



The slugs continue to devolve and the Antarctic continues to expand as Dawkins back flips on the junk he speaks about Junk DNA, while John Mackay faces tremendous barrage from the pro homosexual agenda on the Isle of Man as our new DVD 'Time's Up Darwin' soars to popularity in the UK and will be released across much of the rest of the globe in November. Meanwhile this Evidence News number 27/12 with EDitorial COMment is great mate, so pass it on to your friends, like us on [FACEBOOK](#), and support the Creation Research Team and John Mackay around the globe.

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1. DID YOU MISS: ISN'T THE CREATION / EVOLUTION DEBATE JUST SCIENCE VS RELIGION?

“We are often challenged that creationists should stay out of science and education and keep creationism for religious believers.” Diane Eager and John Mackay, who have both been involved in science education, [answer](#) this question.

2. AUSSIES DON'T MISS: 7.40am AEST Tuesdays weekly segment with The Creation Guy John Mackay, via 530 STATIONS AROUND AUSTRALIA on Vision Radio Network's "THE JOURNEY

with Matt & Karen". Go to <http://www.vision.org.au> for station & frequencies, or click LISTEN ONLINE tab.

3. SLUGGISH NEWS ON EVOLUTION from *Journal of Conchology* 2008 & 2009 and BBC 10 July 2008. A blind UK slug was nominated as one of the top ten new species by the International committee of taxonomists in 2008. The creature is a bright white, subterranean and carnivorous slug bearing close resemblance to the *Testacella* genus of slugs (also carnivorous) found in the UK. The slug is claimed to be evidence of an 'altering' species of introduced terrestrial slug, and therefore living evidence of evolution. The first specimen was collected in Powys (South Wales) from a graveyard in December 2004, according to an article in *Journal of Conchology* 40:103, October 2009. In October 2006 in Caerphilly another specimen was found. The following year another was observed by a gardener in Glamorgan, Cardiff. To date the slug has surfaced in a number of other Welsh districts including the town of Gorseinon near Cardiff, Newport and Talgarth. One specimen has even been found across the Welsh/English border in Bristol. In 2008 Ben Rowson at the National Museum in Wales and Bill Symondson an ecologist at Cardiff University named the slug *Selenochlamys ysbryda* or Ghost Slug, alluding to its ghostly white appearance, its nocturnal, predatory behaviour and the element of mystery as to its origin. The Welsh word *ysbryda* means 'ghost or spirit'. One distinguishing feature in *S. ysbryda*, unique to the genus (amongst other anatomical differences) is the lack of eyes. Instead, the creature has what appears to be minute colourless vestigial eyes. In a similar Turkish specimen *S. pallida* the eyes appear normally developed. Symondson commented: "The lack of eyes and body colour could indicate the species evolved in a cave system". However, in the *Journal of Conchology*, *Journal of Conchology* (2008), Vol.39, No.5 548, Rowson and Symondson state: "In colour and vestigial eyes, *S. ysbryda* resembles certain troglobitic (cave-dwelling) molluscs of the Caucasus but may simply be a deeply edaphobitic (soil-dwelling) animal".

Link: [BBC](#)

ED.COM. Our resident British slug aficionado Simon Terry comments: "Perhaps it's time to ask some serious questions that don't seem to have been asked. If the slug has lost both eyes and colour, is this evolution or is it merely degenerate change? Let's first check some sluggish facts. First, we did not see *S. ysbryda* lose its eyes. Furthermore, the slugs *Troglolestes sokolovi* and *Lesticulus nocturnus* have what appear to be vestigial eyes, and like *S. ysbryda* are snow-white in colour. The semi slug *Daudebardia nivea* found in the same caves in western Georgia also has no developed eyes, and has white flesh. Therefore, if the eyes and body pigment have been lost this cannot be an example of evolution. It is far simpler to say the slug is probably degenerating, i.e. losing genetic information. But if it lives underground – it can survive without eyes and colour, but from now on it's under threat from negative selection pressure whenever it comes above ground, day or night. We can also be very dogmatic that the slug never lost its eyes or went ghost white simply by living underground. Other well-known subterranean UK slugs possess very distinctive pigments – such as *Testacella scutulum* (yellowish body colour with dark spots); *T. haliotidea* (yellowish to dull creamy-white body colour with or without a scattering of pale brown spots); *T. maugei* (mid to dark brown body colour with paler sides and dark flecks above).

Degenerate mutations that cause loss of information are occurring all the time regardless of where a slug, snail, snake or Solomon Islander lives, simply due to degenerative cell processes and environmental hazards such as radiation and chemicals. Most of these degenerations you will never see since the creature never survives to pass them on. But some do survive, and from then the creature is stuck in a very restricted protective environment. The evolutionist likes to call this specialisation to fit a particular niche, when it's really loss of the organism's ability to cope with its previous much wider environmental range. Devolution is a better description of this change.

So here's our predicted cold reality for slugs: Like other life forms since the flood of Noah's day, degeneration is what we expect to find as evidence of the Biblical picture being the real history of planet earth, and it is what we actually observe and what we predict the future of slugs will be also". (Ref. prediction, molluscs, mutations, malacology)

Slugs and snails have been in a recent project aimed at teaching evolution to school students. Simon Terry has written an article, *The Snail Evolution Project*, critiquing this project and explaining how research into snails supports Biblical biology. Download PDF [here](#).

