

A World Full of Living Fossils

What is a Living Fossil?

The term “living fossil” is used to describe living organisms whose fossils are the same as their living specimens. The term was invented by Charles Darwin in his famous book *On the Origin of Species* when referring to creatures that haven’t changed since their ancestors were fossilised. In his chapter on natural selection he wrote:

These anomalous forms may almost be called living fossils; they have endured to the present day, from having inhabited a confined area, and from having thus been exposed to less severe competition.

He later wrote in his summary:

Species and groups of species, which are called aberrant, and which may fancifully be called living fossils, will aid us in forming a picture of the ancient forms of life.

Darwin, C. R. 1859. *On the origin of species by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life*. London: John Murray. 1st edition, 1st issue, pp107 & 486.

It is ironic that this term was made popular by Darwin in a book promoting the claim that living things are in a constant state of change, and that one kind of living creature can change into another kind. Living fossils are actually one the best evidences that many living things can be proven to stay the same. If a living creature is the same as a fossil creature then the living version has not evolved since the fossil version was buried. This means that the older the fossil is believed to be, the longer the creature has stayed the same, and the less it is evidence for evolution.

In fact, living fossils are also good evidence for Genesis, which tells us that living creatures were created as fully functioning organisms in separate kinds. The term “after their kinds” or “according to their kinds” occurs 10 times in the Genesis account of creation,(Genesis 1:11ff) and it is used in association with all the different life forms God created. The term is used again in reference to the animals God sent to Noah’s ark, and who survived the Flood to spread out over the earth. If living creatures were initially created, and continued to reproduce, according to their kinds then their fossil and living specimens should be recognisably the same kind.

Darwin thought that living fossils were “anomalous” and “aberrant,” i.e. rare oddities left behind whilst the rest of the living world evolved into new and more complex creatures. However, the last 150 years of fossil excavation has shown living fossils are the norm. We recognise many fossils simply because they look like known living things.

Some fossils seem not to have living equivalents, but this is not evidence for evolution either. It is evidence that the creature once existed but has died out since one or more of its kind got buried and preserved at some time in the past. Such extinct creatures are a reminder the world is going downhill and losing living organisms. They are also evidence consistent with the truth of the Bible, which tells us the world has gone from created perfection (Genesis 1 – 2) to degeneration, (Genesis 3 – 7) and continues to go downhill today as living things die out, but no new kinds evolve.

As palaeontologists continue to find new specimens they regularly claim they have found the oldest fossil of a particular living thing. Creation Research does not endorse the claims about the ages of such fossils, but we are always pleased when someone announces they have found

the “oldest fossil of *whatever*”, especially when these claims are accompanied by comments about how much the fossil looks like its living counterparts. By making such claims fossil researchers are reinforcing the evidence that living things have always existed in separate kinds and have multiplied after their kinds.

For many years Creation Research has been writing about fossil finds that have been reported in the general scientific news, and commenting on how they are actually evidence consistent with Biblical, rather than the evolutionary history of the world. Below is a compilation of reports on fossils claimed to be the oldest living fossils with living their living counterparts.

These reports originally appeared in Creation Research Evidence News, a free e-mail newsletter. To receive this newsletter by e-mail go to www.creationresearch.net, click “Evidence News”.

The original newsletter reports with Editorial Comment (ED. COM) are archived in the Fact File in the Creation Research Web Museum. Use the search box to find the topic of your choice. [click here](#)

(Please note, we have included the original links to our sources of information, but after many years some of these may no longer be functional. We apologise for any dead links.)

Note: these fossils have all been reported in the scientific news since 1999 when we began publishing Evidence News. They are by no means the only creatures that could be called living fossils and we have not listed many others that that have already been called living fossils prior to 1999, e.g, cockroaches, nautiluses, ginkgo trees.

Living Fossils

Bacteria, Algae and Protozoa

The first living things believed to have evolved are bacteria and algae, followed by larger, more complex single celled organisms such as amoebae. However, as the following reports show, bacteria, algae and single celled organisms appear in the fossil record looking just like their living counterparts, as this report of the oldest filamentous bacteria shows.

OLDEST AUSSIE as Birger Rasmussen from the University of Western Australia reports discovery of sulphur deposits containing fossil micro organisms dated as 3,235 million years old. This is 2700 million years older than the previous claim. The fossils, reported in *Nature* vol. 405, p676, 8 June 2000 consist of microscopic filaments embedded deep in rocks near Sulphur Springs in northwest Western Australia. Although this region is now high and dry the rocks are believed to have originally formed around geothermal vents (undersea volcanic eruptions) and to be 3,235 million years old. Many of the filaments lie across layers within the rocks and are similar in size and structure to filament forming bacteria found today.

If the extremely old ages given to them were true these fossils must be the ultimate evidence that living cells are designed not to evolve. All that really has been verified is that from the time these rocks formed, up to the present - filament producing bacteria have not evolved, but have produced their own kind. If the Western Australian fossils have been correctly identified, they are really evidence that complex, fully functioning bacteria have been living on earth from the beginning and have reproduced after their kind ever since, as Genesis says life was created to do.

Bacteria may be tiny, but they are far from being simple collections of chemicals. Today's geothermal vents are host to many bacteria which use sulphurous inorganic matter to make the chemical energy needed to sustain life. They can live in such harsh environments only by carrying out complex chemical processes that are the envy of modern day industrial chemists. To copy them will require a lot of intelligent chemical engineering, which is evidence that the bacteria were designed by a smarter engineer, not the result of mindless chance.

Not all single celled organisms are tiny. Here is an intriguing report of some larger organisms claimed by their finders as "ultimate living fossils".

ULTIMATE LIVING FOSSILS FOUND, according to a report in BBC News, 21 Nov 2008. Marine biologists exploring the sea bed of the Bahamas have found some giant single celled organisms that leave tracks in the sea bed similar to fossil tracks found in pre-Cambrian rocks. The bubble-like organisms are called protists and move very slowly, at less than one cm a week, using pseudopodia, leaving tracks that remain formed for a long time because the ocean currents at this depth are very slow. The tracks look similar to fossils called worm casts found in the Stirling ranges in Australia that are dated as 1.2 billion years old. The worm cast fossils were found with fossils described as "globular or bulbous collapsible bodies", which the researchers suggest were the remains of the protists. Mikhail Matz of University of Texas, Austin, who led the research, said that the giant protist is probably one of the planet's oldest body designs, and may have existed for 1.8 billion years. He said: "Our guys may be the ultimate living fossils of the macroscopic world."

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7739703.stm>

If a protist has remained a protist through all recorded geological history, then putting a very old date on the fossil (1.8 billion yrs) does not help evolution, because the older you make the fossil protist, the more times the organism has reproduced itself without changing, i.e. not evolving.

The most well known protists are amoebae, but as the following report shows amoebae appear in the fossil record as amoebae and show no signs of changing into anything else.

EARLIEST AMOEBAE LIVE TODAY, reported *Science*, vol. 304, p44, 2 Apr 2004. Alexander Schmidt and colleagues at the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena have studied amber chips believed to be 100 million years old and found they contained preserved amoebae-single celled organisms that live in water and are very rarely fossilised because they are mostly water themselves. *Science* reports: "They represent the earliest occurrence of four species of freshwater amoebae in the *Phryganellidae* and *Centropyxidae* families that live on today."

Evolution is sometimes summarised as "amoeba to man" but this discovery only confirms the book of Genesis which says 10 times in the first chapter that God separately created living organisms to multiply according to their kinds, i.e. amoeba to amoeba only.

Multicellular Organisms

No-one has ever seen chemicals evolve into a cell, and no-one has seen a bacterium or single celled organism evolve into a multicellular organism. The belief that fossil single celled organisms are merely the ones that got left behind whilst others evolved into multicellular organisms is a belief by faith, not a scientific observation. Consider the following example:

FOSSIL REEF ADDS 80 MILLION YEARS TO ANIMAL LIFE, according to a report in ABC News in *Science*, 22 Sep 2008. University of Melbourne geologists have found an enormous fossil reef in the Northern Flinders Ranges in South Australia. The reef appears

to consist partly of stromatolites, layered structures made by microbes, and cauliflower shaped structures that were probably ancient sponges. The reef is estimated to be 650 million years old, making the fossils 80 million years older than the oldest animal life so far found. Malcolm Wallace, one of the scientists, commented that the reef-building organisms were "certainly more complex than any fossil of their age anywhere on Earth. They've never been described from anywhere else in the world. There's nothing else like them." Complex multi-cellular animals are believed to have evolved suddenly in the Ediacaran period. Wallace went on to say: "When you see the Ediacara they resemble jellyfish and modern arthropods. There is no doubt they are animals. The real puzzle is why they appeared 570 to 540 million years ago. Maybe this reef system will tell us something about that."

ABC: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2008/09/22/2370844.htm?site=science&topic=ancient>

All this fossil reef system will tell scientists is that stromatolites have always been stromatolites. If they really believe they have been around for 650 million years they have reproduced after their kind in a most spectacular way. Stromatolites are still here, and can be seen alive and living in places like Shark Bay in Western Australia, and they show no sign of evolving into jellyfish or arthropods (or anything else). The fact that arthropods and jellyfish are found in layers believed to be younger than the fossil reef is not evidence that the reef organisms turned into arthropods or jellyfish. All these different organisms appear in the fossil record as distinct fully formed creatures, which is what you expect if they are the descendants of life forms that were specially created after their kind. The new fossil sponge-like organisms seem to be extinct, but that is no help to the theory of evolution either. It just shows that there were once more kinds of sponges than there are now, which fits with the Biblical history of the world – going downhill, not evolving upwards.

The first multicellular animals to evolve are believed to be sponges. Sponges are still here, so no matter how long ago evolutionists believe they came into being, they must have reproduced after their kind, as these two examples show.

EARLIEST ANIMAL TRACES FOUND, according to reports in ScienceNOW 4 Feb 2009, ScienceDaily and *Nature* vol457, p718, 5 Feb 2009. A team of scientists who were analysing sedimentary rocks in south Oman have found "anomalously high amounts of 24-IPC" – a steroid chemical only produced by the animal class labelled *Demospongiae*, which includes most modern sponges. The rocks are dated at 635 million years, making them about 100 million years pre-Cambrian. Sponges are believed to be one of many kinds of multi-cellular animals that suddenly evolved in the "Cambrian Explosion" of life. The steroids found by the researchers are an essential part of sponge cell membranes, where they help support the membranes. Gordon Love, who started working on the project when he was a postdoctoral researcher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, explained the significance of the discovery: "Our findings suggest that the evolution of multicellular animals began earlier than has been thought. Moreover, sponges live on the seafloor, growing initially in shallow waters and spreading, over time, into deeper waters, implying the existence of oceanic environments which contained dissolved oxygen near the shallow seafloor around 635 million years ago." According to ScienceNOW, palaeobiologist, Kevin Peterson of Dartmouth College said the discovery confirms that "we animals can all trace our origins back to sponges."

ScienceDaily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090204135731.htm>

This discovery certainly confirms that sponge cell membranes have been the same as present day sponge cell membranes for as long as they can be proved to have been on the planet, and despite Kevin Peterson's claims, it's actually not evidence that sponges turned into people.

Instead, it is good evidence sponges have multiplied after their kind, as Genesis says God created them to do.

