



HOMOSEXUALITY is the hot potato down under this week, so don't miss the Ask site question on [Homophobia](#). And it was back to the cliffs north of Sydney, Nova Scotia on Monday to confirm our 2007 fossil thorn/spine find really is part of a large bed and not just an isolated occurrence. See brief report below. You will also love the coiling cucumber item and discover what a dry Mars is all about as you delve into this week's Evidence News 24/12 with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research Team worldwide.

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1. NEW QUESTIONS HOMOPHOBIA? “Why do you people hate Homosexuals if you claim God is a God of love?” [ANSWER](#) by John Mackay.

GILL SLITS? “I read in one of my school textbooks that human babies have gill slits before birth and this is proof for evolution.” [ANSWER](#) by Diane Eager.

CALVIN ON 6 DAYS? “Why do you insist on six literal days when many ancient church leaders comment including godly men, such as Origen, Justin Martyr & John Calvin believed the Bible speaks of our universe as very old. They (Calvin etc) pointed out that the Hebrew word for “yom” can also mean a long period of time - even millions or billions of years?” [ANSWER](#) by John Mackay.

2. OLDEST AMBER ARTHROPODS found, according to articles in BBC News and Fossil Science 28 August 2012 and PNAS online, doi: 10.1073/pnas.1208464109. An international team of scientists has discovered two species of mites preserved in amber found in the Dolomite Alps in northern Italy. Amber is fossilised tree resin, and small creatures can be trapped within it while it is still liquid. Such creatures are preserved when the amber goes hard and is buried. The Dolomite amber is dated as 230 million years old, making the mites the oldest arthropods preserved in amber. According to David Grimaldi of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, who studied the mites: “Amber is an extremely valuable tool for palaeontologists because it preserves specimens with microscopic fidelity, allowing uniquely accurate estimates of the amount of evolutionary change over millions of years”. The mites are the oldest fossils of a highly specialised group called Eriophyoidea, or gall mites, but they are “surprisingly similar to ones seen today”. Grimaldi commented: “You would think that by going back to the Triassic you'd find a transitional form of gall mite, but no. Even 230 million years ago, all of the distinguishing features of this family were there - a long, segmented body; only two pairs of legs instead of the usual four found in mites; unique feather claws, and mouthparts”.

Links: [BBC](#), [Fossil Science](#)

ED. COM. Now come on folks. If the oldest gall mites have all the distinguishing features that mites have today then an accurate estimate of the amount of evolutionary change is zero. Gall mites have not changed from whenever these individuals were caught in their amber tomb until the present. These entrapped mites provide no evidence mites have ever been any other kind of creature, nor have they been evolving into anything else. The evidence from fossil and living mites is totally consistent with mites having been created fully formed and as a separate kind which have multiplied after their kind ever since, just as Genesis 1 says. (Ref. invertebrates, fossils, preservation)

3. THORNY SUBJECT. It was back to the cliffs north of Sydney Nova Scotia on Monday 24th September, as Stuart Macleod and John Mackay sought to confirm that our 2007 fossil thorn/spine find really is part of a large bed and not just an isolated occurrence. And confirm that we did. See pictures [here](#) or go via our [Home Page](#) and click on the link to “Thorny Fossils Make Point”.

Of course the implications are what evolutionists don't like. They currently regard these cliffs with coal beds as Carboniferous rocks and date them at around 300 million years old. Actually they don't really care how old the coal seams are – but they really really do care how old they aren't! What do I mean? The ages of these rocks have changed many times since Darwin's mentor and founding father of modern Geology Charles Lyell set out to “free the Science from Moses”, and the ‘300 or so million’ is just the latest date from whoever is the currently accepted authority. And that's the real point of these spiny fossils – who is the accepted authority?

