Evidence News 22/13 – 6th November 2013

Feel like a date this week as evolutionists keep changing the ages of rocks and yet discovering it doesn't matter what age they give the rocks, the evidence of God's Genius is easily seen in newly found fossilized brains and eyes, plus don't miss the big surprise from an Aussie Platypus. Now enjoy Evidence News 22/13 with EDitorial COMment from the Creation Guy John Mackay (who is out in the rocks of Scotland today …freezing, but finding great stuff) and from the rest of the Creation Research Team around the globe so share the joy and like us on Facebook.

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1. DATING FOR THE BIRDS as fossil footprint re-dating reported in *Nature* vol 495, Brief Communication Arising, E1, 21 March 2013, and *Nature* vol. 501, p262, 12 September 2013. In 2002 a group of Argentinian geologists published a paper in *Nature* describing many hundreds of bird-like footprints in Santo Domingo Formation of northwest Argentina, which was dated by 40Ar/39Ar radioactive method, as Late Triassic, approximately, 212 million years old. This was 55 million years prior to what was believed to be the oldest bird fossil. At the time the researchers concluded "these bird-like foot prints can only be attributed to an unknown group of theropods showing some avian characters". See our report "Footprints Precede Feet" here. (Theropods are dinosaurs.) Further study of these footprints, published in 2009 by a team including the three original researchers, revealed the tracks had all the features of tracks left by shore birds as they landed, walked, probed and took off on a muddy shore. The researchers concluded: "The recognition of traces of flight (Volichnia), probing marks, and tracks showing morphology similar to modern shorebirds (*G. dominguensis*), strongly suggest an avian affinity for the producers of the

fossil tracks and, in consequence, the Santo Domingo track site would be younger than supposed". Now, Richard Melchor, one of the original researchers, along with two scientists from Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have re-dated the rocks using a different radioactive dating method – 206Pb/238U. The rock formation has now been classified as Late Eocene, 37 million years old. They concluded: "In consequence, the mentioned tracks are assigned to birds and its occurrence matches the known fossil record of Aves". (Aves are birds.) Melchor and one of his original colleagues have now formally retracted their original 2002 report with the comment: "Recent radiometric dating of the sedimentary sequence containing these bird-like footprints (renamed as the Laguna Brava Formation) indicated a Late Eocene age. Further geological studies suggest that the region suffered a complex deformation during the Andean orogeny, including block rotation. In consequence, our previous inferences about the possible implications of this finding for the fossil record of Aves are no longer supported".

ED. COM. Did you notice that by substituting one method for another the evolutionists have managed to off-load 175 million years and bring the prints back into line with current evolutionary theory on bird origins? When we looked up the references given for re-dating the rocks, we found yet another reason to doubt all evolutionary dates for these rocks. According to an article in *Tectonophysics* Volume 583, Pages 105–123, 11 January 2013: "the Laguna Brava Formation would have been deposited during the Late Eocene with a mean sedimentation rate of about 1.4 cm per thousand years, probably in relation to the onset of the Andean deformation". A sedimentation rate of 1.4 cm (0.55in) per thousand years is 0.014 mm per year – about the thickness of one grain of silt per year. The layer in the formation that was used for the radioactive dating certainly wasn't laid down at this slow pace. It consisted of tuff – a volcanic ash that is turned to rock. Volcanoes don't do slow! Furthermore, the layers in the formation that contain the actual foot prints had to be soft wet mud of sufficient thickness for the birds to leave impressions. It then had to be covered up much more quickly than 0.014mm per year in order to preserve the prints. So, let's summarise this interesting sequence of dating events: In 2002 bird-like tracks are reported, but because the rocks are dated as 212 million years the tracks are classified as dinosaurs. By 2009 careful study of the prints shows they are definitely birds, and therefore the rocks should be younger. In 2013 the rocks are re-dated to 37 million years to prove they were young enough to have bird prints in them, and the story now fits the authorised version. This should serve as a cautionary tale for any who believe radioactive dating gives us absolute ages for rocks, and that fossils support a proven evolutionary timetable. And don't forget to check out another footprint problem where a print that looked like a dinosaur was classified as a giant bird because the rocks it was found in were considered too young for dinosaurs. See our report "Bird-not-a-saurus" here. (Ref. chronology, fossilisation)

