Disclosure

of things evolutionists don't want you to know

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Academic Prejudice

Why is it nonsense when WE say it, but reasonable when THEY say it?

Recently a professor published a one-paragraph letter in the respected, peer-reviewed journal *Science* that was so similar to one of our essays that one might suspect plagiarism. It certainly wasn't plagiarism. Great minds simply think alike, and make similar observations about the world around them. When we wrote to the professor to tell him we had said basically the same thing in June of 1999, his only response was,

> I've rarely read such nonsense and lack of understanding of the evolutionary process.

Why is it "nonsense" and "lack of understanding" when we say it, but worthy of publication in *Science* when he says it? In a word—"prejudice."

Head in the Sand

Academic prejudice hinders the advancement of science because prejudice causes scientific journals to ignore and/or reject discoveries.

For example, When Guy Berthault tried to publish his work showing how many laminations of sedimentary rock can form quickly (rather than a year at a time), the scholarly journals refused to publish it. So, he had to publish his results in creationist magazines. Ten years later, *Nature* published a virtually identical paper, without giving credit to Berthault. [1] Mary Schweitzer had to publish her discovery of soft tissues in dinosaur bones outside of the mainstream scientific literature until Jack Horner finally endorsed it. [2]

Speed Breeding

In our case, the research concerns the breeding of race horses. Here's how it all went down.

In the June 13, 2014, issue of *Science* (shortly after California Chrome won the Kentucky Derby), Ann Gibbons wrote an article in which she expressed concern about how inbred race horses have become. [3] There wasn't anything very remarkable about her article, but it sparked a response from Dr. R. Michael Roberts (who works in the Division of Animal Sciences and Bond Life Sciences Center at the University of Missouri) in which he concluded,

> … it is clear that breeding for speed under the present arcane strategies used by the thoroughbred industry is simply not working, even as the gene pool narrows. [4]

Although we did not call breeding an "arcane strategy," we came to the same conclusion in our June, 1999, article, "The Kentucky Derby Limit." [5] What's the difference?

He said,

> However, the inference that today's select thoroughbreds (despite having "larger muscles balanced on slimmer legs and smaller hooves") run faster than their predecessors is simply wrong. A perusal of Kentucky Derby winning

[1] *Disclosure*, October 2000, "Grand Canyon Breakthrough", http://scienceagainstevolution.info/v5i1n.htm

[2] *Disclosure*, September, 2008, "Sliming Soft Tissue", http://www.scienceagainstevolution.info/v12i12f.htm

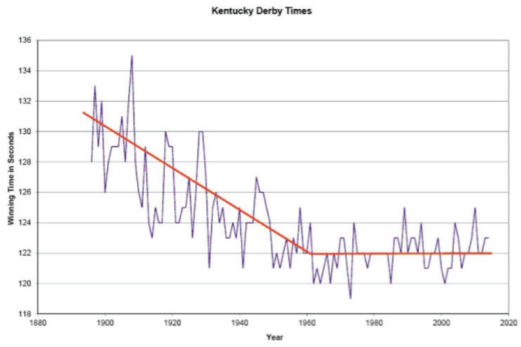
[3] Ann Gibbons, *Science*, 13 June 2014, "Racing for disaster?", pp. 1213-1214, http://www.sciencemag.org/content/344/6189/1213.full

[4] R. Michael Roberts, *Science*, 8 August 2014, "Breeding for speed", p. 632, http://www.sciencemag.org/content/345/6197/632.1.full?sid=7a58d295-6ff5-4b65-b910-73001e03331a

[5] *Disclosure*, June 1999, "The Kentucky Derby Limit", http://scienceagainstevolution.info/v3i9f.htm

times between 1950 and 2012 indicates no significant increase in speed over those 62 years. [6]

Our plot of winning times from 1896 up to 2014 shows the same thing.



We agree with his comment about track conditions.

> Some of the variability, especially the slower times, is undoubtedly related to the condition of the track, but even the record time, established by Secretariat in 1973, is within 3 seconds of the mean. [7]

It is also coincidental that he compared the breeding of horses to the breeding of cows, just as we did.

