND November. Details [www.creationresearch.net](http://www.creationresearch.net) click COMING EVENTS click NZ.

14. DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE can be sent to the following addresses or use our secure Web site: [www.creationresearch.net](http://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

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