2. GIANT FOSSIL PLATYPUS found, according to reports in ScienceDaily 4 November 2013 and ABC News in Science 5 November 2013. Australian palaeontologists have found the molar tooth of a giant platypus at the Riversleigh fossil site in northern Queensland, Australia. From the size of the tooth they estimate the animal was twice the size of a living platypus at about a metre long. The fossil has been named *Obdurodon tharalkooschild* and is dated as 5 to 15 million years old. One of the scientists, Suzanne Hand of the University of New South Wales, described the animal: "Like other platypuses, it was probably a mostly aquatic mammal, and would have lived in and around the freshwater pools in the forests that covered the Riversleigh area millions of years ago. *Obdurodon tharalkooschild* was a very large platypus with well-developed teeth, and we think it probably fed not only on crayfish and other freshwater crustaceans, but also on small vertebrates including the lungfish, frogs, and small turtles that are preserved with it in the Two Tree Site fossil deposit". Michael Archer, also of the University of new South Wales, described the evolutionary

history of platypuses: "We've watched the evolution over the last 60 million years. They used to be very robust with fully functional teeth. They used to be in South America. They were in Antarctica. They were all over Australia. Now of course they are smaller, they're kind of shrivelled up, they've lost their teeth and they're just in the eastern rivers of the continent".
Links: ABC, ScienceDaily

ED. COM. So, platypuses have gone from large, robust animals with teeth, who lived in many places all over the world, and are now small, toothless and only live in eastern Australia and they call that evolution? Face up to it folks - that change is better described as degeneration, or devolution. Furthermore, the Riversleigh area is no longer a place of forests and freshwater pools filled with frogs, fish and turtles. It is now a dry place with low scrubby vegetation – another reminder that Australia has dried out, and become a harsher place. Altogether, this fossil is a reminder that the world and the life forms on it are going downhill, not evolving upward. (Ref. monotremes, teeth, mammals, Australia)

SEE MORE AUSSIE GIANTS ON OUR DOCUMENTARY DVD *Darwin's Evolution: a very unnatural selection.* See preview here.

3. FLOWERS GO BACKWARDS IN TIME, according to reports in ScienceDaily, LiveScience and ScienceShots 1 October 2013 and Frontiers in Plant Science, 2013 DOI: 10.3389/fpls.2013.00344. Peter Hochuli, of University of Zürich, and Susanne Feist-Burkhardt have found fossil pollen grains in two drilling cores from northern Switzerland. According to ScienceDaily: "An uninterrupted sequence of fossilized pollen from flowers begins in the Early Cretaceous, approximately 140 million years ago, and it is generally assumed that flowering plants first evolved around that time". These new fossils are dated as 100 million years older, being dated as "Middle Triassic, 247.2–242.0 Ma" (Ma - million years old). The scientists found six different types of pollen, indicating there was a variety of flowering plants growing at the time this pollen was buried. According to Live Science "The ancestors of flowering plants currently remain a mystery, and scientists aren't sure what kind of events or conditions might have spurred their origin". Peter Hochul commented: "This sudden appearance has bothered scientists ever since Darwin, who called the origin of flowering plants an 'abominable mystery'". He went on to say: "So far, no direct ancestors of flowering plants are known. Some groups of plants are suspected to be closely related. But the evidence is weak, and most of these groups are thought to be too specialized to be at the base of the flowering plants". ScienceShots commented: "But pushing the origin of flowering plants into the Middle Triassic period presents a new puzzle: explaining a 100-million-year gap in the fossil record".
Link: LiveScience, ScienceDaily, ScienceShots

ED. COM. Let us predict that all attempts to explain the origin of flowering plants from non-flowering ancestor fossils will prove to be futile. Finding fossil evidence of flowers, such as these pollen grains, only proves flowering plants already existed whenever the sediment they are buried in was laid down. If you believe non-flowering plants evolved into flowering plants, then you strike that major obstacle all living plants show - that they reproduce after their kind, just as Genesis says. In fact, the origin of flowering plants is only an "abominable mystery" to those, like Darwin and his successors, who refuse to believe the record left by the only witness to the origin of plants – the God who created them. (Ref. angiosperms, palynology, botany)

4. EARLY CAMBRIAN EYES described in Nature Scientific Reports doi:10.1038/srep02751, 25 September 2013. Chinese and American scientists examining fossils from a rock formation named the Chengjiang Lagerstätte in China have found "exceptionally preserved non-biomineralized eyes, preserved together with the body, of a non-trilobite arthropod *Cindarella eucalla* from the early

