Disclosure

of things evolutionists don't want you to know

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Forensic Evolution

Some people consider the theory of evolution to be a form of forensic science—but it isn't.

Evolutionists like to frame their argument in terms of science versus religion. They claim evolution is scientific, and creation is merely religious myth. They say evolution must be true because science is reliable, and religion is not.

Two Fallacies

There are two problems with this argument. First, it presumes only two choices—Biblical creation or evolutionary theory. If one is false, the other must be true. What if one presumes two different choices—Biblical creation or the Native American creation story? Proving the Native American creation story false does not prove Biblical creation is true. The fundamental logical error with the evolutionists' argument is that there are more than two contradictory explanations for how life on Earth came to be, so disproving one does not prove the other. One needs to evaluate the theory of evolution on its own merits—not the lack of merits of any other explanation.

The second problem with the evolutionists' argument is that the theory of evolution is scientific, and science is reliable. The fallacy here is that although science is reliable, the theory of evolution is not scientific, and therefore does not inherit the credibility of science.

Distorted Science

Evolutionists try very hard to distort the concept of science to make the theory of evolution appear to be scientific. Therefore, it is important to understand what is science, and what is merely opinion disguised in scientific clothing.

Historically, science has referred to knowledge obtained through the scientific method. One makes a hypothesis, devises experiments to test the hypothesis, and confirms or refutes the hypothesis based on the experimental results. This is a reliable way to determine truth because it eliminates human bias. It doesn't matter who does the experiment, it always turns out the same.

Microevolution is scientific. The process of breeding different varieties of dogs, horses, corn, roses, *et cetera*, certainly has been observed. There is no argument that eliminating particular genes from the gene pool by selective breeding results in different breeds of a particular species. Furthermore, these breeding experiments have shown time and time again that there is a limit to how much change in a species can be produced through selective breeding.

Genetic engineering is scientific. When a gene jockey physically removes genetic material from one species and skillfully inserts it into the DNA of a different species, it can change the characteristics of the target species. New characteristics arise through the will of the scientist who has a particular design in mind. Genetic engineering experiments have shown that a clever designer can create living things with remarkably novel features.

Microevolution and genetic engineering certainly are scientific—but that's not what the argument is about. The argument is whether or not macroevolution (the spontaneous origination of new genetic material resulting in a new kind of living thing) is scientific. Macroevolution is not the cumulative effects of microevolution over long periods of time because microevolution works through loss of genetic information; but macroevolution depends on spontaneous increase of genetic information. One can't gain information by losing more and more of it.

Macroevolution, if it happened at all, happened in the unobservable past. Nobody has ever done an experiment in which a dinosaur turned into a bird. There is absolutely no experimental

evidence for macroevolution. Science deals with phenomena that can be observed to happen in the present—not things presumed to have happened in the past.

CSI Darwin

Evolutionists argue, however, that law enforcement now makes good use of forensic science. Ever since the days of Sherlock Holmes, crime scene investigators have been using forensic science to determine what happened in the past. Evolution, they say, is really just forensic science applied to a grander time scale.

There is a significant difference between the theory of evolution and forensic science. Forensic science really is science because it is based on scientific observation. It is true that forensic scientists don't perform experiments in which they shoot someone in the back of the head to see what kind of wound it produces; but they do observe the results of unintended experiments. That is, they examine the bodies of people who are known to have been shot in the back of the head because witnesses saw the crime, or the criminal confessed to what he had done. Through observation of known actions they can recognize the difference between bullet wounds, knife wounds, and blunt force trauma. And, they can in some cases do experiments. They can drive cars with a known brand of tire across mud, sand, or grass, to see what kind of tire tracks they leave.

The point that we want to make very clear is that forensic science is based on observation. They know the cause and observe the effect. This makes it possible for them to reason from effect back to the cause with a high degree of certainty.

A forensic scientist would never be so foolish as to say, "I've never seen a wound like this before. Therefore, it must have come from a Martian Death Ray, which proves there must be life on Mars." The conclusions of forensic scientists are always based on observations of effects with known causes.

Evolutionists routinely find fragmentary fossils (a piece of skull, or a single tooth) unlike any fossils that have ever been seen before. Based on this single type-specimen, they define a new species, and confidently say what creature it descended from, and what creature it evolved into. That's not forensic science. It's not science at all. It is speculation based on the assumption of evolution.

The fallacy in their argument is that they believe they can reason from an effect they have never seen before back to a presumed cause that has never been observed.

Email

Foolish Relationships Response

Cladistics is a rhetorical tool, not scientific proof.

