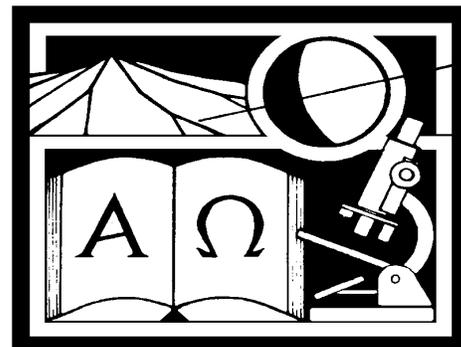


Origins Insights

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CREATION SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP



TM

February 2002

ICONS OF EVOLUTION, SCIENCE OR MYTH?

by Bob Harsh

Biologist, Jonathan Wells wrote his extremely useful book, *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth - Why Much of What We Teach About Biology Is Wrong* in 2000. As a Biology educator for the past 34 years, naturally I was interested in what Wells thought we biology teachers were teaching as wrong. I found that Wells had a list of ten ideas that have been the main supporting underpinnings for the education about evolution for decades. He referred to each "evidence" as an "icon" because they are used so often as "proof" for the "fact" of Darwinian evolution. "Some of these icons of evolution present assumptions or hypotheses as though they were observed facts . . . Others conceal raging controversies among biologists that have far-reaching implications for evolutionary theory." Wells made the outspoken charge that, "each of them, in some way or another, misrepresent the truth. If the icons of evolution are supposed to be our best evidence for Darwin's theory, and all of them are false or misleading, what does that tell us about the theory? Is it science, or myth?"

The following is the list of the ten icons:

1. A laboratory flask containing a simulation of the earth's primitive atmosphere, in which electric

sparks are introduced, produce the chemical building-blocks of living cells.

2. The evolutionary tree of life has been reconstructed from a large and growing body of fossil and molecular evidence.

3. Similar bone structures in a bat's wing, a porpoise's flipper, a horse's leg, and a human hand indicate their evolutionary origin in a common ancestor.

4. Pictures of similarities in early embryos show that amphibians,

reptiles, birds and human beings are all descended from a fish-like animal.

5. Archaeopteryx, a fossil bird with teeth in its jaws and claws on its wings was the missing link between ancient reptiles and modern birds.

6. Peppered moths on tree trunks show how camouflage and predatory birds produced the most famous example of evolution by natural selection.

7. Darwin's finches on the Gala-

MEETING INFORMATION

TOPIC: ICONS OF EVOLUTION, SCIENCE OR MYTH?

PRESENTER: BOB HARSH

Bob Harsh will continue his discussion of Jonathan Wells' important book that challenges the very bedrock foundation of evolution. Last month Bob introduced Wells' book and discussed three of the ten icons of evolution. On February 19 Bob will be leading us in a discussion of three more icons.

Who should attend? Any student of science who is interested in the most serious challenge to the reigning philosophy of our culture. Come and bring a friend.

DATE: Tuesday, February 19, 2002

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Mars Alliance Church, 997 Route 228, Mars, PA, 16046
Church Phone: (724)776-9400

(Continued from page 1)

pagos Islands, thirteen separate species that diverged from one when natural selection produced differences in their beaks, and that inspired Darwin to formulate his theory of evolution.

8. Fruit flies with an extra pair of wings show that genetic mutations can provide the raw materials for evolution.

9. A branching-tree pattern of horse fossils refutes the old-fashioned idea that evolution was directed.

10. Drawings of ape-like creatures evolving into humans show that we are just animals and that our existence is merely a by-product of purposeless natural causes.

Science is *the process of finding out the truth about nature.*

Bruce Albert, President of National Academy of Sciences wrote, "Science and lies cannot coexist." Science should not be based on subjective story telling but on objective truth. Scientific explanations must be tested against the real natural world. Science is a process. The ideas scientists develop are known as hypotheses and those hypotheses are tested as to their validity. In the purest sense, tests should be performed that can demonstrate that the hypothesis is invalid. If the hypothesis passes several tests then the idea is upgraded to being called a theory. If the idea is general enough and it has passed all of the tests without any exceptions and time has passed to allow for adequate testing the idea is promoted to the level of a "law of science".

