

CREATION - THE EVIDENCE FROM POLYSTRATE FOSSILS



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Number 3 in the Evidence series, from Creation Research



The mountains north of Anchorage Alaska glow eerily under the famous northern lights. Nights are cold in Alaska, but “black diamonds” from beneath the mountains can warm even the coldest night. Coal (alias black diamond) has been mined here for the past century.

Rapidly falling night snow quickly turns trees into bizarre pillars as the Aurora flashes mysteriously across the sky. But under these present trees are petrified ones. Fossil trees reveal a once warmer Alaska and throw interesting light on Creation, Noah's Flood, and catastrophic rapid formation of sediments. They also show evidence against millions of years of evolution.

Turn the page to commence your trip across the globe - under the earth - in company with John Mackay and the Creation Research team.





1

1. Observe - Vertical fossil trees with wood replaced by white silica. Bark on the outside has turned to black coal. Many tree fossils seem to stand on coal seams.



2

2. Even horizontal logs have been petrified, yet the bark is coal, whether the tree lies in coal or in sandstone.



3

3. Accurate observation requires hard work excavating and cleaning to prove the vertical objects are trees.



4

4. Evenly spaced tree rings now show clearly. A car key for scale gives an idea of thickness for this vertical fossil.



5

"But how did these trees get here?"

"I'm glad you asked."

- 6 Vertical fossil trees are called "**polystrate**". Poly means many, strate means strata or layers. These petrified trees stand upright through many layers. To learn how they got there, questions must be asked (and answered) including:
- A. Did they grow where they are found?
 - B. Are the coal seams from swamps on which the trees grew?
 - C. Were tree trunks partly buried by sediment flooding the swamp?
 - D. Did any unburied tree trunk rot off as a new swamp formed?
 - E. Did this cycle repeat over and over through millions of years? **Or.....**
 - F. Did the trees grow somewhere else?
 - G. Were they ripped up, carried along and rapidly buried in vertical position by a catastrophic deluge?

Get Creation Research to organise a Field Trip in your area. You organise the crowd - we'll organise the fossils. For more details see www.creationresearch.net click "Field Trips"



7

7. We found this giant. A 2.1m (7 ft) cross section exposed would imply it's up to 10m (30 ft) around.

A little more hard work reveals a real monster!



8

8. Excavating a vertical section of this enormous stump showed the fossil extended downwards through thousands of thin layers of coal, sand and mud with at least one root projecting out the right side.



9

9. Does the root imply this tree grew here? A quick check of strata around the root, reveals layers have not been disturbed by the root. The layers go right up against the root with layers intact. Present day tree roots growing into strata will buckle layers as they penetrate and expand.



10

10. Strata surrounding the root are full of leaf fossils: sequoia, alder, elm, oak, magnolia. The most likely identity of the huge tree at this point is Giant Sequoia - but no giant sequoias grow in Alaska today! They grow in the warmer foothills of California and Oregon, but not in swamps!

11. WHAT do you make of the observations so far? The easiest conclusions are:

A. The fossil trees are bigger on average than present day trees in Alaska. Alaskan trees today grow only during 12 weeks of Summer. The rest of the year they are snow covered. The implication: whatever environment these fossil trees came from, was better than present day Alaska.

B. The trees were buried in layers of sand, mud and silt, which turned to sandstone, mudstone and siltstone. The area had definitely been formed by water with a huge

source of sediment. The presence of bark which had turned to coal (even around horizontal trees not in coal seams) would imply that what is needed to form coal is the right starting material, not the presence of a swamp. Bark is obviously a good coal starting material, while the wood inside the trees was turned to stone - not coal.

NOW - how do you determine if these trees grew here or were washed in? Your answer will determine whether you conclude these strata formed quickly or represent millions of years.

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12. Totally excavating the giant proved beyond our resources, but excavating a metre (3 ft) thick tree did not. This tree sat in a coal seam with its base below the seam.



13. Completely excavated from side to side, it not only showed no roots, it had been fractured. It was the petrified remains of a broken trunk.



14. Compare the two fossil trees with living trees above: note the size difference. Observe the right hand fossil starts at the bottom coal layer and terminates at the next coal layer. The tree on the left starts on the same coal seam, proceeds through the next seam and terminates at a third coal layer. Good observers may notice the unconformity (top arrow) - defined as a spot where strata



are missing from the orthodox geologic column. In this case the top strata are regarded as glacial, up to 2 million years old. Lower strata are regarded as up to 65 million years old. How much time is missing?

15. Not all fossil trees are vertical - the monster above was inclined at about 15° to surrounding strata and more interestingly - it was apparently upside down!

16. There can be no doubt that fossil trees up to 1 metre (3 ft) thick, without roots, did not grow where they are buried. They grew somewhere else. They have been catastrophically ripped up, transported and deposited in vertical position, then rapidly buried by mud and sand.

