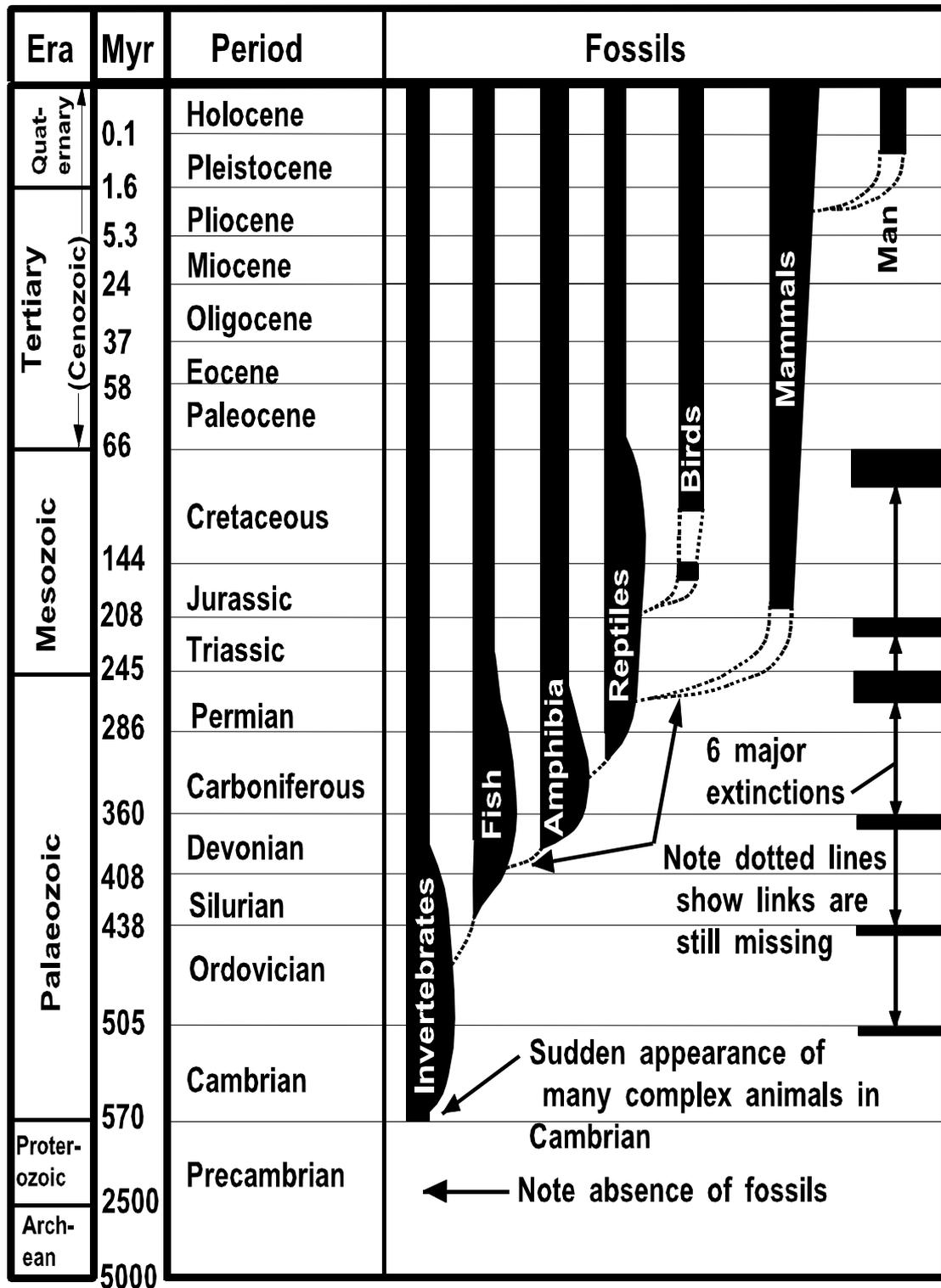


SCIENCE VS. EVOLUTION



Frontispiece. A typical geological column of evolution

SCIENCE VS. EVOLUTION

Malcolm Bowden

**Sovereign Publications
Box 88
Bromley
Kent BR2 9PF**

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Box 88
Bromley
Kent BR2 9PF

First published 1991

Second enlarged edition 2002

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ISBN 0 9506042 6 7

Typesetting

The 10 point Times New Roman text was set using Greenstreet Publisher 4.01P UK Desk Top Publisher programme. The front cover was drawn with CoralXara 1.5 graphics programme.

Printed by Creative Print and Design Group, Harmondsworth.

FOREWORD

(to the first edition)

In his two previous books, *Ape-man: Fact or Fallacy?* and *The Rise of the Evolution Fraud*, Malcolm Bowden demonstrated his ability to thoroughly research a technical subject and then put them into writing that is both interesting and comprehensible to scientists and laymen alike. This book, *Science vs, Evolution*, proves to be as successful in all respects. In his latest publishing venture, Bowden thoroughly cover the subject of science vs. evolution and finds the evolution theory to be deficient in every respect labelling it “the greatest scientific hoax of all time.” This reminds one of the statement of Soren Lovtrup, although most definitely an evolutionist, that “someday the Darwinian myth will be ranked the greatest deceit in the history of science” (*Darwinism: The Refutation of a Myth*. Croome Helm, New York, 1987, p422) Of considerable help to the layman is the fact that not only is Bowden’s book well illustrated, but each point is discussed in easily comprehensible terms.

In all the history of science, no theory has been more dogmatically promoted as established fact than the theory of evolution, even though it would of necessity involve events that were unobservable and unrepeatable and is, in fact, contradicted by a mass of circumstantial evidence. As Bowden documents, evolutionists employ various stratagems to hide the weakness of their theory, including vague phraseology, false analogies, converting assumption into “facts”, concealing contradictory evidence, and attacking straw men. While evolutionists in general decry the state of science education in most countries, certainly that in the U.S., one of the reasons that evolution theory enjoys the credibility that it does, is due to the fact that most people understand neither the theory of evolution not the actual nature of the scientific evidence that so powerfully militates against it. In *Science vs. Evolution*, Bowden makes an effective effort to correct both deficiencies.

Science vs. Evolution contains a wealth of highly interesting and relevant material, is scientifically accurate, and is written in an easily readable popular style. It will be of help and interest to all except for those who wish to listen only to hymns of praise to Darwinism.

Dr. Duane T. Gish
Director - Creation Research Institute California U.S.A.

INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST EDITION

In 1859 Charles Darwin published his book *The Origin of Species* in which he provided evidence to show how the very diverse animals now existing had evolved from earlier primitive life over a long period of time. He considered that this had occurred by the process of the fittest members of a group surviving in the fierce competition for the available food resources. These fitter members would have certain characteristics enabling them to survive, which they would pass on to their offspring. They in turn would pass these features, further developed, on to their offspring. Thus over a long period of time, a wide variety of characteristics would arise, resulting in the enormous diversity of forms of life that we see today.

Such was the main outline of his theory. The question was; could this be demonstrated by direct evidence?

Unfortunately for Darwin, the answer was “NO”.

Despite numerous experiments on animals, the extent of the variation he required was not achieved. Species could not be induced to change into another species. Neither could any mechanism be found whereby a parent could pass any newly learnt characteristic on to its offspring by inheritance. The whole basis of his theory was thus found to be inadequate and doubts about its validity began to be expressed.

In the face of this evidence, the theory was modified to Neo-Darwinism. This relies upon particular types of offspring known as genetic “mutations” to effect permanent changes in a species. In all species, there is variation amongst the members, but occasionally an individual is noticeably different to the general stock, and these are called “mutations”. To give an example, in both human and animal populations a very small percentage lack the normal colouring pigments in their skin cells and are known as “albinos”.

It is acknowledged by evolutionists that virtually all mutations suffer from deficiencies. However, it is claimed that under certain conditions of the environment, they may nevertheless occasionally confer a benefit to the individual, enabling him to survive and thus pass the new characteristic on to his offspring. In this way, species are said to diverge due to these chance mutations acting over millions of years.

This then is the most widely accepted basis of the present day theory of evolution, which is considered to be an incontrovertible “fact” by many. There is however an enormous amount of evidence against it, which receives very little publicity. What follows is only a small part of the total evidence, but a number of the topics examined are the very ones which are put forward in support of the theory. Close examination of all such seemingly convincing evidence, however, will show the serious flaws that it contains.

In this publication, the facts are presented as simply as possible, whilst still providing answers to more technical questions. Inevitably, many aspects merge with those that will receive a fuller treatment in a second future volume on the *Scientific Evidence Supporting Genesis* which is in course of preparation. [Note: Revised title; *True Science agrees with the Bible.*]

It is hoped that this work will be read by those who have doubts about the validity of the theory. It should also be a handbook for those

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who wish to refute a theory that has had so much publicity for over one hundred and twenty years - publicity that I hope to demonstrate is undeserved.

I would at this point like to comment on the geological dating scales used. In illustrations and text in this work referring to the ages of the various strata, I have used the values of millions of years as given by the latest publications by evolutionists. I have used these dates so that there may be some common basis on which discussion of a sequence of events may be carried on with the opponents, even though the dates help to show inconsistencies within the theory itself. I would emphasise that I do not accept that these spans of millions of years have any validity, as I consider that the weight of scientific evidence strongly indicates that the age of the earth should be measured not in millions of years but in a few thousand years only.

In the reading of this book it will become apparent that I am critical of 'evolutionists', at times seemingly a little severe. I would emphasise that the evolutionists that I am referring to are *not* the multitude of ordinary people who believe that evolution is true, for they have been indoctrinated with the theory in schools and colleges where no contrary evidence is presented.

The evolutionists towards whom my criticisms are directed is that small group of people who write the books, edit the papers and produce the programmes in which the theory is presented in a very convincing manner. Usually they are well aware of the shortcomings of the theory, yet, despite this, continue to encourage its widespread propagation and discourage the expression of all contrary views. I would ask the reader to bear with my approach until he reaches the end of the book, when he may be more prepared to agree that my criticisms are well warranted.

.....

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND ENLARGED EDITION

Since the first edition appeared in 1991, there has been very little change to the main evidence that is publicised in support of evolution. A few more bones of apes have been found, some fossils claimed to close the huge gaps between distinct groups of animals have been discovered and many more books - on both sides of the debate - have been written. But open any new book supporting evolution and you will see much the same evidence paraded that appeared in books written fifty years ago. Therefore the basic content of the first edition has required little editing or correction. What has been added are enlargements on some subjects and a few additional items that have warranted inclusion.

In the first edition, I tried to present a full and clear criticism of all the main subjects - and many of the minor ones - used to support evolution, so that the book could act as an easily referenced tool for refuting evolution evidence. What was then needed was a companion work that could present a creationist model to replace this discredited theory. *True Science agrees with the Bible* fulfils much of this aim as it covers an extremely wide range of topics that demonstrate that the Bible is scientifically accurate. However, there are still some major subjects that need further research. A number of topics in this book

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are enlarged upon in this later work.

It is hoped that this enlarged and updated edition will enable many to refute the arguments used by evolutionists to defend their false theory; a theory whose effect upon the world has been to demote people to the level of animals when in fact they are the highest creation of God and able to have fellowship with Him.

May this book be a means of bringing every man and woman into that closer relationship with their Creator; a relationship that is by far the most important in their lives - and one that will last for all eternity.

Malcolm Bowden
Bromley
August 2002

SCIENCE vs. EVOLUTION

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SECTION I - GEOLOGY

In looking for evidence that evolution has occurred, researchers investigate various fields of science and any results which support the theory are frequently given considerable publicity. Information from genetics, similarities, adaptations etc., may *infer* that evolution *could* have taken place. Even if this evidence was very convincing, however, it would not prove that evolution did actually occur. Only the fossils in the geological strata can provide more direct evidence that it actually *did* take place. It is for this reason that the geological evidence is crucial and therefore the subject that we will examine first.