> Over a comparable period, milk production among U.S. dairy cows—also the targets of breeding—has increased more than threefold. I do not claim that thoroughbreds put in the hands of dairy farmers would be running sub–1-minute miles in 2014, but it is clear that breeding for speed under the present arcane strategies used by the thoroughbred industry is simply not working, even as the gene pool narrows. [8]

If there is any difference at all between the "nonsense" we wrote, and what he wrote, it might be here. He seems to be saying dairy farmers do a better job of selective breeding than horse breeders do (but he doesn't say how).

New Blood

We must admit that we aren't exactly sure what the point of his one-paragraph letter to *Science* is. Perhaps he wrote more, but the editors condensed his letter causing his point to be lost. Perhaps he thought the point was so obvious he didn't need to express it explicitly. With that disclaimer, here's what we think his point is:

Thoroughbred racehorses have become so inbred that they are almost identical genetically. Since they are genetically identical, they will be physically identical. The only way to get horses to run faster is to get some "new blood" into the gene pool.

Of course, he is right about that (if that really is his point). That certainly is our point. Evolution requires the addition of new genetic material. As long as the gene pool stays the same, the creatures coming out of that pool will stay the same. The only way for horses to improve is for new genetic information to be added to their genes.

With today's technology, it might be possible for a gene jockey to replace sections of horse DNA with genes taken from a cheetah or greyhound, which might make them run faster. Some people might consider that unethical (for sporting, rather than religious, reasons). ☺

A more traditional approach would be to let California Chrome have his way with a Clydesdale mare to produce a faster colt. But Kentucky Derby breeders don't invest in mixed-breed racehorses for one of two reasons. Either (1) they know from experience that it is a stupid idea that won't work, or (2) they are too narrow-minded to try. We suspect it is the former; but Roberts might think it is the latter.

The Modern Synthesis (currently the most widely believed version of the theory of evolution) says that new information comes from random mutations. If that were true, then new mutations would continue to arise spontaneously, making thoroughbred racehorses faster and faster every year. But the Modern Synthesis isn't true, which is why horses have reached the Kentucky Derby Limit.

Breeders could help the evolutionary process along by focusing strong x-rays on California Chrome's testicles, increasing the number of mutant offspring, just like some scientists have done on fruit flies. Of course, they aren't going to do that. Horses don't reproduce as rapidly as fruit flies, so there isn't time to wait for a successful mutation. Furthermore, countless mutant fruit flies produced this way have not exhibited any remarkable improvements in fruit flies, so there is no reason to believe that they could produce a faster racehorse no matter how long they tried.

Breeding horses is more expensive than breeding fruit flies. It takes more faith to believe with your pocketbook than it does to believe with your mind. Breeders don't intentionally randomly

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[6] R. Michael Roberts, *Science*, 8 August 2014, "Breeding for speed", p. 632, http://www.sciencemag.org/content/345/6197/632.1.full?sid=7a58d295-6ff5-4b65-b910-73001e03331a

[7] *ibid.*

[8] *ibid.*

mutate the genes of their fastest horses because they don't really believe in the Modern Synthesis (that is, evolution).

The undeniable evidence is that there really is a limit to how much the characteristics of a particular species can vary. Racehorses have reached the limit of how fast they can run.

More to the point, that limit prevents fish from evolving into amphibians, or reptiles evolving into birds or mammals. Yes, evolution can produce minor changes that may become established in a population, but no, evolution cannot proceed without limit to create new kinds of creatures.

Email

Underground Trees

How many times can the same thing evolve independently?

Jay was not convinced by a British Broadcasting Corporation story about the evolution of underground trees.

Subject: BBC Article about Evolution of Underground Trees

Hello Mr. Pogge,

My name is Jay, and I am a frequent reader of your newsletters. Like you, I don't believe in modern Darwinism. There is an article <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20141103-why-some-trees-live-underground> I just read on the BBC homepage, and you may already be aware of it, but I found some of the things they said very intriguing and, in some cases stupefying.