OLDEST AUSSIE ANIMALS found, according to reports in ScienceDaily and *Nature Geoscience*, 17 Aug 2010, and BBC News 18 Aug 2010. A group of scientists from Princeton University have found fossils of sponges “beneath a 635 million-year-old glacial deposit” in the Trezona Formation in the Flinders Ranges in South Australia. The scientists described their finds as weakly calcified fossils contained within stromatolitic (fossil algae colonies) limestones. The fossils pre-date the oldest known calcified fossils by 90 million years. The fossils could not be separated out from the matrix they were embedded in, so scientists took thin slices from the rock surface and photographed the surface after each slice. They then used 3D imaging software to reconstruct the fossils and concluded: “Our reconstructions show a population of ellipsoidal organisms without symmetry and with a network of interior canals that lead to circular apertures on the fossil surface. We suggest that several characteristics of these reef-dwelling fossils are best explained if the fossils are identified as sponge-grade metazoans.” Metazoans are multi-cellular animals. Adam Maloof of the Department of Geosciences, Princeton University, who led the research, commented: “People have certainly proposed complex organisms, like eukaryotic algae or protists, and have even proposed animals in the form of trace fossils (preserved tracks) prior to the sponges that we report. But I think we could confidently say that our sponges are the first somewhat convincing body fossils of an animal before the Ediacaran Period.”

BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11001132>

ScienceDaily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/08/100817144641.htm>

These fossils were identified as sponges because they have the similar structure to sponges presently living on the sea floor. If they really have been around for 635 million years sponges are spectacularly un-evolved. No matter how old they are, these fossils are evidence that sponges have always been sponges and have multiplied after their kind, just as Genesis says. Our Creation Research Outback Tour recently visited the Flinders Ranges, where these fossils and the famous Ediacara fossils were found. We saw examples of fossil stromatolites, worm burrows and Ediacaran fauna, none of which showed any evidence of evolving from or into anything else. Stromatolites and worms are still here. Some Ediacaran animals seem to be extinct, but that is no help to the theory of evolution. Instead it is evidence that the world once had more kinds of animals and some have died out. This is also consistent with Genesis, which tells us the world has degenerated a lot since man rebelled against his Creator and God cursed the ground and later sent the worldwide Flood of Noah.

Fossils are not only found in rocks. Another source of preserved organism is amber – tree resin that has gone hard, been buried and preserved. Sometimes small organisms are trapped in the amber and are preserved along with the amber. The preserved organisms are often exquisitely preserved in fine detail, indicating that they were trapped and preserved quickly before any decay processes destroyed their structure. Here is an example:

UNCHANGED AMBER MICROBES reported in *Nature*, vol 444, p835, 14 Dec 2006. Italian scientists have examined droplets of amber from the largest known deposit of Triassic amber in the Dolomites of northern Italy. They describe their findings: "Here we describe 220-million-year-old droplets of amber containing bacteria, fungi, algae and protozoans that are assignable to extant genera. These inclusions provide insight into the evolution and palaeoecology of Lower Mesozoic micro-organisms: it seems that the basal levels of food webs of terrestrial communities (biocoenoses) have undergone little or no morphological change from the Triassic to the Recent."

If these microbes have “undergone little or no morphological change” they have not evolved. What the scientists are really saying is the micro-organisms that were living when this amber was formed are the same as micro-organisms that are alive today.

It also shows that algae, fungi, bacteria and protozoans were all living together on or near trees just like they do today. No living organisms live in isolation – they are part of cooperative communities. Some organisms live in such close cooperation they are called “symbiotic”. Symbiotic organisms were once considered unusual but the more we look at the living world the more we see that symbiosis is the norm. A very familiar example of symbiosis is the lichens that grow on rocks. Fossilised lichens show that this form of symbiosis is unchanged since lichens were buried in the fossil record.

OLDEST LICHENS FOUND, according to reports in *Science*, vol 308, p1017, 13 May 2005 and *New Scientist*, 21 May 2005, p20. Lichens are a symbiotic combination of algae and fungi. Chinese and American scientists have found fossil lichens in rocks of the Doushanto Formation in southern China, which have been dated as 551 to 635 million years old. This makes them about 200 million years older than the previous oldest lichen fossils in the Rhynie chert in Scotland. On the evolutionary tree this puts them before the origin of multicellular animals and land plants.

The reason these fossils were recognised as lichens is because they look like the lichens that live on earth today. Whatever age these fossils actually are, they have multiplied after their kind, just as Genesis says. They have no known fossil ancestors, so this discovery is no help to the evolutionists, but it is evidence consistent with them having been created as fully functioning entities.

Plants

Many years ago Edred Corner (1906-1996), Professor of Tropical Botany at University of Cambridge stated:

“Much evidence can be adduced in favour of the theory of evolution - from biology, biogeography and palaeontology, but I still think that, to the unprejudiced, the fossil record of plants is in favour of special creation.”

E.J.H. Corner, 1961, from 'Evolution', p. 97, in "Contemporary Botanical Thought", Anna M. Macleod and L. S. Copley (editors), Oliver and Boyd, for the Botanical Society of Edinburgh

Since Corner wrote this many more fossil plants have been found, and they still provided evidence for creation, and none for evolution. Living plants vary from tiny mosses to giant trees. The same applies to fossil plants, except that the giant ones are even more gigantic. No matter how old you believe the fossils to be, they are recognised as plants because plants haven't changed, except for some that have shrunk. The decrease in size is not evolution. The small versions are the same kind, in the same way that bonsai trees are the same as the large versions living out in the wild.

According to evolution land plants evolved from seaweed that moved onto land. However all fossilised land plants are fully formed land plants, as this report about the most “primitive” of land plants shows.

OLDEST LAND PLANTS found, according to a report in *Nature*, vol 425 p282, 18 Sep 2003 and *New Scientist*, 20 Sep 2003, p22. Charles Wellman of the University of Sheffield, UK and colleagues in Oman have found spores from liverworts (low growing plants similar to mosses) in sandy siltstones in Oman believed to be 450 million years old. Palaeontologists were able to identify them because of the "exquisitely preserved spore wall ultrastructure".

The real reason these spores could be identified is because the “exquisitely preserved spore wall ultrastructure,” i.e. their microscopic structure, is the same as the microscopic structure of spores from living liverworts. Therefore, whatever age these fossil spores are, they indicate liverworts have multiplied after their kind, just as Genesis says they were created to do. Furthermore, exquisite preservation of microscopic structures can only occur if the spores were buried rapidly and deeply, so that they are not degraded by bacteria or chemical processes. This means any rock layer that contains fossils with such fine detail was not laid down slowly and gradually.

Mosses are also considered to be simple plants that have only just managed to move from water to land. Here is another report of exquisitely preserved fossils that indicates living things have not changed, but the climate has. In this case the fossils are considered to be part of a 14 million year old frozen tundra.

FOSSILS INDICATE WARM ANTARCTICA, reported in EurkAlert, 22 July, 2008 and BBC News Online, 23 July, 2008, Boston University News 5 Aug 2008 and Fossil Science, 6 Aug 2008. A team of researchers from British and American universities have found “exceptionally well preserved fossils” in the Dry Valleys of Antarctica. The Dry Valleys are desolate regions in Antarctica where it is too dry and cold for any life. The researchers found fossil mosses, diatoms, ostracods and beetles on the slopes of Mt Boreas, on the edge of the McKelvey Valley, at latitude 77 degrees south. The researchers also found “pollen and spores, and a few macroscopic remains of plants and insects.” The mosses are also exceptionally well preserved, being effectively freeze dried. David Marchant, an associate professor of earth sciences at Boston University, who also took part in the study, commented: “They are among the best preserved specimens from this age found anywhere on Earth. Some species are identical to modern counterparts, and the dominant moss species is indistinguishable from an existing bryophyte (*Drepanocladus longifolius*).”

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7519614.stm>

EurekAlert: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-07/uol-ufd072108.php

Fossil Science:

http://www.fossilscience.com/research/Rare_Antarctic_Fossils_In_Mountain_Lake_Area_Reveal_Extinction_Of_Tundra_Before_Full_Polar-Climate_Arrived.asp

Boston University: <http://www.bu.edu/phpbin/news/releases/display.php?id=1644>

If these frozen mosses are indistinguishable from living mosses then mosses have not evolved, no matter how old scientists believe them to be. They have reproduced after their kind, just as Genesis says. These fossils are not the first indications that Antarctica was once warmer and full of life. Dinosaurs and coal have been found around Antarctica. The good preservation of the fossils, and the climate change that they indicate, fits well into Biblical history. As the researchers note mosses, ostracods and beetles do not live in dry frozen wildernesses, so Antarctica must have been warmer and wetter in the past. These fossils are also a reminder of the original "very good" world God made, as described in Genesis. For soft tissue to be preserved with the fine detail described above, organisms need to be buried rapidly and deeply so that decay processes do not destroy the tissue structure. This is exactly what would happen in a world-wide continent covering flood, also described in Genesis. Following the flood the climate changed rapidly for the worse, and the polar regions became frozen.

At the other end of the size and climate scale one of the oldest fossil trees is believed to be a tropical palm tree, as described here:

OLDEST FOSSIL PALM DISCOVERED according to *Science*, vol 308, p1864, 24 June 2005, which reported the following brief item:

"Palaeontologists this week got their best look yet at one of the world's first trees, a palmlike growth that flourished in a tropical environment in the middle Devonian Period, about 380 million years ago. Only fragments were previously known of the tree, called *Pseudosporochnus*. But last summer, staff from the New York State Museum in Albany came across a 3m long specimen in a gravel quarry near Conesville, New York -the first time the foliage has been found attached to the trunk. It is well preserved with a crown made up of frond-like branches. Although no roots are in evidence, 'it gives us the first clear impression of what this tree looked like,' says William Stein of the State University at Binghamton, New York, who is studying the fossil. 'What really strikes me is how modern it is,' says Stein, noting its leaf-like branches. (Modern leaves had not yet evolved.) The fossil was described at the North American Palaeontology Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, by New York state palaeontologist Ed Landing."

The fact that the *Science* item refers to it as a palm, and quotes William Stein as stating "how modern it is" is an indication that this is another living fossil to add to the large number of already known living fossils. Their editorial comment "modern leaves had not yet evolved" is a belief by faith in spite of the evidence this fossil had palm fronds. The lack of roots indicates this tree specimen did not grow where it was found. It also had to be buried quickly before the foliage rotted.

A well known living fossil tree in Darwin's time was the ginkgo tree, which had recently been discovered in Asia and specimens had been brought back to Britain and planted at Kew gardens. For more details about ginkgo trees see the slide show "Ginkgos are living fossils" in the Multimedia section of the Creation Research Web Museum. [Click here](#)

The most famous living fossil tree of our time is the Wollemi pine, believed to have been extinct for 200 million years old, but discovered alive in Australia in 1994. A specimen of this tree was planted in Kew Gardens in 2005 by David Attenborough. He commented:

"How marvellous and exciting that we should have discovered this rare survivor from such an ancient past. It is romantic, I think, that something has survived 200 million years unchanged."

ABC News, May 11, 2005 <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2005/05/11/1364665.htm>

As Attenborough planted this tree he held the evidence in his hands, and even made the observation that Wollemi Pines have not changed, i.e. not evolved, since they were fossilised. Furthermore, these trees appear in the fossil record as fully formed trees, with no indication they were ever anything else. In spite of this evidence, Attenborough has made and continues to make career of telling the world that trees evolved from tiny plants that were not trees, and that the first trees to evolve changed into a whole lot of different trees.

