Disclosure

of things evolutionists don't want you to know

Volume 23 Issue 4 www.ScienceAgainstEvolution.info January 2019

2018 Evolution in Review

It was a slow year for the theory of evolution.

Every month we scour science magazines, from the expensive peer-reviewed professional journals down to the cheap grocery store science tabloids, to keep you up-to-date on the latest scientific research related to the theory of evolution. Then, at the end of the year, we review the lists of top ten science stories (as chosen by those science magazines) and examine those top stories that relate to the theory of evolution.

This was a tough year for us because there wasn't much evolutionary news for us to report. Ten to twenty years ago, each month there were several articles about evolution in several different science magazines. We reviewed as many as we could, and put the articles we didn't have room for in a file folder for possible future use. At one point, we had two full file drawers of left-over articles on evolution. We eventually threw them all out because the theory of evolution changed so fast that the old articles were refuted by evolutionists before we had a chance to disprove them. There is no point in disproving what evolutionists no longer believe is true.

This year, not one of the top ten lists published by science magazines had anything to do with evolution. Most of the top "science" stories were actually political opinion pieces posing as science.

Science News

The closest *Science News* came to selecting an evolution story for its top 10 list [1] was Number 10. That story really was about art history and technology. [2] They made the rather obvious observation that modern tools are better than stone-age tools, and the more questionable claim that modern art is better than cave paintings. ☺

What the *Science News* editors thought were the most important stories might not be what readers thought were most important. Since webpage counters exist, the editors know which were the most downloaded articles and videos. They published that list, too. [3] None of their ten most viewed articles and videos was about evolution (unless you count the article and video about cube-shaped wombat poop as an article on evolution ☺).

Scientific American

The *Scientific American* list of top stories [4] was subtitled, "Pew polls reveal a public divided on climate, supportive of NASA and wary of AI and

[1] December 17,2018, *Science News*, "Top 10 Stories", https://www.sciencenews.org/article/top-science-stories-2018-yir

[2] Bruce Bower, December 17, 2018, *Science News*, "Human smarts got a surprisingly early start", https://www.sciencenews.org/article/human-evolution-ingenuity-top-science-stories-2018-yir

[3] *Science News*, December 28, 2018, "These are the most-read *Science News* stories of 2018", https://www.sciencenews.org/article/most-popular-stories-science-news-2018-yir

[4] Mark Strauss, *Scientific American*, December 31, 2018, "The Year in Science—and What Americans Thought about It", https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/the-year-in-science-mdash-and-what-americans-thought-about-it/

genetic engineering." Apparently, the public didn't care about evolution last year. *Scientific American*'s emphasis wasn't on science—it was on what the public thinks about political issues.

New Scientist

New Scientist didn't do a top 10 list—but they did make a 12-item list specifying the top story each month. Two months are of interest to us.

> **June**
> The great ape family welcomed a new member. We revealed that a comparison of genomes found signs of a previously unknown species of chimpanzee that once lived in central Africa. As far as we know, there are no physical remains of the ancient ape, but DNA analysis suggests that it mated with bonobos 400,000 years ago and that some of its genes persist in apes living today. [5]

These were the ghost apes (for which there is no physical evidence) we had so much fun telling you about last summer. [6]

Their other relevant pick was,

> **August**
> A sliver of bone from a cave in Russia became the biggest archaeological story of the year, when researchers published their finding that it came from an ancient teenager who had a Neanderthal mum and a Denisovan dad. "Denny" is the only first-generation hybrid hominin ever found. Back in March, it was revealed that Denisovans also mated with our own species on at least two occasions. [7]

At least that story was based on "a sliver of bone" (not just speculation about what the DNA of ghost apes must have been like). We first told you about the Denisovans six years ago. [8] We didn't think the Denisovans were worth mentioning again last August. It appears we were wrong.

