

Evidence News 27/11 – 2nd November 2011

WOW – Bugs found that make opal real fast, and Neanderthal has more dating problems, while Educators and Politicians back down on calendar changes, as researchers grapple with Graphite evidence of early life. They all combine to give a real punch to the latest on God's Creation in this week's Evidence News 27/11 with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research Team worldwide.

PS: Don't miss the November Jurassic Ark Field trip.

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1. NEW QUESTION: Why do you treat the Genesis days as 24 hours, when St. Augustine, and others considered them to be indefinitely long periods of time? This week's answer by John Mackay - [CLICK](#).

2. AUSSIES DON'T MISS NEXT JURASSIC ARK FIELD TRIP NOVEMBER 26th. Come and see some of the great new fossils from Jurassic Rocks that John brought back from Germany, and hear plans for our latest display. Contact info@creationresearch.net for details or ph 07 3206 4467 to attend. 10am - 3pm. Come and dig it!

3. BUGS MAKE QUICK OPALS, according to report in Quarterly Notes, Geological Survey of NSW (Australia) June 2011. German and Australian scientists have found fossil microbes in opal specimens from Lightning Ridge Australia. The fossils have been identified as aerobic (oxygen dependent) bacteria actinomycetes (*Nocardia*, *Streptomyces*, *Micromonospora*) and myxobacteria. The organisms normally live in soils rich in organic matter at temperatures less than 35 degrees Celsius and at near-neutral pH, i.e. not acid or alkaline. These microbes produce various organic acids which act on clay minerals to produce silica hydrogel, which is what opal is made of. The researchers concluded: "The kind of environment required by the microbes for life indicates the conditions under which opal was produced. This enables the determination of a new timetable for opal formation involving weeks to a few months and not the hundreds of thousands of years envisaged by the conventional weathering model".

ED. COM. We are not surprised by this new evidence for rapid opal formation. Australian Farmers have regularly reported opalisation in fence posts and other man-made artefacts buried in the soil. One Australian researcher Len Cram, has studied opal formation since the 1950s and has artificially grown opals that are so similar to natural opal they fool experienced miners. His process takes only a few weeks. Although Len is acknowledged as a world expert on making opal, the implications of his research on rapid formation of opals have largely been ignored. His work, and that of the new study reported above, remind us that you don't need time to make rocks or minerals – you need the right process. When the conditions are right the processes can occur very rapidly. If not, rock and mineral formation is a bust. [CLICK](#) to see some of our rapidly formed opal fossils. (Ref. opalisation, geology, minerals)

4. NEANDERTHAL DATING PROBLEM, described in ScienceDaily 26 October 2010 and PNAS doi: 10.1073/pnas.1007963107 23 November 2010. A cave known as the Grotte du Renne at Arcy-sur-Cure in France contains artefacts such as rings made of ivory, awls, bone points, pierced animal teeth, shell and ivory pendants, along with tools for making these. The cave has 15 archaeological layers and these artefacts seemed to be associated with Neanderthal remains in layers VII, IX, X, which are classified as belonging to the Châtelperronian industry, a tool culture thought to have evolved from the earlier Neanderthal, Mousterian industry. These findings led to some debate about whether Neanderthals could have been so sophisticated as to make jewellery.

Researchers from the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit carried out radioactive dating of items from these levels as well as another level associated with modern humans, known as the Aurignacian level. Their results showed an “unexpected degree of variation”. Some of the Châtelperronian dates were much younger or around the same age as dates from the Aurignacian level. The most serious problems were in the oldest part of the Châtelperronian layer (X) where more than a third of the radiocarbon ages were outside the ranges expected. Thomas Higham, Deputy Director of the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit, commented: “Our results confirm that material has moved up and down and is out of sequence in the Châtelperronian levels. We think that there has probably been some physical disturbance which has disrupted the proper sequence of the layers. This means that any chronological interpretation from this site should be viewed with extreme caution.”