The article is about the "evolution" of underground trees. As you might expect, they take for granted that evolution is real and can be taken for granted. However, if you read the article, what they are really doing is just speculating as to what caused or "catalyzed" underground tree species to evolve, as opposed to explaining their gradual modification and descent from above-ground trees.

There is one major highlight I want to point out to you that really strikes me as quite amazing and, for someone like me who understands the immense improbability of their claims, shows just how much faith these scientists have in Darwin's theory.

Towards the end of the article they cite a scientific study <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nph.12936/abstract> where the DNA of the various trees was analyzed and what they found is that underground trees have evolved *30 times INDEPENDENTLY,* all within the last 8 million years or so, they claim. And that's just in Africa! Apparently underground trees evolved independently in South America too, and there "dozens" of species evolved *independently* of one another, and within the same period of time!

Does that not strike you as being impossible? To me, it just doesn't seem realistic, and I'm interested in hearing your opinion. Does independent convergent evolution at this scale not strike a significant blow to Darwin's theory in your opinion?

Thanks,

Jay

Yes, that strikes us as impossible, and yes, that should strike a significant blow to Darwin's theory.

As evolutionists find more and more holes in the theory of evolution, they turn increasingly to convergent evolution to explain the similarities in unrelated species. It is their way of avoiding the truth, as you will see in this month's *Evolution in the News* column.

Evolution in the News

Holes in Evolution

The evolution of sponges is riddled with holes.

The theory of evolution proposes that simple one-celled creatures evolved into simple multi-celled creatures, which evolved into more complex multi-celled creatures, which inherited the genes of those simpler creatures and added some more genes to them which gave them additional functionality. Evolutionists believe that sponges and jellyfish are some of the simplest animals, which should make them the easiest to study. The more scientists study sponges, the more holes they find. ☺

Last June, we told you about two problems evolutionists had discovered while studying jellyfish. [9] One had to do with bilateral symmetry, and the second had to do with their nervous system. This month we want to write about the problem that studies of sponges have presented to evolutionists.

There are certain genes, called Hox genes, which are so basic to life that all animals have them. Therefore, evolutionists are especially interested in the origin and evolution of Hox genes. Studies of these genes have failed to match evolutionary expectations.

[9] *Disclosure*, June 2014, "Jellyfish, Kiwis, and Moa", http://www.scienceagainstevolution.info/v18i9f.htm

> Transcription-factor-encoding genes belonging to one class — Antennapedia (ANTP) — are present throughout the animal kingdom and usually have a key role in development. The ANTP group includes the Hox, ParaHox and NK genes, all of which are paralogues, meaning that they have arisen in different animals from a shared ancestor as a result of gene-duplication events. However, the origins, evolution and, in particular, the timing of these duplication events have been unclear. [10]

They "know" that these genes came from an ancient shared ancestor through gene duplication, but, darn it, what they "know" just isn't consistent with genetic analysis! It is so "unclear!" ☺

> The sequences of two sponge genomes provide evidence that the ParaHox developmental genes are older than previously thought. This has implications for animal taxonomy and for developmental and evolutionary biology. [11]

Animals that are most similar are presumed to have evolved from a close common ancestor. Just as you are more closely related to your father than your grandfather, your birth year is closer to your father's birth year than your grandfather's birth year. So, there are two aspects to genetic relationships (similarity and timing) which need to be consistent for evolution to be true. But when evolutionists try to construct an evolutionary tree, they often run into timing problems. Sponges are an example of this.

> The authors first constructed a phylogenetic tree [evolutionary relationships] of a large family of ANTP genes. Given the great phylogenetic breadth that is spanned by the tree, it is unsurprising that high statistical support for relationships is not achieved. [12]

It certainly is unsurprising for creationists because the evolutionary premise is false; but it should be surprising for evolutionists. The more data one has about so many different creatures (that is, the greater the phylogenetic breadth), the better the statistics should be, resulting in a clearer picture of what is going on. (An opinion survey of three people is not nearly as conclusive or informative as an opinion survey of three thousand people.) The data does not confirm their evolutionary expectations about relationships, but they just brush the data aside, saying it is "unsurprising" without justification.