[5] *New Scientist*, 18 December 2018, "The most eye-catching science and tech news stories of 2018", https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg24032093-600-the-most-eye-catching-science-and-tech-news-stories-of-2018/

[6] *Disclosure*, June 2018, "New Scientists Believe in Ghosts", http://scienceagainstevolution.info/v22i9n2.htm

[7] *New Scientist*, 18 December 2018, "The most eye-catching science and tech news stories of 2018", https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg24032093-600-the-most-eye-catching-science-and-tech-news-stories-of-2018/

[8] *Disclosure*, July 2013, "Denisovans", http://www.scienceagainstevolution.info/v17i10n.htm

Nature

Nature said,

> Wildfires, cosmic rays and ancient-human hybrids are some of this year's top stories. [9]

The "ancient-human hybrid" they mentioned was "Denny." Since *New Scientist* and *Nature* both made such a big deal about Denny (the alleged Denisovan/Neanderthal hybrid), we devoted this month's *Evolution in the News* column to the topic.

Science

The respected journal *Science* published a list of "Our favorite science news stories of 2018." [10] Three of the items on that list were:

- The secret sex life of strawberries
- Most ankylosaurs were fossilized belly up. Now, scientists think they know why
- Birth canals are different all over the world, countering a long-held evolutionary theory

Love and sexual reproduction are impossible to explain from an evolutionary perspective, so we always like to devote our February (Valentine's Day) issue to that topic. You will have to wait until next month to read what we have to say about the sex life of strawberries.

Here's how *Science* posed the Ankylosaur puzzle:

> Ankylosaurs are odd-looking, even by dinosaur standards: They're squat and fat, with armored backs and, usually, tail clubs. But for many scientists, there's another reason these creatures stand out—most are fossilized upside-down. The reason for this strange orientation was a mystery for decades, but thanks to an unusual collaboration between paleontologists and armadillo experts, we may finally have an answer—and it all comes down to bloated, floating dinosaur carcasses. [11]

Of four explanations for this common observation, scientists were able to firmly

[9] *Nature*, 18 December 2018, "2018 in news: The science events that shaped the year", https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07685-3

[10] David Grimm, *Science*, 20 December 2018, "Our favorite science news stories of 2018", https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/12/our-favorite-science-news-stories-2018

[11] Matt Warren, *Science*, 21 February, 2018, "Most ankylosaurs were fossilized belly up. Now, scientists think they know why", https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/02/most-ankylosaurs-were-fossilized-belly-now-scientists-think-they-know-why

eliminate three.

> The team then turned its attention to the four theories. One, that ankylosaurs simply fell down hills and ended up on their backs, was easy to discount: … Likewise, the researchers found no support for the theory that predators flipped ankylosaurs over to access their delicious underbellies.
>
> …
>
> The "armadillo roadkill model" proved trickier. Because armadillos found on the side of the road supposedly swell up with gases as they decompose, tipping them onto their backs, the same could be true of ankylosaurs.
>
> …
>
> Finally, the researchers examined the "bloat-and-float" model, which proposes that the bodies of ankylosaurs got washed into rivers or the sea, where they bloated and became unstable, flipping upside-down and eventually sinking or being deposited in the river bank. … the bloat-and-float model was the only theory that held any water, the team reports this month in the journal *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*. [12]

They did not speculate about how so many ankylosaurs could have drowned all over the world at the same time—and neither will we. ☺

The Obstetrical Dilemma

Science also picked a new perspective on the "obstetrical dilemma" as one of the top stories of the year.

> It's known as the "obstetrical dilemma": the idea that two opposing evolutionary forces have shaped the human birth canal. But this story—one of our most popular of the year—suggests this long-held theory may not hold up. [13]

That article said,

> The shape of a mother's birth canal is a tug-of-war between two opposing evolutionary forces: It needs to be wide enough to allow our big-brained babies to pass through, yet narrow enough to allow women to walk efficiently. At least that's been the common thinking. But a new study reveals birth canals come in a variety of shapes in women around the world.
>
> …
>
> Overall, the analysis suggests a population may have ended up with a particular birth canal shape simply by chance, not because of any sort of selective pressure. [14]

Scientists have long argued about whether Darwin's "survival of the fittest" idea is more powerful than "survival of the luckiest." *Science* says Darwin lost the argument in this case.