Link: [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. This study and the researchers’ conclusion remind us how much assumption goes into dating historic artefacts, fossils and rocks when the only evidence you have is in the present. Notice, they assumed the carbon 14 dates were absolute, so the dates estimated by archaeological techniques had to be altered to fit around them, which meant re-interpreting the layers. Now it is quite possible the layers had been disturbed by animals or people, since this has been found to be a problem in other archaeological sites. (For example: “The Role of Armadillos in the Movement of Archaeological Materials: An Experimental Approach”, Astolfo G. Mello Araujo and José Carlos Marcelino, *Geoarchaeology*, vol. 18, no. 4, April 2003, pp. 433-60.)

However, carbon dating is based on a number of assumptions, the most significant is that the level of carbon 14 in the atmosphere is at equilibrium, and therefore all the specimens started out with the same levels of C14. This is not true as the rate of production is still greater than the rate of decay (see article by Curt Sewell [CLICK](#)). A similar problem to that in the French cave occurred when Spanish Neanderthal sites were dated in 2009. At that time Chronis Tzedakis, of University of Leeds explained: “The radiocarbon chronometer is like a clock that is sometimes running faster, and sometimes stops”. (See Neanderthal Radiocarbon Problem, Evidence News, 11 March 2009 [CLICK](#).) The only way to really know what happened in the past is to have reliable historic testimony from witnesses who were there to see it. All findings in the present need to be interpreted in light of such testimony, but as we have often stated, one of the real problems in dating is that modern naturalistic science accepts no authority from recorded History, and becomes its own arrogant author and rewriter of all history. (Ref. time, ages, chronology, archaeology)

5. GRAPHITE DATE PROBLEM revealed in articles in ScienceDaily and *Nature Geoscience* published on 15 May 2011; DOI: 10.1038/ngeo115. Carbon particles in rock are used as evidence of the existence of life when the rocks were formed. Therefore, finding carbon particles, or graphite, in rocks with extremely old dates has been used to estimate when life first evolved on earth. However, as researchers from Boston College, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, NASA’s Johnson Space Center and the Naval Research Laboratory write in their report “this interpretation is partly based on the assumption that the graphite was formed at the same time as the host rocks, an assumption that has been difficult to prove”.

The scientists have applied new technology for analysing graphite containing rocks from the Hudson’s Bay region in Canada, estimated to be 3.8 to 4.2 billion years ago, and found the carbon was millions of years younger than the rock it was found in. Dominic Papineau of Boston College explained: “The characteristics of the poorly crystalline graphite within the samples are not

consistent with the metamorphic history of the rock. The carbon in the graphite is not as old as the rock. That can only ring a bell and require us to ask if we need to reconsider earlier studies". The scientists suggest the carbon got into the rock after it originally formed, but are not sure when. According to ScienceDaily, "a new set of assumptions may be required when using the presence of carbon to date milestones in Earth's evolution". Link: [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. It is good to see scientists admit their conclusions about earth's history are based on assumptions, as well as their observations in the present. The origin and history of the earth goes way beyond the limitations of empirical science, which depends on repeatable observations and experimenting with present day processes. You cannot directly observe the past. All you actually have is the present. Therefore to know the "milestones" in earth's history you need the testimony of the One witness who was there from the beginning, i.e. the Creator who made the rocks and life, and later judged the earth with a worldwide catastrophe in Noah's day that buried much organic matter and reworked the rock formations of the earth's crust. We wonder what conclusions they would come up with if they ditched the millions of years of slow formation and interpreted their results in the light of historic revelation from the Creator of the rocks. See Genesis 1-11. (Ref. time, chronology, minerals)

6. DATING BACKDOWN BY BUREAUCRATS over BC/AD, according to a media release from Senator Brett Mason, Shadow Minister for Universities and Research in the Australian Federal Parliament. As we reported in Evidence News 7 September 2011 ([CLICK](#)), the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), had decided to replace use of BC and AD dates with the terms BCE "Before Common Era", and CE "Common Era", and BP "Before Present". However, following a strong community reaction against the change ACARA have now reversed the decision and will retain the use of BC and AD in the national history curriculum dates.

