



GREAT NEWS – we finished the latest Darwin DVD in the wee small hours of last Sunday morning in Kentucky USA. “It really is good”, say all who have seen the draft. Then we slept for 4 hours before church. Today Dr Diane Eager informs us the new web FACT FILE is ready for you to test (see below), plus ... John Mackay had great time with students in University of Kentucky last week, a great time with Ken Ham at the Creation Museum USA as we spoke to staff last Thursday ([see Ken's blog](#) – via our web page: link on right hand side) and a very needed day off in the field with Tennessee Geologist, Bob Powell on Monday along with great flood fossil finds. Now we can say for sure we are almost back to where we had planned to be in March last year, before God blessed us with the hugely catastrophic floods of 2011. Yes - the Creator does promise to bring good even out of what we perceive as horrendous natural disasters (see Romans 8:28). Your support has helped make this possible. Now enjoy the latest Evidence News 23/12 with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research Team worldwide.

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<http://www.creationresearch.net>

<http://www.askjohnmackay.com>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/askjohnmackay#p/u>

<http://evidencweb.net>

ENews is available in 2 FORMATS – for EMAIL scroll down – for PDF see below index.

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For ENEWS as PDF – CLICK [HERE](#).

**1. TEST OUR NEW FACT FILE – PLEASE.** As part of the reconstruction of our websites we are moving the archive of Evidence News items onto the new Creation Research website. A small number have been loaded onto the new Fact File and can be searched [here](#). Please try it out and send us your comments. Search for “toad”, “DNA”, or “genetics”.

## Evidence News 23/12 – 12th September 2012

After that, try using a general Internet search engine, e.g. Google, to see if it will find the same article. Put in more words from the article titles, or include the words “Creation Research”. We want all items as highly visible as possible. Meanwhile, the Fact File will still be available on the Evidence website [here](#) until the transfer is complete. We will let you know when that happens.

**2. GENOME IS NOT JUNK** according to results of a massive project named ENCODE published in the journals *Nature*, *Science* and *Genome Biology and Genome Research* and reported in ABC News in Science, BBC News, ScienceNOW, Biology News Net and ScienceDaily 5 September 2012. The ENCODE project, or Encyclopedia of DNA Elements, is a detailed analysis of the human genome conducted by hundreds of scientists working in 32 institutions, who carried out biochemical tests, sequencing studies and computer analyses on 147 types of human cells. When the human genome was first sequenced at the turn of the century, scientists were surprised to find only around 21,000 protein coding genes, occupying less than 3 percent of the total number of DNA letters in the genome. As proteins make up the structure of molecules and determine function in cells, the rest of the genome was assumed to be non-functional, and was labelled “Junk DNA”. However, as research continued through the decade, scientists found that some parts of the “junk” coded for RNA molecules that were used to switch on and off the activity of the genes or determine the production of proteins.

The ENCODE project has confirmed the low number of protein coding genes, finding 20,687 of them, making up only two percent of the genome. However, they found that about 80 percent of the genome is provable not useless, but biochemically active. The remainder may be a graveyard of dead genes known as pseudogenes, although there are indications that some of these may also have a function. They also found that genes can overlap and have multiple beginnings and ends.

In fact, most of the genome has been found to be an enormous control panel that codes for biochemical switches that regulate the activity of protein coding genes, or act as attachment sites for proteins that control gene activity. Ewan Birney of the EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute, lead analysis coordinator for ENCODE, commented: “Our genome is simply alive with switches: millions of places that determine whether a gene is switched on or off”. *Nature* introduced the project on its website with the statement: “Far from being junk, the vast majority of our DNA participates in at least one biochemical event in at least one cell type, according to the Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE) project”. Ewan Birney told the BBC: “The term junk DNA must now be junked. It’s clear from this research that a far bigger part of the genome is biologically active than was previously thought”.

