

Fossilization, Evolution, and Intelligent Design

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Introduction

A recent presentation by John Michael Fischer and others (2006-2022) can be seen at the following link

<https://www.newgeology.us/presentation32.html>

It has the title “**Debunking Evolution – Scientific evidence against evolution – Clash between theory and reality – new geology.**” Its length is 102 pages and has 46 scientific references in support of their position and numerous illustrations.

In this presentation it is claimed that “The top problems with evolution explained, using scientific evidence against evolution in the creation evolution controversy, it is clear that not only that the theory of evolution is wrong, the theory of evolution is false, but the theory of evolution is a lie.”

One of the arguments made in this presentation is that evolutionary theory is wrong because there are no transitional fossils that show the changes between two fossil species that seem to be related by having intermediate stages between them. They also argue that all **known** mutations in animal and plant germ cells are neutral, harmful, or fatal. Both statements are simply not true. There are many examples of transitional fossils, and mutations are occasionally helpful to adjust for changes in an environment, and these helpful mutations then promote the survival of the plant or animal. Therefore, when Fischer and others make these statements, they want you to believe that all 5 billion species that have been created and preserved in the geologic fossil record are created instantaneously by intelligent design, which is beyond credibility. What Creator is going to do that kind of creation when by the Creator's own natural laws, which the Creator also produced and must be true else they would not be laws, can do creation of new animal and plant species over billions of years without breaking these laws. But what really is not recognized by Fischer and others is the problem of fossilization.

Fossilization

To make a fossil generally requires that an animal be caught in a volcanic ash burial, landslide, or whatever catastrophic event that could cause a burial of an animal. Then, further conditions must exist that bacteria, oxygen, and water are absent such that the organic matter is not consumed by the

bacteria or is oxidized and disappear as released CO₂ or acidic fluids have not come in to dissolve away the calcium carbonate in shells of the animal (e.g., clams and snails) or basic fluids have not come in to dissolve silica in silica-bearing skeleton structures of other kinds of animals (e.g., sponges, radiolarians). Then, there is the problem of finding evidence of this fossil because it still may be hidden below ground or it has been eroded away and never will be found. Therefore, it is not surprising that many transitional fossils are not found. Actually, in terms of millions of organisms that once existed and could have been preserved as fossils, they are quite rare as fossils. For example, only one Archaeopteryx (the suggested first feathered bird) has been found. On that basis, the absence of fossils is the nature of the problem and not evolutionary theory.

As an analogy, there are perhaps 339 different kinds of dogs that have been produced by breeding since dogs have evolved from ancient wolves. Perhaps one of these dogs has been buried quickly to produce a fossil, and if it did become a fossil and were found, where are all the transitional fossils between it and the other different dogs? Of course, this dog-breeding is sped up in comparison to what occurs in nature where millions of years are involved in the evolutionary process, but it illustrates the problem of finding transitional fossils. Likely, thousands and thousands of transitional mutational changes exist in the conversion of a species into a new kind of species, but 99.9 percent of them are missing because the animal

in some transitional stage was never buried for it to possibly become a fossil.

Because Fischer and others point to the absence of evidence for the existence of a transitional fossil, they say that evolution is not possible and a Creator must have produced all life by intelligent design by miracles to make 5 billion fossilized organisms in the geologic fossil record.

Recently, the fossil remains of an extremely large dinosaur (*Meraxes gigas*) was found in Argentina. It had a head larger than *Tyrannosaurus rex* and very short arms. What Fischer and others would have you believe is that this dinosaur was created by miracle and by intelligent design. In reality many thousands of similar *Meraxes gigas* creatures in stages of evolution likely existed, but this one place in Argentina is where one of the transitional forms was buried. The absence of evidence for these transitional forms, however is not proof that evolution never happened.

In forensic studies of a murder scene, the investigative detective can never go back and watch the murder happen. The investigator can only look at the evidence that is present and make a logical scientific conclusion as to how the murder occurred. Geologic studies of past earth history are always that way.

Evolution theory predicts that when two animal species are found that differ in some minor trait, there should be someplace

that shows a fossil with intermediary characteristics and such have been found repeatedly. A theory is good if it can make predictions and evolution theory does that.

