EVIDENCE NEWS 15 11

Politicians you must help us appeal plus an amazing arachnid discoveries that would shock Spider man, and how can you recognize design in God's creation? You will enjoy this week's Evidence News 15/11, with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research Team worldwide.

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1. CAN YOU RECOGNISE DESIGN IN SCIENCE? This week's question is answered by Synthetic Chemist Professor Ed Neeland. CLICK

2. LOTS OF FREE DVD PREVIEWS of Creation Research DVDs. **CLICK** Don't miss these previews now on our 'youtube askjohnmackay channel'.

3. SCIENTISTS CAMPAIGN POLITICIANS FOR RESPECT, according to ABC News 20 June 2011. Over 200 scientists from around Australia have gathered in Canberra to meet with politicians and launch a campaign named "Respect the Science." According to Anna Maria Arabia, CEO of the Federation of Australian Science and Technological Societies, the campaign "is really aimed at looking at the misinformation campaign that's being run against the scientific evidence largely coming from the climate change debate ... and seeing how that is undermining the nation-building work of our scientists." The scientists are blaming "climate deniers" for the "misinformation campaign" and are hoping to show the politicians and general public how the peer review process works in science to guarantee the best results. Chief Scientist of Australia, Professor Ian Chubb, explained: "It is about ensuring that people understand that there is proper science, properly conducted, properly reviewed and properly debated."
Link: ABC

ED. COM. When scientists have to seek the protection of politicians (who are mostly non-scientists) they are, in effect, admitting their opinions will not stand up to honest scrutiny. Try for a brief interview with Geology Professor Ian Plimer, who has taken a strong stand against climate change being a man made phenomenon, and you will discover that neither he nor any other climate critic can get a paper published unless it supports the "in" view. The much vaunted peer review process is gaining a track record being a guarantee only that the entrenched position stays that way, and that is no guarantee of truth or even good research. Getting an article

published in a peer reviewed journal merely indicates that the reviewers agree with the original authors, or at least think their ideas acceptable enough to be discussed seriously. The process of peer review also means that if the "peers" have already decided a position is wrong, or should not be discussed, it won't be published, irrespective of how factual it is.

However, in this world that God has made, things are true or false irrespective of who says them, how many people say them, or where they are written. Things which are true, do not cease to be true just because a science journal refuses to publish it. If something is false, it will not be made true merely by being said by a science professor, written in a well known science journal, broadcast in the popular news media, or because a green-dominated government says we can trust the scientists it employs in the public service, which is where many of these 200 come from.

There is just one last thing – when the public finds out they have been had over climate change with or without carbon taxes – WE PREDICT the public opinion of science and scientists will plummet way lower than it is now. (Ref. politics, philosophy, global warming, predictions)

4. USA AND CANADA MEETINGS June July CLICK USA and CLICK CANADA.

5. SPIDER BUBBLE DOUBLES AIR SUPPLY and more, according to articles in ABC News in Science and BBC Nature News 9 June 2011, and ScienceDaily 13 June 2011. The diving bell spider *Argyroneta aquatic* lives underwater in rivers and ponds, but breathes air. It lives, eats, mates and lays its eggs in a bubble of air held in a dome shaped web amongst the vegetation. The spider collects air from the surface and transports it to its underwater dome home in bubbles attached to fine hairs on its abdomen and rear legs. Scientists have now discovered the underwater bubble can absorb oxygen from the water and keep the spider supplied for a much longer period that if it only had the oxygen in each bubble it gathers from the surface.

Using a tiny oxygen-measuring device called an optode the scientists measured oxygen levels in the bubble and in the surrounding water and found oxygen was moving from the water into the bubble. They found up to eight times the amount of oxygen can go from the water into the bubble compared to what was initially present. However, the bubble eventually shrinks as nitrogen diffuses out of it into the water, and the spider must collect another air bubble from the surface to replenish it. In spite of the shrinkage, the oxygen absorbing property of the bubble enables the spider to stay submerged for a whole day, rather than the 20 to 40 minutes that biologists previously believed.
Links: ABC, BBC, ScienceDaily

ED. COM. Making use of the physical properties of air and water so that you can live underwater and still have plenty of air to breath - amazing spider, eh? If we were to do it we would require an understanding of the chemistry and physics of water and air, followed by our brains planning and purposefully using the right equipment. When you ask why would a land dwelling spider somehow decide to live an underwater life, especially as it lays its eggs in its submarine home, it becomes obvious that if it wasn't fully equipped in advance to maintain the air bubble, there would be no next generation. This provides a good illustration of our adage that there are plenty of theories and opinions that contradict everything in the creationist repertoire and even in the Biblical account – but the facts never do! You see it actually is far more logical to believe the spider was designed to be able to collect air, build the right shaped web and be pre-programmed with air-collecting and storing behaviour. It is utterly foolish to believe the spider worked this out by itself or mindless nature just did it somehow. (Ref. arachnids, design, aquatic)