In order to explain away the difference between their theory and their data, the "ghost locus hypothesis" was invented. Like "dark matter" in astronomy (which was made up to explain why the amount of matter measured in the universe isn't anywhere near the amount of matter predicted by the Big Bang theory) the "ghost locus" depends upon imaginary ancestral DNA which must have been there, but can't be found.

> A substantial puzzle has arisen concerning the repertoire of ParaHox and Hox genes in animals. The first sponge genome to be sequenced was that of the demosponge (class Demospongiae) *Amphimedon queenslandica*. Although there seem to be no Hox or ParaHox genes in this genome, the evolutionary conservation of clusters of genes known to be neighbours of Hox and ParaHox genes in other organisms led to the proposal that Hox and ParaHox genes were present in the common ancestor of all animals but had been lost in sponges. The researchers called their idea the 'ghost locus' hypothesis. However, this evidence, although intriguing, was indirect, because it was based on an inference of ancestral gene content. [13]

If one infers that there actually were ancestral genes, for which no actual evidence exists, then one comes to this conclusion:

> This idea leads to the intriguing question of whether the common ancestor of all animals was in fact more developmentally complex than present-day sponges, cnidarians and placozoans, and that these groups have lost complexity, rather than that complexity has been gained in other animal lineages. [14]

In other words, evolution must have taken a big step backwards. Some complex sponges evolved millions of years ago, and then devolved into the simpler sponges living today. There's no real evidence for these ancient complex sponges; but they must have existed for the theory of evolution to be true.

Fossil Frustration

Coincidentally, fossils of "primitve" mammals described in scientific literature last month also frustrate evolutionists.

> The phylogeny of Allotheria, including Multituberculata and Haramiyida, remains

[10] James O. McInerney & Mary J. O'Connell, *Nature*, 30 October 2014, "Evolutionary developmental biology: Ghost locus appears", pp 570-571, http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v514/n7524/full/514570a.html

[11] *ibid.*

[12] *ibid.*

[13] *ibid.*

[14] *ibid.*

> unsolved and has generated contentious views on the origin and earliest evolution of mammals. [15]

Allotheria are some mysterious mammals, allegedly from the age of the dinosaurs, making them some of the first mammals. Evolutionists think they know things about these animals, and their evolutionary history, based on their teeth and ear bones, and a few other bones.

> With the discoveries of the new euharamiyidans, it becomes increasingly evident that the cranial and postcranial features of euharamiyidans and multituberculates are similar to each other and to other mammals. However, the fundamental obstacle in interpreting their mammalian affinity remains the fact that the tooth pattern consists of two main rows of multiple cusps that are capable of longitudinal (palinal) chewing function in allotherians. If allotherians were placed outside mammals, it is equally difficult to derive the allotherian tooth pattern from other mammaliaformes, such as tritylodontids. Our phylogenetic analyses (Fig. 4) suggest that the primitive allotherian tooth pattern, as represented by *Haramiyavia*, was probably derived by developing an extra cusp row, or rows, from a triconodont-like tooth pattern or even from a tooth pattern with an initially reversed triangular cusp arrangement. [16]

Let's try to translate that paragraph into plain English. They have found some new fossils. Bones in their skulls (their craniums) and their bodies (postcranial) are a lot like other mammal bones—but their teeth are not. Are they mammals, or not?

But, as they admit, you can't really tell much from a single tooth that isn't in a jaw.

> Nonetheless, the orientation of an isolated tooth in early mammals is not always certain, as demonstrated in the case of eleutherodontids (this study). … Better material with teeth *in situ* [in place] from each taxon of interest, such as *Woutersia*, is needed to test this hypothesis. [17]

That's their "out." If they are wrong it is because they don't really have enough fossils to go on.