Selective breeding

Fischer and others say that variation in a species is recognized, but what they want you to believe is that using variation in selective breeding does not result in a new kind of animal. It is well known that by selective breeding a company might produce a cow that provides more milk, but making something better for human purposes cannot be applied to evolution in nature. The geologic fossil record shows that evolution happened, but it does not tell us how it happened. The fossils do not reveal our modern understanding of genetics and later of DNA, and how the process of evolution works. The fossils do not provide evidence as to how the preservation or elimination of specific physical characteristics that are assembled to encode the DNA and how the results of this encoding is expressed through the interaction of this DNA with the process of development and the interaction with the environment. The DNA is the starting point, but it is not the entirety of the process. It is only through scientific genetic studies that we can determine how these processes work, and there are as many 15 different ways beyond the two that Darwin recognized.

Selective breeding is a great example of how biological processes can produce change, but it is not the same as a change that occurs for a specific goal of more immediate survival and reproduction in a specific environment. That recognition is the

foundation of the model of evolution by natural selection. The "goal" of natural selection—such as it is—is more immediate and short-term, and there is no imperative to preserve any individual or any species in the long run (indeed, over 95% of all the species we know existed on Earth are extinct) or for evolution to produce a particular species with any particular characteristics. There is, quite plainly, no required progression or end point in evolutionary change (indeed both now and at all the points in the history of life that we have been able to study; **MOST** of the biome consists of bacteria; more complex life is both rarer and far less abundant).

What we observe in the geologic fossil record is the progressive change from organisms with single cells to multicellular creatures, to more complex marine animals (trilobites, clams, snails, sponges) to fish, to amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. So, Fisher and others cannot deny this record. If Fischer and others want you to believe that all 5 billion species of life in the fossil record were created by intelligent design, why did the Creator do such a poor job that 95 percent of them became extinct?

Horse evolution

Fischer and others use the example of the evolution of horses as an example of failed evidence for evolution (**Figure 1**).