[Before we embark upon this huge subject of geology, we would refer to this author's book *True Science agrees with the Bible* which was published in 1998 - subsequent to the publication of the first edition of this book in 1991. *True Science...* contains a considerable amount of additional geological information, and on a few topics the "standard" creationist model is questioned. Some of the many subjects covered are; the source of the Flood strata (clay and rocks) coming from hydrothermal water (HTW - superheated water from the interior) carrying clay and rock material in solution to the surface, sand arising from the shattering of glassy deposits, the evidence against plate tectonics, problems in relating the strata with the short Flood period of Genesis - and much else. (See end papers for details)]

A. EVOLUTIONARY CHARTS

Invariably, in all textbooks dealing with evolution, a chart of the geological strata with the main groups of fossils they contain is given, and a typical diagram is shown in the Frontispiece. It has been positioned there for easy reference as the names of the geological strata will often be referred to.

All of these diagrams assume that the deepest strata would have been laid down first, each strata consisting of material washed from off the land into the sea where it would settle out. As time went by, further deposits would be laid on top like layers in a cake. Whilst they were being deposited, various animals would die and fall into the settling material, their bones would be preserved and gradually turned into stone to become fossils. It is these fossilised remains of animals that are found in the strata today. Thus each stratum is said to contain a fossilised sample of animals and plants which existed at that time.

These charts show the small sea creatures at the bottom in the oldest and deepest rocks and as you go up the column, other fossils appear in a seeming progression until you reach man at the top in the most recently deposited strata. The geological evidence is claimed to support evolution as the fossils are found in exactly the same sequence as they evolved, i.e. there is the same progression from sea creatures through the various groups as life developed later on land to finally evolve the numerous animals now existing. On the left hand side of the Frontispiece appear the ages when geologists believe the various strata were laid down. The datings will vary between charts as each expert will use different values based on various authorities. Those shown are based on the 1983 American time scale.

Charts such as these appear so frequently that they are taken by many as well founded upon facts and incontrovertible evidence for

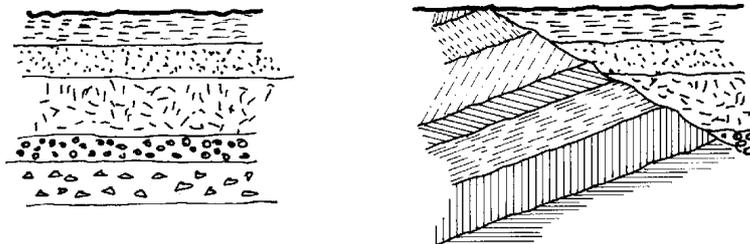
evolution. Now let us look at some of the criticisms which can be made of these charts.

1. HOW THE CHART IS COMPOSED.

The first thing which must be emphasised is that these charts are composed by piecing together the strata from various continents. It has been estimated that only 0.4% of the world's land surface have the main divisions in their correct order, and even then a number of the sub-divisions are missing. 77% has seven or more of the strata systems missing, whilst 99.6% has at least one missing system [1]. This gives some indication of just how incomplete the geological record is from an evolutionary standpoint. The gaps between the various strata can be large. For example, the Cretaceous may lie directly on top of the Devonian, all the "ages" between being missing. Indeed, *any one* of the different strata can be found lying immediately on top of the Precambrian stratum (which has no animal fossils), *all* the intervening ages being completely "absent".

The usual explanation given is that these intermediate strata have been eroded. Yet if this were so, we would expect to see the lower layer at different angles to the upper (a nonconformity). But frequently they are both parallel to each other (i.e. they conform) and it is obvious that they were laid consecutively in a fairly short period of time, before any erosion of the lower strata had taken place (Fig.1.1).

It must be emphasised that *the label given to a stratum depends*



A. CONFORMING STRATA

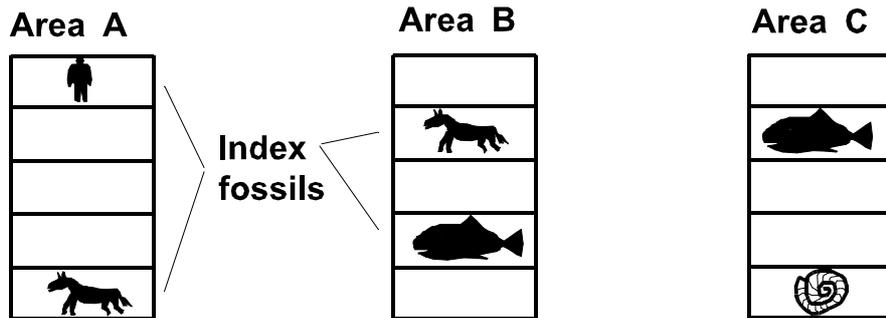
Each stratum is laid uniformly over the lower ones.

B. NONCONFORMING STRATA

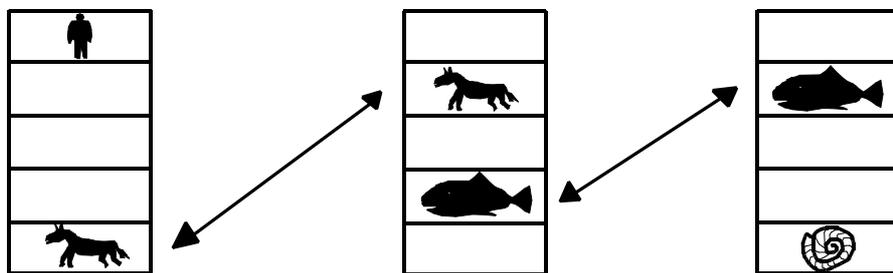
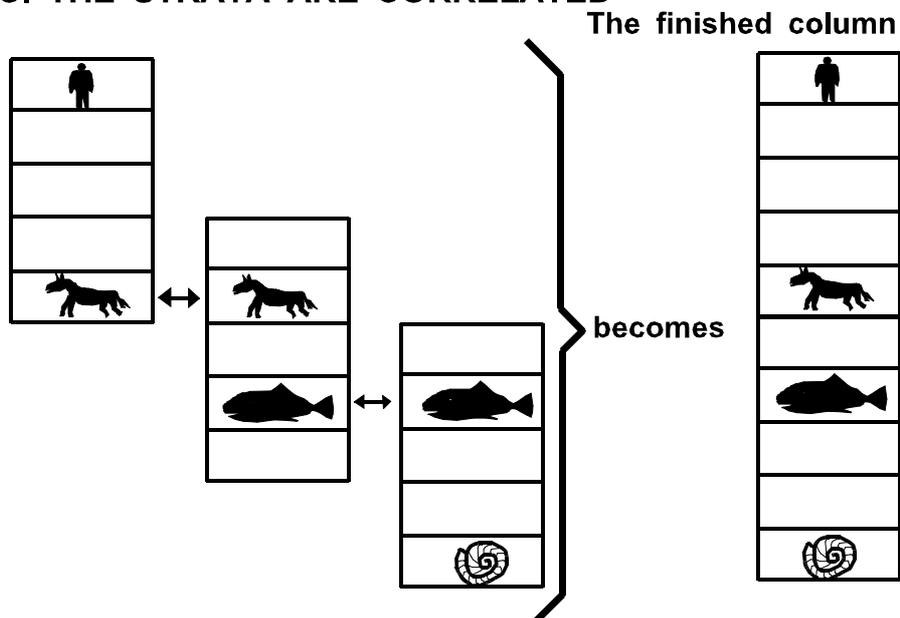
Early strata are laid, tilted and eroded. Later strata are laid at a different angle to the earlier ones.

Fig. 1.1 Geological conformity and nonconformity

entirely on the fossils it contains. Thus, those with a large number of fish were called Devonian, those with coal measures were called Carboniferous, etc. As it is claimed the strata were laid down slowly over millions of years, when contradictory evidence is discovered, highly speculative explanations have to be resorted to, and little or no supporting evidence is provided. Indeed, there are so many "problems" with these simplified charts, that it is not too great an exaggeration to say that they bear little resemblance to the strata as they are discovered in the field.

2A THE STRATA AS DISCOVERED**2B THE ASSUMPTIONS ARE MADE**

"Index fossils" are assumed to have existed for a short period of time and therefore the strata they are in were laid down at the same time.

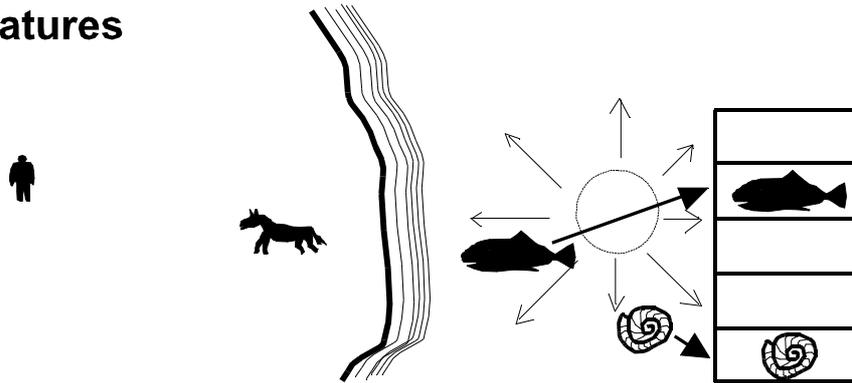
**2C. THE STRATA ARE CORRELATED**

Figs. 1.2.A,B,C How the geological column was compiled.

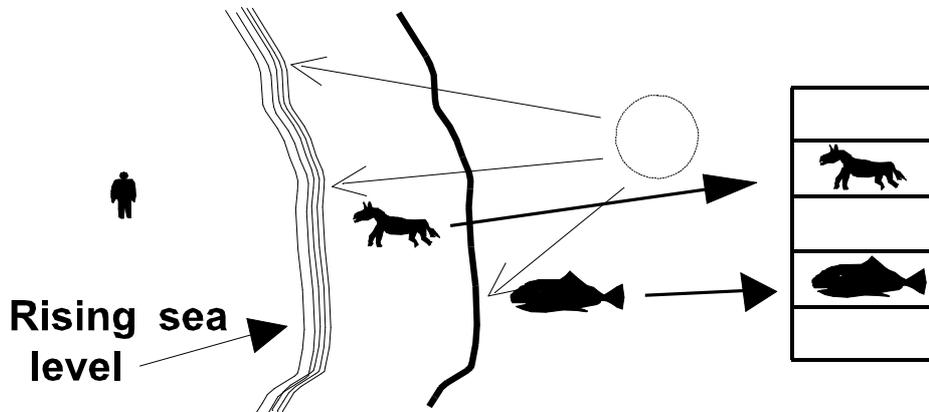
In the following simplified illustration we will show how evolutionists compose their geological column.

Take three areas, A, B and C, (Fig. 1.2A) that have a series of strata which contain a variety of fossils, in particular specialised fossils of a mammal and a fish, each of which the evolutionist believed only inhabited the earth for a comparatively short period of time. Fossils of this sort are known as Index Fossils, for they are said to provide a

AREA C - Upwelling water and material inundates sea floor entombing sea creatures



AREA B - Coast and lowlands engulfed in encroaching sea and material



AREA A - Higher land later engulfed

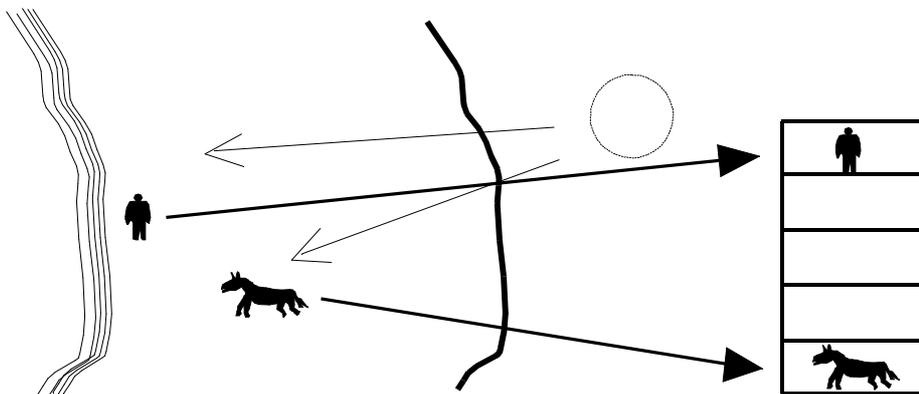


Fig. 1.2D. How the geological fossil sequence could have been produced by animals all living at the same time.

distinctive label for the stratum in which they are found. In area A the mammal is found near the bottom of the strata sequence, and at site B near the top. Similarly in area B, the fish is found near the bottom, and in area C near the top.