Cladistics is a method for inferring evolutionary relationships based on shared characteristics. In our last April Fool parody newsletter, we showed the unreliability of this method by creating a silly evolutionary tree of gray animals. [1] We intentionally made foolish choices about which characteristics to use, which naturally produced a foolish tree. Karl wrote to tell us it sparked a discussion on a forum.

> This was a comment given on a forum in a discussion about cladistics where your article "Foolish Relationships" was brought up. I would guess you don't get many comments from evolutionary biologists, so I thought I would pass this on to you.
> Thanks,
> Karl

He's right. We didn't get any comments directly from any evolutionary biologists. Here is the substance of the comment he passed on to us. We have deleted all the irrelevant stuff about what an idiot I am and how silly our silly example was, and present the single paragraph containing the technical criticism of our article.

> Whatever is at the bottom of the tree must be common to ALL of the descendant groups. (As we see in the whiting [sic] example) Any that are missing that characteristic must have subsequently lost it (frequently they will contain vestigial versions of the trait or show it during the embryonic phase). Additionally, in cladistics we look for maximum parsimony, that is if a new trait evolves, it is more parsimonious to assume it evolved few times rather than many, the same goes for loss of a characteristic. Nor are phylogenetic trees made based on single *arbitrary* characteristics.

This sounds very good in theory, but it doesn't work quite that way in practice.

He makes it sound like you can find one characteristic common to everything. In practice, the one common characteristic is so vague it is useless. (For example, "They all contain carbon atoms.") In practice, there will be several important characteristics that are common to almost all groups. You will have to choose one of them as the base. That choice will be a major factor determining the shape of the tree. Then you have to decide the next most important characteristic shared to divide everything into two groups. Each choice you make determines

[1] http://www.scienceagainstevolution.org/v14i7f.htm

subsequent choices that shape the tree.

The Grocery Tree

Try it for yourself. Try to make a phylogenetic tree of all the items in a grocery store. At the base of the tree, we know that everything sold in a grocery store is food. (Oops! They sell toilet paper and laundry detergent, so we need to pick something else.) Perhaps the real base of the tree is that all the items for sale in a grocery store have a price associated with them. That's true, but not very helpful. Still, it is a start. Where do you go from here? You choose.

Sooner or later, you will get down to the breakfast cereal family. What is the characteristic some cereals have that others don't? A lot of added sugar seems like a logical choice; but is that any more logical than the completeness of required vitamins? What about the presence or absence of corn?

In theory, it sounds so straightforward, but when you actually try to do it, you discover that lots of subjective choices have to be made. Our example is admittedly silly, but it does illustrate our point. One has to make subjective decisions. The choices aren't as clear-cut as evolutionists would like you to believe. That's why Rokas came up with the 12 different, "robustly supported alternative" evolutionary relationships we quoted in our April Fool article. [2]

The Evolutionary Assumption

One of the reasons why cladistics doesn't work is that it is based on the assumption of evolution. The unknown biologist who wrote to the foruml said, "Any [subgroups] that are missing that characteristic must have subsequently lost it." If evolution were true, then the method would work perfectly every time. It doesn't work because evolution isn't true.

One could argue that our grocery store example doesn't work because the foods found in the grocery store didn't evolve from each other. That's exactly our point. If they make the erroneous assumption that grocery store items evolved from each other, different people will assume different evolutionary relationships based on what characteristics they use. The result will be different evolutionary trees.

Tools can be misused. A heavy pipe wrench can be used to drive nails. It just doesn't work very well. Cladistics is just another tool that can be misused. Things can be organized in a logical way by cladistics, regardless of whether they evolved or not; but there are multiple ways things can be classified, some of which are more logical than others. Not everyone will agree on the most logical way because it is a matter of opinion.

If the theory of evolution really were true, then there would be one unquestionable way to build the tree of life. There isn't just one way because living things didn't evolve from other living things any more than the items in a grocery store evolved from other items. The lack of a clear evolutionary tree of grocery store items is because evolution didn't produce them. The lack of a clear evolutionary tree of life is because evolution didn't produce them.

Difficulty Assessment

The assumption of degrees of difficulty of evolution is clear in the statement, "Additionally, in cladistics we look for maximum parsimony, that is if a new trait evolves, it is more parsimonious to assume it evolved few times rather than many, the same goes for loss of a characteristic." There is an underlying assumption of how difficult it is for a particular characteristic to evolve.

Some characteristics, like a different color, size, or shape, are presumably easier to evolve than eyesight, flight, mammary glands, or radically different reproductive system. Therefore, they assume that the difficult things evolved less frequently than the easy things did; but that all boils down to a subjective judgment about what can evolve easily.

The reason why whales and dolphins are classified with land mammals is because it is assumed that mammary glands only evolved once. Presumably it was more difficult for a fish to evolve breasts than it would be for a wolf to evolve the ability to live in the water.