The two trees side by side of different lengths, also indicate that the theory of repeated swamp formation, tree growth, river flooding, burial of trees, etc, doesn't work. Since the left hand tree goes through the second coal seam and up to a third, it was obviously buried by the mud, sand and vegetation between the top two seams in less time than a tree takes to rot. Rapid burial is not something swamps are famous for. The presence of the

apparently upside down inclined tree only adds to the catastrophic dump analysis. Trees don't grow upside down. They don't fall into swamps at an angle unless there is a stump they fell off. Rapid catastrophic flood deposition seems to work best.

If we use orthodox geological glasses, we see the unconformity meaning some 60 million years of sedimentary record are missing. It's easy to prove layers are missing. But if up to 60 million years are missing, then the geological column here contains no Evolutionary Family tree worth talking about.



17

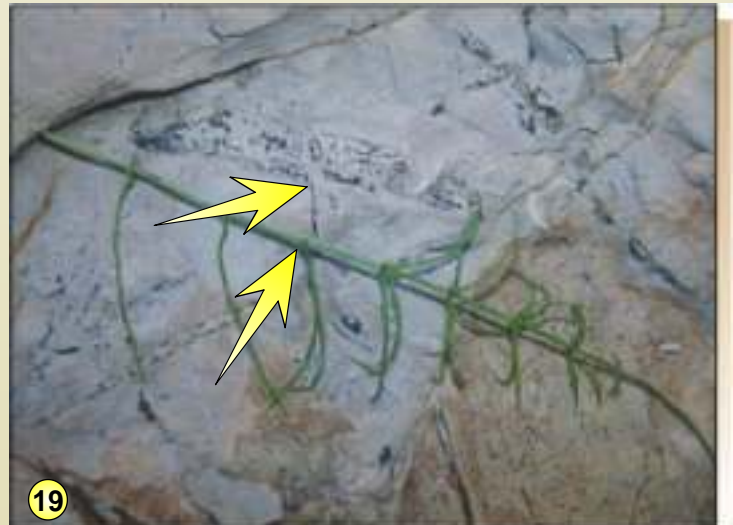
17. The snow fell at the beginning of our research. Trees already displayed golden warnings of coming cold. Leaves would soon fall to the ground and be covered by the long winter's snow, but none will become fossils.



18

18. Strata around the fossil trees produced some excellent leaf fossils - mostly from plants not growing in Alaska today. The small fern-like leaves above are sequoia, from an environment which was warmer in the past.

Some plants fossilised in the rocks still grow in the area, and provide interesting insight into the history of life.



19

19. The thin green stem picked from beside one coal seam, was a present day horse tail rush. Placed alongside one fossil above, it showed exactly the same stem and leaf structure. The fossil is undeniably a horse tail rush, but what a difference in size. Not only did the fossil trees make present Alaskan trees appear dwarfs, so did the stem fossils of other plants. Evidence of change - but not evidence for evolution.

AROUND THE WORLD

When John Mackay first began collecting and presenting this evidence to geological gatherings, he was often confronted with statements both verbally and in print, that polystrate trees are exceptions. They are rare. They are irrelevant. A quick check of photos below from his 30 years around the globe will help you evaluate such claims.



20. Bob Powell, USA, excavates the trunk of a huge fossil tassel fern on the border of Tennessee and Kentucky.



21. Such fossils show stem markings similar to modern diminutive tassel ferns, but the fossils were giants. Such change is the opposite of evolution.



22. Many excursions were made to Joggins Nova Scotia Canada, where founding father of uniformitarian geology - Charles Lyell - also observed polystrate trees.



23. Excavating below these trees, you notice that the roots are often also polystrate (Canadian 25c coin for scale). They do not disturb strata they pass through. Modern plant roots distort any strata they penetrate.



24. Across to England where John Young stands at a coal face near Manchester, where a very famous fossil tree still stands. Because of the varying fossil layers around it, orthodox geology interprets this tree as



standing while many environments (marine, terrestrial etc) buried it over vast periods of time - an obvious impossibility. **25.** This problem exists for every polystrate, including the fossil tree above.



26. Mark Harries and team give indication of the size of fossil pine trees passing through many sandstone and siltstone layers in coal seams near Newcastle, Australia.



27. Back to Queensland Australia, where Dr Allen Hall points to a polystrate tree in sandstone near the little known Town of 1770 (Captain Cook fame). **28.** For those who want to claim that polystrate



fossil trees grew where they are found, this little beauty (discovered by John Mackay Redhead NSW) should help the argument. It is snapped in two and buried with the break still preserved.