Links: [ABC](#), [BBC](#), [Biology News Net](#), [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. The concept of Junk DNA came from the evolutionary assumption that the human genome arrived at its current state as a result of millions of years of naturalistic chance random processes, and therefore the parts of it that did not have any obvious function must be useless by-products of this trial-and-error process. Fortunately human curiosity has prevailed and we are learning more and more amazing things about the way genomes work. However, discoveries made since the first draft of the human genome was published, such as the ENCODE project, have been made in spite of evolutionary theory, not because of it. The more we learn about how genomes work the more evidence we find for creative design. Even if the remaining 20 percent of the genome does not seem to be biochemically active and does turn out to be a graveyard of dead genes, that will be a sad reminder that the only changes we see to the genome in real time are loss of function or devolution and therefore are further evidence for the Biblical history of the world, i.e. Intelligent Design followed by Naturalistic Degeneration. However, as the ENCODE researchers suggest, there is evidence that so called “pseudogenes” have a function, and therefore they should be investigated before being declare dead. See our previous report “Baffled Molecular Biologists” [here](#).

When the human genome was first presented to the world in 2000 AD, Creation Research was asked about Junk DNA. We replied: “Junk DNA is defined as DNA without genetic meaning. We have not identified a function for most of the DNA in the human genome but this does not mean it is junk. The problem for junk DNA proponents is the same as it was for vestigial organs (i.e. appendix). The fact that we don’t know the function of something, be it a body organ or a piece of DNA, is an indication of our ignorance, not our origin. If we don’t know the function of something the true scientific approach is to do more research and find out what it does”. Since we wrote that, all discoveries made about the genome have far exceeded our expectations, and will no doubt continue to do so. However, the Biblical model of Creation followed by Degeneration is a much better explanation for the discoveries already made, and we predict the same will be true for all future discoveries. As they say in Tennessee where this editor is today; “God didn’t do no junk!”

(Ref. prediction, genetics, genomics)

CHECK OUT REAL PREDICTIVE SCIENCE in our Predictions File [here](#). Read our PDF article on Vestigial Organs [here](#).

**3. UK SEPTEMBER CREATION RESEARCH UPDATE** now available online <http://www.amen.org.uk/cr-uk-update>.

Contains:

1. John Mackay’s UK itinerary 28th September to 2nd December.
2. UK newsletter with news of some great new radio broadcasts featuring John, and comments on the search for the Higgs boson and comment on John’s coming visit.
3. Article “Why didn’t Adam die the day that he sinned?” What can be understood from the fact that The LORD acted with mercy towards Adam in Genesis 3 and why that should inform our understanding of the gospel today?

**4. “ANTERNET” CONTROLS SEED HARVEST**, according to reports in ScienceDaily 29 August 2012. Biologist Deborah Gordon and computer scientist Balaji Prabhakar of Stanford University have found harvester ants use a system to control the rate of sending out ant foragers that works in the same way internet protocols control data transfer on the Internet. Gordon has been studying harvester ants, *Pogonomyrmex barbatus*, which forage for seeds, and noted the ants had a system where the rate of sending out foragers corresponds well with the availability of food. Ants leave the nest individually and return to the nest when they collect a seed. If the ants return soon with seeds to the nest, then more foragers are sent out. However, if foragers are slow to return, or start returning without seeds, fewer foragers leave the nest.

Prabhakar noted that this control system is similar to the way Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) works to control the movement of data over the Internet. When a file is sent from one place to another over the Internet it is broken up into small sections or packets. When the destination site for the file receives a packet, it sends an acknowledgment to the source. If the acknowledgments arrive quickly back at the source site, this indicates there is enough bandwidth to transmit more, and the source site can increase the rate of sending the packets. If acknowledgments slow down, this indicates congestion so fewer packets are sent. This feedback loop helps avoid congestion on the Internet.

To confirm the similarity of these two control systems Prabhakar wrote a math formula or algorithm to predict foraging behaviour depending on availability of food, and Gordon conducted experiments with ants that manipulated the rate of forager return. They found the TCP-inspired algorithm almost exactly matched the ant behaviour found in Gordon’s experiments. They even found the forager control system matched two other features of TCP. One is known as “slow start” where a source sends out a large

number of packets in order to assess the available bandwidth. In the same way, ants start their foraging by sending out a lot of individuals and then increasing or decreasing the sending out rate according to the rate of returning foragers. If the ant foragers are prevented from returning to the nest for more than 20 minutes, no more are sent out. This is similar to the “time out” function of TCP when a file source ceases transmission if a data link is broken so no acknowledgements come back. The researchers have nicknamed the ant colony’s control system the “Anternet”. Prabhakar commented: “Ants have discovered an algorithm that we know well, and they've been doing it for millions of years”.