On the assumption that the index fossils were laid down during the

same geological period, the separate areas would be correlated as shown in Fig. 1.2.D. They will then be combined to give one continuous column as in Fig. 1.2.C. This is the way in which the fossils have been interpreted in constructing the whole of the geological column, and the evolutionary assumption (that many animals evolved and later became extinct), that forms the whole basis for the compilation of the column, cannot be emphasised enough.

FLOOD GEOLOGY.

There is however a perfectly satisfactory alternative explanation which is that a world wide flood is able to account for the dispersal of the majority of the various fossils in the strata. In this model, all the animals were living at the same time and were overwhelmed by the rising Hydrothermal water (HTW - see p.1) that carried the dissolved material from the interior as the “fountains of the deep” broke up.

Fig. 1.2.D shows how in general the position of the fossils could have been laid down in one great Flood. In this scenario, the animals are inundated and entrapped in the flood material as it poured out across the sea and land during different stages of the flood. The particular sequence depended upon the local conditions as the HTW engulfed various areas.

Thus, the broad sequence of fossils found in the strata do not chart the way in which they evolved, *but the stages in which the various types were engulfed in the rising Flood waters*. In the chaos that such an event would create, “discordant” fossils found at levels that are not in an evolutionary sequence can be easily explained by creationists, but evolutionists are continually facing new problems of these “problematic” fossils.

This is a very simple interpretation of the geological column, and the subject is discussed in greater detail in Ref. 100:399f.

Early “Young Earth” geologists

The possibility that the earth was much older than given in the Bible was first suggested by several geologists, some of whom were professing Christians. But their geological knowledge was extremely inadequate for constructing a theory of the whole earth. Werner studied only the sedimentary rocks around his home in Germany, Hutton sketched his theory in a journal before doing any field work and Cuvier used only imprecisely located fossils from the Paris basin. Lyell, after only a few years fieldwork in England, developed his very influential Uniformitarian theory. His three volume work *Principles of Geology* set out his theory of slow deposition of geological strata as takes place today. However, the fossils mainly used to date the various geological strata in those days were shells, but these are extremely unreliable as they can change their form quite easily and appear to be a different species. Despite fundamental and glaring weaknesses such as this, his writings nevertheless paved the way for Darwin’s theory of evolution which had to have the long timespans Lyell provided.

What has long since been forgotten is that these “long age” geologists were ably resisted by several “Scriptural geologists”, as Mortenson has recently shown [95]. The main defenders of the Bible were George Young, George Fairholme, John Murray and William

Rhind. They were very competent geologists by the standards of their day, but despite this, their geological, philosophical and Biblical objections against old-earth theories of a series of catastrophes or slow uniformitarian depositions were ignored by the more powerful “old-earth” geologists, who labelled their opponents as “ignorant” and “incompetent”, *exactly as “young earth” creationists are today.*

2. THE MISSING “LINKS”

In some evolutionary charts, the main groups are linked with a dotted line, as shown in the frontispiece. Other charts omit such links entirely (which is the correct way they should be shown), whilst still others use a solid line between them. The problem facing the evolutionist is that virtually *no* fossils have been discovered which link these main groups. As his theory insists that they *must* have come from *some* earlier ancestor, using a dotted line effectively says - “We think that mammals evolved from reptiles, but we have no proof”!

He might join them with a solid line, but he could then be challenged to provide the evidence of such links. An example would be the many inadequate attempts to establish fossil links between reptiles and mammals. On the other hand, if he draws it correctly, then there should be a distinct gap between the groups. But this would draw attention to the groups appearing independently of previous types. A heavy dotted line fools the reader and fudges the issue nicely.

3. POLYSTRATE TREES

In several quarries around the world, as the face has been opened up, the fossilised trunks of trees have been exposed that penetrate through many different layers (Fig. 1.3). Geologists contend that the various strata were laid down at different times with periods of thousands or millions of years between the different layers. Yet if this were so, then a tree still upright when the lowest layer was deposited around it should have died and rotted away long before the top stratum was laid. Yet it can be seen that the trunk must have still been intact at this later stage. This is clear evidence that the deposits around the trunk were laid quickly before the trunk had time to decay. Such rapid deposition of the strata is far more in accordance with a Flood geology time scale than the slow sequence taking millions of years - the span of time so essential for evolution to take place.

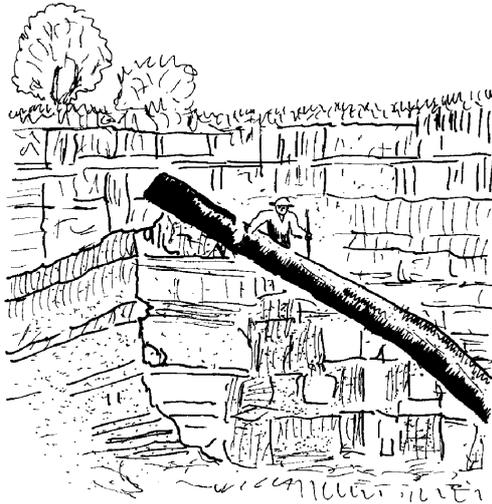
4. RATES OF DEPOSITION

In order to achieve as long a period as they can for the formation of the strata comprising the geological column, early efforts by Lyell and others attempted to show that, using the present known rates of deposition of certain strata, where there are great depths of this material it must have taken many thousands of years to have formed. This however is a far too simplistic method of examining such a complex subject.

One of the more modern exponents of this approach is Dan Wonderly who examines the subject in his book *God's Time Records in Ancient Sediments* [2]. This book is often referred to by both long-age creationists and theistic evolutionists who do not accept that the earth is only a few thousand years old. It is noticeable that when the former are asked how long the earth has been in existence, they



Near. Saint-Etienne, France



Near Edinburgh

Near Essen-
Kupferdreh,
Germany**Fig. 1.3. Polystrate trees**

generally are unwilling or unable to give a figure.

Wonderly examines several strata, and tries to demonstrate how long it must have taken to lay them down. His reasoning, however, is very flawed, and I give one example to demonstrate this.

He takes the whole of chapter 3 to examine the slow growth of coral in the Pacific. He describes at great length the careful measurements by one researcher of the deposition of fossilised coral on living coral reefs which is about 8mm per year. He then quotes the very deep drillings on the islands of Bikini and Eniwetok. The drillings at the

latter are quoted as going “through 4,610 ft. of reef deposit before striking the volcanic rock (basalt) base” [2p33]

He then divides the depth of the reef by the 8 mm. per year growth of coral and obtains “176,000 years of continuous growth” and adds that this must be a minimum period, and allowing for “retarding factors”, it would amount to “many times” this period [2p33].

On the basis of his information, there would certainly seem to be a case for the lengthy deposition of reefs which would be far in excess of the 10,000 years maximum time scale acceptable to most young-earth (YE) creationists. He presents a picture of an unbroken sequence of fossilised coral that has built up over thousands of years. One point that immediately arises is to question the assumption that the environment would have been so comparatively constant for such a long period of time. This is only a minor quibble however, for one has only to turn forward two pages, to find that he completely demolishes his own arguments.

On page 35 he gives a description of what was actually brought up in the drillings on this island. He commented that a description of the cores “will help explain why we must regard the atoll as having a long history...”, but then notes “*of course practically all of it is limestone, with many fossils - especially corals, foraminifera and algae - embedded in it....* Other sections were sometimes composed of limy debris which contained high percentages of the skeletons of other types of calcium secreting organisms” [2:35].

Contradicting the picture had previously painted, the drillings were not through a uniform material of fossilised coral that had grown in place, but through a mass of limestone in which were *embedded* some coral and other calcium-secreting organisms. The great depth of material would appear to be a deposition of limestone that swept up numerous organisms, sometimes in whole blocks, under what seem to be catastrophic conditions.

To divide this great depth of mixed material by the 8mm measured rate of present day coral growth to obtain the total time of growth is such a gross error that it completely undermines the whole point of the book. Other errors could also be given. Yet this book is still quoted approvingly by some. How they could have missed this most obvious flaw, when the evidence is clearly set out in the book itself, is perhaps a matter worth pondering on. I have given this as just one example of the low level of arguments that are used against creationists.

His arguments for other examples of slow deposition are also incorrect, and his conclusions regarding the time taken for the limestone deposits in the Grand Canyon have also been criticised [3]. It is upon this erroneous interpretation of the evidence, however, that he then proceeds to build a very inadequate case for special creation over a long period of time, with his explanation of the Genesis account having to conform to this scenario.

Today, the evidence that it has taken millions of years to deposit the whole of the geological column rests almost entirely upon radiometric dating of the rocks - a subject we deal with later.

Recent sedimentation experiments

A number of sedimentation experiments have recently been carried out which have given some surprising results. Numerous thin layers of different (coloured) grain sizes can appear under conditions of rapid deposition. This refutes the uniformitarian assumption that these must have been laid down slowly under very calm conditions. These results could have a bearing on the interpretation of how the different layers of the geological strata were formed. If this is so, then much radical rethinking may be needed on the whole subject by both creationists and evolutionists. I have given a brief summary of the experimental results in section III C 2 under “Varves”.

B. FOSSIL DATING OF STRATA

The geological chart is often claimed to provide conclusive proof of evolution, for (in general) the more highly evolved and “modern” animals appear later in the strata than “simpler” extinct types. But there is a most serious objection to this inference which completely undermines any claim that the strata demonstrate evolutionary progress. This is that the strata were first classified, named and positioned on the chart on the assumption that, over vast periods of time, many species had failed to survive in “the struggle for life” and had in time become extinct.

Circular reasoning

A geologist, when he examines a rock, often wants to know to what age it belongs. He first of all lists the fossils it contains, and then consults various reference books which gives specific fossils (these are the “index” fossils) that appear in particular strata. From the list of fossils in his rock, he finds the reference strata that has the greatest number of fossils that match his list, and from this he can determine the name (and the accepted age) of the strata with which he is dealing.

But it must be asked, where do the experts who wrote the book get their information from about the “index” fossils? The answer is that they base their information upon the fossils that have been agreed as classifying the strata in the first place. The whole process is simply circular reasoning, for the fossils, (already arranged in an evolutionary sequence) are used to classify the strata, whilst the strata are classified by the fossils they contain.

Creationists are willing to accept that, broadly speaking, the chart is correct in showing the main sequence in the strata in which the different species groups appear, i.e. the first fossils of fishes usually occur in deeper strata than those of mammals etc. However, there are numerous fossils and other discoveries that contradict the evolutionary theory that is behind the column. The “Flood Geology” model mentioned above is not only a far simpler explanation of the sequence of the strata, but can also explain why there are so many fossils found that are “contradictory” or “out of sequence”.

C. PRECAMBRIAN STRATA

In the examination of great depths of Precambrian strata, small spheres and markings have been claimed as evidence of cells which later evolved into complex organisms. There have also been discov-

ered what are said to be fossils of filamentous bacteria, and layered bands called “stromatolites” that are mounds built by microbial communities such as algae.

The problem of the atmosphere

One of the many obstacles facing the evolutionists is to give even a reasonable explanation of how the first living organism came into existence. We will be considering later the importance of amino acids in living tissues, but suffice it to say that they cannot be formed chemically in our present atmosphere due to the large amount of oxygen which would immediately destroy them. It is therefore postulated that the atmosphere of the early earth was reducing (without oxygen). Anaerobic bacteria exist today that can function in such an atmosphere, and it is therefore said that these evolved first. Later, as oxygen became available, normal photosynthesis and oxygen-using (aerobic) metabolisms developed.

Such a scenario is, however, pure speculation and there is no scientific evidence for it. It *has* to be promoted in order to explain how amino acid chains that make proteins could have formed in the first place. Indeed, more recently, the very early presence of oxygen is being examined.

1. ARE THEY FOSSILISED CELLS?

The question must be asked whether these small marks and patterns really are fossilised forms of early life, for there is still considerable doubt about such evidence. One researcher acknowledged that “..apart from algae and a few faint traces of other forms, the Precambrian strata have yielded almost no fossils and have offered no clues to the origin of their Cambrian invertebrates.” [5] Indeed, some of these “cells” have later been found to be inclusions of natural material within small voids that look like cells! [6].

