

Evidence News 22/11 – 14th September 2011

WELCOME to the latest Ape Ancestor reports out of South Africa mixed with a sick plant story and degenerate Cave fish experiments which cast light on how they got to be. Randall Hardy and John Mackay have just finished a wonderful field day on the very windy moors of Derbyshire with a bunch of Home Schoolers, while Dr Diane Eager in Australia has been dealing with why do eyes have faults if they were created, and Martin Legemaate has sent a great report on the 3rd Creation Research Museum Display set up in a university in Ontario. Greetings again from the Creation Research team world wide as we challenge you to see things through the eyes of the Creator who was there in the beginning, rather than the evolutionary theorists who were not!

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1. NEW QUESTION: The eye is often used as evidence life did not evolve since something so complex could not have come about without design input. Why then do we have eyes that are not as good as they could be? Things like macular degeneration, astigmatism, long and short sightedness, etc. make the eye less than perfect. Why would someone design a faulty thing and leave it at that? Answer [CLICK](#).

2. DATES FOR DINOSAURS DOWNUNDER bus tour: August Saturday 11th – Friday 24th 2012. Mix it with the dinosaurs in the great Aussie Outback with the Creation Research Team for a great time of teaching, fantastic fossils, great fellowship and miles of fun in the wild and rugged and stunningly beautiful Australian Bush. Don't miss it! Expressions of interest: [EMAIL](#).

3. LONDON UK 17th – 25th September – new meetings with John Mackay see www.amen.org.uk/cr/where

4. SEDIBA UPDATE, reported in BBC News, ScienceDaily and New Scientist 8 September 2011. In April 2010 we reported on the finding of fossils named *Australopithecus sediba* ([HERE](#)). This creature was promoted as the best candidate for an ape that was in the process of evolving into a human. More details about the fossils have now been reported in *Science* vol. 333, pp1402-1423, 9 September 2011. According to the new analysis of the fossils, the 1.3m tall *Au. sediba* had a brain size of 420 cubic centimetres, arms and legs of ape-like proportions, long curved fingers suitable for grasping branches, ape-like shinbones and an ape-like heel bone. But some of its features are different from previously found Australopithecines in that the thumb is longer, the pelvis wider and the ankle more human-like. A computer generated cast of the brain indicates the brain had an enlarged section of the frontal lobe compared with other Australopithecines.

Links: [BBC](#), [New Scientist](#), [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. When we reported on *Australopithecus sediba* in 2010 we reminded readers that *Australopithecus* means “southern ape” and *sediba* received this classification simply because 1. The overall size and ratio of arm to body length proportions of the new fossils are those of apes and 2. The brain size is similar to that of a chimpanzee and estimates for previously found Australopithecines. One of the new specimens has an almost complete cranium but most Australopithecines do not, so estimates

for their brain sizes have to be made from composites of a number of different fossils. The most famous fossil in this group is Lucy, and it only has a few fragments of skull bones. The brain itself has not been preserved, so even the high tech x-ray analysis that was used to estimate the brain size and shape of the new fossil cannot reveal the internal structure of the brain or show how it functioned.

After all the extra information about this creature now available we stand by our assessment – it is still a dead ape. The fact that these creatures are now extinct is no indication they evolved into people, any more than currently living apes are evolving into people. Neither do any of the unusual features of this new fossil provide any evidence it evolved into a human. It is just a bit different from other Australopithecines. (Ref. primates, hominids, anthropology)

5. DOWNSIZING DOWNY MILDEW GENES reported in ScienceDaily 10 December 2010. An international team of scientists has sequenced the genome of a microscopic mould that causes a plant disease named downy mildew. The mould is called *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis* and can only live as a parasite on plants. The scientists then compared its genome with that of similar organisms such as Phytophthora species that can cause parasitic plant diseases, but can also live independently, feeding only on dead plant matter on forest floors. They found the downy mildew was missing almost 700 genes compared with the Phytophthora species. These genes included those for making enzymes and other molecules involved in the metabolism of nitrogen and sulphur that are needed for a fungus to be independent of a host plant. According to ScienceDaily, "The massive gene loss that is evident in the *H. arabidopsidis* genome will provide many clues on the evolutionary adaptation necessary for a pathogen to become fully dependent on a plant host".

Link: [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. Whatever caused this organism to lose hundreds of genes was not evolutionary adaptation. Being unable to live independently does not improve any organism. Such a change has really been a massive degradation of this organism, along with the demise of the plants it infects and the environment in general.