Admit Victory

Maybe it is time for us to give up and admit victory. The science against evolution is so strong that evolution can't be taken seriously any longer. This month's *Web Site of the Month* column reviews a website which lists 95 excellent scientific arguments against Darwinian Evolution. It nails the coffin shut.

Much to the disappointment of some of our readers, we rarely get hate mail from evolutionists these days. There don't seem to be very many defenders of evolution anymore.

In January, 2005, we published our 100th newsletter, and pondered how many more newsletters there would be. We ended that article saying,

> Will there be a 200th newsletter? We hope not. We hope the theory of evolution won't survive another eight years and four months. I'd like to take some time off and have fun. But, there still seems to be a need and an appreciation for what we do, so for the next year or two at least, we will continue to remind people that science is against evolution. [15]

This is newsletter 270. We are no longer in what is referred to (by military people) as a "target-rich environment." All the old evolutionary theories have been debunked, and there aren't many new ones coming along to take their places. Is it still worth our time to publish this newsletter? Is it time for us to quit?

Evolution in the News

Prehistoric Mating

Did Neanderthals Date Denisovans?

New Scientist and *Nature* both thought the

[12] *ibid.*

[13] David Grimm, *Science*, 20 December 2018, "Our favorite science news stories of 2018", https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/12/our-favorite-science-news-stories-2018

[14] Erica Tennenhouse, *Science*, 23 October, 2018, "Birth canals are different all over the world, countering a long-held evolutionary theory", https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/10/birth-canals-are-different-all-over-world-countering-long-held-evolutionary-theory

[15] *Disclosure*, January 2005, "100 Newsletters", http://scienceagainstevolution.info/v9i4f.htm

speculation about "Denny" (the fictional offspring of a Denisovan and a Neanderthal) was one of the top stories of 2018, so let's tell the whole story from the beginning.

Svante Pääbo

Denny is fictional—but Svante Pääbo is the real person at the center of the story. He first appeared on the scene in 1985 when he published an article about ancient Egyptian mummy DNA. [16] This led to his work on molecular cloning and enzymatic amplification which allowed him to extract DNA from a frozen mammoth carcass in 1994. [17] He kept trying to extract DNA from older and older sources, and turned his attention to Neanderthals in 1997.

> Munich-based ancient-DNA pioneer Svante Pääbo and his colleagues, described DNA extracted from the bones of the first ever Neanderthal to be discovered, the historic 'Feldhofer' Neanderthal, found in Germany in 1856. That benchmark study was published in the journal *Cell* in 1997. [18]

He has been a recognized expert in extracting DNA from ancient sources for over 30 years.

Those of us who watched the O.J. Simpson murder trial (in 1994) remember the expert testimony about how quickly DNA degrades, so we might reasonably dispute the accuracy of analysis of DNA from old bones—but we won't. That argument would be too boring and technical. Let's just assume the DNA analysis is accurate—even if it might not be.

> Svante Pääbo, a palaeogeneticist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, began his Neanderthal Genome Project about two years ago [that is, 2004]. He and his team have probed 60 Neanderthal specimens from museums for hints that the DNA might have survived millennia of degradation. [19]

Svante Pääbo has been analyzing ancient DNA for a long time, and his peers trust his analysis.

The Denisovan Theory

The Denisovan speculation began in 2010.