One of the most revealing examinations of Precambrian fossils was reported in Bulletin 189 of the Geological Survey of Canada (1971) by H.J. Hofman. He entitled his paper *Precambrian Fossils, Pseudo-fossils, and Problematica in Canada* and the general impression is that he seems to be dismissive of virtually all the fossils found in this strata. In his abstract he said that macro-pseudofossils and micro-problematica “make up the largest number of described forms”.

When the fossilised patterns, now called “stromatolites”, were first discovered they were virtually ignored as being just an unusual type of rock formation. Subsequently, when Darwin produced his theory, they were claimed to be fossil algae, and a furious debate ensued. Interestingly, Hofman declines to discuss the subject in detail, and it is possible that, as they are now so firmly entrenched in evolutionary dogma, to cast doubt upon their origin might affect his professional standing. Looking at the pictures he gives, they seem to be simply a series of layered patterns in the rock.

He reports that a similar debate arose about a type of patterning claimed to be biological in origin named *Eozoon Canadense*. However, after much controversy, a vote of senior geologists was taken in 1864 (when the theory of evolution had not yet dominated academic thinking). Nine voted that it was not biological in origin and

four voted that it was.

Hofmann was able to produce a patterning very much like an "Aspidella" fossil using oil and powder in the laboratory. He also gives a series of diagrams to show how a crack in mud could have had layers on either side compressed and curled over to form a hole that might be claimed to be evidence for the existence of life. Regarding the classification of the strata, he contends that several fossils said to be forms of life are not actually in the Precambrian strata, and should therefore be dismissed.

In his summary, Hofmann suggests that there are only three areas, seemingly the contentious stromatolites, that may be biological in origin, and some of these are problematical also. He finally quotes another expert who said that most fossils described as biological in origin "are those structures that exhibit a certain radial, cellular, or rhythmic pattern... chemical and mechanical processes can imitate the architecture of organisms".

It should be remembered that evolutionists *must* have evidence that life began as a simple collection of chemicals that gradually evolved into the complex living organisms existing today. It is therefore quite likely that these layered structures or minute markings in the Precambrian may have a perfectly natural explanation, but they have been pressed into use as "evidence" of the early life badly needed as precursors of the phenomenal outburst of extremely complex fossils found in the Cambrian strata immediately above. I would doubt if any of them are actually once-living cells of any type.

2. THE EDIACARAN FOSSILS

There has been some publicity given to the discovery of animal fossils in Precambrian strata at Ediacara in South Australia [5]. Glaessner, in his description of the finds, expresses surprise regarding the similarity that some of the Precambrian fossils have to species still alive today.

He reports that jelly fish, soft corals, worms and some other strange animals, as well as fern-like plants, had been found in a layer 30m (100 ft) below the top of the Precambrian strata. Above that level there is Cambrian strata which seemingly is free of fossils for a further 150 m (500 ft.), and it is only then that typical Cambrian fossils are found. Thus for some 180 m (600 ft.) which on an evolutionary time scale might represent some millions of years, there is no evidence of any life whatsoever.

A catastrophic creationists explanation for this sequence would be that these small marine creatures were overwhelmed by the fossil-free material rising from the depths of the earth at the time of the Flood when the "Fountains of the Deep" burst forth. How the evolutionist can explain a gap of millions of years when life seemingly ceased to exist in this area at least would be of interest, and Glaessner makes no attempt to do so. It appears to me that in publicising these finds, far from "solving" the problem of the lack of Precambrian fossils, they present more problems to the evolutionists than they do to the creationists.

Interestingly, Stephen Jay Gould has criticised the claim that these

fossils are very similar to those of the Cambrian [7] for he says that there are several fundamental differences between them. He suggests that the Ediacaran fossils were “a unique and extinct experiment in the basic construction of living things. Our planet’s first fauna was replaced after a mass extinction, not simply improved and expanded.”

This is a strange conclusion to reach. Without saying it, he seems to accept that there was not *one* period during which cells evolved and developed into multicellular sea creatures but *two*. Are we to believe that the miracle of the emergence of the first living and self-reproducing cells that combined to form distinct organisms occurred twice on this planet? In this article he concentrates on an apparent 26 million year cycle of large scale extinctions in the geological column. He seems to have overlooked the implications of what he claims was a first total extinction of all known life.

A wrong classification?

The discovery of fossils in what is labelled Precambrian does also raise the question of circular reasoning considered above. Fossils are used to date and label the various strata. Broadly speaking, where there are no fossils in deep strata, it is classed as Precambrian. But here we have fossils in a deep strata, and some of the fossils are similar to those in upper layers. Strictly speaking, should it be called “Precambrian”, or is it more like one of the many “displaced” strata that abound in geology? Had this strata with these fossils been found at a different level between strata with which it conforms, it would probably have gone unnoticed as being unremarkable.

That the experts have difficulty in knowing precisely where the Precambrian ends and where the Cambrian starts was acknowledged in 1983 when an international committee failed to agree on how this could be defined. No less than seven criteria were proposed and none accepted [8]. This gives some idea of the problem that defining these strata presents even to the experts. This uncertainty also allows the gradation of various fossils so that using a certain sequence, the gradual emergence of complex organisms could be given some support. It is this wrong classification of some strata as Precambrian that Hofmann criticised in his Bulletin.

What is certain is that all the simple structures found in the Precambrian strata, apart from the unique Ediacaran, even if it were proven that they were biogenic, can in no way be claimed as being adequate precursors of the vast numbers of very complex and perfect organisms which lie immediately above them in the Cambrian stratum.

3. POLLEN GRAINS.

Pollen grains are minute cells that can be very resistant to weather conditions. They also have a distinctive shape, such that the pollen of each plant can be identified. In view of their comparative abundance, their small size that allows them to lodge in obscure places and their resistance to destruction, they are useful in identification and correlation of various materials. They can be of use in checking the location ascribed to an article and upon datings etc. and the whole subject has grown rapidly in recent years. For example the method

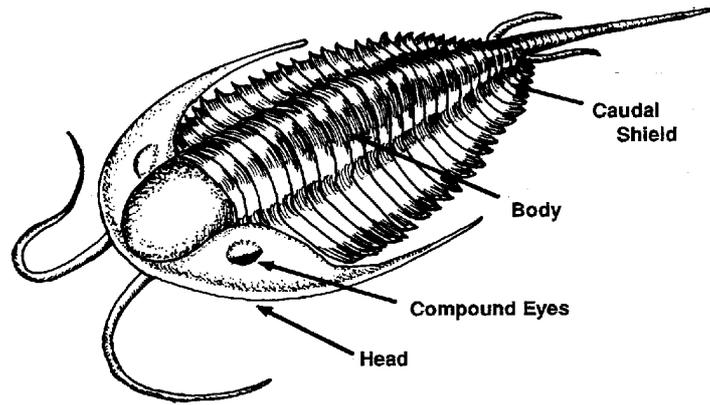


Fig. 1.4. A Cambrian trilobite

was used in the examination of the Turin Shroud by collecting the types of pollen found within its cloth, and seeing if they corresponded to plants known to exist in the area of Palestine.

Clifford Burdick discovered pollen grains in upper layers of the Precambrian at the bottom of the Grand Canyon in America [9]. Some of the pollen matched those of present day flowering plants, but as it contradicted standard evolutionary thinking he was strongly challenged. Since then, many finds of pollen in Cambrian and Precambrian strata have been made which completely upsets the accepted stages of evolution for plant life [10].

Although contradicting evolution, they can nevertheless be explained by the Catastrophist's scenario, for clearly the early strata labelled Cambrian and the upper layers of the Precambrian were laid down at a time when modern plants and others that were to become extinct were already flourishing. This is a feature that would have to be built into any creationists interpretation of how the strata were laid down.

D. CAMBRIAN FOSSILS

We have examined the virtual absence of fossil forms in the Precambrian. This has always been a problem to the evolutionist who needs a nicely graded series in the strata from single cells to multi-cell groups grading into more complex forms. This has not been found, however.

In the Cambrian stratum immediately above it, there suddenly appear large numbers of very complex forms of life such as trilobites, ammonites, belemnites and other similar small sea creatures known as invertebrates (i.e. without a backbone). Trilobites (Fig. 1.4) have scales, legs, and their compound eyes are just like those of flies. Yet they appear over the Precambrian which has no "simple" or "primitive" ancestors that the evolutionist would have liked to have seen. This surely speaks of the sudden creation of life.

In recent years there have been discovered some extremely unusual animals in Cambrian strata known as the Burgess Shales in Canada [5]. They display such a strange variety of forms, unlike any others known today, that it has surprised even the experts, and they have had great difficulty in classifying them. They vary in size, from about 1 in.

(25mm) to 8 in. (200mm) long, and some are illustrated in Fig. 1.5. They are just another example of the amazing range of perfectly developed animals that suddenly appear in the Cambrian.

The *Hallucigenia* specimen was first drawn as illustrated in Fig. 1.5.B, but closer examination showed that there were pairs of legs on the “top” of the creature, which had been drawn upside down. Fig. 1.5.E gives the latest version, whilst Fig. 1.5.F shows another amazing creature found in Cambrian strata in China.

In order to “explain away” the absence of precursors of these complex organisms, evolutionists have claimed that these early fossils were destroyed by the intense heat and extensive pressure which acted upon these deep strata.

But there are great depths of the Precambrian which consist of clays and other strata that are well able to preserve fossils yet do not have any. Other explanations attempting to overcome this problem have been shown to be equally unsatisfactory.

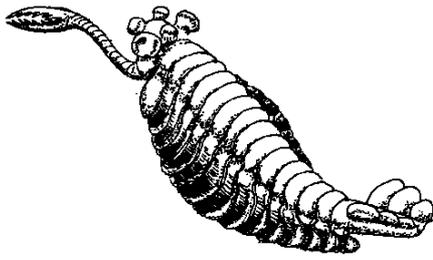
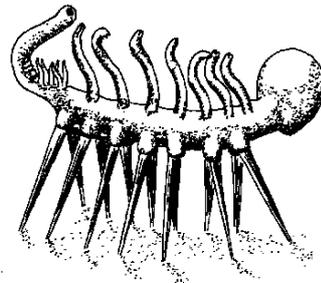
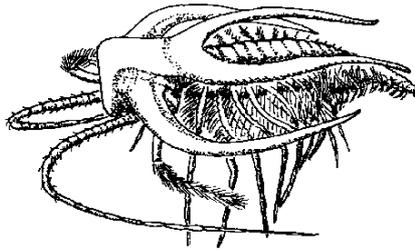
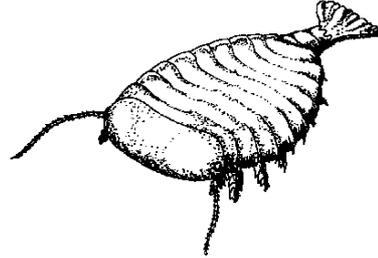
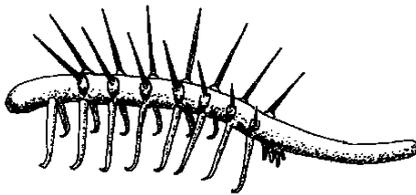
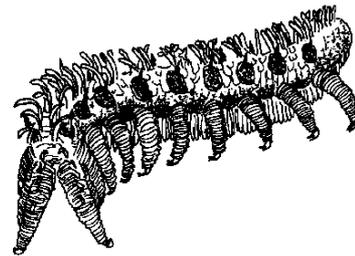
E. NO EVIDENCE OF PLANT EVOLUTION

If the theory of evolution is correct then one would expect to see much reference to the evolution of plants in the various books. Yet when they are consulted, the very small amount of space devoted to the evolution of plant life is very noticeable. Examination of several books has shown that usually little more than one paragraph is devoted to the subject, and even then it consists mainly of a description of present-day plants and their classification, the evidence for their evolution being hardly referred to. In one book the evolution diagram has a question mark on all the dotted lines linking the different groups, whilst on another there are no joining lines given at all, from which one could conclude that they were all created independently!

In what might be considered as one of the official publications of the Natural History Museum on the subject, the book called *Evolution* [11] makes no reference to plant evolution in the text at all but gives some of the groups on the usual geological “column”. Even then, the various groups are not joined by lines connecting them together. A later more popular publication entitled *Origin of Species* [12] omits not only any chart of plant evolution but even the usual full geological column such as we have in the frontispiece. The more guarded way in which evolution is being presented to the public is noticeable.