Wollemi pines belong to a group of southern pine trees, called *Araucaria* pines that include Hoop pines and Bunya pines. Fossils of these pines can be seen at the Creation Research Jurassic Ark fossil and garden site near Gympie in Queensland, Australia. The fossils were identified because they are the same as living *Araucaria* pines. For information about this site and the fossils it contains see the Jurassic Ark slide shows in the Multimedia section of the Creation Research Web Museum. [Click here](#)

Botanists can identify plants by the internal structure of their stems and roots, but most laypeople identify them by leaves and flowers. Flowers, being more fragile and ephemeral, do not fossilise as well as logs, branches, stems and leaves. However, when flower fossils are found they are the same as living flowers. Here are two examples:

COALIFIED WATERLILY FLOWER FOUND in early cretaceous rocks is identical to modern waterlilies according to Professor Peter Crane et al, reported *Nature* vol 410, p357, 15 Mar 2001.. The researchers wrote: “Here we report the earliest unequivocal evidence, based on fossil floral structures and associated pollen, of fossil plants related to members of the ANITA clades. This extends the history of the water lilies (Nymphaeales) back to the Early Cretaceous (125–115 million years) and into the oldest fossil assemblages that contain unequivocal angiosperm stamens and carpels.” In evolutionary terms this is the oldest known fossil waterlily found

PUSHING UP FOSSIL DAISIES reported in *Science* vol. 329 p. 1605, 24 September 2010: The plant family Asteraceae is one of the most familiar among living plants mainly because of their distinctive flower heads, which are actually a tight aggregation of small individual flowers surrounded by leaf-like structures called phyllaries. Daisies, chrysanthemums, gerberas and sunflowers are members of this group. However, fossil flowers are rare, being mainly represented in the fossil records by pollen rather than whole flowers. Researchers have now found a cluster of “unusually well preserved” fossil flowers that have the distinct features of Asteraceae in Patagonia in South America. Like living Asteraceae the fossil flowers consist of a flower head of tightly clustered individual flowers surrounded by phyllaries. The fossils are dated at 47.5 million years old, making them the oldest Asteraceae. Tod Stuessy of the Department of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany, University of Vienna, commented that the new fossil “sheds light on the history of this successful plant family and adds to evidence that it originated in southern South America about 50 million years ago.”

Darwin said the origin of flowering plants was an “abominable mystery” and for those who refuse to believe Genesis it still is. These fossil flowers only reinforce the fact that present day flowering plants reproduce their own kind and always have. If the oldest waterlily is a waterlily, then waterlilies have not evolved. The only light the fossil daisy sheds on the history of Asteraceae plant family is that Asteraceae have always been Asteraceae. They are no help to the theory that daisies, etc. evolved from some other plant, but it does fit with Genesis, which tells us plants were created as fully formed, distinct kinds. As Asteraceae with the same distinctive features are still here we have irrefutable evidence they have multiplied after their kind.

Flowers and Bees

Even if whole flowers do not fossilise well, pollen does. Pollen grains are quite distinctive and botanists can identify plants by their pollen. Fossilised pollen provides more evidence that plants haven’t changed. It also indicates that pollen carrying creatures, such as insects must have been around at the same time as the plants, as the following examples show.

FOSSIL POLLEN LINKS FLOWERS AND INSECTS, according to an article in ScienceDaily and *PNAS* 22 Jan 2008. Scientists at University of Florida have found nine species of fossil pollen believed to be 96 million years old. The pollen is in clumps indicating that the plants that produced it were pollinated by insects rather than by wind. Flowers that are specialised for insect pollination form their pollen grains into clumps, whereas wind pollinated plants produce pollen as small individual grains. According to ScienceDaily the study “provides strong evidence for the widely accepted hypothesis that insects drove the massive adaptive radiation of early flowering plants when they rapidly diversified and expanded to exploit new terrestrial niches.” David Dilcher of Florida Museum of Natural History commented: “Our study of clumping pollen shows that insect pollinators most likely have always played a large role in the evolution of flowering

plants. “It was true 96 million years ago and we are seeing it today with the potential threat to our agricultural crops because of the collapse of the honeybee colonies. The insect pollinators provide for more efficient and effective pollination of flowering plants.” ScienceDaily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/01/080117181233.htm>

The belief that “insects drove the massive adaptive radiation of early flowering plants” may be widely accepted, but it is a belief by faith alone. Evolutionary scientists have yet to explain how the behaviour of insects can make changes to the genes in plants that control the formation of pollen. The availability of pollen carrying insects will help plants to survive, provided they already produce clumped pollen, but it does not explain how plants came to produce clumped pollen in the first place. The interdependence of different living organisms, such as plants and insects, is much better explained by a creator making both to work together in a fully functioning ecosystem.

In the following examples both the pollen and the insect were found.

UNCHANGED FOSSIL FIG WASP FOUND, according to reports in ScienceDaily 15 June 2010, and Fossil Science 16 June 2010. Steve Compton, of University of Leeds, and colleagues have identified the oldest known fossil fig wasps among specimens originally collected from the Isle of Wight in the 1920s. The wasps had been incorrectly identified as ants, but the mistake was noted by the late Mikhail Kozlov who was carrying out research at the Natural History Museum, London into the flora and fauna of the Isle of Wight. Compton’s team compared the fossils with modern day fig wasps and found they were almost identical. Like their living counterparts the fossil wasps had pollen pockets on their undersides and these contained fig pollen, indicating the wasps were actively pollinating fig trees just as they do today. The fossils have been dated at 34 million years old. Compton commented: “What makes this fossil fascinating is not just its age, but that it is so similar to the modern species. This means that the complex relationship that exists today between the fig wasps and their host trees developed more than 34 million years ago and has remained unchanged since then.” He went on to say: “We believe from molecular evidence that fig wasps and fig trees have been evolving together for over 60 million years. Now we have fossil confirmation that gets us a bit closer to that date. Although we often think of the world as constantly changing, what this fossil gives us is an example of something remaining unchanged for tens of millions of years - something which in biology we call ‘stasis’.” The reports also note that figs are tropical fruits and do not grow in the Isle of Wight today.

ScienceDaily: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/06/100615191649.htm>

Fossil Science:

http://www.fossilscience.com/research/Worlds_oldest_fig_wasp_fossil_proves_that_if_it_works_doesnt_change_it.asp

ED. COM. The word “stasis” means to stay the same. The fact that the fossil pollen could be identified as fig pollen means figs have stayed the same as well. Therefore, this fossil is no help to the belief that “fig wasps and fig trees have been evolving together for 60 million years.” It is evidence that wasps and figs have reproduced after their kind, just as Genesis says about both plants and animals. If you want to ponder a bit more – it also means the cold windy un-tropical Isle of Wight, was once “figgily” warm.

FIRST FOSSIL ORCHID FOUND, according to reports in Harvard University Gazette, BBC News Online, ABC (Australia) News in Science, news@ nature 29 Aug 2007 and *Nature*, vol. 448, p1042, 30 Aug 2007. Santiago Ramirez of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Massachusetts, and his colleagues have found a bee preserved in amber that was carrying orchid pollen on its back. It was immediately recognisable as orchid pollen because orchids package their pollen in distinctive clumps

called pollinia. The pollen grains were so well preserved that the researchers were able to classify it as belonging to the orchid subtribe Goodyerinae. The structure of pollen grains is similar to that of two living species of Goodyerinae, but it has been given a new genus and species name *Meliorchis caribea*. It must have had the same method of pollination of one species of living Dominican Goodyerinae orchids that attaches its pollinia to back of bees. The bee is an extinct stingless bee named *Proplebeia dominicana* and is also "exquisitely preserved." The amber was found in the Dominican Republic and is dated as belonging to the Miocene period, i.e. 15 to 20 million years old. The preserved pollen is the first fossil orchid ever found and the first fossil of an insect-orchid interaction. Because of the lack of fossils there has been much dispute about when orchids first evolved and estimates have varied from 26 to 112 million years ago. Those who believed in the older dates claimed that in spite of the lack of fossils, orchids are the largest, most diverse, highly specialised and widespread group of flowering plants, and it must have taken a long time for them to evolve into all those varieties and spread all over the world. Now that they have a date to start with Ramirez's colleagues at the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University and Nationaal Herbarium Nederland in Leiden, The Netherlands, have used a "molecular clock" method of estimating ages by comparing genes of living orchids and building a family tree by working out which plants are most closely related and working back. By assuming a constant rate of evolution, the scientists estimated that the oldest common ancestor of orchids lived over 76 million years ago. Ramirez commented: "The dinosaurs could have walked among orchids."

Harvard Gazette: <http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2007/09.13/99-orchid.html>

ABC: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/2007/2019620.htm>

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6969301.stm>

We have no doubt that dinosaurs walked among orchids, but not because of any reasons given by the authors of this report. The "molecular clock" method depends on applying already held evolutionary assumptions to the facts. Let's separate the facts from the assumptions in this story. The facts are that a bee with pollen on its back was preserved well enough for both the bee and the pollen to be identified. The pollen can be identified as belonging to a known group of orchids, the Goodyerinae, which are still alive and growing all over the world. None of these facts are any evidence for the theory of evolution. The bee and the orchid show no sign of having once been any other kind of living thing or of changing into another living thing. If the species of bee and orchid are both extinct that is evidence that there used to be more orchids and bees than there are now. The facts fit Genesis, which tells us that plants and animals were created as separate kinds to reproduce after their kinds. The pollen attached to this bee reminds us of the working relationship between insects and plants that enables plants to multiply after their kind, and couldn't work until both were carrying out their function. Since then the world has degenerated because of human rebellion and God's judgement. This has meant many living things have died out, but no new ones have come into being.

The bee described in the above report is not considered to be the oldest fossil bee, and therefore no-one is really surprised that it is a fully formed bee and shows no sign of being anything else, and appears well designed for pollinating flowers, just like living bees. However, the oldest fossil bee is also a fully formed bee, capable of carrying pollen, as the following report shows.

OLDEST FOSSIL BEE FOUND, according to a report in BBC Online News and *Science* vol 314, p614, 27 Oct 2006. A bee preserved in amber, believed to be 100 million years old has been found in northern Burma. The bee is very small, about 3mm long, and has been classified as belonging to a new family and genus, because it has some features that

are different to living bees. It has branched hairs that trap pollen grains like living bees but has narrow hind legs more like wasp. George Poinar of Oregon State University commented to the BBC: "This fossil may help us understand when wasps, which were mostly just meat-eating carnivores, turned into bees that could pollinate plants and serve a completely different biological function."

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6084974.stm>

One well preserved dead insect is not going to explain how one kind of insect could turn into another. The fact that this insect is not the same as a living bee or wasp indicates there were once more different kinds of insects, and this one has since died out. It is not evidence that it turned into another kind of insect. Whatever it was, it was a fully formed functioning insect that could pollinate flowers. The belief that bees, which eat nectar and pollen, evolved from carnivorous wasps is pure faith, because no-one has observed it happen. According to Genesis all animals originally ate plants, so wasps would have started out feeding from plants and only became carnivorous when the supply of plant food decreased as the environment degenerated.

Although the insect described above seems to be extinct (and therefore not a *living* fossil), preserved specimens of bees with living counterparts only reinforce the evidence that bees have always been bees, as the following study shows.