Cambrian Chengjiang biota, revealing the detailed structures of compound eyes". The fossils are dated as early Cambrian, approximate 520 million years old. The fossil eyes have over 2,000 ommatidia, (the visual units that make up a compound eye) indicating that these animals had highly developed vision. According to the researchers, "This developed vision also indicates significant evolution of the overall nervous system, requiring decisions to be made rapidly and accurately." The research team also carried out a survey of the Cambrian Chengjiang fossils, noting which ones had eyes and concluded: "Fossil specimens with eyes mostly belong to arthropods thus supporting the hypothesis that good vision triggered arthropod diversity and domination in early Cambrian ecosystems, and origin and evolution of good vision formed the foundation of modern benthic ecosystems in early Cambrian oceans".

ED. COM. The scientists' conclusion is another classic piece of evolutionary faith. Good vision cannot have "triggered arthropod diversity". Good vision is a useful thing for arthropods to have, but it will not make new kinds of arthropods evolve. Such eyes can only help those that already have them to survive. Finding creatures with eyes that are as complex as present day eyes is also a reminder that God created fully-formed, fully functional creatures, not incomplete, half-evolved creatures. The fact that some creatures, with their complex structures have since died out is another reminder that the real history of the world is from created perfection to degeneration. (Ref. vision, fossilisation, optics)

SEE GOD'S GENIUS IN FOSSIL EYES ON DVD *Demolishing Dawkins and Darwin*. Modern atheist philosophy is based on evolution, but their bluster, bluff and ignorance can be answered with facts. John Mackay exposes their lies and shows how we can defend the Creator. See preview here. Available from our Webshop.

5. EARLY CAMBRIAN BRAIN described in ScienceShots 16 October 2012 and ABC News in Science 17 October 2013. Scientists have used a computed tomography (CT) scanner to study the brain and nervous system of a small crustacean-like fossil found in the Chengjiang formation in Yunnan province in southwestern China. According to ABC article, "the animal belongs to the megacheirans, a group of clawed marine animals that lived during the Cambrian, a time of riotous biodiversity". The creature had an elongated body consisting of 11 segments with leg-like appendages. It also had four eyes and a long claw projecting from its head, which may have been used for sensing or grasping. The CT scan revealed the structure of its optic nerves, brain and ganglia (nervous tissue outside the brain). Its nervous system is most similar to a group of modern-day arthropods known as chelicerates, which includes spiders, scorpions, and horseshoe crabs. According to ScienceShots: "The finding clears up the picture of the arthropod family tree, which is particularly important because some of these creatures' features were so unlike those of their presumed kin". One of the research team, Nicholas Strausfeld, a neuroscientist at the University of Arizona commented: "We now know that the megacheirans had central nervous systems very similar to today's horseshoe crabs and scorpions. This means the ancestors of spiders and their kin lived side by side with the ancestors of crustaceans in the Lower Cambrian".
Links: ABC, ScienceShots

ED. COM. The problem of different creatures possessing similar nervous systems, but being otherwise "so unlike their presumed kin" is solved if you remember that living creatures were a) created as separate kinds, and b) each kind is a unique combination of non-unique parts. Therefore, animals can have similar nervous systems, but have other features that are different. The fact that living creatures such as horseshoe crabs, spiders and scorpions have nervous systems like this fossil creature, just shows that this nervous system works well. Furthermore it has not changed since this animal was buried, no matter how old you believe this extinct creature or

the ancestors of horseshoe crabs are. Horseshoe crabs and scorpions are classic examples of living fossils – creatures whose fossils are the same as their living descendant, which means they have not evolved, but have multiplied after their kind. The description of the Cambrian being "a time of riotous biodiversity" is a reminder the fossil record contains enormous numbers of intriguing creatures, such as this megacheiran, that have now become extinct. These serve as a reminder that the real history of the world is that is started out good, filled with many wonderful, fully formed creatures living together in functioning ecosystems, but this, sadly, has since become degraded by human sin and God's judgement. The fossil record is not the history of life – it is the record of death in the world. (Ref. crustaceans, invertebrates, neurology)

6. FROM THE ARCHIVES: Platypus Ancestors Cambrian Crustaceans, Oldest Brain, Footprints and Time, Fossil Pollen

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