The majority of the world's geologists hate to be reminded that since the Creator was there in the beginning, and He made a world without thorns, any rocks containing fossil thorny structures must therefore post date Adam because God told Adam as judgement for man's sin that the ground would henceforth produce thorns, thistles and weeds. That would also mean that any rocks with fossil thorns are less than 6 or so thousand yrs old, which is the only age geological authorities don't want these Carboniferous rocks to be. Not because of the number 6000, but because of the challenge to their authority. That's why fossils are defined as ‘10,000 yrs or older’. It rules out the authority of the Biblical Creator by definition. Convenient, eh? Makes evidence irrelevant doesn't it, which is exactly what they accuse creationists of. So keep up your support of our Research Projects and click [Donations](#) to help.

4. CUCUMBER COILS REVEALED, according to reports in ScienceNOW, ScienceDaily 30 August 2012 and *Science* vol. 337, p1087 DOI: 10.1126/science.1223304 31 August 2012. In 1865 Darwin published a book entitled *On the Movements and Habits of Climbing Plants* in which he describes how cucumber tendrils attach to a support and then form two helical coils, each one wound in the opposite direction to the

other with a loop connection between the two (called a “perversion” by Darwin). Darwin noted this structure acted like a spring, but was not able to explain how it worked.

A team of researchers at Harvard University have now studied the tendrils and discovered how the coil is formed and how it functions. The coil is formed when a double layered ribbon of gelatinous cells shrinks on one side, but not on the other, as it dries out. This asymmetrical contraction results in the two opposite helices forming. The coiling ensures the tendrils are not broken by movements from wind or being bumped by a passing animal. However, unlike a man-made coiled cord, when the tendril is stretched it doesn't just flatten out. Sharon Gerbode, one of the researchers explained: “It's easy to create one of these twistless springs with a telephone cord and they're annoying. But with the phone cord, you can pull on both ends and it will straighten out into a flat ribbon. What's strange about the cucumber tendril is that if you pull on the ends, it actually overwinds, adding more turns to both helices”. This overwinding increases as the tendrils age, so they become stiffer, and form a stronger support as the plant becomes laden with fruit. Gerbode commented: “Nature has solved all kinds of energetic and mechanical problems, doing it very slowly and really getting it right”. The research team eventually got it right when they developed a mathematical model of the coiling behaviour and built a model from silicone, fabric and wire that had the same combination of properties as the cucumber tendril cells, and this responded to stretching by overwinding, just as the tendrils did.

The researchers suggest that tendril formation is an adaptation that enables the plant to have the advantage of height without having trunks and branches. Another member of the research team, Lakshminarayanan Mahadevan explained: “The advantage of using a tendril is that the plant saves on complex machinery to build structural supports such as trunks and branches. The disadvantage is that it must depend on other species to build these supports. Thus, tendrils are an adaptation that is likely to develop only in regions replete with vegetation that can provide supports and where competition for resources is intense”. Mahadevan went on to ask: “The real question remains this: how difficult is it to evolve such tendril-like solutions?”

Link: [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. The researchers are correct in observing that a cucumber uses tendrils to gain height and can only do so in an environment where plants with suitable support structures already exist. It is also true that the coiled tendrils do enable the plant to gain height without having trunks and branches, but this therefore means tendril formation cannot be an adaptation! The logic is simple: if cucumbers had already evolved without tendrils then they had to already be surviving fitly without this coiling device, so therefore they had no need of them, so they couldn't have gained them as adaptations in any evolutionary sense. All observed adaptations are actually the ability of living things to change in structure and/or function in order to cope with changes in its environment. However, adaptations only work if the organism already has the necessary genetic information for the altered structure or function. Adaptation is therefore a design feature that must be built into the plant prior to experiencing any environmental challenges.

Since there is no evidence that cucumbers have changed from being a plant that did not have coiled tendrils, plus it's a fact that the presence of things to climb, such as trees with trunks and branches, never enables cucumbers or any other plant, to make tendrils if they don't already have the right kind of cells to form them. So the answer to the research team's question “how difficult is it to evolve such tendril-like solutions?” is it is impossible to evolve such tendrils by chance evolutionary processes.