BEES CHALLENGE ASTEROID THEORY, according to an article in BBC News Online, 23 Nov 2004. A current popular theory on dinosaur extinction is that an asteroid impact occurred at the end of the Cretaceous period, 65 million years ago, and the debris from this blocked out light and heat from the sun plunging the world into a prolonged winter. In an effort to assess the effect of this catastrophe Jaqueline Kozisek of the University of New Orleans trawled through the scientific literature, made lists of "survivors" and studied those with strict survival requirements. She worked out the survival requirements of Cretaceous animals by using studies of the most similar organisms alive today. For example, tropical honeybees have been found preserved in amber believed to be older than the asteroid impact. Tropical honeybees today like to live in a temperature range of 31-34 degrees Celsius (88-93F). This is also the best temperature range for the flowers they feed from. Kozisek's research found that tropical honeybees have changed little in 65 million years so their survival requirements should have been the same then as now. Such findings led Kozisek to question current theories of the asteroid winter, which estimate the temperature dropped by 7 – 12 degrees Celsius, making the world too cold for tropical bees. According to the BBC article, "Amber preserved specimens of the oldest tropical honeybee *Cretotrigona prisca* are almost indistinguishable from some of their modern counterparts. This means they could even be their ancestors, researchers think."

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4030933.stm>

If oldest tropical honeybees are the ancestors of modern day counterparts then the bees have reproduced after their kind since they first appeared on earth and have not evolved. Although this study was done in the context of evolutionary theory, Kozisek's assumption that Cretaceous animals tolerated the same conditions as living descendants is actually a creationist assumption, based on the statement made in Genesis that living things were made according to their kinds, and have reproduced after their kinds since then.

More Insects

Amber preserved insects of all kinds have provided good evidence for the truth of Genesis. Because they are so well preserved it is easy to compare them with living examples, as in the following example.

OLDEST WASPS LIKE LIVING WASPS, according to a report in *Cretaceous Research*, Volume 25, Issue 4, August 2004, Pages 509-516. Andrew Deans and colleagues found two previously undescribed species of ensign wasps (Hymenoptera: Evaniidae) preserved in Lebanese amber believed to be 120-130 million years old. This makes them two of the oldest known species of wasp, but they are very similar in structure to living wasps. Deans and colleagues write: "The family currently includes 20 extant genera with over 450 species and seven fossil genera encompassing at least eight additional species" and concluded that the family "Evaniidae diverged early and has expressed few morphological modifications in the last 120–130 Ma."

The translation of "few morphological modifications" is that wasp body structure has not evolved in the time since these newly found specimens were first entrapped in amber. The fact that Evaniidae are represented by 20 extant (living) genera and seven fossil genera also shows these observations are the opposite of evolution, but fit well into Biblical history. Genesis says living creatures were made "according to their kinds", but since sin came into the creation the world has degenerated and many kinds of living creatures have died out.

Insects are also preserved in the rock record, but these fossils are also evidence that Genesis is true, as the following examples show.

FOSSIL LEAF INSECT found according to *Nature*, vol. 445, p128, 11 Jan 2007. Scientists at the University of Bonn have found the "first example of a fossil 'leaf insect' from the fossil record" in the Messel formation in Germany, dated as 47 million years old. The fossil is "remarkably well preserved" and "resembles modern leaf insects of the *Phasmatodea* order which includes stick insects." The insect has been named *Eophyllum messelensis*.

A fully formed creature that can be classified alongside living leaf insects is just what you would expect to find as a result of insects having been created as separate kinds that reproduced after their kinds, regardless of how and when they were entombed in the fossil record. Remarkably well preserved fossils occur when living organisms are rapidly and deeply buried, so they don't decompose. Thus, well preserved fossil insects are also a reminder that fossil bearing rocks were not formed slowly and gradually and provide no evidence for the long ages claimed by evolutionists, as the next example shows.

FOSSIL ANTLION INTRIGUE reported in *New Scientist*, 17 Dec 2005, p19. A beautifully preserved antlion fossil found in the Crato Formation in north-east Brazil has intrigued scientists. The wings of the insect are almost perfectly preserved, with the colour and pattern on them clearly visible. Preservation of colour in fossils is rare and scientists are not sure how it happens, but suggest that rapid burial and oxygen free conditions are involved. The other intriguing question about the fossil antlion is what it ate. Living antlions have this name because their larvae eat ants. The Crato formation fossil is dated a 112 to 125 million years old but, according to *New Scientist*, "since ants evolved some 10 million years after this antlion died, the hungry young insect must have feasted on something else."

The researchers are correct in suggesting rapid burial in an oxygen free medium will prevent chemical breakdown, as well as preventing destruction by micro-organisms, and enable fine details to be preserved. The fossils also had to stay buried until the fossil hunters found it. This fits well into Biblical history of a young earth that has undergone rapid catastrophic upheavals commencing at Noah's Flood. The antlion diet is not a problem for Biblical creation either. Genesis states that all animals (which would have included antlions) originally ate plants. Only after the world degenerated due to the Fall of Man and God's

judgement and the later loss of food sources after the Noah's Flood, did carnivorous habits develop and antlion larvae took to eating ants.

Other Arthropods

Other arthropods, i.e. creatures that have exoskeletons and jointed legs, have also been found as well preserved fossils in rock or in amber, and provide more evidence for living things reproducing after their kind.

OLDEST ORB WEAVER FOUND, according to reports in BBC News 14 June 2006 and Biology Letters FirstCite Early Online Publishing, DOI: 10.1098/rsbl.2006.0506. David Penney of the University of Manchester, UK and Vincente Ortuno of the University of Alcala, Spain have found two specimens of a spider from the family Araneidae, the orb weaving spiders, preserved in amber from Alva in northern Spain. The amber is dated as Lower Cretaceous - between 115 to 120 million years old. This makes them the oldest orb weaving spiders found. Today there are over 2,000 species of orb weaving spiders in three families. Penny and Ortuno write: "Given the complex and stereotyped movements that all orb weavers use to construct their webs, there is little question regarding their common origin, which must have occurred in the Jurassic or earlier." They then suggest that orb weavers diversified during the Cretaceous period because that is when flowering plants evolved, which in turn "begot an expansion of the insects which pollinated them" providing prey for the spiders.

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5075860.stm>

The researchers may believe that orb-weaving spiders arose by chance some time before 120 million years ago, and then diversified. They may also claim that orb weavers evolved unseen millions of years before these specimens were preserved in amber, and they then gave rise to 2,000 other species, but these fossils provide no evidence for it. The fossils are evidence that orb weaving spiders have always been orb weaving spiders, which is exactly what you would expect if living creatures were separately created to reproduce after their kinds. The reason for the comments about flowering plants and insect pollinators is the common evolutionary idea that if a type of food becomes available, e.g. flying insects, animals will evolve to eat it, e.g. spiders. This is blind faith. The fact that spiders eat insects now more explains how spiders or insects came into existence, than observing people eating hamburgers explains where man or cattle came from.

Another kind of spider also believed to have been living in the Cretaceous period has only been found as fully formed spiders, with no sign of evolving from or into anything else, as the following example shows.

SPIDER AGES BY 80 MILLION YEARS, according to a report in Cretaceous Research, Volume 27, June 2006, Pages 442-446. David Penney and Paul Selden have found fossils of a spider that now lives in New Zealand. The fossils were found in Cretaceous ambers found in Manitoba and Alberta in Canada. The fossils are juveniles but have all the distinctive features of a type of spider classified as belonging "to the single, extant, monotypic genus *Huttonia* O. Pickard-Cambridge". The researchers go on to say: "The fossils extend the known geological age of Huttoniidae back approximately 80 myr (million years)".

The only change is that this spider was once more widespread than now. This is a reminder that the whole world is degenerating, and living creatures are dying out, leaving diminished or fewer kinds, but show no sign of turning into new living creatures.

Another type arthropod, similar to spiders is the harvestman, commonly called “daddy long legs” because of their long narrow legs. They have also been found well preserved in amber, as described the following example.

HARVESTMEN HAVEN'T CHANGED according to an article in BBC News 18 May 2005. Jason Dunlop and colleagues from the Museum für Naturkunde, Germany have found a "100 million-year-old arachnid, which looked like it might have died last year" preserved in amber. It is a harvestman - a spider-like creature with a small body and long thin legs and scientists are excited about it because they hope it will give a clue as to how arachnids managed to survive the extinction of dinosaurs. Paul Seldon, an arachnid expert from University of Manchester, UK commented to the BBC "whenever you find an arachnid from the Mesozoic era, you can nearly always place it in a modern family. This means there well may have been extinction of species, but overall the arachnids seem to have sailed through." This specimen is not considered to be the oldest fossil of its type, but whatever their age arachnids haven't changed. "If you go back to very, very ancient fossils and look at the internal organs, you see it actually has reproductive organs just the same as a living one; it has a breathing system the same as the living one. So it looks like there hasn't been any major change in the body plan," said Jason Dunlop. He also commented: "If you go back to the period of about 300 to 400 million years ago, you actually have more arachnid fossils." The BBC article summarises the scientists' conclusions with the statement: "The harvestman hit on a successful evolutionary 'design' fairly early on and has changed rather little over the past few hundred million years."

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4555835.stm>

If Mesozoic harvestmen can be placed in modern families then as the BBC says, they have “changed little” since they were originally designed. However, it was not evolution that designed them. Chance random processes never designed anything.

There may be more arachnid fossils in rocks dated 300 to 400 million years, but they only provide more evidence that arachnids have reproduced after their kind, using reproductive organs that haven't changed, as the following example shows.

SEXY DADDY-LONG-LEGS the same way for 400 million years, according a report in *New Scientist*, 20 Sep 2003, p19. A team of palaeontologists led by Jason Dunlop of Humboldt University found fossilised harvestmen (a type of spider commonly known as daddy-long-legs) in silica formations at Rhynie, near Aberdeen in Scotland that are believed to be 400 - 412 million years old. The fossils are so well preserved their respiratory (breathing) systems and male and female reproductive systems can be clearly seen. According to *New Scientist* these are the world's oldest genitals and they haven't changed for 400 million years.

If you believe in all those millions of years this represents a lot of reproducing after their kind just as Genesis clearly states. These fossils are also a good reminder that you've got to get sex right the first time or you're extinct.

Another group of arthropod that are called spiders, but are not, are “sea spiders”. Recent research on them has led them to be classified as living fossils, as the following two studies show.

SEA SPIDERS AREN'T SPIDERS, according to an article in ScienceNOW 19 Oct 2005 and *Nature*, vol 437, p 20 Oct 2005. Sea spiders live on the sea floor where they eat seaweed and small invertebrates. They are believed to have evolved 490 million years ago and have been classified as spiders because they have eight legs and a pair of pincers, called chelifores at the front of their heads. The chelifores are believed to be modifications

of the fangs of land dwelling spiders. Biologists at Harvard University have studied the brains developing embryos of sea spiders to find out where the chelifores get their nerve supply from. Land Spider fang nerves come from the midbrain, but sea spider chelifore nerves come from the front part of the brain. According to ScienceNOW "This supports the theory that sea spiders belong to their own ancient lineage that predates the origin of all other modern arthropods." Max Telford, an evolutionary biologist at the University College London, UK commented that the study showed convincingly that sea spiders were "extraordinary living fossils".

SILURIAN SEA SPIDER preserved by volcanic eruption, according to a report in BBC News and ScienceNOW 21 Oct 2004. Sea spiders are delicate creatures with long thin legs that are rarely fossilised. Oxford University Palaeontologist Derek Siveter and colleagues have found the oldest most complete fossil sea spider preserved in volcanic rock in Hertfordshire, England dated as 425 million years old. They were unable to extract the fossil from the rock so they took thin slices of the rock and photographed them, and then used a computer imaging process to build a three dimensional image of the fossil. After studying this they concluded that the fossil "had all the hallmarks of current-day sea spiders", and sea spiders must have evolved as a distinct group of animals about 450 million years ago.