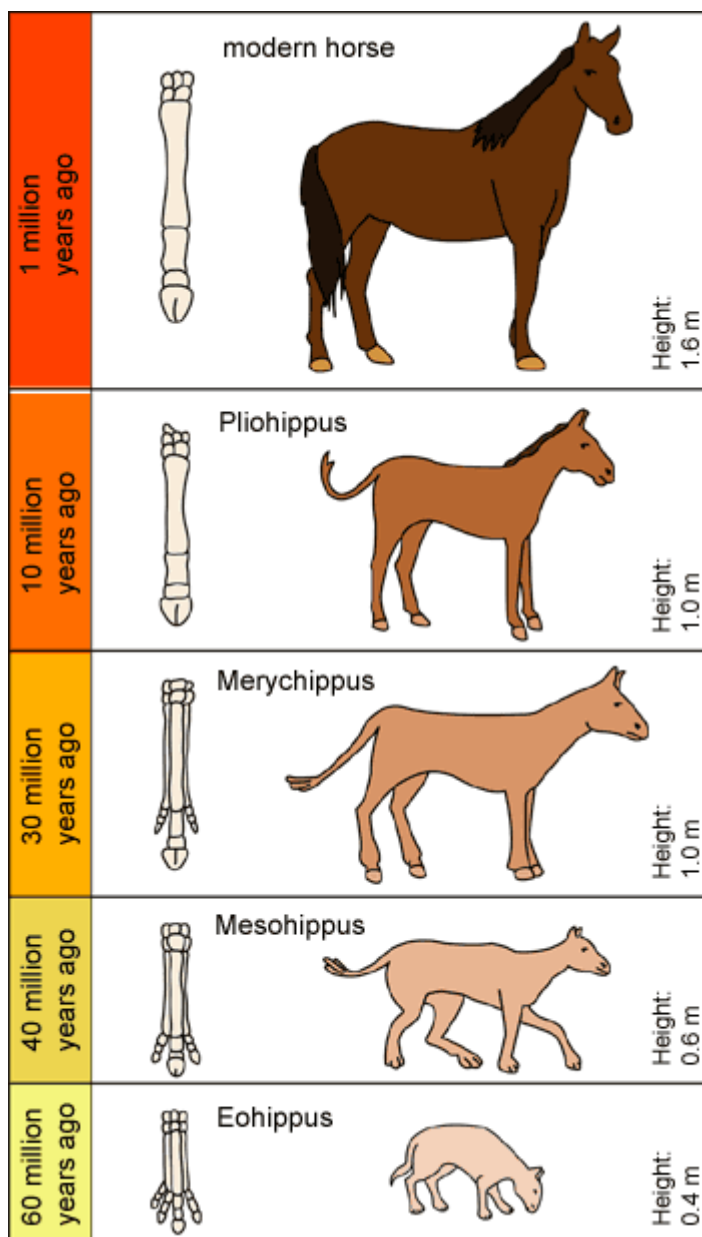


Figure 1. Horse evolution.

Fischer and others say:

“The famous horse series; it looks great, doesn't it? But each of the supposed ancestors is a complete animal. They are not full of failed growths and there are no parts under construction. There are many more differences between each

type of animal than their size and the number of toes. Every change in structure, function, and process would have had to develop through random trial-and-error if evolution were true, but no transitional forms have been found. The fossils have not caught any changes in the midst of being created, even though they should have occurred over long periods of time. In the late 1800's, evolutionists simply placed living and extinct species next to each other to make the horse series. However, evolutionists no longer believe there was the direct ancestry (orthogenesis) shown in this chart...”

But again, this is a fossilization problem and not an evolution problem. Evolution is clearly demonstrated through what is illustrated in **Figure 1**, but finding the fossil evidence for many transitional changes may never be found. Changing environments favor changes in “structure, function, and process,” and mutations that could be helpful to cope with new environmental conditions would favor the survival of new animal forms. That is, over millions of years only occasionally is an animal in transition buried and preserved as a fossil. The rare occurrence of a fossil that is found gives the appearance that transitional forms did not exist, but that simply is not true. It is the rarity of fossilization that is the problem, not evolutionary theory.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics

Fischer and others claim that the second law of thermodynamics prohibits the spontaneous origin of life and macroevolution, but this is not true. It does not prohibit the evolution of life by natural processes. The second law of thermodynamics is a statement of irreversibility, and is an acknowledgement that spontaneous physical processes “go only one way” in a closed system and that is “downhill” from higher temperatures to lower temperatures. But the Earth has not been in a closed system from its very beginning because the sun has been constantly providing energy that makes evolution of life inevitable. Energy has been constantly added to the Earth and not subtracted (going downhill). Therefore, evolution is quite possible.

Fischer and others claim that the theory of evolution violates two laws of science. They aver that the first violation is and I quote:

“The **Second Law of Thermodynamics** (law of increasing entropy) says that things which start out concentrated together spread out over time. If you heat one room in a house, then open the door to that room, eventually the temperature in the whole house evens out (reaches equilibrium). Knowing how far this evening-out has progressed at any point in time tells you the entropy. Entropy can measure the loss of a system's ability to do work. Entropy is also a measure of disorder, and that is where evolution theory hits an impenetrable wall. Natural processes proceed in only one direction, toward equilibrium and

disorder. Things fall apart over time, they do not get more organized. We can overcome this by making a machine and adding energy, but the Second Law prevents such a machine from assembling spontaneously from raw materials.”

Fischer and others further say and I quote:

“When confronted with the Second Law of Thermodynamics, evolutionists usually use two tricks to try to escape. The first is to state that "it only applies to closed systems, and biological creatures are open systems, so it doesn't affect evolution" (they actually intend to say isolated, not closed, but we know what they mean). The fact is that **the Second Law applies to all systems, open or closed, and to all actions and chemical reactions, from molecules to galaxies. The words "except for..." are not in this universal law.**