In addition we can add our usual line that's so obvious you have to not want to see it in order to miss it. The fact that it took intelligent biologists to discover the structure and function of cucumber tendril cells, and a team of physicists, mathematicians and engineers, to mechanically copy the tendrils, should tell them this. From Darwin onwards, all the scientists, who have studied cucumber tendrils have no excuse for ignoring

the evidence of creative design and should give the honour to the Creator God, not to some false god named Nature. (Ref, botany, vegetables, growth)

5. SWISS ROCKS EXPOSED as Martin Legemaate visits his home country [Switzerland](#).

6. NOTABLE QUOTABLES on the Fishy Fossil Record “Even as the fossil record becomes better known, the controversies continue and increase, for as the paleontologist, Alfred S. Romer has noted, the increasing knowledge of fossil forms often leads to a “triumphant loss of clarity”. Partly for this reason, recent studies of the evolutionary relationships among fishes have relied heavily on comparisons among living forms and the use of analytical techniques (such as Hennig’s cladistics) that produce less ambiguous results than the more arbitrary methods of the past (Patterson 1977). However, the results of the new inquiries into the evolutionary relationships of fishes still produce many contradictions”. (*Fishes, An Introduction to Ichthyology*, by Moyle & Cech, p.175, Second edition, Prentice Hall 1988. University of California)

7. WET MARS THEORY DRIES UP, according to articles in ABC News in Science and BBC News 10 September 2012 and *Nature Geoscience* online 9 September 2012. Satellites equipped with infrared sensors orbiting Mars have detected clay minerals known as phyllosilicates on the Martian surface. Clay is formed by the weathering of rocks by liquid water, and finding clay on Mars has been used as evidence that Mars was once warm and wet enough for life. Alain Meunier of the University of Poitiers, France, and colleagues have studied volcanic rocks taken from the Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia and found they contained the same clay minerals as seen on Mars. However, these clay minerals were precipitated directly from water-rich molten rock as it cooled, rather than from later weathering. The research team examined the Mururoan lavas under infra-red light. Meunier stated: “The infrared spectra we got in the lab (on Mururoa clays) using a reflected beam are astonishingly similar to that obtained on Mars by the orbiters”. According to Brian Hynek of University of Colorado: “Such a result would imply that early Mars may not have been as habitable as previously thought at the time when Earth’s life was taking hold”. Meunier told BBC News: “Mars was not as warm and wet in its earliest time as some have suggested. I do not believe in an early ocean on Mars”.

Links: [ABC](#), [BBC](#)

ED. COM. The obsession with finding liquid water on Mars is based on the belief that where there is liquid water (and a few other chemicals) life will evolve by ‘chemistry alone’, and that will confirm their belief that life evolved from chemical processes on earth without any need for a Creator God. However, whilst water is necessary to sustain life, it cannot create life, even when other chemicals needed to build living cells already exist in the water. Life requires genetic information which it is easy to prove does not come from the chemistry in any living creature. The chemicals in the genes on living cells may carry the information, but the information is not in the chemicals - it is in the arrangement of the chemicals. Chemicals provably cannot create such information. That’s easy to prove – try it and see. You will discover that all known information is only ever the product of a creative designer outside of the chemicals, who uses them for a purpose. Therefore our punch line is simple: life will only exist wherever the Creator places it. He could have put some on Mars if He wanted to, but we suspect He didn’t because He has told us that the function of Mars and the other planets and stars, is that they were made to serve mankind for “signs, seasons, days and years”. (Genesis 1:14). (N.B. The word “planet” means moving star.) (Ref. planetary science, abiogenesis, Areology. P.S. Areology is the study of the geology of Mars, but since “geo” refers to the earth, therefore someone who knows Greek came up with the word Areology, derived from the Greek Ares, which is the Greek version of the Roman god Mars. The term was originally used in science fiction.)

8. FROM THE ARCHIVES: Each week we publish links to previous items related to this issue’s topics: [Plant Biomechanics](#), [Mars](#), [Amber](#).

Evidence News 24/12 – 26th September 2012

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.

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