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3756614.stm>

Whether or not you believe in the 490 or 450 million years these creatures are supposed to have appeared and remained as a distinct group with unchanged distinctive body plan for, they are certainly "extraordinary living fossils". Both the living and fossil creatures are good evidence that sea spiders were created as distinct fully functional creatures and have multiplied after their kind ever since - just as Genesis describes all living creatures.

Other fossil water dwelling crustaceans believed to over 400 million years old also provide evidence that living creatures have not evolved. Here are two examples.

"CRUSTACEANS AGAINST CHANGE" is the headline of an article in ScienceNOW 4 Dec 2003 about a fossil ostracod (a tiny shellfish) found in Herefordshire, UK and studied by palaeontologists at University of Leicester, UK. They were able to study the fine details of its anatomy because it was rapidly mineralised after being buried in volcanic ash. The fossil indicates that ostracods "have had essentially the same anatomy for a record breaking 425 million years."

CAMBRIAN CRUSTACEANS PUT ARTHROPOD ORIGINS BACK, according to a report in *Nature*, vol 449, p595, 4 Oct 2007. Xi-guang Zhang of Yunnan University, China and colleagues from Universities of Leicester and Ulm, have found three previously unknown fossil crustaceans in Lower Cambrian rocks in China. One of the new fossils is described as "markedly similar to those of living cephalocarids, branchiopods and copepods". These creatures are considered to be highly evolved types of crustaceans, so the researchers suggest the newly found fossils' "stratigraphical position provides substantial support to the proposition that the main cladogenic event that gave rise to the Arthropoda was before the Cambrian."

Cambrian rocks are believed to be over 500 million years old and usually considered to be the oldest rocks containing complex creatures with any hard structures such as an exoskeleton. Because the scientists who did this study believe that such complex creatures took millions of years to evolve from simple creatures, they have to believe in a "cladogenic event", i.e. the formation of a new kind of animal, before these rocks were laid down. As the Cambrian fossils are "markedly similar" to living arthropods, they are really evidence they were created

as fully formed functional creatures in the beginning, and have reproduced after their kind ever since these rocks were laid down.

Another Cambrian living fossil is the horseshoe crab. This has been long classified as a living fossil and as more fossils of this creature are found they provide more evidence that horseshoe crabs have always been horseshoe crabs, as this report shows.

OLDEST HORSESHOE CRAB FOUND, as reported in LiveScience and Palaeontology, 51(1), 1-9, Jan 2008. Canadian Palaeontologists have found two small horseshoe crab fossils in Ordovician rocks in Manitoba, Canada, dated as 445 million years old. This makes the new fossils nearly 100 million years older than previous oldest known specimens. The new fossils have been named *Lunataspis aurora* and are about 4cm (1.5 in) long. This is much smaller than modern day horseshoe crabs, but the fossils may be young animals that had not reached adult size. Otherwise, they have the same body structure as living horseshoe crabs. David Rudkin of the Royal Ontario Museum, Manitoba, commented to LiveScience: "We wouldn't necessarily have expected horseshoe crabs to look very much like the modern ones, but that's exactly what they look like. This body plan that they've invented, they've stayed with it for almost a half a billion years. It's a good plan. They've survived almost unchanged up until the present day, whereas lots of other animals haven't."

LiveScience: <http://www.livescience.com/animals/080128-horseshoe-crab.html>

We agree it is a good body plan, but good body structures do not come about by chance random process. They are the result of intelligent plan and purpose. Neither do they function for If this animal had really survived almost unchanged for "almost a half a billion years" after appearing suddenly and fully formed in the fossil record, then it is living (and dead) proof that no matter how much time you have, horseshoe crabs don't evolve.

Other crustaceans and sea creatures may not have been dated as old as horseshoe crabs, but they are still evidence that living fossils are no help to the theory of evolution, as the following examples show.

JURASSIC SHRIMP LIVES, according to a report in New Scientist News 10 Dec 2006 and ABC (Australia) News in Science, 11 Dec 2006. Researchers carrying out a census of marine life have turned up a shrimp that was believed to have been extinct for 50 million years. The creature, named *Neoglyphea neocaledonia*, was found alive and well living in the Coral Sea near Australia. The researchers have also found many previously unknown species of sea creatures. Fred Grassle, chair of the project's scientific steering committee, commented to New Scientist: "Each expedition reveals new marvels of the ocean - and with the return of each vessel it is increasingly clear that many more discoveries await marine explorers for years to come."

New Scientist: <http://environment.newscientist.com/article/dn10756-marine-census-reveals-jurassic-shrimp-and-more.html>

ABC: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/news/stories/2006/1808557.htm>

COLD CORAL SURPRISE reported in BBC News, 4 June 2004. An international survey of coral reefs found in cooler waters along the edges of the continental shelves and around offshore submarine banks and sea mounts has turned up many unexpected creatures. Prof. Andre Freiwald of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, German, who led the study commented: "We are finding not only new species of corals, and cold water coral in new locations, but associated organisms, like snails and clams, that were believed by palaeontologists to have become extinct two million years ago. That was a real surprise, and we expect many of these surprises in the future as we undertake more scientific

research."

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3773919.stm>

The living "Jurassic shrimp" was recognised because it looked the same as the fossil shrimp found in Jurassic rocks. So it can be added to the ever growing list of living fossils. No matter how old you believe Jurassic rocks are, this find shows that shrimps have reproduced after their kind since these rocks were deposited. The more we search out life on earth or the sea the more "living fossils" we find. Finding the "extinct" reef creatures is no help to the theory of evolution. Even if they had been there for millions of years, they have reproduced after their kind, just as Genesis said they would. The fact that some living creatures now only live in obscure places, mostly untouched by humans, fits the Biblical history of the world. The Bible indicates that the world was once a far better place but has been damaged by human sin and God's judgement. Therefore, it is no real surprise that some creatures can now only survive in out of the way places not commonly explored by humans.

As the scientists involved in these explorations find more new and wondrous things living in the sea, they should be reminded of Psalm 107:23-24, "Others went out on the sea in ships They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep."

OLDEST FOSSIL LOBSTER FOUND according to a report in *National Geographic*, 3 May 2007. Scientists at National Autonomous University of Mexico have studied a fossil lobster and have dated it as being 110 million years old. That makes it 20 million older than the previous record holder for fossil lobsters. The fossil is named *Palinurus palaceosi* and was found in a quarry in Chiapas, Mexico along with numerous other crustaceans and fish. It belongs to a genus of lobster that is alive today in Africa. The researchers suggest that the fossil site is where lobsters first evolved. Geologist Francisco Javier Vega Vera commented: "The important message that we can give is that the evolution of these groups of crustaceans needs to be reviewed, since the specialists of the world thought that it started much later. We could call them living fossils, since they have had a consistent morphologic pattern throughout many millions of years."

We are happy to call this lobster a living fossil, because living fossils provide some of the best evidence that the creation account in Genesis is true. Having "a consistent morphologic pattern throughout many millions of years" is another way of saying these lobsters have not changed since this fossil lobster was buried. This means lobsters have reproduced after their kind, as Genesis states, rather than evolving from or into anything else.

Freshwater crustaceans show just as much reluctance to evolve as sea dwelling ones.

OLDEST CRAYFISH LIVED IN WARM WORLD according a press release from Emory University, 5 Feb 2008. A group of American and Australian researchers have found fossil crayfish and fossils burrows in Mesozoic rocks dated 115 million years old. The fossil burrows are "nearly identical to those made by modern crayfish in southeastern Australia." Anthony Martin of Emory University commented: "Comparing these fossil burrows to those made by modern crayfish in Australia shows us that their behaviour hasn't changed that much." Crayfish are found worldwide and scientists from Thomas Huxley (an early promoter of Darwin's theories) onwards have wondered how they could be so widespread when they cannot survive in saltwater. Some scientists have tried to explain it with the theory that all the continents were once joined together. Recently molecular biologists have suggested that all southern hemisphere crayfish originated in southeast Australia. Anthony Martin who led the study commented: "The evolution of Southern Hemisphere crayfish has challenged researchers since the 1870s. Only now, 140 years later, are we starting to put together the physical evidence for this evolution through the discovery of fossils." The press release also comments that the Mesozoic era, when the crayfish lived

"is of particular interest to scientists since it is believed to be the last time the Earth experienced pronounced global warming, with an average temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit - just 10 degrees warmer than today."

Emory University: http://www.bio-medicine.org/biology-news-1/Oldest-Australian-crayfish-fossils-provide-missing-evolutionary-link-2143-1/http://news.emory.edu/Releases/crayfish_fossil1202247725.html

Scientists would be less challenged if they left aside the evolutionary assumptions and noted that the facts about fossil and living crayfish fit better into Biblical history where God made one ocean and one continent and made living creatures to multiply after their kinds. During Noah's flood many creatures would have been wiped out, but some would have survived in pockets of freshwater scattered all over the world. During the Post Flood ice ages, when seas levels were low and many of the landmasses and rivers were joined, crayfish could have spread further afield without having to survive in saltwater. The fossil findings described above simply provide more evidence that Genesis is true and it is no surprise to find crayfish all over the world, whose fossils appear to be the same as living crayfish.

We wonder what those on the global warming bandwagon think caused 10 degrees of global warming, (which is far in excess of the current warming), having occurred at a time when the evolutionists claim no humans were around to drive cars and trucks, burn coal to generate electricity or breed herds of flatulent cows.

More Sea Creatures

Among the well known living fossil fish are the coelacanth and the lungfish. Although these have been known about for many years but their fossils continue to be found and continue to reinforce their status as creatures that haven't changed, as the following two examples show.

LIVING FOSSIL FISH STORY reported in BBC News 1 Aug 2007. An Indonesian fisherman has caught a living Coelacanth fish off the coast of Sulawesi Island in Indonesia. The fish was 1.3 metres (4ft 4in) long and weighed 50kg (110lb) when caught, and has been frozen and sent for scientific tests. The Coelacanth was believed to have died out over 70 million years ago until a living specimen was found in 1938 near South Africa. Since then more than 300 specimens have been found in the same region, but in 1998 scientists were surprised to find one in Indonesia, thousands of km away. The fish has distinctive large lobe shaped fins and has sometimes been nicknamed "old four legs". The Coelacanth is a famous "living fossil" – a living creature that is the same as its fossils. Researchers at the University of Chicago have recently discovered a fossilised coelacanth fin in sediments at Beartooth Butte, Northern Wyoming dated as 400 million years old. They claim the fossil fin will reveal more about the evolution of the fish.

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6925784.stm>

Before the first living specimen was found in 1938 the Coelacanth was believed to be an evolutionary link between fish and land animals. When the living fish was discovered it was found to be a deep sea fish that used its lobe fins to help find food on the ocean floor and shows no sign of changing into a land animal. The new fossil finding will do nothing to help the theory of evolution. The reason it was recognised as a Coelacanth fin is because the fish has not evolved. Instead it has reproduced after its kind – just as Genesis states living things were created to do.

LUNGFISH TEETH NEVER CHANGE, according to *Nature* vol. 411, p548, 31 May, 2001. Lungfish have a unique pattern of teeth on the palate (roof of the mouth) and inner surface of the lower jaw. New teeth are continually formed but old ones are not shed. This results in adults having many rows of teeth on the roof of the mouth and lower jaw - an

arrangement of teeth unique to lungfish. Robert Reiz of the University of Toronto, and Moya Smith of the Dental Institute, Kings College London studied the teeth of fossil and living lungfish and were surprised to find they are exactly the same even though Reiz and Smith believe they "are separated by 360 million years of evolution."

Teeth are not the only distinctive features identical in fossil and living specimens of lungfish. Every study of fossil and living lungfish has revealed they are the same no matter how many years you think they are separated by.