A thermodynamics system is simply any part of the universe we want to study. If we are doing an experiment in a bottle, the inside of the bottle is our system and the bottle itself is the "walls" of the system. There are only 3 kinds of systems: if no energy or matter can pass through the walls, it is an **isolated** system; if energy can pass through but matter cannot, it is a **closed** system; if both energy and matter can pass through the walls, it is in **open** system. Now, it is true that the laws of thermodynamics and entropy are defined in terms of **isolated** systems, because that is the simplest way to express them. However, experts who write textbooks on the subject are quick to say that isolated systems do not occur in nature. For

practical applications, a procedure called the Legendre Transform mathematically converts entropy to a variable called Gibbs free energy that is useful for working with real-world systems. Most natural systems are open, but it is convenient to model them as closed. For example, even though a bacterium is an open system, modeling it as a closed system makes it easier to understand chemical reactions in it.

You are an open system. You eat food (which comes from outside yourself) and your body survives and grows. Evolutionists believe that all we need is an open system with sufficient energy flowing into it for evolution to succeed. If that were so, you could just stand right behind a jet engine as the aircraft prepares for takeoff, absorb that blast of energy, and evolve to a higher life form. In reality, of course, you would be incinerated because absorbing energy without a mechanism to convert it to a useful form and employ it is destructive or useless. The mechanism must be very specific. Sticking food in your ear will not work; it must go into your mouth and through the digestive system. And the mechanism must be in place and functioning first, before energy is added, or the energy is wasted. The "closed system" ploy is just an attempt to avoid dealing with the Second Law because the Law prohibits any functioning biological mechanism from falling together by pure chance, without assistance or plan, using only the properties of matter. Evolutionists also believe that chemical evolution could have started when a high-energy spark, like lightening, split molecules into radicals and ions that randomly combined with each other to produce the new, highly complex molecules their theory needs. They ignore the fact that,

following the Second Law, it would also produce all other possible combinations of molecules, and many of these chemicals would work against chemical evolution. Without a sufficient concentration of the pure chemicals needed, with the proper chirality and ratios to each other, the main result would be a useless tar like what the famous Miller/Urey experiment produced in 1953.”

A response to this first trick is given in a later section titled: **Best explanation.**

The second trick they use is to say that and I quote:

"When you freeze water, the disordered molecules become beautifully ordered ice crystals or snowflakes. If water can bypass the Second Law and organize its molecules by a natural process, why not the chemicals of life?" At room temperature, water molecules are bouncing off each other and you have water. When you take away heat and they freeze, water molecules stick to each other with weak molecular bonds, forming ice crystals and snowflakes because of the shape of the H₂O molecule. The same thing happens if you put a bunch of weak magnets in a jar and shake it. The magnets bounce around. When you stop, the magnets stick together. They are at a lower energy level. There is order, yet no complexity - just a simple repetitive structure that does not do anything. The Second Law is not bypassed or violated.”

Response to second trick

In reply to this second trick, the second law is about the equilibrium state of a closed system. In the above example the

water does assemble itself into a lower entropy state, but only because it lost its heat to something else. If you were to look at the total entropy of the water and the environment to which it lost the heat, you would find that the total entropy went up. In general, the second law of thermodynamics doesn't apply here, for water or for life, because we aren't considering a closed system in equilibrium. We have the sun which is continuously providing energy to the earth. If you included the sun, you would find that any lowering of entropy enjoyed on earth is accompanied by a large increase in entropy of the sun.

More claims by Fischer and others

Fischer and others go on to say and I quote:

“But guess what. **Amino acid molecules that form proteins, and nucleotide molecules that form DNA and RNA resist combining at any temperature. To combine, they need the help of mechanisms in a living cell or a biochemist in an organic chemistry laboratory.**¹⁸ It means that nothing happens in the primeval soup, the pond of chemicals where evolutionists believe life began.

DNA is made of only right-handed versions of nucleotides, while proteins are made of only left-handed versions of amino acids. Yet any random chemical reaction that produced nucleotides or amino acids would make an equal mix of left and right-handed versions of each. **Even if the thousands of nucleotides needed to form a DNA molecule, or the hundreds of amino acids needed to form a protein molecule were able to combine from the mix, they would be a jumble of left and right-handed versions that could not function at all. This is the**

problem of "chirality", and evolutionists have never been able to solve it."