6. WATER GATHERING WEBS described in Nature News 3 Feb 2010, *Nature*, vol. 463, p640 and BBC News 4 Feb 2010. A group of Chinese scientists have studied the microscopic structure of spider silk in wet and dry conditions to see how spider webs collect water droplets when exposed to mist and fog. The researchers found that dry spider silk consists of a series of rounded puffs linked together by short narrow strands called joints. The puffs consist of bunches

of randomly tangled fine fibres. When the silk is exposed to fog the puffs condense to form tightly packed spindle shaped structures. As water condenses on the silk it moves towards the puffs and coalesces into drops. The difference between the rough puffs and smooth joints makes the water move along the joints and stick to the puffs. The shape of the puffs also draws the water towards their centres so that the water droplets coalesce and grow. To confirm that it was the joint and puff structure that enabled the drop formation, the scientists also examined silkworm silk and nylon fibres, which do not have the puffs, under wet and dry conditions, and found these did not collect water like the spider silk. They then made an artificial thread with a similar structure of spindle shaped knots and smooth joints using nylon fibres and found this could collect water, but did not form as large drops as the spider silk. The researchers are hoping to use their findings to develop artificial materials that could be used as catalysts or filters to draw substances out of chemical reactions. Brent Opell commented: "It is impressive that they were able to produce an analogue of wetted [spider] thread that duplicated the properties that they observed."

The spider silks' efficiency at collecting water did not impress spider silk expert Brent Opell of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, who has commented: "From a spider's perspective, this is a bad thing because it reduces the web's ability to capture prey." Fritz Vollrath, a zoologist and spider-silk expert at the University of Oxford commented: "The authors of this paper are studying an artefact, which is still interesting although it has no biological function".
Link: BBC

ED. COM. Since all animals need water - collecting water *is* a biological function – but to an evolutionist kill or be killed mentality, water collecting webs make little sense. But pause and change the perspective first to an original good world that God made where a mist rose up every day to water the earth (Genesis 2:6). The study above shows spider webs are particularly well designed to collect such water. Whenever they do this today in wet and misty weather, the spider will then eat the web, water and all. Many Australian spiders take in their web every morning and many spiders also regularly eat their webs to keep up their levels of protein. Secondly, add the Genesis data that the original good world was a place where all animals were vegetarian (Gen 1:26-31). Even today spiders will eat pollen and other plant matter, but in a world which is no longer good due to man's rebellion, both water and protein are scarcer, so spiders have taken to sucking on careless bugs and other creatures that stray into their predesigned sticky webs.

We agree with Opell's comment that producing water collecting threads is an impressive feat. However, what we really have is that an original function - to catch and hold water and pollen, is now also able to be used for another function - to trap careless insects whose juices will supplement "Incy Wincy Spider's" now diet-challenged existence.

One more comment can be made on the design function – and it is almost repetitious but necessary - if scientific researchers are going to improve man-made thread to match the efficiency of natural spider silk they will need to employ more creative intelligence, not leave their threads lying around waiting for them to evolve. (Ref. design, arachnids, biomimetics)

7. STARFISH KEEP THEIR COOL according to an article in *American Naturalist*, Vol. 174, pp. 890-897, 14 Oct 2009 and BBC News 28 Oct 2009. Starfish living in the intertidal zones can easily become overheated if they are left high and dry and exposed to the sun during a low tide because they cannot move until they are submerged again. A team of biologists at University of California, Davis and Bodega Marine Laboratory, Bodega Bay, California have discovered that starfish can prevent overheating by pumping cold water into their bodies in between low tides. The extra water means it takes a lot more heat from the sun to raise their body temperatures – a property of water known as "thermal inertia".

The researchers tested the ability of the ochre starfish use the cooling property of water by keeping starfish in an aquarium where they simulated the changes in environmental conditions

that occur with the tidal cycle. They found that after the starfish had been exposed to high temperatures during a simulated low tide the starfish absorbed more water during the next high tide. The scientists were impressed by the amount of water the starfish could take on board. Sylvain Pincebourde, who led the study, commented: "It's as if we decided to suck up more than 15 pounds (7 litres) of cold water in the morning to prepare ourselves for the high temperature we will get at noon. This quantity of stored water allows a decrease of almost 4°C in excess body temperature, which is enough to avoid reaching dangerous body temperatures." The research team wrote in their report in *American Naturalist*: “This ability to modify the volume of coelomic (body cavity) fluid provides sea stars with a novel thermoregulatory ‘backup’ when faced with prolonged exposure to elevated aerial temperatures.”
Link: BBC

ED. COM. Now I as a fisherman know why some of the starfish I stand on at low tide squelch and exude water – always wondered about that. But here’s the key point. Thermoregulation can only work if there is some kind of sensing mechanism that responds to changes in temperature, plus an information processing system that recognises an increase (or decrease) in temperature and sets in motion an already existing mechanism for modifying the temperature. Backup systems are a sign of advanced planning and always show the evidence of a pre-existent understanding of the bigger picture of a living thing’s circumstances than just surviving immediate threats. Such a system had to be in place before the first ever low tide exposed a starfish and the evolutionists can jump and scream all they like, but like my stood-on starfish at low tide, the facts just squash the folly of long slow purposeless change. Give God the obvious credit that is due to His name. (Ref. design, echinoderms, vertebrates)

8. VOLCANIC ASH has been causing chaos at Aussie airports - how anyone could believe chaos spontaneously produced order is hard to believe.

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