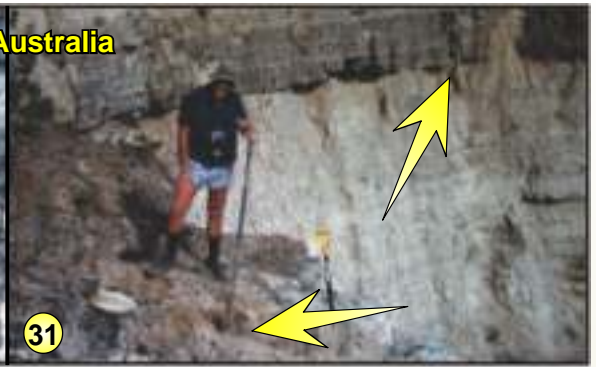
Newcastle Australia



29



30



31

29. Jeff Smith, long time industrial chemist and Creation Research rep, stands beside a fossil pine tree we excavated from the famous Pilot seams south of Newcastle Australia. **30.** Closer view reveals the tree proceeds through many thin and thick layers of black coal.

31. We worked hard to prove the fossil tree went from the Lower Pilot seam through the Upper Pilot coal seam. It did! Arrow at right indicates another tree (partially exposed) below the Upper Pilot coal seam.

Central Queensland Australia



32



33



34

32. We excavated the second tree to discover if it also penetrated the coal seam. It did!

But Polystrate trees aren't only associated with coal.

33. Here's one we discovered in a Diatomite mine - and not only the

trees are polystrate. **34.** Even the fossil leaves are vertical, buried in thousands of layers of microscopic skeletons of water creatures (diatoms). Since trees live on land and diatoms in lakes or oceans, only a flood could have mixed them.

Orthodox geology views each layer as deposited one after the other - diatoms in the bottom layer lived long before diatoms at the top. Since the bottom of the polystrate leaf is the same age as the top of the leaf these layers cannot represent accumulating time.

"So how did the vertical fossil trees and leaves get there?"

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU IN THIS AREA



THE GEOLOGY BOOK
By Dr. John D. Morris

An introductory book on the science of Geology; how rocks form; how fossils are made; how to measure the age of rocks. The geologic evidence is used as proof of creation and Noah's flood. Full colour illustrations and photographs. (suit 12yr +)



The EVIDENCE for NOAH'S FLOOD - An evening at Oxford

This fully illustrated 2 hour presentation was given to the Association of Geology and Earth Sciences at Oxford, UK by International Director of Creation Research John Mackay. This video deals with the amazing evidence for Noah's flood. Very useful for upper high school, college and university groups.



YOUR ANSWER TO BIBLE SCEPTICS

Powerful 1 hr video shows how to answer sceptics criticisms that Bible maths is wrong; Noah's Ark impossible to build; Missing links claimed found; and many more. Great for doubting friends. See the Sceptic Professor's theories demolished by Australian John Mackay

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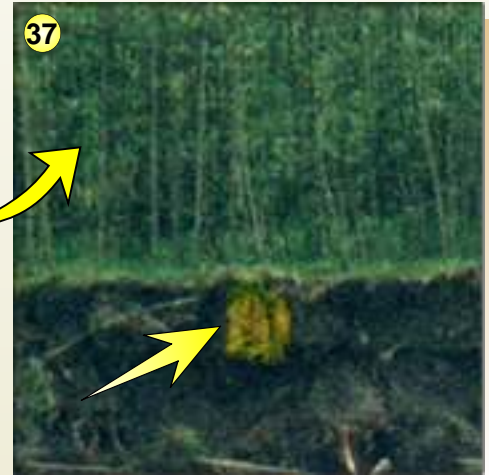
"So how did the vertical fossil trees and leaves get there?"

35. John Mackay published our first papers on Mt St Helens and vertical fossil tree formation in 1983 July EX NIHILO page 6 and 1984 Sydney Basin Coal Conference Proceedings page 95. They set a trend. The trees (at right) didn't grow where you see them. They were dumped in Spirit Lake after the Mt St Helens volcanic eruption. As their base became waterlogged, they tipped, floated vertically and finally sank to the bottom - upright!



36. More interesting - when many rapidly formed ash beds from the May 1980 eruption were later eroded by flash floods, vertical tree trunks were exposed.

37. A telephoto look at the distant bank reveals an exposed huge trunk buried in multiple ash layers, with new trees growing on top. But the buried trunk, didn't grow there. It grew far away. It was catastrophically ripped up, transported, dumped and buried.



38. The clincher comes when nearby solidified ash layers from a previous Mt St Helens eruption are dug away revealing vertical fossil trees now turned to stone with layers of bark preserved in black horizontal bands - sound familiar? One difference - Mt. St Helen's deposits are minuscule compared to all known coal/tree beds.

CONCLUSION: Fossil trees, leaves, etc. buried vertically in multiple layers, are provably not rare. None of these fossils provide any help to evolution, as in every case the so-called first known representatives of magnolia, tassel fern, etc., appear suddenly in the fossil record, and show little evidence of change except in size, usually from larger to smaller. The immense size of many beds containing well preserved polystrate fossils, also points to rapid catastrophic deposition on a huge scale which does not support millions of years of sedimentary processes. There are many theories and opinions that contradict Biblical Creation and Noah's Flood - but the facts do not!

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PHOTOGRAPHY & RESEARCH



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Bob Stewart

Bob Powell

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