

Evidence News 29/11 – 30th November 2011

Fast food we all understand. Slow food we have experienced, but nothing beats the stories of long slow fossil formation for sheer denial of the facts. You will love some of the latest discoveries in this Enews and the new experiment we have done on fossil ink. So welcome to Evidence News 29/11 with EDitorial COMment. Enjoy!

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1. NEW QUESTION: “DAWKINS WANTS TO KNOW IF GOD IS SO GREAT WHY CAN’T HE JUST FORGIVE EVERYBODY?” Answer by Randall Hardy [CLICK](#).

2. FOSSIL INK – SHOULD MAKE YOU THINK. Recently we obtained a beautifully preserved fossil squid with ink still in its ink sac. So we ran a test using ammonia to extract the ink and to see if we could still write with it. The answer is a big yes and you can see the photograph online by clicking [HERE](#). Several conclusions are possible: 1) the squid was buried quickly so all body parts are intact; 2) it had to be buried before the ink sac could be fully expelled which is what usually happens when a squid is frightened and; 3) the body had to be preserved without degradation so that the ink sac, did not collapse and disintegrate. Which fourthly means that overall it was buried quickly, deeply, and in the absence of bugs, air etc and hence beautifully preserved. Of course if you want to believe that the ink has stayed intact for the past hundred plus million years (which modern evolutionist dating would suggest), then all the best to you. The presence of usable ink in the ink sac would suggest this is simply nonsense. And yes we wanted to be original so we went down to the chicken pen this morning and extracted a feather to make the pen with so it had no track record of exposure to any ink compound prior to the squid.

Thanks to those whose financial support enables us to extract fossils both with our own labour and from those who can supply them to us for our Jurassic Ark Outdoor Creation Museum. To help more, donate [HERE](#).

No we are not the first to do this. We wrote about it in Evidence News 2 years ago and for the record's sake we include that original item below.

WRITING WITH JURASSIC INK, (PREVIOUSLY REPORTED Evidence News, 2 September 2009) as reported in BBC News and Times Online 19 Aug 2009. British palaeontologists have found the perfectly preserved squid and squid ink sac in Jurassic rocks in Wiltshire, England. The squid ink was solidified, but so well preserved the scientists were able to liquefy it using an ammonia solution and use it to draw a picture of the squid and write its name: *Belemnotheutis antiquus*. The excavation was led by Phil Wilby of the British Geological Survey, who described the fossil: "It's among the world's best fossil preservation. It's a squid-like creature, but it's not like anything we have in the world today. You really don't imagine anything so soft could be so well preserved three dimensionally. It still looks as if it is modern squid ink. It's absolutely incredible to find something like this. We felt that drawing the animal with it would be the ultimate self-portrait."

The squid was found among numerous other extremely well preserved soft bodied animals. Wilby explained: "About 155 million years ago, millions of these animals were dying in this precise area. We don't know why that is. In normal circumstances, the decomposition process means only the hard parts of the animal are preserved, such as the bones, shell and teeth. The odds of this find are easily a billion to one and probably much greater. We call it the Medusa effect: specimens turn to stone within a matter of days, before the soft parts can be eaten away. I hope the discovery will help us better understand why things are fossilised in this way - what it is about the area that allows it to happen so quickly. Throughout the world there are perhaps a few dozen examples of soft parts being preserved, but this is really special. I can dissect them as if they are living animals. You can even tell whether it was a fast or slow swimmer, by looking at all the muscle fibres."

BBC: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/wiltshire/8208838.stm

Times: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/science/article6800939.ece>

ED. COM. It is good to see scientists admitting such fine preservation could only happen if a creature was rapidly fossilised before any degradation of tissue structure took place. The fact that it was found buried with large numbers of similarly preserved soft bodied creatures, indicates it was victim of a catastrophic upheaval which caught many sea creatures, mixed them with sediment and quickly dumped and buried them.

Given the known shelf life for inks, it is most unlikely that the fossil squid ink inside the sac could simply be liquefied in ammonia if it really was 155 million years old. The fresh state of this ink points to a much more recent burial than that. This fossil fits better into the Biblical catastrophic history of the world, rather than the slow gradual evolution of life mixed with long slow fossilisation stories repeated in high school textbooks. (Ref. fossilisation, invertebrates, molluscs)

3. NEW QUESTION "SEVEN DAYS THAT DIVIDE THE WORLD" by evangelical John Lennox, teaches an old earth and not so literal Genesis. What do you think? Answer by Simon Turpin [CLICK](#).

4. SNAKES? Did you miss "If the world was created good, why are creatures like snakes so well designed to hunt prey?" [CLICK](#) for answer.