4. DAWKINS JUNK BACK FLIP occurred in a debate with UK Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks on science and religion, (on BBC Parliament, 18 Sep 2012), when recent discoveries by the ENCODE project came up. The most significant discovery made by this project was that large amounts of so-called "junk DNA" in the human genome have been found to have functions. (See our report [here](#)). Dawkins commented: "I have noticed that there are some creationists who are jumping on [the ENCODE results] because they think that's awkward for Darwinism. Quite the contrary it's exactly what a Darwinist would hope for, to find usefulness in the living world ..." However, in his 2009 book 'The Greatest Show on Earth', Dawkins wrote: "... it is a remarkable fact that the greater part (95 percent in the case of humans) of the genome might as well not be there, for all the difference it makes". In an article on the website Evolution News and Views 20 September 2012 David Klinghoffer commented: "A wonderful man like Rabbi Sacks would probably have to shed his courtliness for a moment to properly call out Dawkins on this blatant, unacknowledged and suspiciously convenient self-contradiction. Ah well, as we knew already, being a Darwinist means never having to say 'I was wrong'". A video of the debate can be seen on the [Evolution News and Views](#) website.

ED. COM. If Dawkins really believed Darwinists expected to find "usefulness in the living world" he has had plenty of opportunities to say so, especially as his book *The Greatest Show on Earth* is subtitled *The Evidence for Evolution*. In 2009, when the book was published, Dawkins presented the lack of usefulness in the genome as evidence for evolution, because no Creator would make such a wasteful system. Now in 2012 he claims the usefulness of the genome is positive evidence for mindless evolution. Now we admit, evolution may be a theory about change, but that does not excuse Dawkins blatantly reversing his story, unless he wants us to conclude that truth doesn't matter to him and evidence is a trivial inconvenience. (Ref. sceptics, genome, atheism)

5. ANTARCTIC ICE RECORD revealed by NASA Earth Observatory, 11 October 2012. The recent record decrease in sea ice in Arctic Ocean has received widespread publicity, but at the other end of the world there was also a sea ice record being set. NASA reports: "Two weeks after a new record was set in the Arctic Ocean for the least amount of sea ice coverage in the satellite record, the ice surrounding Antarctica reached its annual winter maximum—and set a record for a new high. Sea ice extended over 19.44 million square kilometers (7.51 million square miles) in 2012, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC). The previous record of 19.39 million kilometers (7.49 million square miles) was set in 2006". The article is accompanied by a map of the ice surrounding the Antarctic continent September 26, 2012, "when ice covered more of the Southern Ocean than at any other time in the satellite record". Satellite images of the Arctic and Antarctic regions have been used since 1979 to monitor the amount of sea ice and over that period there has been a downward trend in Arctic ice, but an upward trend in Antarctic ice. The increase is not evenly distributed around Antarctica with some areas gaining ice and others losing it. Sea ice scientists Claire Parkinson and Donald Cavalieri of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center commented in an article in *The Cryosphere*, 6, 871-880, 2012: "The strong pattern of decreasing

ice coverage in the Bellingshausen/Amundsen Seas region and increasing ice coverage in the Ross Sea region is suggestive of changes in atmospheric circulation”.

Links: [NASA](#), [The Cryosphere](#)

ED. COM. Yes you're right you didn't hear this report in your local press if you live on 90% of the earth's surface, even though you were hammered with publicity about the Arctic ice melting! Satellite images of the poles date only from 1979, yet the period from 1979 to the present is supposed to be a time that dangerous man-made global warming is causing catastrophic ice loss. There is no doubt the ice on top of the world has been decreasing, but there is no longer any doubt that the ice down under is growing. Therefore, as the sea ice scientists quoted above acknowledge, the uneven distribution of ice loss is most likely due to changes in “atmospheric circulation”, i.e. wind patterns, and we would also suggest variations in ocean currents. These are natural phenomena, and out of control of human beings, and we need to be humble enough to admit that, and give honour to the Creator who can control them. The lack of reporting is one more indicator that most of the politicians, media moguls etc have already become so dependent on future revenues from Climate Tax and investments, they can't let the truth about their climate lies be known. (Ref. polar ice, ice-caps, climate)

6. OLDEST ECHINODERMS FOUND, according to ScienceDaily 10 October 2012 and PLoS ONE, 2012; DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0046913. Echinoderms include starfish, sea cucumbers and sea urchins that live on the bottom of the sea. A team of European scientists have studied a well preserved collection of fossilised deep sea echinoderms found off the coast of Florida, they have dated at 114 million years old, making them the oldest fossils of these creatures they have, yet the fossils are identical to those found living today on the deep sea floor. Ben Thuy of University of Göttingen, Germany commented: “We were amazed to see that a 114 million year old deep-sea assemblage was so strikingly similar to the modern equivalents”.

Link: [Science Daily](#).

ED. COM. These scientists might be amazed but we are not. If these are the oldest starfish, sea cucumbers and sea urchins, then they are evidence that these creatures have always been starfish, sea cucumbers and sea urchins, showing no sign of having evolved from anything else. The fact they are “strikingly similar to the modern equivalents” show that as far as can be proven these creatures have behaved as the Biblical account in Genesis states God created them to do - reproduce after their kind. It's not the lack of good evidence that stops people believing creation - it's the abundance of bad attitude. (Ref. invertebrates, echinoderms, stasis)

7. FROM THE ARCHIVES: Each week we publish links to previous items related to this issue's topics: [Antarctic Ice Growth](#), [Dawkins on Debates](#), [Snails](#), [Sea Urchins](#).

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.

8. 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:

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