It might be thought that the evidence is not available because fragile material such as wood and leaves have decayed quickly and/or been destroyed during the laying down of the various rock strata. But this is not correct, for there is a considerable amount of fossilised plants in the geological layers. Indeed, all coal measures are said to consist of nothing but compressed plants. The main problem facing the evolutionist is that the evidence these fossils give is very confusing.

One of the ways that is sometimes used to “grade” plants on the evolutionary scale is to determine what characteristics are “advanced” and what are “primitive”. But how do you determine what the “advanced” features are as against those that are “primitive”? One expert will give one list of items, but many of his items will be

**Opabinia****Hallucigenia
(first version)****Marella****Sineyia****Hallucigenia
(second version)****A creature found
in China****Fig. 1.5. Some strange animals in Cambrian strata**

contradicted by another expert who will give a quite different list, simply because deciding what is primitive and what is advanced is a purely subjective activity. One would expect a primitive plant to die out due to the greater competition from its more “advanced” neighbours. Yet we find that the common Buttercup, said by one expert to be primitive, is still successfully flourishing (as gardeners know well) compared to the “advanced” Love-in-a-mist.

As far as the fossil evidence is concerned, we have already discussed the discovery of pollen grains in the Precambrian, and the problem this presents to the evolutionist. As well as pollen, there are numerous fossilised plants found in early strata that are identical to those found living today. So much so, that the existing ones are called “living fossils”. This not unlike the Coelacanth, once only known as a fossil fish, but now found to be still living.

There is one group of plants, the switch-ferns (Psilophytes), that appear in the Devonian period, but there is no other record of them at all until we reach the present day, for they are still living. Thus, 400

million years ago these plants developed and flourished, but then for 350 million years they somehow survived without leaving a trace of their presence in any of the strata!

Just as difficult for the evolutionist to explain is the persistence of algae. These are found in Cambrian rocks older than 600 million years and in all strata since then. They are said to be one of the most primitive forms of life, and that they probably gave rise to all plant life. Yet whilst they have had great competition from numerous forms of highly developed plants for millions of years, they have nevertheless persisted in their present form and have survived seemingly unchanged. Despite great environmental pressures, they have not found it necessary to evolve.

Indeed, evolutionists have difficulty in providing a sequence of progress of plant life that agrees with the fossil record. In a book entitled *An Evolutionary Survey of the Plant Kingdom* [13] a chart is given on page 602 captioned "Flow diagram of probable phylogenetic relationships among the main groups of plants". This places the "simple" forms such as viruses and bacteria at the bottom and branches upwards to the "advanced" flowering plants at the top. This presents to the reader a tidy chart of the "probable" progress of plant evolution. When the text is examined, however, and the earliest dated strata in which the various classes are found are plotted on this same chart, a quite different picture appears.

One would expect "early" plants at the bottom of the chart to appear in older strata, laid down in say Cambrian to Silurian periods (570 - 408 Myrs ago). However, several do not appear in the fossil record until much later than they should do if they are supposed to be ancestral to other types. Lichens, for example, are not found until the Miocene (24 Myrs ago). Other "early" plants that are found in later strata are Diatoms - Jurassic (208 My) and Red Algae and Brown Algae - Triassic (245 Mys).

In the upper section of the chart, several plants appear in later strata than others they are supposed to give rise to.

With such problems in trying to trace the way in which plants evolved, it is little wonder that the subject is only briefly referred to in the popular textbooks.

Coal deposits

The theory of evolution has some difficulty in providing an adequate explanation of how these beds of plant remains could have been deposited one above the other for many layers. Usually it is proposed that the bottom layer certainly grew in the position that it is found, as often there is a "seat earth" around a few roots in the lowest strata. Other layers above may have been grown in the area or alternatively transported to it from another place.

Generally it is thought that the forest gradually subsided and was then covered with sediments under the water, and then rose up again above the water, allowing another forest to develop. This was in turn submerged and covered, only to rise up allowing further growth. Thus, in order to produce the many layers that there are in most coalfields, it is necessary to have the land rising and falling by just the right amount

some 10 - 50 times - rather like a Yo-yo!

Another claim made is that it takes millions of years for wood to be turned into coal. Recent experiments [14] have shown, however, that the application of intense heat and vibration (probably generated by earthquake activity) can strip the hydrogen atoms off the cellulose and convert it into pure carbon in a matter of minutes and even seconds ! What may not also be realised is that the well-known black coal that fuels our fires appears to be the remains of types of trees that are quite different from the normal trees that we have today. These latter form the large deposits of brown coal that exist in many places. [100:374]

Evolutionist have much difficulty when trying to explain the origin of coal, but there is now evidence of a sequence of events that may have operated during catastrophic flood conditions that supports the young-earth creationists scenario. This is examined in ref. 100 [p371f] together with the evidence that some coals are geological depositions and are not derived from plants [100:374f].

F. GAPS IN THE RECORD

When Darwin wrote his *Origin of Species* he admitted that the geological evidence was very much against his theory, but he claimed that this was due to the “imperfect nature” of the fossils that had been discovered up to that time. He felt sure that with enough searching of the rocks there would be a complete range of fossils that would show the progress of evolution from one species to another. Over one hundred years later these fossils are still lacking. Although new fossils are being discovered, they consistently find many fossils of the same species, but none of the intermediate types that the theory so badly needs. It is this continued obstinacy of the geological evidence in failing to produce the much-needed evidence that has forced palaeontologists to reconsider their theories. The result has been the theory of “Punctuated Equilibrium” that we will be discussing later.

When evolutionists are challenged to provide a sequence of fossils linking the major groups, one of the examples they often give is that of an unusual bird, known as Archaeopteryx, which they claim links birds with reptiles. Similarly, for a series of animals which demonstrate the evolution of one animal into that of a different sort, they refer to the evolution of the horse. Both these appear very frequently in textbooks about evolution and the evidence seems to be convincing ... until it is closely examined.

(1) ARCHAEOPTERYX

This is a bird about the size of a pigeon that was found in the Upper Jurassic stratum. There are two main specimens; both being found in Germany. One was found in 1861 and is now in the British Museum. The other was found in 1877 and is in the Berlin Museum, and as this is the better specimen it is the one illustrated in Fig. 1.6.

The very soft fine clay into which Archaeopteryx had fallen had hardened and preserved the very fine detail of its form. Close examination showed that it had some unusual features. It had small teeth in its beak, a hook halfway along the leading edge of its wing, thin ribs like a lizard and a long bony tail with feathers. As reptiles have features similar to these, it has been described as “a feathered

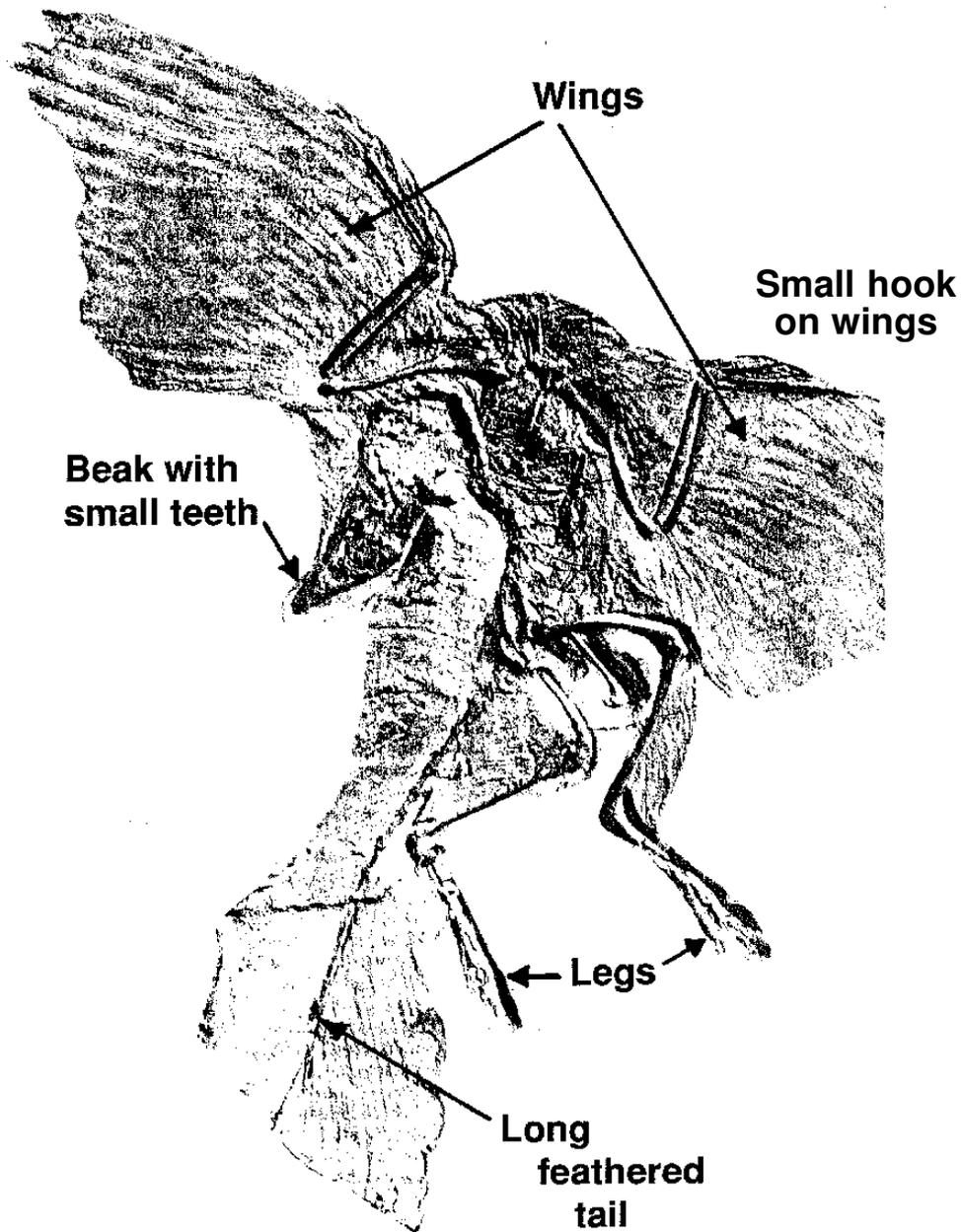


Fig. 1.6. Archaeopteryx - The Berlin specimen

dinosaur”. The discovery of this bird was hailed as evidence that birds had evolved from reptiles, and that the scales of reptiles had gradually become feathers which eventually enabled them to fly.

Could this have been the case? It is hardly likely. There are five main aspects that refute this proposal.

(a) Unusual fossils frequently discovered.

It must be remembered that there are fossils of many strange creatures that do not exist today. There is an enormous variety of fossilised animals, and this specimen is much less peculiar than many that have been discovered. It has a few unusual features that reptiles have also, but it is far from being a reptile as such. There are many strange features in animals and birds both living and fossilised. For example, even today, the young Hoatzin bird in South America and

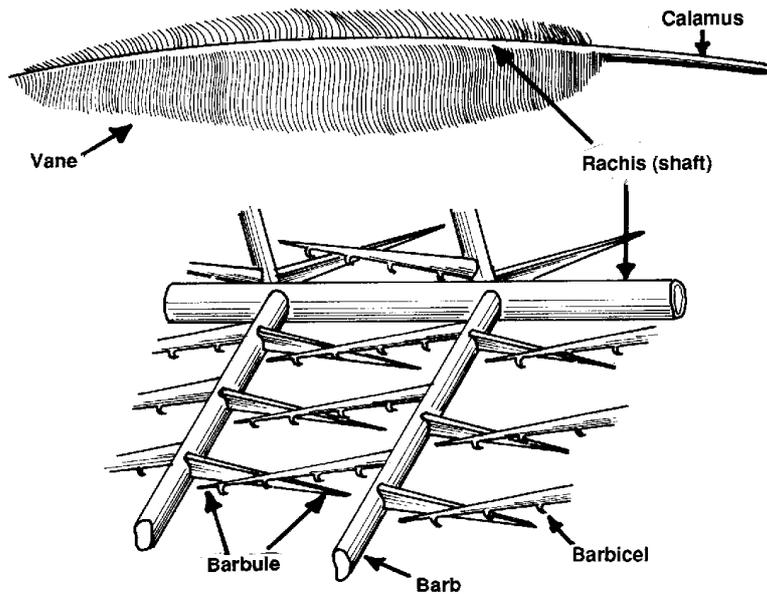


Fig. 1.7A. A magnified view of a feather

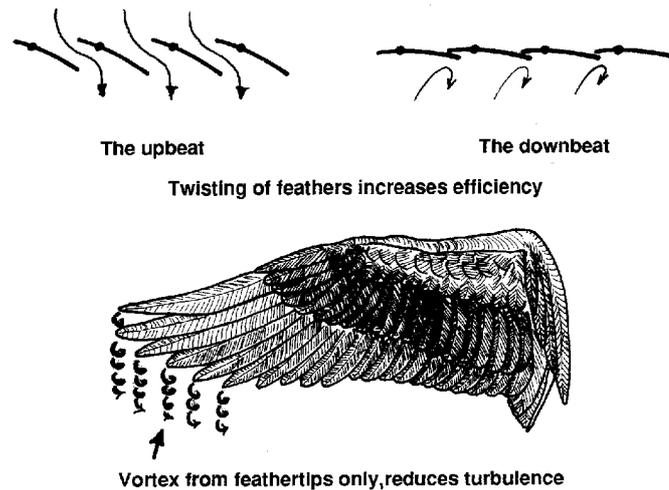


Fig. 1.7B. The operation of a flight feather

Fig. 1.7. The flight feathers of a bird

the young ostrich have a hook on their wings similar to that of Archaeopteryx. Also, later fossils of birds have been found with teeth like Archaeopteryx.