Senator Mason commented: "This decision created major community outcry and no wonder. The BC/AD designation is the best known and most commonly used when writing about historical events in the English language, going back fifteen hundred years. Ask people in the street and I will be surprised if more than 5 per cent know what BCE/CE means, whereas the significance of BC and AD would be almost universally known". An explanation of the terms BCE (Before Common Era) CE (Common Era) and BP (Before Present) will be inserted into the curriculum, so that students will know what they are if they come across them in their reading. Senator Mason said "This seems to be an appropriate reflection of the state of affairs: while BC and AD are universally used, other designations, such as BCE, CE and BP are merely used within academia. It is important that students are aware of this fact, but it is just as important that they continue to work within the traditional BC/AD framework". Mason concluded: "The retention of BC/AD as the dating designations in the history curriculum is a victory of common sense".

ED. COM. This backdown is certainly a victory for common sense, but more importantly it is a triumph of historical reality over an atheistic Governmental regime that is determined to deny and remove Christ, who as Creator and Saviour is Lord of history. We cannot ignore the fact that the most important event in the history of mankind, after Creation and the Fall, is the coming of the Saviour Jesus Christ. Those who deliberately ignore this will not be ready when Christ comes again to put an end to the history of this world, and to judge those who rejected Him. [CLICK](#) for brief history of AD/BC system. (Ref. dates, chronology, calendar)

7. CLIMATE SCIENTISTS HIDING TRUTH, claims a team member of October 20th report which claimed to finally prove global warming is continuing its relentless upward trend according to *Daily Mail* 30th October 2011. Released by Berkeley Earth Surface Temperatures (BEST) project team, the October 20th report came with the assertion it had put an end to climate sceptics' belief the world was no longer warming, (e.g. [BBC](#), [Guardian](#)). Now one of the research team, Prof Judith Curry, of Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Georgia Institute of Technology says that any claims the report has proven climate sceptics wrong are a "huge mistake". In an interview with the Mail on Sunday she said: "There is no scientific basis for saying that warming hasn't stopped. To say that there is, detracts from the credibility of the data, which is very unfortunate".

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The BEST project was set up to find a more accurate way of working out changes in world temperatures by using readings from around 39,000 land based weather stations, without including temperatures from the oceans. Oceans warm more slowly and the research team suggested that including sea temperatures in the data was the reason for an apparent cessation in global warming over the last decade. A graph issued by BEST of temperatures from 1800 onwards does appear to show a relentless increase in temperature from 1800 onwards, with an acceleration in the rate of warming from 1975 onwards. However, Prof. Curry commented about their results: "This is 'hide the decline' stuff. Our data show the pause, just as the other sets of data do. Muller is hiding the decline. To say this is the end of scepticism is misleading, as is the statement that warming hasn't paused. It is also misleading to say, as he has, that the issue of heat islands has been settled". The reference to "hiding the decline" refers to a comment in one of the notorious Climategate e-mails.

Links: [Daily Mail](#), [Global Warming Policy Foundation](#), [BEST](#)

ED. COM. The data from the BEST project is available on the Internet and The Global Warming Policy Foundation has used this data to graph the temperatures since the turn of the century, but you can check for yourself that the graph shows there is no overall rise in temperatures since the year 2000, although carbon dioxide levels are still rising. So if the BEST project researchers were hoping to counter claims that global warming has ceased in spite of increasing carbon dioxide levels, then they have failed. A careful look at their own graph shows the warming trend began in the early 1970s ceased around the turn of the century, and temperatures have been fairly level for the last decade. This is consistent with other data already published in the scientific literature, but generally ignored by environmentalists and politicians. See "What Happened To Global Warming?" *Science*, vol. 326, p28, 2 October 2009 and [BBC News 9 October 2009](#).

This growing disconnection between temperature and carbon dioxide not only supports the predictions we have made in our publications over the past decade it is a reminder there are other forces at work in the earth's climate, such as the sun, ocean currents and clouds, and we should be studying these. (See Evidence News items on carbon dioxide [here](#).) Unfortunately for politicians, these forces cannot be controlled by man-made laws or taxes, so if we humble ourselves to admit the God who created the climate actually can control it, we will be far better off. (Ref. Climate, weather, meteorology)

8. DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE can be sent to the following addresses or use our secure Web site: [CLICK](#).

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