Bats and dolphins both presumably evolved echolocation. If one assumes that it would be really hard to evolve the signal processing necessary to determine range and bearing from the phase difference in sound waves, and relatively easy to evolve flight, it would imply bats evolved from dolphins. It all depends on assumptions.

Flight is assumed to have evolved independently in mammals, birds and insects (and extinct reptilian creatures). If one assumes flight only evolved once, it changes the shape of the tree of life.

Clearly the decisions one makes about maximum parsimony determine the shape of the tree of life. If there are different possible trees of life, then at least all but one are wrong. But it doesn't matter to evolutionists if the tree is right or not. "Everybody" agrees there must be a tree,

[2] http://www.scienceagainstevolution.org/v14i7f.htm#twelve

which is all that matters to them.

One has to "look for maximum parsimony" because parsimony is in the eye of the beholder. Rokas found twelve different possible maxima when analyzing yeast genes. Someone else, looking at yeast from a physical (rather than genetic) point of view, might have come up with even more possible evolutionary relationships.

Cladistics in Peer-reviewed Scientific Literature

If you read blogs, or high school biology texts, you will get the idea that cladistics is simple, straight-forward, and gives consistent results. But if you read the professional literature you will discover that isn't true.

As an experiment, we decided to search the journal *Science* for the word "cladistics" to find the three most recent articles using that term. We wanted to see how many different trees those authors would present in the three most recent peer-reviewed articles dealing with the subject.

Article One

The most recent article was "Bioluminescence in the Ocean: Origins of Biological, Chemical, and Ecological Diversity" by E. A. Widder, 7 May, 2010. It turned out that the word "cladistics" didn't actually appear in the article itself. It was in footnote references 33 and 34, which referred to articles in the journal *Cladistics*. The gist of the main article and the two referenced articles was that there are a surprising number of sea creatures that glow in the dark, and there isn't an obvious evolutionary connection because they are so distantly related (by other traditional criteria). They, of course, didn't even mention fireflies or glow worms because they aren't sea creatures. Imagine how the evolutionary tree would differ if biologists assumed that bioluminescence evolved only once. They didn't even try to draw a cladogram.

Article Two

The second article in our search was an article about the evolutionary relationship between birds and dinosaurs. Again, it popped up because it referenced another article in the journal *Cladistics*. The abstract of this article said,

> The fossil record of Jurassic theropod dinosaurs closely related to birds remains poor. A new theropod from the earliest Late Jurassic of western China represents the earliest diverging member of the enigmatic theropod group Alvarezsauroidea and confirms that this group is a basal member of Maniraptora, the clade containing birds and their closest theropod relatives. It extends the fossil record of Alvarezsauroidea by 63 million years and provides evidence for maniraptorans earlier in the fossil record than *Archaeopteryx*. The new taxon confirms extreme morphological convergence between birds and derived alvarezsauroids and illuminates incipient stages of the highly modified alvarezsaurid forelimb. [3]

The popular evolutionary propaganda would have you believe that the evolutionary link between birds and dinosaurs is undeniable. But the real technical literature says the fossil evidence, as recently as January 2010, "remains poor." And, as usual, the most recent fossil find changes what was previously believed about the evolutionary tree.

Article Three

We really hit pay dirt with the third most recent article. It was an article by a biologist trying to refute the criticism of another biologist regarding his cladistic analysis. It is a short letter, so we will show it to you in its entirety.

> Whiten *et al.* imply that we undervalued extant species. We find this perplexing. We never stated that studies of extant chimpanzees are unimportant. Our conclusions were based on intensive review of homologous anatomical traits in other primates. Indeed, to understand hominid origins, we must now instead rely on "fundamental evolutionary theory," which Whiten *et al.* refer to as "strategic modeling." Increasingly relevant is a vast and still growing knowledge of ecological, locomotor, social, and reproductive interrelationships of not just chimpanzees, but other primates and a wide variety of other vertebrates. In fact, using "data on extant species...to derive general principles" was exactly our approach—the majority of the 108 citations in the final *Ardipithecus* paper referenced such studies. We expressly advocated more intensive reliance on additional living species (beyond *Pan*) because these promise a more comprehensive understanding of social structure in advanced K primates (e.g., *Brachyteles* and other atelines), creation and use of tools (e.g., *Cebus*), and even neuroendocrinology (voles and several primates).
>
> A broad comparative base is equally imperative for accurate phylogenetic analyses, particularly those involving cladistics. The potential of the latter methods to accurately "recover" ancestral phenotypes by parsimony

[3] Choiniere, *et al.*, *Science*, 29 January 2010, "A Basal Alvarezsauroid Theropod from the Early Late Jurassic of Xinjiang, China"