5. TO ACCESS ALL PREVIOUS ENEWS ITEMS [CLICK](#).

6. AMAZINGLY INTACT ANCIENT ARTHROPOD FOUND according to reports in ScienceDaily 7 & 9 February 2011 and *Geology*, 2011; DOI: 10.1130/G31648.1. The exoskeletons or hard cuticles of arthropods are formed from chitin fibres embedded in structural proteins. Chitin is a modified carbohydrate made from long chains of a glucose derivative named N-acetylglucosamine. Proteins and carbohydrates are quickly degraded by chemical breakdown and destruction by microbes when an

animal dies, so fossil scientists do not expect to find chitin or protein in fossils. However, an international team of scientists led by George Cody of the Carnegie Institution of Washington have discovered remains of protein-chitin complexes in two fossil arthropods from the Palaeozoic era. One is a scorpion from northern Illinois dated as 310 million years old, and the other a eurypterid, an extinct arthropod similar to a scorpion, dated as 417 million years old from Ontario Canada.

The researchers used analytical instruments at the Advanced Light Source facility in the USA to examine the cuticles of the fossils. Some of the chitin had degraded chemically but the team reported “the concentration of vestigial chitin-protein complex is high, 59% and 53% in the fossil scorpion and eurypterid, respectively”. They suggest the chitin-protein complexes were preserved from being degraded by microbes by waxy coating derived from fatty acids that are also present in arthropod cuticles. One of the researchers Andrew Scott of the Department of Earth Sciences at Royal Holloway, University of London, commented: “this research will aid our understanding of the fossilisation process and this new technique allows us to reveal the chemical nature of the fossil without total destruction”.

Links: [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. Bacteria are quite capable of breaking down all known waxy coatings so it takes more than just a waxy coating to protect organic matter from being degraded by bacteria. Furthermore, proteins and carbohydrates will chemically breakdown or degrade simply by reacting with water. To form such chemically intact fossils, animals and plants have to be buried rapidly and deeply and away from oxygen. If these ‘scorpion like’ fossils really were millions of years old, chemical breakdown alone would have destroyed the chitin and proteins. A better explanation for these findings, consistent with all known data, is that the fossils were rapidly and deeply buried not so very long ago. (Ref, time fossilisation, age, invertebrates)

THANKS TO OUR FABULOUS FOSSIL COLLECTOR, Martin Legemaate in Ontario and some of his fossiliferous friends – we have specimen material from fossil sea scorpions (Eurypterid) from these sites, so a big thank you for encouraging Creation Research and our co-workers around the globe to continue with this research exposing evolution, confirming creation. See fossils from the site [HERE](#).

7. FOSSIL WHALES MISSED BITS? Did you know that in the fossil whale evolution series, Rhodocetus’ tail fluke and flippers were completely made up (no fossil evidence). Watch the discoverer of Rhodocetus admit this on video! It’s in part 2 around 16 minutes in.

Part 2 interview with Dr. Carl Werner <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cf9CTrvEeE0&nofeather=True>

8. POSSUM CATASTROPHE FOUND, according to a report in *Nature* vol. 474, p 83, 2 June 2011. Scientists in South America have found a deposit of fossils of small vertebrates including the remains of 35 individuals of an extinct possum-like creature named *Pucadelphys andinus*. The possums were well preserved and not disarticulated. The other fossils were mammals, frogs, lizards, snakes, newborn crocodiles and numerous crocodile eggs, including an intact nest, all found in an area of less than 100 square metres beside an ancient lake/river system. The researchers concluded that a “single catastrophic event buried this fauna *in situ*”.

ED. COM. Far from being unusual, sudden catastrophic burial by huge sudden flood mud or ash dumps is the necessary norm for fossil formation. Otherwise, scavengers, decay processes, separation of the bones etc, ensures that the creature leaves no real fossil. The idea that fossils were formed by slow gradual burial may be fundamental to the belief that rock layers formed slowly and gradually over millions of years, but it has never been derived from any observed process. So any rock layers that contain well preserved fossils are evidence only of rapid short time.