A lesser known fish is the lamprey, but the report below indicates, it is just as much a living fossil as the more well known coelacanth and lungfish.

OLDEST LAMPREY FOUND, according to a report in *Nature*, vol. 443, p981, 26 Oct 2006. Scientists from University of Witwatersrand, South Africa and University of Chicago have found a fossilised Lamprey (a jawless fish) in Devonian rocks in South Africa. It is dated as being 35 million years older than the previous oldest specimen. The new fossil is remarkably similar to living lampreys, and the researchers comment that lampreys are "ancient specialists that have persisted as such and survived a subsequent 360 million years" and therefore "lampreys might be described as 'living fossils'."

This is considered to be a very primitive fish because it does not have jaws. Jawless fish are supposed to have evolved into fish with jaws but as this fossil shows fossil lampreys look just like living lampreys, and the neither the fossil nor living versions show any sign of evolving into anything else.

Another strange fish is the seahorse, a bony fish with a single fin on its back, a long narrow tail and a distinctive upright swimming posture, that supposedly evolved from a typical bony fish with fins and a horizontal posture. However, the oldest seahorse fossils have all the features of living sea horses.

OLDEST FOSSIL SEAHORSES found, according to *National Geographic* online, 4 May 2009 and Reefbuilders 5 May 2009. Jure Žalohar of Slovenia's University of Ljubljana has found a number of beautifully preserved seahorse fossils in siltstone in Slovenia. He and his colleagues were looking for fossil insects in the area, so finding seahorse fossils was a complete surprise. The fossils include juveniles and adults of several species, and are dated at 13 million years old, making them the oldest seahorse fossils found so far. One of the fossils is an extinct seahorse, described by *National Geographic* as being "among the first evidence of the only known extinct seahorse species ever found, *Hippocampus slovenicus*. The fish is similar to living pygmy seahorses, but has a considerably longer snout." The fossils are so well preserved they show signs of black flecks in their skin. *National Geographic* goes on to say: "They probably dwelled in dense beds of seagrass, where food - such as small crustaceans - was abundant. The seahorses' black flecks would have camouflaged them in the vegetation, which the fish also likely anchored themselves to using their prehensile tails." According to reefbuilders.com, "The finds shed some light on the evolution of seahorses and their gregarious nature which is still evident in modern seahorses."

National Geographic: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/05/photogalleries/seahorse-fossils/index.html>

Reefbuilders: <http://www.reefbuilders.com/2009/05/05/13-million-year-seahorse-fossil-slovenia/>

These fossils shed no light on the evolution of seahorses, because they are fully formed seahorses. There is no evidence in these new fossils here that some non-seahorse kind evolved into a seahorse kind, but there is abundant evidence that seahorses have produced after their kind from the first known ones to the present. Furthermore, the seahorses may have lived in beds of seagrass but the fossil insects found in the same rocks did not. Finding

well preserved land and sea creatures together is evidence that this fossil bed is not a buried ecosystem, but the results of a catastrophic event that swept up many creatures, mixed them and rapidly dumped and buried them.

In general, bony fish fossilise well, and there are millions of fossil fish of many kinds. All of them are fully formed, clearly identifiable fish that show no evidence of changing into anything else. Unlike bony fish or shellfish, octopuses do not fossilise well. In fact, identifiable fossil octopuses have only been recently reported in the scientific literature, as described in the following report.

FOSSIL OCTOPUSES FOUND, according to report in EurekAlert, 17 Mar 2009 and LiveScience 18 May 2009. Living octopuses have soft bodies and when they die they rapidly decay into structureless blobs if they are not first eaten by scavengers. Therefore, as these reports comment “the preservation of an octopus as a fossil is about as unlikely as finding a fossil sneeze, and none of the 200-300 species of octopus known today has ever been found in fossilized form.” A group of European scientists have found five “extraordinarily well preserved” octopus fossils in Cretaceous limestone in Lebanon. Dirk Fuchs of the Freie University Berlin, who studied the fossils, explained to LiveScience: “The luck was that the corpse landed untouched on the sea floor. The sea floor was free of oxygen and therefore free of scavengers. Both the anoxia (absence of oxygen) and a rapid sedimentation rate prevented decay.” There are three different species in the collection and they are so well preserved there are traces of the suckers, internal gills and ink in the fossils. The specimens have been classified as new species but are very similar to living octopuses. Fuchs commented: “these things are 95 million years old, yet one of the fossils is almost indistinguishable from living species.” The EurekaAlert article states: “This provides important evolutionary information.” Fuchs went on to say: “The more primitive relatives of octopuses had fleshy fins along their bodies. The new fossils are so well preserved that they show, like living octopus, that they didn’t have these structures.” The age estimate of 95 million years put the origin of octopuses back about 10 million years in the evolutionary timetable.

EurekaAlert: http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2009-03/tpa-cow031709.php

LiveScience: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29757659/>

If the fossils are almost indistinguishable from living species, then they provide no “important evolutionary information.” There is no evidence the so called “primitive relatives” evolved into either the fossil or living octopuses. The creatures with fleshy fins have either lost the fins, or they have died out altogether. Neither of these changes is evolution, but they do fit into the Biblical history of a world, which tells us living creatures were created as fully functional creatures in separate kinds, and any changes since then have been loss of structure and function, or loss of whole creatures. Such changes are the opposite of evolution, but are what you would expect in a world that started out very good but has been going downhill following God’s judgement on human sin.

Fuchs is correct about the fossils being preserved by rapid sedimentation in an anoxic environment, but that will not happen simply because a creature dies and falls to the sea bed. It has to be deeply buried right away. It is more likely these animals were preserved when they were suddenly swept up together with a mass of sediment and then dumped. Therefore, the sediments the fossils are found in do not preserve evidence of vast time spans claimed by the evolutionists.

Amphibians

According to evolutionary theory, the first vertebrates that moved from water to land were amphibians – salamanders, frogs, toads, etc. However, when their fossils are found they are just like living amphibians, as the following examples of fossil and living amphibians show.

OLD SALAMANDERS JUST LIKE NEW concludes science writer Robert Carroll in *Nature*, vol 410, p534, 29 Mar 2001 writing about the discovery of more than 500 salamander fossils buried in a Jurassic volcanic deposit in China. "The fossils are immediately recognisable as salamanders from their body and limb proportions, as well as from details of their skull anatomy," writes Carroll. The fossil salamanders also had a limb bone structure that is only found in salamanders (fossil and living) and not in other types of amphibians. Experts Ke-Quin Gao and Neil Shubin who studied the fossils and reported them to *Nature* (same issue, p574) claim the salamander body plan "has remained fundamentally stable for over 150 million years."

Another term for "fundamentally stable" is "after their kind" - a phrase God uses ten times in Genesis 1 to describe the world He created living creatures. It is only because salamanders have faithfully reproduced after their kind that the Chinese fossils were immediately recognisable.

INDIAN FROG IS A LIVING FOSSIL, as reported in *Nature* vol. 425, p711, 16 Oct 2003. Scientists have analysed the DNA of a strange purple burrowing frog recently discovered in India and found it is similar to some frogs that are only found in the Seychelles Islands in the middle of the Indian Ocean. The Seychelles frogs are considered to be living fossils whose origins are back in the dinosaur age. The Indian frog, described in a BBC news report 17 Oct 2003 as looking like "a squat, grumpy blob rather than a living creature" is quite different from other frogs and has been classified as a new family as well as a new genus and species. It has been given the name *Nasikabatrachus*. The first part of the name is derived from the Sanskrit word "nasik", meaning nose, because the frog has a distinct white protrusion on its snout.

How ever far back you believe the dinosaur age was, this frog has not changed since then, i.e. it has reproduced after its kind, just as Genesis said it would. Its name is also interesting for linguists studying the history of languages. The Sanskrit word for nose, "nasik" is very similar to the Latin word "nusus" meaning nose, which is the root of the English word "nasal" the adjective used to describe things associated with the nose.

Reptiles

Reptiles include another classic living fossil – the Tuatara lizard. The more fossils we find of these, the more they confirm they have not evolved.

NZ LIVING FOSSIL ONCE LIVED IN ARGENTINA, according to *New Scientist*, 11 Oct, p17. The Tuatara lizard lives on some small islands in New Zealand and is considered the only living member of a group of reptiles named Sphenodontians, which once lived in North America and Europe but have been extinct for 100 million years. South American palaeontologists have found numerous fossil Sphenodontians in the Candeleros Formation in northwest Patagonia buried with crocodiles, snakes, turtles, Theropod and Sauropod dinosaurs, mammals and fishes. Some of the fossils were a metre (3 ft) long - the largest Sphenodontians ever found, and twice the size of living Tuataras.

These fossils indicate the history of Sphenodontians is they started out as many varieties of large animals which are now reduced to one small species. This is the opposite of evolution, but it fits the Biblical history of life, i.e. creation of many kinds, followed by death and

degeneration. The fossils were buried with a mixture of land and water dwelling creatures - evidence that the rock formation they were in was formed by a massive flood sweeping across many environments, collecting a huge array of living creatures, mixing them up and dumping them.

Reptiles come in all sizes, including some very tiny creatures that are small enough to be preserved in amber, as in the following example.

OLDEST GECKO FOUND, according to a media release from Oregon State University, 26 Aug 2008. Scientists have found a gecko foot and tail preserved in a piece of amber from the Hukawng Valley in Myanmar (Burma). The amber is dated at Lower Cretaceous, 97-110 million years old. This makes the gecko at least 40 million years older than any other gecko fossil. The foot is tiny, but it has the distinctive setae, the tiny hairs with flat ends that adhere to any surface and enable geckos to walk up vertical walls and across ceilings. The researchers believe it was a juvenile of a species that grew to be about a foot (30 cm) long. According to Oregon State University "The new study provides evidence that geckos were definitely in Asia by 100 million years ago, and had already evolved their bizarre foot structure at that time." The report goes on to say, "It's not known exactly how old this group of animals is, and when they evolved their adhesive toe pads. However, the new study makes it clear that this ability was in place at least 100 million years ago, in nature. Modern research programs still have not been able to completely duplicate it." The Gecko had a striped pattern and has been classified as a new genus and species, and given the name *Cretaceogekko*.

University of Oregon: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ncs/newsarch/2008/Aug08/gecko.html>

If this is the oldest gecko fossil then it is good evidence that geckos have always been geckos, complete with their distinctive toes, and show no sign of having evolved from any other kind of creature. The fact that scientists have yet to be able to duplicate the gecko's adhesive pads despite much creative intelligence being applied to the problem is a reminder that the gecko was designed by a smarter scientist. This fossil is good evidence for Genesis, which tells us that living creatures were created as fully functioning creatures, designed to reproduce after their kind.

Birds

In spite of the popular media regularly stating that birds evolved from dinosaurs, the origin of birds is a hotly disputed topic, as the following example shows.

CRETACEOUS DUCK MAKES FEATHERS FLY, according to BBC News, 20 Jan 2005. A partial skeleton of a bird named "Vegavis iaal" was found on Vega Island, near Antarctica, in 1992, but has only recently been closely studied by a team of scientists led by Julia Clarke of North Carolina State University. The bird is believed to be 70 million years old, i.e. belonging to the Cretaceous period, when T-rex ruled the roost, and modern birds such as ducks and chickens had not yet evolved. Clarke's team claims the skeleton is a type of duck and is evidence that modern day birds not only evolved during the age of the dinosaurs, but managed to survive the catastrophe that wiped out dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous period. This claim is rejected by palaeontologist Alan Feduccia who believes that what ever primitive birds existed during the dinosaur age were all but wiped out when the dinosaurs were blasted out of existence, and the few surviving birds rapidly evolved into all modern day birds- the "big bang" theory of bird evolution. Feduccia commented about the new fossil: "This is basically an unidentifiable bundle of bones. The analysis is based on very superficial features of bones, so I find it unreliable." He went on to say: "Birds are very sensitive to any environmental disturbance - in fact they are a good

indicator of environmental problems. But these people don't believe whatever caused the mass extinction had any effect on the birds, and that seems ludicrous."