The other distinguishing characteristic of mammals is the arrangement of ear bones, which supposedly evolved from jaw bones. As we pointed out several years ago, it is truly amazing that jaw bones could accidentally become excellent impedance matchers for auditory systems. [18] But apparently this same miraculous improvement to hearing happened twice, independently through convirgent evolution.

> Our findings also favour a Late Triassic origin of mammals in Laurasia and two independent detachment events of the middle ear bones during mammalian evolution.
>
> …
>
> Finally, by reinterpretating *Hadrocodium* as having postdentary bones (see Supplementary Information, section G), our phylogeny suggests that detachment of the postdentary bones evolved twice independently during the early evolution of mammals, once in the clade leading to monotremes and once towards the clade containing Eutricondonta, Allotheria and Trechnotheria. [19]

Just as in sponges, and underground trees, the same features supposedly accidentally evolved in mammals independently. But, before the criticism comes, they offer an excuse for why they might be wrong!

> However, our phylogeny (Fig. 4 and Extended Data Figs 9 and 10) indicates that Euharamiyida and Multituberculata were probably derived from a *Haramiyavia*-like common ancestor at a minimum oldest age (according to current fossil records; future finds may reveal an earlier ancestor) in the Late Triassic and diversified thereafter during the Jurassic epoch, with known euharamiyidans adapting to a scansorial and/or arboreal lifestyle which may explain their rare fossil record. [20]

They have hardly any fossils to base their opinions upon, and new fossil discoveries may prove them wrong, but at least they got their research published, so their funding will probably continue!

They need to get "better material with teeth *in situ* from each taxon of interest," so send more money to finance more digging to prove evolution is true! ☺

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[15] Shundong Bi, *et al*., *Nature*, 30 October 2014, "Three new Jurassic euharamiyidan species reinforce early divergence of mammals", pp 579-584, http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v514/n7524/full/nature13718.html

[16] *ibid.*

[17] *ibid.*

[18] *Disclosure*, April 2012, "I Heard it Through My Jaw Bones", http://www.scienceagainstevolution.info/v16i7f.htm

[19] Shundong Bi, *et al*., *Nature*, 30 October 2014, "Three new Jurassic euharamiyidan species reinforce early divergence of mammals", pp 579-584, http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v514/n7524/full/nature13718.html

[20] *ibid.*

by Lothar Janetzko

All About … SCIENCE

http://www.allaboutscience.org/evolution.htm

Thoughts on Evolution

This month's web site review looks at a site that presents interesting observations about why the theory of evolution is so widely accepted and yet rejected by many intelligent people – even PhD scientists.

The site provides this information by means of five Evolution pages, with two articles on each page. Page 1 discusses *Evolution – The Evidence of Why Scientists Believe in Evolution,* and *Evolution – Scientists are Fallible People*. Page 2 covers *Evolution – Degrees of Commitment by Scientists,* and *Evolution – A Fashionable False Idea*. Page 3 presents *Evolution – To a Scientist, it is a Matter of Worldview,* and *Evolution – A Matter of Responsibility*. Page 4 deals with *Evolution – The Religion of Evolutionism,* and *Evolution – Why do Scientists Believe? A Bias Against the Supernatural*. Page 5 concludes with *Evolution – True Science Requires Courage,* and *Evolution – Scientists Following the Evidence*.

On each Evolution page, you will find footnotes and links to additional material under a heading of *Learn More*.

By following some of the links to additional material, you learn that allaboutscience.org is just part of a network of websites covering many different topics.

On any of the Evolution pages, you will also find a link to ALL TOPICS at the top of the page which provides access to more material by providing a title and brief description of the subject. The first entry serves as an index to the many different subjects covered under the titles of Science Content and Science Videos.

This web site has much to explore. It tries to tell you All About … the topic under discussion. After reading the material about Evolution, just go to the ALL TOPICS link and find topics from the index and read or view videos of interest.

The authors of the web site state, "We believe the pursuit of truth is the highest calling of humanity. We are a collection of people who have wandered many paths, but all discovered that same truth. We are passionate about sparking authentic life journeys and sharing compelling content with skeptics, seekers, believers, and a hurting world."