Since the world is covered with rock layers containing millions of well preserved fossils, these actually are evidence the earth’s surface is not the result of millions of years of slow events, but of rapid catastrophic ones. It is interesting that fossil scientists often comment that individual fossil deposits, such as the one described above are the result of small catastrophic events, but they will not admit to any global watery catastrophic event such as Noah’s flood no matter how useful it would be in explaining things. The beliefs in slow gradual processes and/or the rejection of a global flood are not derived from

the evidence, but from man's desire to ignore the warning there is a God who has judged and will judge again. (Ref. time, age, marsupials, fossilisation)

9. GREAT ALASKAN MEGAFLOODS described in articles in ScienceDaily 28 April 2010 and *Quaternary Research*, 2010; 73 (3): 413 DOI: [10.1016/j.yqres.2010.02.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yqres.2010.02.005). Researchers from the University of Washington have found evidence that four gigantic floods covered a large area of Alaska around what is now the city of Wasilla. The team studied vast dunes in this region that are higher than 110 feet (34m), with at least a half-mile (804m) between dune crests. These can be seen on topographical maps but are now covered by roads and built up areas. (SEE THEM ON GOOGLE [LINK](#)) Michael Wiedmer, one of the team commented: "Your mind doesn't get around dunes of that size. Obviously the water had to be very deep to form them".

The researchers suggest the dunes were formed when water burst from a glacial lake named Lake Atna that once covered more than 3,500 square miles (9,000sq km) in the Copper River Basin northeast of Anchorage and Wasilla. They estimate 1,400 cubic kilometres, or 336 cubic miles, of water drained from the lake in about a week. By definition a "megaflood" has a flow rate of over one million cubic metres of water per second. The University of Washington team estimate one flood down what is now the Matanuska River had a flow of about three million cubic metres per second and another down the Susitna River had a flow of 11 million cubic metres per second. The largest freshwater megaflood is believed to have originated in Glacial Lake Missoula in Montana as part of a series of cataclysmic floods that formed the Channelled Scablands of eastern Washington State in the USA. It is estimated to have had a flow rate of about 17 million cubic meters per second.

ED. COM. Megafloods are thought to have formed many significant features of the earth's surface. The English Channel and the Mediterranean Sea are now argued to have formed by megafloods that reworked the earth's surface in months, not millions of years. (See *New Scientist* 21 July 2007 & 9 December 2009).

In spite of the general belief that the earth's surface is the result of millions of years of slow gradual deposition and erosion, real world geology and geography reveal the earth has been subject to rapid catastrophic processes. The idea of the earth being formed by slow gradual processes was sold to academics and the public largely by the writings of Charles Lyell, who convinced people that the present is the only key to the past. Lyell argued that if we see slow gradual deposition and erosion now, it must have always been that way. However, as Lyell never did observe the past, this is a belief held only by faith.

We also know from his other writings that what motivated Lyell's old earth slow process mentality was his aim to "free the science (of geology) from Moses" (Letter to George Scrope, 14 June 1830). Freeing science from Moses meant and still means deliberately ignoring the Genesis record given by the Creator and Judge who was there all through earth's history. Lyell and his followers are one fulfilment of a prophecy given by the Apostle Peter (2 Peter 3:4-7) that in the last days scoffers would come and claim all things are continuing as they were from the beginning. But as Peter explained: "they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished". Peter also prophesied they would do this because they don't want to be reminded that the same Word of God will judge the world and everyone in it. Furthermore, by denying the evidence of the Creator and Judge's handiwork these scoffers are encouraging others to ignore the good news that Christ the Creator and Judge has died for them and has risen from the dead, and offers eternal life to all who come to Him and ask forgiveness for their sin. (Ref. catastrophism, deluge, uniformitarianism)

10. SPECIAL 'UK ONLY' OFFER Bone of Contention – Special price while stocks last.

This is John Mackay writing and I want to tell you how great a blessing Sylvia Baker's "Bone of Contention" has been and still is. In the early days when myself, and Ken Ham co-founded the Creation work in Australia, we distributed tens of thousands of "Bone of Contention" for use in high schools and as an introduction to unbelievers. Parents and teens everywhere flocked to take advantage of it.

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Now you have a once in a decade opportunity to get them from our UK office at a really great deal for tough times. Particularly when you have the opportunity as Christmas comes, to actually have a reason, an excuse even, to give gifts to friends, believing or unbelieving.

Editions one and two together sold more than 250,000 copies, in Australia, the USA and in the UK. Earlier this year, Creation Research UK obtained approx 2,000 copies and we sold many at discount prices during John Mackay's 2011 visit. We have around 400 hundred remaining and they are available on first come, first served basis.

Prices are: 1 to 4 copies - £1 each, 5 for - £4, 10 for - £7, 20 or more 50p each.

Full details including post and packing costs and order form see:

<http://www.amen.org.uk/cr/books/boc.html>

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

Donations in USA/UK are tax deductible. See instructions online.

CANADA TAX DEDUCTIBLE SUPPORT FOR OUR COLLEAGUES click [HERE](#).

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