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4187287.stm>

Remember the old saying, "if it looks like a duck, etc. it probably is a duck". We have no reason to believe Clarke's team of palaeontologists couldn't recognise duck bones when they saw them. Nevertheless, Feduccia has a point - how could a supposed world wide disaster wipe out the dinosaurs, but leave other living creatures alive and well? Perhaps Feduccia should try the alternative i.e. accept the ducks' existence, and question the catastrophe. Finding ducks and dinosaurs in the same rocks is no problem for Biblical creation. Genesis teaches they both lived on earth from Creation to Noah's flood and specimens of both would have been taken on board the Ark. After the flood ducks obviously had some survival advantages over dinosaurs, i.e. they are warm blooded and can cope better with climate changes. Furthermore, they can fly, so they can escape predators and human hunters more easily. Is that why dinosaurs died out and ducks are still here?

The fact that most birds can fly and have very fragile bones means they don't get fossilised as much as slower, more heavily built ground dwelling organisms. Nevertheless, when they are fossilised they are just like living versions of the same birds, as the following examples show.

OLDEST PELICAN SURPRISES SCIENTISTS, according to reports in BBC news 11 June 2010 and *Journal of Ornithology*, published online 28 May 2010. French fossil researchers have found a well preserved fossil of a pelican, complete with large beak, in early Oligocene limestone in Luberon, southeastern France dated at 30 million years old, making it the oldest known pelican. The bird was a little over one metre long from tail to beak and had a wingspan of about two metres. The researchers were surprised by how much the fossil bird resembled living pelicans. Antoine Louchart University of Lyon, who studied the fossil, commented: "It is remarkably similar morphologically to the seven species of living pelican, but its proportions differ slightly from all of them, so it probably represents a distinct species." He went on to say "It shows an example of stasis, or no morphological change, in the skeleton, although perhaps changes in other characteristics occurred, such as plumage or behaviour." Louchart also notes that other flying creatures, such as bats, have remained unchanged for about 50 million years.

BBC: http://news.bbc.co.uk/earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_8733000/8733503.stm

"Stasis" and "no morphological change" mean "stayed the same". This fossil is a fully formed pelican, with all the distinctive features of pelicans, and it is evidence that pelicans have always been pelicans, and show no signs of having evolved from, or into, anything else. It is no surprise to us, but we accept that the Creator, who made the first pelican, clearly stated in Genesis that flying creatures were made according to their kinds and all our observations confirm that such living creatures actually do behave in this fashion – they reproduce after their kinds. However, living fossil birds always seem to surprise evolutionists.

OLD HUMMINGBIRD BLOWS SCIENTIST'S MIND, as Gerald Mayr of the Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt has found fossilised specimens of hummingbirds in rocks from southern Germany believed to be 30 million years old, (*ScienceNOW*, *Science* vol 304, p861, and BBC News, 6 May 2004. This makes them the oldest fossil hummingbirds to be found. Wild hummingbirds do not live anywhere in Europe, so hummingbirds were thought to have evolved in the Americas. Gerald Mayr commented: "Maybe hummingbirds used to have a much wider distribution, but for some reason, they went extinct in the Old World." He claims it could explain why some European flowers appear to be adapted for hovering birds. The fossil birds have all the

specialised features seen in living hummingbirds, such as wing joints that enable hovering and backward flying, and beaks designed for feeding on nectar. Margaret Rubega of the University of Connecticut commented: "The amazing thing about this fossil is that it is essentially a modern hummingbird. My mind is a little blown."

BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3691169.stm>

There are no minds blown at Creation Research because this fossil fits well into the Biblical history of the world, i.e. in the beginning God made the different kinds of birds to separately reproduce after their kind. Therefore, it is no surprise that the oldest known fossil hummingbird is the same as a modern hummingbird. In the good world God created, hummingbirds would have been more widespread than today because there was a world-wide warm moist climate covered with lush vegetation. After Noah's flood hummingbirds would have migrated away from the ark across Europe to the Americas. As the climate became more erratic they died out in Europe when it got too cold for many of their food plants to flourish, but survived in the warmer parts of North and South America.

Fossils not only provide evidence for the creation of living things as described in Genesis, but also for the history of the world after that. When God completed the creation it was very good, but it has degenerated severely following man's rebellion and God's judgement. Some fossils serve as reminders that the world was once a place with a better climate and more abundant life. The following bird fossils are evidence for this.

OLDEST DEAD PARROT FOUND, according to reports in University College of Dublin News and Times Online, 16 May 2008. One of the most memorable sketches from the British comedy show "Monty Python's Flying Circus" was the "Parrot Sketch" where a pet shop owner and a dissatisfied customer argued about whether a parrot was really dead. Part of the joke was that the parrot was identified as a "Norwegian Blue" – clearly a fictitious breed, because parrots are not native to Scandinavia, but are found mostly in the tropics and south of the equator. Whilst working in Denmark as a PhD student David Waterhouse found a fossilised parrot's wing bone in a small museum. The bone was originally found two years earlier in a quarry in the Lower Eocene Fur Formation in Denmark, which is dated as being 55 million years old. Waterhouse identified the bone as belonging to a parrot about the size of a yellow crested cockatoo, making it the oldest, largest and most northerly located fossil parrot so far found. The new specimen has been formally named *Mopsitta tanta* but Waterhouse, a Python fan, has given it the nickname of Danish Blue as a tribute to its fictitious Norwegian counterpart. Waterhouse also commented to University College Dublin Research News: "It isn't as unbelievable as you might at first think that a parrot was found so far north. When *Mopsitta* was alive, most of Northern Europe was experiencing a warm period, with a large, shallow tropical lagoon covering much of Germany, southeast England and Denmark."

UCD: http://www.ucd.ie/research/newsevents/latestnews/mainbody_13004.en.html

Times: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article3941733.ece>

If this really is the oldest fossil parrot, then it is evidence that parrots have always been parrots and have only reproduced parrots, i.e. they have multiplied after their kind, just as Genesis says. The fact that it exists in the place where parrots no longer live only proves that this part of the world is no longer a good place for parrots to thrive. This fits with the Biblical history of an original good world with a uniformly mild climate being devastated by a world wide flood and enduring much more erratic climate since then.

Other birds were also more numerous and widespread in the past as well.

GIANT FOSSIL PENGUIN FOUND reports in EurekaAlert and Discovery News 25 June 2007, and ABC (Australia) News, 26 June 2007. Palaeontologists have found fossils of

two previously unknown species of penguin on the southern coast of Peru. One of the penguins, named "Icadyptes salasi" was a giant compared with today's penguins. It stood about 5 feet tall and had an enormous long spear-like beak. It is believed to be 36 million years old. The other fossil is a similar size to living King Penguins and is believed to be 42 million years old. The scientists who studied the fossils claim they challenge the belief that penguins evolved in cold regions near Antarctica and some moved northward after a time of global cooling. They also challenge the theory that animals become smaller if they move to warmer climates because they don't need to conserve heat. Julia Clarke of North Carolina State University, who led the study, commented: "We tend to think of penguins as being cold-adapted species, even the small penguins in equatorial regions today, but the new fossils date back to one of the warmest periods in the last 65 million years of Earth's history. The evidence indicates that penguins reached low latitude regions more than 30 million years prior to our previous estimates."

Discovery:

http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2007/06/25/giantpenguin_ani.html?category=animals&guid=20070625120000

EurekAlert: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2007-06/ncsu-mot062007.php

ABC News: <http://abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/06/26/1961856.htm?section=world>

These fossils are good evidence for the Biblical history of both penguins and climate. The fact that the new fossils are recognisable as penguins fits with the Genesis narrative of animals and birds being made fully formed according to their kinds. It also reinforces the early chapters of Genesis which describe the original planet as a "very good" world that was warm enough for people to live without protective clothing and thrive on a diet of plants. This means there would not have been vast tracts of ice and snow, such as the present Antarctic regions where penguins huddle against icy wind, and nothing else survives. Ice and snow are not mentioned in the Bible until the time of Job, who lived several centuries after Noah's flood, after which the climate changed from uniformly mild to one of extremes of heat and cold.

Sceptics have asked Creation Research where penguins lived if the world was uniformly warm. This is no problem, as some penguins live near the equator today, and other live in temperate climates in the southern coastlines of Australia and South Africa. These new fossils reinforce the belief that penguins can live in warm climates, given the opportunity, but now many live in freezing conditions because some of them can cope and very few other living things can. The fact that the giant penguins are now extinct indicates that there used to be more kinds of penguins than there are now, indicating that the world has gone downhill since the beginning rather than evolving more variety and complexity.

Mammals

Mammals come in extraordinary varieties, with enormous diversity in size, reproduction, movement, diet and behaviour. However, all the different mammals are clearly fully formed mammals with the same specialisations that are seen in living mammals, as these examples show.

STARTLINGLY MODERN KANGAROO FOSSIL FOUND, according to reports in La Trobe University Media Report and the *Age*, 4 June 2008. Ben Kear, a palaeontologist at La Trobe University, and Neville Pledge of the South Australian Museum have been studying a kangaroo fossil found in the Ngama Quarry, Lake Eyre Basin, central Australia. The fossil has been named *Ngamaroo archeri*, in honour of palaeontologist Michael Archer. It has been dated as 25 million years old and is described as being "different, but startlingly similar to the modern kangaroo". Ben Kear commented: "This discovery is important because what we have found is the oldest direct ancestor of our modern Skippy.

It didn't look all that different from today's kangaroos and it was hopping." He is also reported in The Age as saying, "Even 25 million years ago, kangaroos were kind of doing what they do today. What we're looking at is effectively a winning body plan." The La Trobe media report goes on to state, "The Ngamaroo roamed an Australian landscape that was wetter, with more abundant and greener foliage. Its diet comprised softer types of vegetation than the tough grasses eaten by the modern kangaroo, which has grinding teeth, and processes its food in the gut in a similar way to the horse."

La Trobe: http://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/2008/mediarelease_2008-37.php

Age: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/ngamaroo--skippys-25millionyearold-ancestor-20080603-2lq.html>

Michael Archer is a passionate anti-creationist, but this new fossil with his name attached to it fits into Biblical, rather than evolutionary, biology. If kangaroos have been "doing what they do today" for 25 million years, that means they have reproduced after their kind, just as Genesis says. The description of the Australian landscape as being wetter and covered with abundant soft green foliage also fits the Biblical history of the world. The Bible describes an original good world, watered by a daily mist – an environment suitable for abundant soft foliage. After Noah's flood, that climate became harsher and more erratic, and many places, such as Australia, could no longer sustain lush vegetation and slowly desertified as we approach the present. (For our non-Australian readers, kangaroos are sometimes referred to as "Skippy" after a character in an Australian 1960s TV programme "Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo".)

Rodents are some of the most successful, resourceful and widespread mammals but living or dead they are clearly rodents.