> In the summer of 2008, Russian researchers dug up a sliver of human finger bone from an isolated Siberian cave. The team stored it away for later testing, assuming that the nondescript fragment came from one of the Neanderthals who left a welter of tools in the cave between 30,000 and 48,000 years ago. Nothing about the bone shard seemed extraordinary.
>
> Its genetic material told another story. When German researchers extracted and sequenced DNA from the fossil, they found that it did not match that of Neanderthals — or of modern humans, which were also living nearby at the time. The genetic data, published online in *Nature*, reveal that the bone may belong to a previously unrecognized, extinct human species that migrated out of Africa long before our known relatives.
>
> "This really surpassed our hopes," says Svante Pääbo, senior author on the international study and director of evolutionary genetics at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. "I almost could not believe it. It sounded too fantastic to be true." [20]

The fossil in question is a tiny bone fragment which is assumed to be a fingertip of an unknown human species. In the past, new species were based upon a distinctive "type fossil," usually a tooth or skull. In this case, the new species is based on DNA that doesn't match modern human or Neanderthal DNA.

It must not match any known ape DNA, either, or they would have identified it as an ape finger. We are told ape DNA is 98% the same as human DNA. If the unknown DNA is close to (but not exactly like) human DNA, it must be close to ape DNA, too Why assume it came from an unknown human rather than an unknown ape? Is a sliver of a human finger that much different from a sliver of an ape finger?

Apparently they were hoping to find something that could be construed to be a new human species because, "This really surpassed our hopes," says Svante Pääbo. Could hope have biased their analysis?

> Although a Neanderthal mtDNA genome differs from that of *Homo sapiens* at 202

[16] Svante Pääbo, *Nature*, 18 April 1985, "Molecular cloning of Ancient Egyptian mummy DNA", pp. 644–645

[17] Matthias Hoss, Svante Pääbo, & N. K. Vereshchagin, *Nature*, 4 August 1994, "Mammoth DNA sequences", p. 333

[18] Henry Gee, *Nature*, 29 March 2000, "Neanderthal DNA confirms distinct history", https://www.nature.com/news/2000/000330/full/news000030-8.html

[19] Rex Dalton, *Nature*, 18 May 2006, "Neanderthal DNA yields to genome foray", https://www.nature.com/articles/441260b

[20] Rex Dalton, *Nature*, 24 March 2010, "Fossil finger points to new human species", https://www.nature.com/news/2010/100324/full/464472a.html

nucleotide positions on average, the Denisova Cave sample differed at an average of 385 positions.

The differences imply that the Siberian ancestor branched off from the human family tree a million years ago, well before the split between modern humans and Neanderthals. If so, the proposed species must have left Africa in a previously unknown migration, between that of *Homo erectus* 1.9 million years ago and that of the Neanderthal ancestor *Homo heidelbergensis*, 300,000 to 500,000 years ago. [21]

They are making a vast conclusion based on half-vast data. ☺ Reasonable people should question the existence of an unknown species that had to have made an unknown migration without any supporting evidence other than DNA that doesn't match Neanderthal DNA.

That was the background from about a decade ago. Let's move on from that ancient history to the new discovery.

The New Fossil Evidence

Here is Ian R. Cartwright's photo of the new discovery (shown larger than actual size):

The bone is only 26 mm (about 1 inch) long, so it is shorter than a toothpick. How do they know it is from a Denisovan? We are glad you asked!

Skeletal puzzle

Archaeologists are usually pretty good at distinguishing between the bones of ancient humans and those of other animals. But tiny, crumbled fragments with no clear features pose a challenge.

These fragments often make up a significant portion of the remains recovered from archaeological sites, says Tom Higham, an archaeologist at the University of Oxford, UK.

At Denisova Cave, for example, most bone material has been broken up over time by animals such as hyenas, rendering identification by eye impossible. "So it just basically sits in storage not doing anything," he says,.

But even these tiny bone fragments contain tell-tale molecular signals that can be used to identify which animal group they belong to.

Using a technique called zooarchaeology by mass spectrometry, or ZooMS, researchers can extract collagen — a tough, fibrous protein that forms connective tissue — from a bone and break it down into its constituent units, called peptides. They then look for characteristic 'fingerprints' that differentiate the peptides of a hominin from those of, for example, a bear or mammoth.