(b) Embryonic origin of feathers.

There is one damaging fact that proves that it is impossible for a reptile's scale to have ever become modified over many years into a feather. In the embryonic stages, the feather of a bird develops from a completely different part of the embryo to that from which the scale of the reptile arises. The scale could not therefore have gradually "frayed at the edges" to become a feather, for the latter was created with its own special features and origin within the germ cell. The "frayed scales" scenario is but one more example of superficial wishful

thinking by the writers of books on evolution for popular consumption, who have failed to delve deep enough into the subject.

[There is an interesting event that is directly linked to the pursuit of evidence for the evolution of the feather. As part of Scott's last expedition to the South Pole in 1912, Dr. Wilson, "Birdie" Bowers and Apsley Cherry-Garrard went to the breeding ground of the Emperor penguins during the bitterly cold winter period to obtain their eggs. Fully convinced by the recapitulation theory and that birds evolved from reptiles, the scientists expected eggs from these "primitive" birds to show how feathers develop in the embryo of a predecessor of true birds. When dissected, however, it was found that the development of feathers was quite distinct from that of scales even in the very early stages of the embryo, and therefore no link could be established [15p315]. The fascinating account of how these three brave men almost perished during what was called "the weirdest bird nesting expedition ever" can be read in Cherry-Garrard's book *The Worst Journey in the World* [15]. It is thought-provoking that this dangerous mission should have been so willingly undertaken to prove a point in a popular and accepted theory that is nevertheless fallacious.]

(c) No scale-to-feather transitions.

It is important to note that no creature, fossilised or living, has ever been discovered which has scales that are half way to developing into feathers. A feather is an extremely complicated piece of equipment. If you look at a feather under a powerful microscope, you will see between the finest of the branches (barbs) a series of "hooks and eyes" called barbules (see Fig. 1.7A). These can be linked together not unlike the "Velcron" used in place of buttons on windcheaters, etc. These hooks are minute, and there can be over a million of them on one feather alone. It would have taken an enormous span of time for such a complex piece of equipment to have evolved by chance, and there should be many half developed fossilised stages. Yet in all the searching of the rocks, never has anything like a half evolved feather ever been found - and I am confident that it never will.

It is clear from the impressions of the feathers of Archaeopteryx that they were used for flying, for the shaft (rachis) is not in the centre of the feather. This means that the feather will want to twist with the air pressure on one side. On the up beat, the feathers twist and the wing is opened up slightly and the air can pass through easily [Fig. 1.7B]. On the down beat, each feather is restrained by the adjacent one, and the wing is virtually air tight.

In addition, the long feathers (primaries) on the tips of the wings can be opened up for efficient flying. The difference in pressure between the lower and upper surfaces creates a vortex at the ends of the wings [Fig. 1.7B]. There is less turbulence from a series of small thin "wings" (i.e. one individual feather) than there is from one large wing - such as many hawks have - which is therefore the more efficient design.

(d) Half way stage is not viable

Have you ever thought how a reptile that was half way to becoming

a bird could possibly function efficiently during the transition period? Imagine a reptile in such a situation. It has very long feather-like fronds spreading from its forelimbs, its rear legs are getting thinner and it is half way to walking or hopping on them like a bird. The fronds are not developed enough to enable it to fly or even glide, but are an encumbrance to it as it tries to move along the ground. Indeed, as it cannot crawl properly and cannot fly, it would be easy prey for a predator, who would make short shrift of that particular development - thereby wiping out this newly evolving species. Quite simply, an animal half way between a reptile and a bird could not survive and would soon be eliminated. Archaeopteryx is certainly an unusual but perfectly designed bird and does not form a link with reptiles.

(e) Earlier birds found.

Finally, the fossilised remains of two birds have been found in strata some 75 million years older than the dating for Archaeopteryx. [16] It would seem that Archaeopteryx has been knocked off its perch!

An even earlier bird was reported at the October 1999 meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology in Denver, Colorado. The last paper described a bird, *Longiss squama*, with undoubted feathers found in *Triassic* strata. "As the point of this paper became clear tensions mounted and no wonder. Here were the top evolutionist scientists ... to whom the theory that dinosaurs evolved into birds is very precious and extremely important... the paper generated ten times more questions from the audience than any other." [Creationist's report].

Triassic strata (245-208 Myrs ago - see frontispiece) is when dinosaurs were just evolving, about 80 MYrs before Archaeopteryx appeared and about 120 Myrs before the first birds are found.

So a bird has been found before the dinosaurs appeared? One wonders whether that information will ever reach the public. One must also have some sympathy for evolutionists who consistently have their pet theories blown to pieces by new discoveries. Not only do they have to keep making drastic changes to their theory but each time it must surely be followed by a further stressful "squaring of the conscience".

Is it a fake?

In 1983 a letter appeared in the Creation Research Society Quarterly (v20 n2 Sept. p.121) by M. Trop pointing out that in the British Museum specimen there was a discrepancy between the main slab (which has the bones and feather features clearly visible) and the counterslab (which surprisingly has far fewer features visible). He noticed that there was a small lump on the main slab that had no corresponding depression on the counterslab. This eventually gave rise to a detailed investigation by a number of experts who published their results. They claimed that they had proof that the fossil was of a small dinosaur to which had been added imprints of feathers by forgers in Germany where two examples had been discovered. As the subject is worthy of further examination, I have given a brief overview of the controversial claims and defences in Appendix 1.

(2) HORSE EVOLUTION

The series of horses showing how the modern horse evolved is a very popular subject in books about evolution. The gradual development from a small, multi-toed animal to the horse of today which effectively runs on one large “finger” is displayed as a classic example of one species changing into another with all the intermediate stages available. A typical chart giving this is shown in Fig. 1.8 and we will examine this to point out several flaws in the evidence.

(i) Time span.

One of the most glaring problems with this chart concerns the time span, and one does not have to know anything about horse evolution to realise that there is something seriously wrong with such charts. If you examine the full geological chart shown in the Frontispiece, it can be seen that the first fossil mammal appears in the strata roughly 200 million years ago. Since that time, all the known animals throughout the whole world evolved into the thousands of species we have today. In Fig. 1.8.A, the chart, which deals only with the upper five strata, shows that horses started to develop into the modern horse about 60 million years ago, the main feature being the enlarging of one “finger” and the loss of the others. Yet, if you stop and think, surely there is something wrong with the time taken for this small change.

If it took 200 million years to evolve *all* known animals, then it should have taken only a minute fraction of that time simply to modify a horse’s hoof! Yet it took roughly one third of this time (60 million years) according to these charts. The ratio between these two developments should not be a factor of three but many thousands. This glaring anomaly greatly discredits the whole chart and the question therefore arises - how was it composed in the first place? The answer is simple.

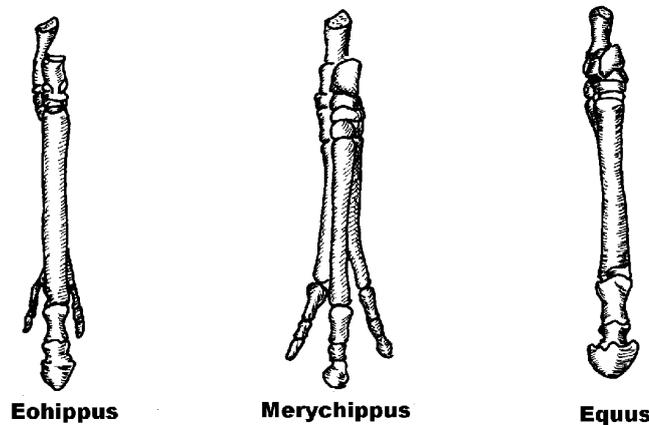
(ii) Selection of the evidence.

In all, some 250 horse-like fossils were found on the North American continent. From such a large range available, various fossils have been selected and arranged in a series in order to “demonstrate” how the horse’s hoof developed. But this series ignores both the time taken and in some cases the correct order of the fossils. There are so many similar species to choose from that each expert has chosen a different sequence of animals that show how the horse developed - and they cannot all be correct! Indeed, Dewar has said that he has seen no less than 20 such charts, and they were all different [17p90]! Close examination of the various animals that appear in the sequence has shown that similar looking species were used to form the sequence which concentrated only on the different hooves.

This is supported by the evidence given on the right hand side of the chart as this lists the number of Lumbar vertebrae (the vertebrae in the small of the back) and the number of ribs. The variations are large and yet are never referred to in these “horse” charts. Thus while attention has been directed at the fore and hind limbs, as these are said to support evolution, the ribs and backbone are changing between each species and completely contradicting the theory. This strongly suggests that similar looking fossils, that were actually different

Age Myrs	Period	"Species"	Fore-limb	Hind-limb	Ribs	Lum. vert
8	Recent	 Equus	 1	 1	6	17-18
	Pleistocene					19
	Pliocene	 Pliohippus				
	Miocene	 Merychippus	 3	 3		
37	Oligocene	 Meshippus	 3	 3		
	Eocene	 Orohippus	 4		8	15
 Eohippus		6-7			18	
58						

A. A typical chart of the evolution of the horse



B. Three different hind feet

Fig. 1.8. The 'evolution' of the horse

species, have been used to form a series that is quite artificial. Other members of the series sometimes appear to be the same species with only minor differences between them.

(iii) The great leap.

There is one other point about the sequence. This fossil evidence was obtained from strata in America and leads up to the modern horse. But the earliest dated fossil horse was found in Europe. How it appeared there is a mystery, and attempts to create a similar sequence from European fossils have been unconvincing.

(iv) The purpose of the “vestigial toes”.

The presented picture regarding these smaller bones is that as they became redundant for the purpose of the evolving horses, they effectively wasted away until they completely disappeared. This is not the true situation, for far from being useless they performed a variety of important functions in each particular horse. The bones -

(a) strengthen the leg, (b) are used for attaching certain muscles, and (c) together with the canon bone, form a groove in which lies a ligament that supports the fetlock and counteracts the weight on the foot. [18]

As with the features of so many animals, what evolutionists class as vestigial actually have a vital function to play.

(v) Some critical comments.

It is interesting to see how evolution experts have rated this series as providing good evidence of the development of the horse. Prof. Kerkut, who taught biology at Southampton University wrote an interesting book entitled *Implications of Evolution* [19]. He is a convinced evolutionist, but without actually saying that the sequence of fossils of horse evolution is false, he quietly disparages it as being a satisfactory scientific explanation. This can be seen from some of his comments. He refers to the increasing complexity of the horse evolution series as more fossils were discovered and says,

In fact one could easily discuss the evolution of the story of the evolution of the horse. At present, however, it is a matter of faith that the textbook pictures are true, or even that they are the best representation of the truth that are available to us at the present time. [He suggests that horse evolution may be as chaotic as that of elephants where] ..every subordinate grouping is assumed to have sprung, quite separately and without any known intermediate stage, from hypothetical common ancestors in the Early Eocene or Late Cretaceous.