NEW RODENT IS LIVING FOSSIL, according to report on BBC News, 9 Mar 2006 ScienceNOW and Science vol. 311 p1456, 10 Mar 2006. In 2005 a previously unknown (to the scientific community) rodent was found in a hunter's market in Laos by Robert Timmins of the Wildlife Conservation Society and specimens were sent to the Natural History Museum, London for study and classification. The animal is similar in size to a red squirrel, but has grey fur and is known by the local people as the kha-nyou. Scientists found that its teeth and bones were a "striking match" to a fossil rodent believed to have been extinct for 11 million years, making the animal a "living fossil". The scientists who studied and classified it have given the animal the scientific name *Laonastes aenigmamus* and refer to its discovery as "a particularly striking example of the 'Lazarus effect' in recent mammals, whereby a taxon that was formerly thought to be extinct is rediscovered in the extant biota, in this case after a temporal gap of roughly 11 million years." Taking up the theme of Lazarus, the ScienceNOW article is entitled "Rodent rises from the Dead".

If you believe the evolutionary timetable, this rodent has stayed the same for more than 11 million years, and that is no help to a theory that claims animals change from one kind to another. Both the fossil and living specimens of this rodent are only known as fully formed creatures, and if the living specimens are the descendents of the fossil specimens they must have reproduced after their kind. This creature is good evidence for the accuracy of the Genesis account which states that organisms were created as fully functional organisms, designed to multiply after their kind. The use of the reference to Lazarus is an example of both ignorance and hypocrisy in the scientific community. If the authors of the *Science* paper and ScienceNOW article knew their Bibles, they would know that Lazarus was resurrected after being observed to be dead for a few days, not simply out of the sight of scientists. As the local people had a name for this animal, it can't even claim to have been missing, let alone presumed dead, except by the ignorance of western evolutionists who assume their

observations are the only ones that count. If creationists display this kind of ignorance about evolutionists' writings they are loudly condemned.

One of the most bizarre variations on the basic mammalian body plan is the bat, but fossil bats provide no evidence for non-bats evolving into bats, as the oldest fossil bat shows.

OLDEST BAT FOSSIL FOUND, according to reports in BBC News, 13 Feb 2008, ABC News in Science and *Nature*, vol. 451, p818, 14 Feb 2008. A team of palaeontologists led by Nancy Simmons of the American Museum of Natural History have examined a fossil bat from the Green River Formation in Wyoming USA dated as being 53.5 million years old. This makes it the oldest fossil bat ever found. The fossil has been named *Onychonycteris finneyi*, meaning "clawed bat" and is classified as a new genus and species because it is larger, has slightly different limb proportions to other bats, has claws on its wings and a broad tail. According to Kevin Seymour of Royal Ontario Museum, Canada, who took part in the study "its teeth seem to show that it was an insect eater." The scientists suggested it did not use echo-location for finding food, unlike living insect eating bats. Measurements of the base of its skull indicate that it had a small cochlea (inner ear) similar to living non-echolocating bats, such as fruit bats, which use smell and vision to find food.

ABC: <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2008/02/14/2162481.htm?site=science&topic=ancient>

BBC:

In spite of the small differences between this fossil bat and other bats, no-one disputes that it is a fully formed flying bat. Therefore, no matter how old scientists believe this fossil bat to be, it is evidence that bats have not evolved from the time they were first preserved in the rocks. They only show evidence of having been fully formed animals that have reproduced after their kind, just as Genesis says.

Another strange mammal is the sloth, an animal noted for its slowness, but there is no sign that it slowly and gradually evolved from another mammal, as the oldest sloth shows.

OLDEST SLOTH FOSSIL FOUND, according to Reuters, 26 May 2009. Workers installing a water system beneath the concrete floor of a house in the Andean region of Espinar, southern Peru have discovered the fossil of a 10 feet (3.3m) long sloth. Parts of a giant armadillo were also found nearby. The fossils have been dated as five million years old – four million years older than smaller sloth fossils found in other parts of South America. Palaeontologist Rodolfo Salas, of Peru's Natural History Museum, who helped excavate the fossils commented: "This skeleton of the sloth is especially important as it is the first complete skeleton of its kind that is 5 million years old in the Americas.

Previously, discoveries have been made of partial skeletons of similar animals, but from the Pleistocene era, meaning from the last million years." Salas also said the sloth was relatively small compared with other animals of its type and would help researchers better understand evolution of mammals in the Andes.

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSTRE54P0H520090526>

Darwin was impressed by the large fossil sloths he saw in Patagonian Chile in the 1830's. He argued that the fact that living sloths existed in a region where giant fossil sloths were found, is one of the proofs of evolution. He concluded that sloths were not a created kind, and therefore Genesis is incorrect. The researchers studying the new fossil sloth follow the same line and fail to notice the obvious – these new sloth fossils will not help anyone understand evolution since they actually show sloths and armadillos were once larger than they are now, but they were still sloths and armadillos. The only change that has occurred since these fossils were buried is that sloths and armadillos have become smaller. This is not evolution, but fits the Biblical history of the world, which tells us that the world started out very good

with a uniformly mild, moist climate without any carnivores. There would have been plenty of lush vegetation for large sloths to eat, and trees large enough for a 10 foot animal to hang about on, as sloths do. After Noah's flood the climate progressively degraded and carnivores increased. As a result many large animals have died out and only small ones have survived. This is a good example of survival of the fittest, but it is not evolution.

A more familiar mammal is the gorilla, supposedly a relative of man. However, the few gorilla fossils that exist are all gorilla.

OLDEST GORILLA TEETH FOUND, according to articles in BBC News Online and Nature, vol. 418, p145, 22 Aug 2007 and New Scientist, 25 Aug, p12. Japanese and Ethiopian Palaeontologists have found nine fossil teeth in the Afar valley in Ethiopia that are "collectively indistinguishable from modern gorilla subspecies". The teeth have a distinctive structure that enables gorillas to feed on very fibrous plant material, such as stems and leaves. They are dated as 10 million years old, making them the oldest gorilla fossils so far found. This age challenges the theory that ancestors of gorillas separated from the ancestors of chimpanzees and humans eight million years ago. The fossils have been given the scientific name, *Chororapithecus abyssinicus* after the geological formation they were found in, the Miocene Chorora formation, and the old name for Ethiopia, which was Abyssinia.

BBC article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6958313.stm>

Note the naming ploy - these fossils have been given a different genus and species name from present day gorillas despite the fact that they are "collectively indistinguishable from modern gorilla subspecies". Giving them a different name simply because they are dated as being older than evolutionary belief about when gorillas evolved, is not evidence for evolution. It is applying already held evolutionary prejudice to facts which actually are undeniable evidence that gorillas have reproduced after their kind, just as Genesis says they were made to do.

Conclusion

When Darwin wrote his book *On the Origin of Species* and referred to living fossils as aberrant oddities, he also noted that fossil record in general did not support his theory of living things constantly changing from one kind into another. In a chapter entitled *On the Imperfection of the Geological Record* he comments:

Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory. The explanation lies, as I believe, in the extreme imperfection of the geological record.

Darwin, C. R. 1859. *On the origin of species by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life*. London: John Murray. 1st edition, 1st issue, p280

Darwin and most of his followers explain away this problem by claiming that rock strata containing transitional forms have been eroded away in the distant past, and that only a small fraction of the rock record had been studied. Modern geologists can no longer hide behind these excuses. A century and a half of geological surveys and millions of fossils and present day life forms from all over the world have revealed a world increasingly full of living fossils – fully formed creatures whose fossils are just like their living counterparts, and show no evidence of evolving, past or present, into other kinds.

The only changes revealed in the fossil record are those of degeneration and loss, i.e. some living things have become smaller and simpler, and many have died out. Degenerate and extinct creatures are no help to the theory of evolution, any more than living fossils.

However, living fossils, extinct creatures and degenerate creatures are what you would expect from Genesis account of creation and judgement having happened.

Genesis tells us God made a very good world, and created living things according to their kinds. This was a world of lush vegetation and uniform mild climate, where plants and animals could grow to large sizes. There was no struggle for existence and survival of the fittest. After the first human beings rebelled against their creator, God cursed the ground and later sent the world-wide flood of Noah in judgement. Following this, the environment degenerated rapidly, the climate became harsher and food scarcer. Now there was a struggle for life, often at the expense of other lives. Natural selection became a real process, but it only eliminates things. Harsh environments and scarce food meant many living things could not live as long or grow as large, and some did not survive. Mutations and disease also took their toll on living things – causing them to degenerate or die out. Since the beginning there has been much change, but all of it downwards. This is the opposite of evolution, which is a theory of increasing complexity and gain of function.

As our survey of living fossils has shown, the original created kinds have not changed. They may have been split up into smaller subgroups, but they have not increased in complexity, gained functions or changed into other kinds.

The fossil record is often referred to as the history of life, but in reality it is the record of death of many living creatures. We live in the world of survivors, and we predict, in the end all kinds living organisms on the earth will turn out to be some kind of living fossil. The exception to this will be the genetically modified organisms that can only be produced when man tries to play creator!

Living Fossil Evolutionary Ages

Below is a list of all the living fossils described in this article according their evolutionary ages in millions of years (MY).

Each section is listed oldest to youngest. This is not the exact order in the article. Page numbers are given for each fossil and headings have hyperlinks to the beginning of that section of the article.

| Fossil | Evolution Age MY | Page No. | Fossil | Evolution Age MY | Page No. |
|---|------------------|----------|---|------------------|----------|
| <u>Bacteria, Algae, Protozoa</u> | | | Harvestmen | 400-412 | 15 |
| Filament Forming Bacteria | 3,235 | 2 | Orb Weaving Spider | 115-120 | 14 |
| Giant Protistst | 1,800 | 3 | Crayfish | 115 | 18 |
| Amoebae | 100 | 3 | Lobster | 110 | 18 |
| <u>Multi-cellular Organisms</u> | | | Huttoniidae Spider | 80 | 14 |
| Stromatolite & Sponge Reef | 650 | 3 | Shrimp | 50 | 17 |
| Sponge | 635 | 3 | <u>Fish</u> | | |
| Lichens | 551-635 | 6 | Lungfish | 360 | 19 |
| Fungi, Algae & Protozoans | 220 | 5 | Lamprey | 360 | 20 |
| <u>Plants</u> | | | Octopuses | 95 | 21 |
| Liverworts | 450 | 6 | Seahorses | 13 | 20 |
| Palm Tree | 380 | 8 | <u>Amphibians & Reptiles</u> | | |
| Wollemi Pine | 200 | 8 | Salamanders | 150 | 22 |
| Water Lily | 125-115 | 9 | Tuatara Lizards | 100 | 22 |
| Pollen | 96 | 9 | Gecko | 97-110 | 23 |
| Daisies | 47.5 | 9 | <u>Birds</u> | | |
| Fig Pollen | 34 | 10 | Duck | 70 | 23 |
| Orchid Pollen | 15-20 | 10 | Parrot | 55 | 25 |
| Mosses | 14 | 7 | Penguin | 42 | 25 |
| <u>Insects</u> | | | Pelican | 30 | 24 |
| Wasp | 120-130 | 13 | Hummingbird | 30 | 24 |
| Antlion | 112-125 | 13 | <u>Mammals</u> | | |
| Bee | 100 | 11 | Bat | 53 | 28 |
| Tropical Bees | 65 | 12 | Kangaroo | 25 | 26 |
| Leaf Insects | 47 | 13 | Asian Rodent | 11 | 27 |
| <u>Other Arthropods</u> | | | Gorilla | 10 | 29 |
| Horseshoe Crab | 445 | 17 | Sloth | 5 | 28 |
| Sea Spiders | 425 | 15 | | | |
| Ostracods | 425 | 16 | | | |