The study of the sometimes non parasitic Phytophthora species does seem to give us a clue as to the original function of these mildew organisms, since breaking down dead plant matter is an important process in recycling nutrients and maintaining the soil. But organisms that have suffered massive gene loss such as the Downy Mildew and which consequently have become partially or fully dependant but parasitic organisms, which now damage or destroy other plants, may be examples of survival in a struggle for existence, but this is not evolution. It is a tragic reminder that the real history of the world has been a change from a good world with functioning ecosystems maintained by co-operating organisms to a corrupted world of competitive survival, often at the expense of other living things. WE PREDICT that new parasitic fungal and plant organisms brought about by gene loss will occur with increasing frequency as we get further in time from God's good creation. (Ref. ecology, parasitism, botany, mycology)

6. DID YOU MISS: Why are there no published papers in peer review journals supporting creation or intelligent design? [CLICK](#).

7. CAVE FISH CLOCKS described in PLoS Biology and ScienceDaily 6 September 2011. All animals have inbuilt clocks that help maintain their regular cycle of daily activities and body function. These regular cycles are called circadian rhythms. Keeping the clock synchronised with the day/night cycle depends on exposure to light at regular intervals. In order to find out more about how these internal clocks work a group of European scientists have compared the circadian rhythms of the sighted zebra fish with a species of blind cave fish that live in the dark.

According to Cristiano Bertolucci of University of Ferrara, Italy, "Cavefish give us a unique opportunity to understand how profoundly sunlight has influenced our evolution". The research team studied a fish named *Phreatichthys andruzzii*, a Somalian cavefish believed to have "evolved without sunlight for between 1.4 and 2.6 million years". This fish has no eye function and no scales. The researchers first placed both the sighted and blind fish in regulated 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness and then observed the fishes patterns of activity. The zebra fish had a regular cycle of activity in keeping with the

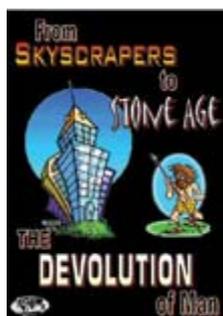
light/dark cycle, but the cave fish's pattern of activity was irregular and unrelated to the light/dark cycle it was exposed to.

The researchers then tested the fish to see if they had any time-keeping ability unrelated to light by feeding them at the same time each day. Both kinds of fish showed “food anticipatory behaviour” at the appropriate time. The researchers then studied genes for clock activity and photoreceptors (light receptors) in both fish to see how cave fish differed from normal sighted fish. They found the cave fish clock genes were normal, but the photoreceptor genes had truncation mutations – defects that cause the protein making machinery to stop before completing the light detecting proteins it was supposed to be making. The fact that the cave fish could not make light detecting proteins would explain why they were unresponsive to light/dark cycles, but could respond to a regular time of feeding. To confirm that these mutant genes were the cause of the non-response to light in the cave fish, the research team introduced photoreceptor genes from the zebra fish into cave fish. Such genetically modified cave fish responded to the light/dark cycle as normal sighted fish do. Nicholas Foulkes, one of the researchers, claimed the cave fish study provided “a fascinating new insight into how evolution in constant darkness affects animal physiology”.

Links: [PLoS Biology](#) [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. Finding broken photoreceptor genes does not at all explain how or where the genetic information for making photoreceptor proteins originated. Furthermore, the only way cave fish gained the ability to detect light/dark cycles during this research was for pre-existent intelligent, creative scientists to insert the missing information into the cave fish. This is good evidence that it takes creative design to make a fully functioning fish. On the positive side, the studies do show that some fish in dark regions can survive with defunct light detecting genes, so these studies actually provide no insights into evolution at all, unless you want to cheat on the definition and all you mean by evolution is change of any sort.

Altogether, these studies provide good evidence of non evolutionary change which serves as a constant reminder that the real history of the world is from creation to degeneration, or in simple terms: from good to bad to worse. And such change is consistent with the Biblical history of “In the beginning God created” a good world filled with fully functioning creatures, but since the Fall of Man and God’s judgement on the earth, many creatures have suffered degenerate change (or damage) to their genes including photoreceptor genes and have survived in a partially defunct state. (Ref. bio-rhythms, ichthyology, genetics)



8. DEVOLUTION OF MAN DVD: We follow the real history of the world through the Biblical record of man’s inventions and technology. From the perfection of Creation, through the fallen world, to the new heavens and new earth, follow THE DEVOLUTION OF MAN. See what man’s real techno-problems are, and what the solution is. What is a primitive man and how do you become one? What makes you advanced? The evidence and the answers are all on this DVD. (Suits high school +).

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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/>

AUSTRALIA: P.O. Box 260 Capalaba Qld 4157

CANADA: Westney Heights Baptist Church 1201 Ravenscroft Rd Ajax Ont. L1T 4K5

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