Denny's bone fragment was the first to be classified as hominin using this technique, described in a 2016 paper before her DNA had been extracted and sequenced.

The team has examined hundreds more bones since then, identifying the four further hominin specimens which they are currently analysing. [22]

They have examined hundreds of tiny bone fragments like this one, and think Denny (and four others) might have come from a prehistoric human.

The denizens of Denisova also bred with contemporary humans, according to Pääbo and Reich's analysis. But the only traces of their DNA to be found in modern humans were in residents of Melanesia, thousands of miles away from Denisova, suggesting that the Denisovans had once lived across Asia. In 2008, Pääbo's team set up a lab in Beijing to screen fossils that might contain Denisovan DNA, in the hope of learning more about them and their interactions with modern humans. Currently, the bone that yielded the Denisovan genome, and a single molar from the same cave, are their only known fossil remains, but other archaic human fossils from Asia could bear traces of this group. [23]

Since the only traces of Denisovan DNA found in modern humans comes from people living thousands of miles away, a more logical conclusion (than the speculation that Denisovans once lived all across Asia) is that the genetic similarity is a coincidence.

In 2011, the only "known" fossil remains of Denisovans were one bone and one molar. I could not find any reason for why they believe that molar came from a Denisovan; nor could I find any other reference to Denisovan fossils discovered before Denny. But there could be other fossils which will someday be discovered that "could bear traces" of Denisovan DNA—

[21] *ibid.*

[22] Matthew Warren, *Nature*, 20 September 2018, "Denisovan hybrid cave yields four more hominin bones", https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-06763-w

[23] Ewen Callaway, *Nature*, 9 August 2011, "Ancient DNA reveals secrets of human history", https://www.nature.com/news/2011/110809/full/476136a.html

wishing might make it so! ☺

The Fable

From this one tiny bone fragment they constructed this fable:

Abstract

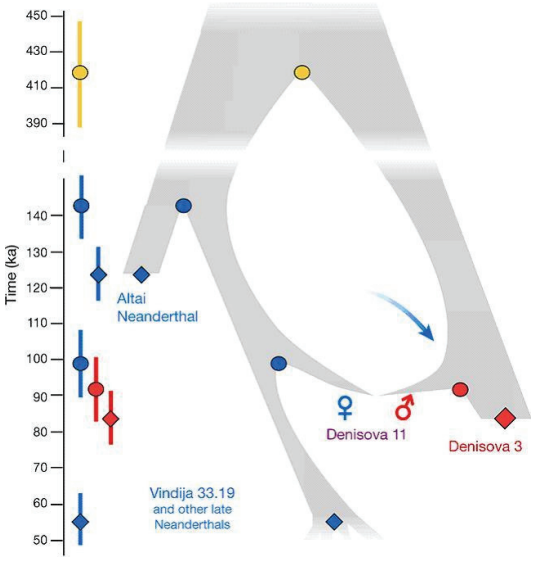
Neanderthals and Denisovans are extinct groups of hominins that separated from each other more than 390,000 years ago. Here we present the genome of 'Denisova 11', a bone fragment from Denisova Cave (Russia) and show that it comes from an individual who had a Neanderthal mother and a Denisovan father. The father, whose genome bears traces of Neanderthal ancestry, came from a population related to a later Denisovan found in the cave. The mother came from a population more closely related to Neanderthals who lived later in Europe than to an earlier Neanderthal found in Denisova Cave, suggesting that migrations of Neanderthals between eastern and western Eurasia occurred sometime after 120,000 years ago. The finding of a first-generation Neanderthal–Denisovan offspring among the small number of archaic specimens sequenced to date suggests that mixing between Late Pleistocene hominin groups was common when they met.

Main

Neanderthals and Denisovans inhabited Eurasia until they were replaced by modern humans around 40,000 years ago (40 ka). Neanderthal remains have been found in western Eurasia, whereas physical remains of Denisovans have thus far been found only in Denisova Cave, where Neanderthal remains have also been recovered. Although little is known about the morphology of Denisovans, their molars lack the derived traits that are typical of Neanderthals.