Link: [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. We also know very well that the computers on the Internet never wrote the TCP algorithm, so why be illogical in thinking the ants somehow developed the “Anternet” algorithm or worse still, evolved it by any chance random processes. Just as Internet data transfer protocols work because computer scientists outside the system both created and applied them, so the ants foraging control system shows the same design evidence of being applied to the ants by the algorithm’s Creator. The fact that it needed a computer scientist to write the algorithm which was applied experimentally to the ants to achieve the same results ants produce naturally, really does prove this. It’s the ‘therefore’ that is the problem. All scientists who collaborated on this project ‘therefore’ have no excuse for ignoring the Creator of the work they observed during their observations and experiments. (Ref. social insects, arthropods, design)

**5. SURVIVAL OF GENTLEST COULD SAVE DEVILS**, according to ABC News in Science 4 September 2012 and DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2656.2012.02025.x. Tasmanian Devils are small carnivores living in the island state of Tasmania, south of the Australian mainland. The population of Devils has been greatly reduced over the last few decades because of a facial tumour spread by the animals biting one another, and scientists fear they are headed for extinction. Rodrigo Hamede of the University of Tasmania and colleagues studied the pattern of biting injuries and the rates of infection of animals over a four year period at two sites in Tasmania. They expected that those who had suffered the most bites would be more likely to have the tumour, but their results were the opposite. Animals with fewer bites had more tumours. The tumours mainly occurred in mouths of these animals and the researchers concluded that the animals were infected when they bit other animals that already had tumours, rather than by being bitten by infected animals. This meant the more aggressive animals, which tended to bite other animals more often, were more likely to pick up the tumour cells. Hamede explained: “In most infectious diseases, there are so-called super-spreaders, a few individuals responsible for most transmission events. But we found the more aggressive devils, rather than being super-spreaders, are super-receivers”. The scientists suggest they could use natural selection to decrease the spread of the tumour. Hamede commented: “if you can confidently define bold and shy phenotypes in a population, you could selectively remove those aggressive devils over a certain period of time. This would decrease competition and give more scope for natural selection to favour shy devils”. The ABC article is entitled *'Gentler devil' could be key to survival* and summarised the researchers’ hopes as: “The Tasmanian devil could be saved from extinction if it evolves to become less aggressive”.

Link: [ABC](#)

ED. COM. Humans killing the aggressors is not actually “natural” selection and neither is it evolution. Unnatural selection for sure, i.e. the work of an outside intelligence who has recognised a problem and intervened to impose a solution. And since the Devils show no sign of having been any other kind of creature, and show no sign of changing into another creature – evolution is ruled out also. The only change we know about Tasmanian Devils is that they used to live all over Australia and they were bigger. The remnant population of small animals that are now confined to Tasmania is the result of downward degenerative processes most probably caused by inbreeding combined with a struggle for existence as the Devils fought one another over carcasses and for mates. Not an evolutionary process at

all. On top of that the tumour itself is the result of degeneration of genes in the cells it arose from, and the spread of the disease is the result of degenerate behaviour. These animals remind us how far the world has gone downhill since God made the original world “very good” and all animals ate plants (Genesis 1:26 -31). No disease would have been spread by fights over carcasses and a good world included no genetic defects to cause tumours. What a sad and tragic price both we and the devils have paid for man’s rebellion against the Creator. (Ref. marsupial, cancer, animal behaviour)

Tasmanian Devils feature in the Creation Research DVD *Darwin’s Evolution; a Very Unnatural Selection*. Free preview [here](#).

**6. FROM THE ARCHIVES:** Each week we publish links to previous items related to this issue’s topics: [Human Genome](#), [Ants](#), [Tasmanian Devils](#)

Remember also, all our news items and quotes are archived as individual items in the Fact File on our Evidence website [here](#). Make the most of this useful resource.

DONATIONS

**7. 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:*

<http://shop.askjohnmackay.com/c/donations/> or send gifts to the following addresses.

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<http://www.amen.org.uk/cr/trust/>

**USA:** P.O. Box 281 Hartsville TN 37074 (*Donations in USA are tax deductible. Make checks to Creation Education Society*)

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