> relies on the presence and density of taxa (both extinct and extant) surrounding the nodes of interest. This has been empirically shown with morphological data sets (*1*) and certainly also applies to behaviors. For example, cladistic analysis of extant species may retrieve the locomotor behavioral trait of knuckle-walking, as the nodal phenotype for the *Pan/Homo* common ancestor, but the *Ardipithecus* forelimb shows that this inference is simplistic and almost certainly incorrect. Indeed, *Ardipithecus* and other Miocene hominoids establish that extant chimpanzees are poor models for our last common ancestor with chimpanzees. Contrary to Whiten *et al.*'s assertions, this conclusion was informed, and should be further extended, by general principles established from all relevant species. All great ape species merit study and conservation, but despite their genomic proximity, none of them should be interpreted as anatomically or behaviorally "living fossils" or "time machines." [4]

You may not understand the argument in detail, but hopefully this much will be clear to you: There is a difference of opinion regarding what is important when trying to create a human evolutionary tree. They are arguing about the importance of behavior of living creatures compared to the shapes of bones of extinct creatures when trying to determine evolutionary relationships. What one scientist considers important, another scientist considers "simplistic and almost certainly incorrect."

The Common Thread

Our experiment with the three articles didn't turn out exactly as we expected. We expected to find alternative cladistics diagrams. None of the three articles contained any because we searched badly. We should have just looked at last month's issue of *Science*, and noted the two different trees in "**Fig. 3.** Phylogenetic trees for representative haemosporidian cytochrome b sequences. (**A**) Tree produced by maximum likelihood optimization under a GTR + Γ model of nucleotide evolution. (**B**) Tree produced under a GTR + Γ model of nucleotide evolution using a strict clock." [5]

It should be clear from all four articles that cladistic analysis is extremely subjective, and highly dependent upon prejudice. A scientist has a presumed model of evolution, and looks for a way to prove his presumption.

[4] Lovejoy, *et al.*, *Science*, 22 January 2010, "Studying Extant Species to Model Our Past—Response", pp. 410 - 411

[5] *Science*, 9 July 2010, "A Molecular Clock for Malaria Parasites", page 227

Philosophical Rhetoric

Cladistics isn't science—it's a rhetorical tool. Cladistics simply gives people a tool to argue why they think their opinion is more valid than someone else's opinion. It exposes assumptions and logical conclusions based on those assumptions.

Cladistics are important because they help people explain why they believe what they believe. But it is still just a belief, an opinion. It's philosophy, not science. The fact that the people making the philosophical argument happen to be scientists doesn't make their argument scientific.

Philosophy is OK

There's nothing wrong with philosophy. It is important to ponder the mysteries of life. Over the centuries many philosophers, all very smart people, have come to contradictory conclusions. There certainly is value in learning what various philosophers have thought, and how those ideas can shape values and behavior.

The problem is that the theory of evolution is philosophy disguised as science, and the American legal system is being used to censor all criticism of that philosophy through a bogus argument of science versus religion.

Children are being taught that it is scientific to believe that chemicals can somehow come together through some unknown natural process to create the first living thing. That's not scientific.

Children are being taught that random changes to DNA produce new information, which produces complex biological systems (digestion, cardio-vascular, optics, nerves). That's not scientific.

Perhaps the most dangerous thing children are being taught is to believe that things contrary to known physical laws are true, just because "scientists say" they are true. Children are being told that scientists don't know all the answers yet, but someday they will, so just trust that the proof will be forthcoming.

All these things dishonor our children and discredit real science.

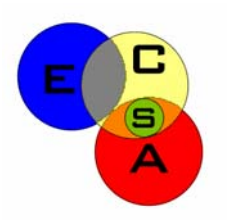
by Lothar Janetzko

Viewpoints on Evolution, Creation, and Origins

http://www.antievolution.org/people/wre/essays/ea.html

A Simple Classification Scheme

This month's web site review looks at a site where the author, Wesley R. Elsberry, presents a fairly simple classification scheme that he uses to classify the diversity of opinion regarding the issue of origins and evolution. He begins his article by presenting a Venn diagram to help illustrate things:



E stands for those who accept evolutionary change in the sense of common descent of life on earth.

C stands for those who believe in a creator.

A stands for those who reject evolutionary change or evolutionary mechanisms.

S stands for "scripturalists", who base their beliefs upon their interpretation of some text they hold sacred.

From the diagram you can see that there are six different categories and the article author assigns names to each category. By this classification system the author shows why there are so many different opinions regarding creation and evolution. He also provides a list of people he believes fall into each category or sub-category.

At the bottom of the web page you will find links to: Topics, Projects, Services, Features, People, Books, and Links that you can explore to learn more about this particular web site and why it was created.

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