DNA recovered from individuals of both groups suggests that they diverged from each other more than 390 ka. The presence of small amounts of Neanderthal DNA in the genome of 'Denisova 3', the first Denisovan individual to be identified, indicates that the two groups mixed with each other at least once. It has also been shown that Neanderthals mixed with the ancestors of present-day non-Africans around 60 ka, and possibly with earlier ancestors of modern humans; and that Denisovans mixed with the ancestors of present-day Oceanians and Asians. Denisovans may furthermore have received gene flow from an archaic hominin that diverged more than a million years ago from the ancestors of modern humans. [24]

Supposedly, an unknown human ancestor (the yellow circle in the diagram below) evolved into Neanderthals (blue) and Denisovans (red) about 415,000 years ago (not 1 million years ago as Dalton said in 2010). Then, a Neanderthal man and a Denisovan woman got together about 90,000 years ago to produce a girl who left a bone fragment designated Denisova 11 in a Russian cave.



It is an interesting story—but what's the proof? The "proof" is nothing more than DNA that is like Neanderthal DNA in some respects, and like Denisovan DNA in some respects.

"The father, whose genome bears traces of Neanderthal ancestry" is purely speculative. Without a birth certificate (or the help of Maury Povich [25] ☺) they assume the father must have been Denisova 3. They didn't analyze the DNA of the mother because they don't know who she was, and don't have any DNA from the mother to analyze. They just assume she must have been a Neanderthal.

Mixing Facts with Speculation

They think they have demonstrated that Neanderthals mixed with Denisovans. What they actually demonstrated is that they mixed a fact (a specific DNA sequence) with speculation (about how that sequence arose). The only reason they believe Neanderthals and Denisovans mated is because they think Neanderthals and Denisovans must have mated, and they have imagined the DNA of such a mating could have been like the DNA they analyzed.

That's speculation—not science!

[24] Viviane Slon, *et al*., *Nature*, 22 August 2018, "The genome of the offspring of a Neanderthal mother and a Denisovan father", https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0455-x

[25] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maury_(talk_show)#Paternity_tests

by Lothar Janetzko

95 Theses

http://www.0095.info/en

95 Theses Against Evolution
(English translation from German)

The website review for this first month of 2019 looks at a site recommended by a reader of our website from the Netherlands. I believe this site really provides a great deal of information helpful when searching for material concerning the ongoing debate between creation and evolution.

On the Introduction page of the site you learn why the author of *95 Theses Against Evolution* chose to present his arguments against evolution in this manner. "The intransigence among the upper echelons of science, education and the media is strongly reminiscent of the stubbornness with which the Roman Catholic Church of the Middle Ages defended its then worldview. On October 31, 1517, the reformer Martin Luther published his *Ninety-Five Theses* with which he challenged the practice of selling indulgences, widespread in his time. This started a chain reaction, which finally led to The Reformation. In a similar way, the ninety-five theses presented here are intended to contribute to a rethink in the debate on the origin of life."

95 Theses Against Evolution is available as a free PDF download. An English book that you can purchase will soon be available.

The PDF version of *95 Theses Against Evolution* begins with a short statement of the Back-cover text and then provides a Table of Contents. From this table you learn how the ninety-five theses are presented: 1) Biology (sixteen theses); 2) Geology and Paleontology (fifteen theses); 3) Chemical evolution (nine theses); 4) Radiometry and geophysics (eleven theses); 5) Cosmology and the big-bang theory (thirteen theses); 6) Philosophy (eleven theses); 7) Information theory (eight theses); and 8) Humans and culture (twelve theses).

After this listing of the ninety-five theses you will find *Ninety-Five One-Sentence Theses* against Evolution.

What follows is a detailed description of each of the individual theses and references to supporting material. The PDF document contains 239 pages, so there really is a great deal of information to study. All this information is also available in seven other languages beside English.