A response to the above claims is given in a later section titled: **Best explanation**, but first lets come back to the second problem that Fischer and others claim exists.

The Law of Biogenesis

Fischer and others go on to say and I quote:

"The **Law of Biogenesis** was established by Louis Pasteur three years after Darwin's book was published, and simply says that life only comes from life. Living cells divide to make new cells, and fertilized eggs and seeds develop into animals and plants, but chemicals never fall together and life appears. Evolutionists often call certain chemicals "the building blocks of life", giving people the false impression that you just stack the building blocks together and you get life. No one has ever done that, including the famous 1953 Miller/Urey experiment where all they got were clumps of amino acids. Many people mistakenly think scientists have made life from chemicals in the lab, but they have not (though many have tried very hard). If one were to succeed, you would know about it. He would get every science award there is, be all over the news, and have movies, books, buildings, statues, and schools dedicated to him, so desperate are evolutionists on this matter. For something to be a law of science, it can never be found to have been violated, even once, over thousands of trials. No exceptions. A theory that violates two laws of science is in big trouble."

But as shown in a previous section the second law of thermodynamics has not been violated and this law of biogenesis is not violated as explained in the next section.

Best explanation

The best explanation that shows that evolutionary transitional stages exist can be found in video produced by an evolutionary biologist (Professor Dave) at the following link: <https://youtu.be/Akv0TZI985U> This biologist has also produced two other videos that can be found by using a Google search for **Response to James Tour Part 1 and Part 2**. Part 2 has a discussion about what modern studies show that evolution of life in outer space is inevitable based on the laws of thermodynamics. Steven Benner, a chemist, and his colleagues show that molecules fundamental to life — formaldehyde, water, hydrogen, cyanide and ammonia — existed in the interstellar dust from which the Earth formed some 4.5 billion years ago. Professor Dave gives all kinds of evidence that life can have originated on Earth by reaction with the above molecules with various processes of these molecules interacting with clay in hot water followed by drying and hot water cycles, and Steven Benner in this video shows that opportunities exist on Earth for these molecules to interact with borates to result in fundamental life producing molecules. Borates are found on Mars. Therefore, at one time they could have existed on Earth. Professor Dave shows how the complex animals evolved in the Ediacaran Period with many examples of evolutionary stages, and these changes are progressive, not in 10 million years but in 46 million years, beginning with the first animals to form being sponges that require less oxygen to survive.

But in the videos by Professor Dave, he shows that all the issues raised in the above quoted paragraphs have been addressed and are false issues and that the problem of “chirality” does not exist. He explains why they are false issues. He also shows that the building blocks of chemicals did exist in the early evolution of the universe and the Earth so that life could eventually form through these chemicals without breaking the second law of thermodynamics.

Conclusion

Evolutionary theory is well supported by modern genetic studies and research, and the intelligent design model to create life that is promoted by Fischer and others is without merit. The problem is the rarity of fossils that indicate the transitional stages that existed between species having slightly different characteristic functions and that problem is likely never to be overcome.

Fischer and others think they have made a point in favor of their model that “evolution theory is a lie” when they discussed entropy in the Second Law of Thermodynamics. I quote from the discussion:

“Entropy can measure the loss of a system's ability to do work. Entropy is also a measure of disorder, and that is where evolution theory hits an impenetrable wall. Natural processes proceed in only one direction, toward equilibrium and disorder. Things fall apart over time; they do not get more organized. We can overcome this by making a machine and

adding energy, but the Second Law prevents such a machine from assembling spontaneously from raw materials.”

But their statement applies to a closed system in which energy is lost and temperatures of the system are going “downhill” toward equilibrium, and it does not apply to an open system with energy from the sun coming to the Earth from its very beginning. In that case, the direction of what can happen is reversed. Instead of things “falling apart over time” and becoming more and more disordered and less organized, things become increasingly ordered and more and more complex in time. That is, what happens in the evolutionary process of going from single cells to multicellular creatures and eventually to very complex cells in mammals (humans). Evolution theory is not a lie but is doing exactly what is predicted when the Second Law of Thermodynamics is properly applied.