Prof. Gaylord Simpson of Harvard University was a great populariser of evolution, but when he was writing for his professional colleagues he was much more cautious in what he claimed. He wrote:

The continuous transformation of Hyracotherium [an early fossil horse] into Equus, so dear to the hearts of generations of textbook writers, never happened in nature. [20p119].

Charles Deperet, a great French palaeontologist said;

“The supposed pedigree of the Equidae is a deceitful delusion...” [21].

We have examined the “horse series” in some detail to demonstrate, once again, just how easy it is to criticise what appears to be overwhelming evidence for evolution. For very many years this “series” has been used as invaluable propaganda for evolutionists, appearing in many text books. More recently, however, it has been less frequently referred to, having been criticised by experts within the ranks of the evolutionists themselves. Despite this, it still appears in some books on evolution.

(3) THE “REPTILE-MAMMAL” AND “AMPHIBIAN-REPTILE” GAPS

As with the huge jump from mammals to whales, so evolutionists have the same problem with the gap between reptiles and mammals. The whole skeletal structure and metabolism are so different between these groups that trying to bridge between them in viable stages is virtually impossible.

There have been many attempts to bridge this gap with fossils that are said to be intermediate between them, but none bears close scrutiny; the gap remains unbridged.

There is a similar gap between amphibians and reptiles which evolutionists have tried to close. For example, *Seymouria* had a mixture of amphibian and reptilian features, but this could not have been a link between them as they first appear in the Middle Permian, when reptiles had already been in existence 20 Million years before!

(4) RECENT ADMISSIONS

Creationists have always maintained that these gaps in the fossil record exist and have never been closed and never will be, despite protestations by evolutionists to the contrary. Now, at long last, some prominent experts are admitting that this is correct, but have used this evidence to propose a third version of evolution called “punctuated equilibrium” which we will consider presently. The two men who proposed this new idea are Prof. Stephen Jay Gould of Harvard University and Dr. Niles Eldredge. On November 21st 1978, *The Guardian* newspaper reported a lecture that Eldredge gave to the American Museum of Natural History. In this he is reported as saying,

...the smooth transition from one form of life to another which is implied in the theory is not borne out by the facts. The search for “missing links” between various living creatures, like humans and apes, is probably fruitless, because they never existed as distinct transitional forms. ...no one has ever yet found any evidence of such transitional creatures. ...geologists have found rock layers of all divisions of the last 500 million years and no transitional forms were contained in them. If it is not the fossil record which is incomplete then it must be the theory.

Here at long last is an evolutionist admitting what creationists have been saying for years. Gould admitted that the presence of these huge gaps in the fossil record had been a “closely guarded secret” of palaeontologists for years! *The Guardian* correspondent, who headed the article “Missing, believed non-existent”, comments

What is extraordinary is that in the last 120 years since Darwin appeared to have cracked the problem with elegant neatness in *The Origin of Species*, the principle has withstood all attacks on it - and yet it still evolves loose ends.

PUNCTUATED EQUILIBRIUM

On first reading this report, one might at first think that Eldredge was coming round to a creationist viewpoint. Unfortunately this is far

from his and Gould's intention. They are the proposers of a new theory of the progress of evolution known as "Punctuated Equilibrium". This claims that all the species were continuing to live and breed with little change for many millions of years (equilibrium). Then suddenly, perhaps due to a change in the local climate or some similar severe ecological disturbance, the "equilibrium" was "punctuated" and new species suddenly arose as a result of these changes. These rapid developments are said to have occurred in small groups away from the main population, giving little chance of these intermediate fossils being found.

The main evidence produced is the gaps in the fossil sequences as we have noted. However, there is not a shred of genetic or other evidence which could possibly show how such new creatures could evolve very rapidly from normal parents. Admitting that these gaps existed, a theory known as "hopeful monsters" was propounded in 1940 by Prof. Goldschmidt [22]. This suggested that quite suddenly a new species was produced from parents of a well established stock, i.e. that a male and female reptile might produce a bird-like creature. As with punctuated equilibrium, no genetic explanation was given of how such an event could take place, and it was really a theory of despair in the face of the evidence of the gaps in the fossils.

It is perhaps an indication of the inadequacy of their case that evolutionists have to resort to such poorly substantiated theories as these. The production of this new theory is also an interesting illustration of a person's philosophy of life providing the basis of his "scientific" theories. Prof. Gould is an admitted Marxist and the theory is a clear reflection of his ideology which on the political level claims that a revolution "punctuates" a stable social system and thereby produces a new order of government. An evolutionist, Dr. Beverley Halstead, who was a geologist at Reading University, did not accept the new theory and pointed out that the British Natural History Museum was publicising the theory. He noted that:

...a fundamentally Marxist view of the history of life will have been incorporated into a key element of the educational system of this country. Marxism will be able to call upon the scientific laws of history in its support, with a confidence that it has [not?] previously enjoyed [23].

CLADOGRAMS

As a result of acknowledging that there are unbridgeable gaps in the fossil record, the idea of a gradual transition from one species to another has had to be reconsidered, and this has been reflected in the way that links between them are shown in diagrams. Where before fossils were placed in a line of supposed *sequential* evolution from say ape to man, they are now presented in cladogram charts as *relationships* to each other, as illustrated in Fig. 1.9.

What is particularly significant is that no fossil is claimed to be the ancestor of any living species, only that it has a "relationship" to them. Who man's ancestors really were is completely ignored, but that he *did* evolve from some common ancestor is still firmly insisted upon by the linking lines to the left.

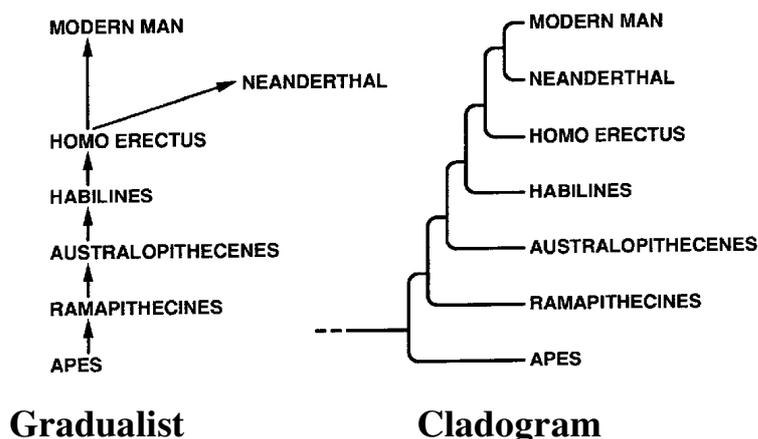


Fig. 1.9. The old “gradualist” “sequential” diagram and the cladogram “relationship” diagram

Cladists have met considerable opposition from conservative evolutionists, who are sometimes referred to as ‘gradualists’ as they contend that evolution progressed by a series of numerous small changes. Cladism is a return to pre-Darwinian concepts - that there are no sequential links between any of the various species.

These diagrams are far more vague in the information they give than the older method, but this gives them one particular advantage. Any change in the relationships between the species can usually be accommodated by the redrawing of a few lines on the left hand side. This is far less likely to be noticed by the public than having to embarrassingly change the actual positions of the fossils on the diagram as frequently happened with the older system. Cladism overcomes the awkward problem of the lack of sequential fossils.

G. DISCORDANT EVIDENCE - AND THE ESTABLISHMENT

The geological chart in the Frontispiece is based upon the fossils in the various strata, the date applied to them and the sequence in which they are found. Man only appears on these charts in the last two or three million years. Therefore it would be quite contrary to the theory of evolution if evidence of human existence were found in say Cambrian or Cretaceous strata. If this were established, the credibility of the chart would be completely destroyed. Similarly, the discovery of say a horse in Devonian strata would have the same repercussions.

A number of such discoveries are reported in creationist publications, such as one devoted to this subject by Dr. Erick A. von Fange of Ann Arbor, Michigan entitled *Time Upside Down*. An article in the *Creation Science Quarterly* for March 1991 (v27 n4) also gives many examples of stone implements found in early strata. With objects so obviously of human manufacture found with a degree of regularity, many will wonder why they do not appear more often in scientific journals. If they are reported they are considered to be “puzzling” and quietly forgotten. Usually, however, they are completely ignored, and we might ask why?

The answer is quite simply that they are reluctant to publish

anything which contradicts evolution unless it has been personally discovered by an accredited scientist. Even if one does make such a discovery, he will be very cautious in what he says for he will be very aware of the implications. When such evidence, say a discovery in a coal seam, is reported by miners, it may receive some attention in a local newspaper but it will probably be dismissed as a “fabrication”, a “practical joke” or something similar by the experts. The object will then be forgotten and lost unless a creationist makes enquiries and locates the object or obtains a signed statement about the discovery. He may not hear of the find until a long time afterwards, when much of the evidence that would have established its credibility may have been destroyed. When it is eventually published in a creationist magazine it will still be ignored by the scientists and dismissed as creationist propaganda. Thus, scientific respectability ensures that only the evidence supporting evolution receives wide coverage.

As scientific editors usually refuse to publish discoveries such as these unless found by an acknowledged expert, they can always thereafter be dismissed on the basis that “no report has appeared in a reputable journal.” Thus, evidence that supports the creationist cause is caught in the circular reasoning of a “catch 22” situation -

- It is unacceptable as evidence as no reputable journal has published this evidence.

- It will therefore not be published.

- As it has not been published in a reputable journal, it is unacceptable as evidence!

If any academic institution is approached to give an “unbiased” report on any discordant material, their usual attitude is to ignore it. If they are pressed to reply, they will invariably be dismissive.

What they cannot give is any assessment supportive of the creationist position. It takes little imagination to see that such a report would raise a storm for both the authors and the Museum involved. The position of the whole establishment would be questioned by those who control their committees or provide their funds. In view of this, it is hardly likely that the supervising authorities would allow anything to emerge that gave the creationist any credibility whatsoever.

I would therefore suggest that there is virtually no likelihood of any established authority providing evidence that could be damaging to evolution theory. To approach them in the hope that they will provide an “independent” and subjective viewpoint on any contentious issue is surely wishful thinking. The authorities involved are far too conscious that the whole future and reputation of their particular establishment is at stake, compared with which, providing an objective scientific report to a few troublesome creationists pales into insignificance.

In confirmation of this, one has only to look at America whenever a State Education Board tries to bring in just some information about creation in order to balance the overwhelming pressure to teach only evolution. Immediately, the evolutionists organise large campaigns to reverse any decisions, and the board and its members are greatly vilified in the press. Threats are made to remove the degree-awarding status of any college and court cases are entered into, to intimidate anyone who dares to oppose them. With all this massive effort, a

reversal of decisions supporting creationists is usually obtained. Yet, despite all this propaganda, about 1982, a Gallup poll showed that 50% of Americans believed Adam and Eve existed, 44% believed that the earth was directly created by God only 10,000 years ago, and 40% believed the Bible was inerrant!

This is principally due to the fact that American Christians have much more access to radio and TV companies, many supporting creation, so the information against evolution is widely disseminated. In this country, every barrier possible is being erected to prevent the spread of the truth about creation - and much else.

In this country, access to the media is completely denied to creationists. No live programme by creationists freely allowed to give their evidence has ever been allowed - and as far as I can see, never will be in view of the rigid control exercised over the media in many spheres of life today.

H. GEOGRAPHICAL DISPERSAL OF ANIMALS

This is a subject that is rarely considered in any depth by both the evolutionist and the creationist, probably because neither has been able to present an adequate explanation for the almost idiosyncratic way in which many animals arrived in the very specific areas in which they are found.

There is much emphasis by evolutionists on the isolation of the Australian continent by what is called the "Wallace" line, named after Alfred Russell Wallace the explorer and collector who sent Darwin his manuscript outlining evolution. This is the name given to the division between the very distinctive animals and plants on each side of a line that can be drawn between Australia and the Asian mainland. It is usually claimed that this line was crossed by the "earlier" marsupials when there was a land bridge still existing. A channel is then thought to have opened up in the Mesozoic era before the "later" placental mammals could follow them.

Similar isolation of species are recorded in many parts of the earth, where species are found in one special island or area and nowhere else. Another situation is where two identical (or almost identical) species are found on completely different continents with no seeming connection between them at all.

How did they arrive at these locations?

Evolutionists claim that the species evolved in one area, probably due to the rapidly changing ecological conditions, and then spread across the globe, but that they continue to exist only in particular areas as we find them now. This may sound reasonable, but the subject presents considerable problems when the fossil record is considered along with this distribution.

If a new specie, (or genus or family that would eventually produce its particular type of species) evolved in one area, it is to be expected that as the members migrated slowly to various areas where feeding was available, then at least a few of them would be entombed in the strata and become fossilised. Thus the path of migration should be traceable in the strata to link with the present positions of known species. However it is found that there are very considerable

discrepancies between the fossil record and the present locations of animals.

Some of the problems facing evolutionists in trying to explain the present disposition of animals are as follows;

- (i) Fossils of marsupials have been found in Australia, but none on the other side of the Wallace Line in Asia. Yet fossil marsupials have been found in Europe, North and South America and Africa. One would have expected at least some to be found nearer to the Australian continent than Europe.

In order to explain this, it has been suggested that instead of the two continents separating, they have, instead, come together comparatively recently. It is suggested that the Australian continent was joined to South America, where there are still marsupials, broke away from it and is now meeting the Asian continent. This would explain the large differences across the Wallace line. However, having solved this problem, another rises in its place, for if the marsupials were transported in this way, why were the placentals living with them not transported along with them also?

- (ii) If the Australian continent has been isolated for such a considerable length of time, it is strange that no other mammal-like Order has evolved during this period as happened on the mainland elsewhere. This indicates the stability of the species over very long periods of time.
- (iii) It is usually contended that having reached Australia, the “inferior” marsupials were protected from the “superior” placental animals by the separation of the continents. But this classification of “inferior” and “superior” is quite unwarranted.

It took several attempts to establish a rabbit population in Australia, which then grew prodigiously. Similar efforts with squirrels however failed. A few marsupials have crossed the Wallace line and are slowly spreading across Asia, despite competition from numerous placentals. Similarly, some placentals have crossed in the opposite direction and are successful in Australia. On the American continent, the marsupial opossum has comparatively recently spread into the North from the South, despite the competition of the “better adapted” placental animals.

These examples are given to show that it is wrong to label one family or group as “superior” to any other. The reason for a species spreading over an area is very complex, with a whole host of factors involved. These would include food supplies, disease, changes of environment etc., whilst for plants, the correct means of pollination must be available (e.g. particular flies might be needed in the area to be colonised.)

These points show that the evolutionist has considerable difficulty in providing an adequate explanation of the present dispersal of animals and plants.

For the creationist, the problem is not dissimilar, for an explanation is needed for why particular animals (or types) have reached certain areas after the Flood, and why other types are absent. Tentative answers to these difficulties are provided in ref. 100:121f.

I. HUMAN “MISSING LINKS”.

There is one subject in geology that has received more study and finance for expeditions and investigation than any other. This is the subject of the search for the links between the animals and man - the so-called “missing links” of man’s ancestry. A number of fossil fragments have been found at various times and places, each of them hailed with massive publicity as providing conclusive proof that man has descended from an ape-like ancestor.

An investigation of many of these discoveries, however, shows that most of them are little more than a few bone fragments, that reconstructions or “artist’s impression” owe more to imagination than to scientific accuracy, and that with every single one of these so-called “missing link” fossils there is a large element of fraud in their presentation. I have criticised all the main fossil discoveries that are claimed to show that man has descended from apes in another book entitled *Ape-Men - Fact or Fallacy?* [24]. I will therefore not go into the subject in any depth here but give an outline of some of the more famous fossils and the misleading claims that are made about them. There have, however, been some further revelations about the Piltdown hoax, and I have set these out in Appendix 2 for the reader’s interest.

(1) JAVA MAN.

A Dutch medical doctor, Eugene Dubois, sailed to the Far East in 1887 determined to discover “the first man”. He went to Java in 1891 where he found an ape-like skull cap and a year later on the same site but 14 metres (46 ft) away, he found a human upper leg bone (femur). He claimed that these bones were from the same individual who was therefore an upright, walking ape. He brought these and a few other bones back to Europe contending that they “proved” that man was descended from apes. There was a great deal of controversy but with the amount of publicity surrounding the finds, more and more scientists accepted them as evidence of man’s evolution. Dubois, however, locked the original fossils away and would allow no one to inspect them.

Thirty years later, in 1920, he shocked the scientific world by announcing that at the same time as he had discovered the Java “ape-man” fossils, he had also found two very human skulls on the island at Wadjak. The dating of the stratum in which they were found was roughly the same as for his Java “man” but he kept their discovery secret for thirty years. He knew that if he had displayed all his discoveries, including the Wadjak skulls, he would never have succeeded in convincing the scientists that his leg and skull bones were of an ape-man.

His admission stunned the scientific world, but by then the skull and leg bone had been accepted as an important link in man’s evolution, so his admission was virtually ignored.

As Dubois’ evidence was so controversial, a full expedition was mounted to the same site on which he had found the original fossils, but they found no evidence whatsoever that confirmed his claims. Furthermore, in 1931 von Keonigswald was sent to obtain fresh

evidence, but found only a few fossils, from which he 'reconstructed' a "missing-link" skull.

(2) PEKIN MAN.

Between 1926 and 1934 Teilhard de Chardin and Dr. Davidson Black carried out excavations at a site a few miles from Peking and a number of fossil skulls were found. These were almost all in small fragments and a considerable amount of Plaster of Paris had to be used on them to obtain enough material to form a skull shape. On one of the reconstructions, a woman's face was modelled and named "Nellie" - the result being given much publicity.

It was claimed that these were the skulls of ape-men. There was however a considerable amount of evidence that the site had been inhabited by human beings and that the skulls were only those of monkeys that they had caught and cooked for food. For example, there were thousands of pieces of quartz that had been the results of a stone tool making industry. There was also a 7 metre (24 ft.) depth of ashes which could not possibly have been the work of ape-men.

In December 1929 there was an important announcement in the national press in England and America that ten skeletons had been found. Davidson Black considered them to be of a "thinking being, standing erect". Other well known experts made cautious comments on the importance of the finds, and a special announcement by Davidson Black on 29th December was eagerly awaited. However, no announcement was made and nothing more whatsoever has ever been said about these skeletons. It is as if they had never existed, for there has never been any further reference to them in the official journals.

What could have happened? I would suggest that close examination showed that they were far too human to be classed as ape-men, and the discovery of human beings on the site of the much publicised Peking Ape-Man would have brought ridicule upon all the scientists who contributed to the work in any way. In view of this prospect, the whole subject was quietly hushed up, seemingly on an international level, for no questions have ever been raised by any learned body regarding the fate of these skeletons.

During the Second World War, all the specimens from the site were captured by the Japanese, and are said to be undiscovered to this day. Therefore a check on the accuracy of the reconstructions and a close examination of the actual bones is not now possible.

(3) 1470 MAN.

This was a collection of fragments of skull pieces found by Richard Leakey in Kenya in 1972. The reconstruction however showed that it was a very human looking skull whilst a (second) dating test gave it an age of 2.6 million years. Leakey claimed that this human-like skull found in such early strata completely altered our ideas of man's evolution. However, over the next few years, he gradually changed his views so that this skull is now virtually ignored as it is so difficult to reconcile with the present views of man's ancestry. It is most likely a human skull as other human bones were found in the same strata, but the Natural History Museum's exhibition "Man's Place in Evolution" give only a picture of it and make no mention of what its position

should be on man's family tree.

Several years after he had made the discovery, his mother, also an ape-man fossil hunter in Kenya, gave a lecture at the British Natural History Museum during which she said that Richard was reluctant to discuss 1470 Man, and was in fact wanting to "kill off the habilines" (a group in which 1470 Man had been included). What was more interesting, however, was that at the end of the talk and after a series of flattering votes of thanks to the important speaker, the meeting was promptly closed. Seemingly the possibility of embarrassing questions being asked from the floor was not welcomed.

(4) EARLY HUMAN SKELETONS.

A number of human skulls and skeletons have been discovered in "old" strata dated long before man is supposed to have appeared. Amongst them are the Castenedolo skull, the Calaveras skull, the Olmo jaw, the Galley Hill skeleton and several others [24p74f]. As they do not fit in to the evolutionary time scale of man's development, they are ignored or dismissed as burials or as hoaxes. Yet they were often found by reliable witnesses and the evidence is that they are genuine fossils from strata that are dated earlier than man is supposed to have appeared. It is only the examination of old reports that has brought them to light, but they are still almost ignored today and when they are referred to it is usually to remove them as reliable evidence.

(5) "HOMO ERECTUS"

This is the name given by evolutionists to a group of fossils that is claimed to be a distinct intermediate link between man and apes. It was first given to the two groups of fossils found at Java and Peking. As we have seen, the first is really a human leg bone and a giant ape skull, whilst the second is a collection of ape skulls. Since then other fossils have been added to it to form the main group between *Homo sapiens* (modern man) and all the ape classes.

Sometimes creationists refer to this group as though it is a valid species, but it must be remembered that it is has been deliberately fabricated by evolutionists to provide this most vital stepping-stone between us and our supposed evolutionary ancestors.

Homo erectus has never existed as a separate species but is a collection of portions of skulls and skeletons which the palaeoanthropologists (experts in fossil man) have put together to form this group. Where there is sufficient material of a skull or skeleton, it can *always* be determined whether it is human or ape. Where only a small portion of say an ape has been found, then the "human" features that it is said to possess are greatly exaggerated. If a slightly unusual human bone is found, its so-called "ape-like" features will be emphasised. By putting a number of these doubtful fossils together, the classification of *Homo erectus* has been carefully fabricated over the years.

The unending sequence of "missing link" discoveries!

Since the writing of *Ape-men: Fact or Fallacy?* there have been many further discoveries of a few scraps of bones that have been given huge publicity. With each of these "important discoveries", the media treatment follows an unvarying pattern with monotonous regularity;

- (i) They are usually only a few pieces of bones or an ape's skull. It is with some difficulty that the experts are able to point to any real human features.
- (ii) The fossils are described with great drama as being "the most important find yet." When the subject of a TV programme, there is much dramatic music, and the commentator announces in a grave voice that "this fossil changes everything that we have thought about our evolution from apes."
- (iii) Each fossil usually has the tag "*The Missing Link* now found!" There have been so many claims for the final "missing link" that the field in this area must be very crowded by now.
- (iv) The finder is given much publicity and he appears on TV etc. for about a week or so, and then slips into comparative oblivion. There is not much reference to the fossil after this time and the precise name is quickly forgotten by the public.
- (v) The most interesting aspect of all these missing link fossils is the regularity of their discovery. One could almost guarantee that every 6 to 9 months there will be an announcement of yet another fossil "ape-man" with all the subsequent 'hype'.

It seems fairly obvious, that each discovery is paraded before the public for one purpose alone; to ensure that they are reminded at regular intervals of the "fact" they they are only "clever apes", and to beat down with "irrefutable evidence" any possible concept that they were created by God.

These "missing link" discoveries have become so frequent that I have long since given up trying to keep notes of them just to be "up to date" with the latest ape-men scenario that is imposed upon the public with such unending regularity.

J. SUMMARY OF THE GEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE.

In this section we trust we have shown that the geological evidence, far from being convincing evidence for the theory, is actually very much against it.

It may well be asked what the creationist explanation is for the existence of the fossils if it is not evolution. The one accepted by all "Young Earth" creationists is that the vast majority of the fossils and the strata they are found in were laid down at the time of the catastrophe of Noah's Flood. Some, however, consider that many upper strata of the column may have been laid down some time after the Flood and this is summarised in ref. 100:399f. Indeed, the clear evidence of the catastrophic conditions under which the various strata were laid down is now accepted by many secular geologists.

It must be remembered that uniformitarian (evolutionary) geology has been taught at our universities for over 100 years. Creationists have the enormous task of a complete re-assessment of all the available evidence which has been written entirely from a uniformitarian point of view. Unfortunately, no clear or agreed scenario that fully explains the Genesis record is available at this time of writing (July 2002). Geology is the most difficult and complex subject facing creationists and reference 100 raises a number of geological problems that we have not even begun to examine.