So, how should an idea that has been tested and has been shown to be an inaccurate description of nature? We will disregard the observation, right? Absolutely not; we will look for an accurate explanation of nature and develop a new hy-

pothesis to be tested.

So how did life originate? Darwinian evolutionists believe that life got started in the primeval watery environment. *"Most, though not all, of the informed speculation begins in what has been called the primeval soup, a weak broth of simple organic chemicals in the sea. Nobody knows how it happened but, somehow, without violating the laws of physics and chemistry, a molecule arose that just happened to have the property of self-copying—a replicator."* [Dawkins, Richard. 1996. *Climbing Mount Improbable*. W.W. Norton, New York].

On the other hand, creationists believe the God, who is extra-material and extra-Universe, created life by *supernatural means*. The original life appeared similar to life today.

In 1924 Alexander Oparin suggested that simple chemicals, under the right conditions, might spontaneously form complex organic molecules, and these might then combine to form simple living cells. This idea is known as Oparin's Coacervate Theory. Oparin demonstrated that **under certain experimental conditions** organic material would **clump together** to form pieces of organic matter that **externally resembled cells**. Those microscopic clumps were called *coacervates*. Those coacervates could not do anything that living cells can do. They were no more living than a nice drawing of a cell is living.

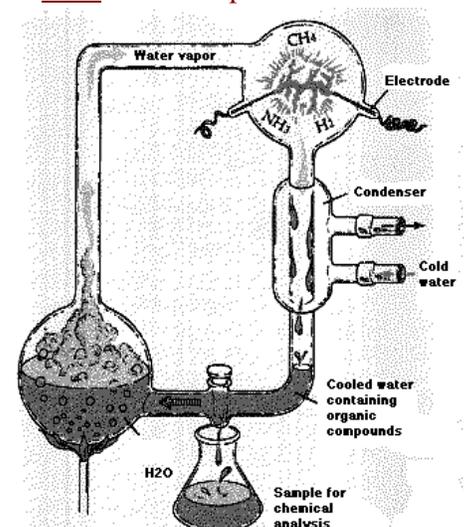
A fundamental question is; "What kind of atmosphere would be required for life to have arisen spontaneously?"

"In early 1950's, Harold Urey suggested that the Earth had a reducing atmosphere, since all of the outer planets in our solar system—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune—have this kind of atmosphere.

A reducing atmosphere contains methane, ammonia, hydrogen and water. The Earth is clearly special in this respect, in that it contains an oxygen atmosphere which is clearly of biological origin." [Dr. Stanley L. Miller, University of California San Diego]

But the present atmosphere is oxidizing. According to Dr. Stanley L. Miller, "Although there is a dispute over the composition of the primitive atmosphere, we've shown that either you have a reducing atmosphere or you are not going to have the organic compounds required for life." Evolutionists recognize that a biogenesis would be impossible to observe today, simply because the building blocks of life would be immediately destroyed by oxidation. Any newly appearing organisms would most likely be engulfed by other organisms.

Wells' first "ICON OF EVOLUTION" refers to Stanley Miller's famous experiment. In the early 1950s Stanley L. Miller, working in the laboratory of Harold C. Urey at the University of Chicago, did the first experiment designed to clarify the chemical reactions that occurred on the primitive earth. Miller's objective was to duplicate in the laboratory the reducing atmosphere that would be capable of spontaneously producing the simple organic molecules needed to produce life.



(Continued from page 2)

MILLER EXPERIMENT

- Fill a sealed glass apparatus with methane, ammonia, hydrogen gases (representing what they thought composed the early atmosphere) and water vapor (to simulate the ocean).
- Spark-discharge device to strike the gases in the flask with simulated lightning
- Heating coil to keep the water boiling
- Minute quantities of amino acids, primarily glycine and alanine were produced
- Protect products from the same electrical discharge that brought the chemicals together.

Newspapers around the world proclaimed:

Life Created in Test Tube!

No true scientist would make such a claim. Amino acids are the building blocks of proteins and all living things are made of proteins. Proteins are absolutely required for the proper functioning of any living cell. The first cells had to contain functional proteins! Amino acids are not enough for life.

Life basically has three needs:
Nucleic acids = the plans
Proteins = the building blocks and



Some problems with Stanley Miller's experiment:

1. The products were condensed and removed from the system.
2. If the products had remained in the system they would be destroyed by the same electric spark that had helped to form

them.

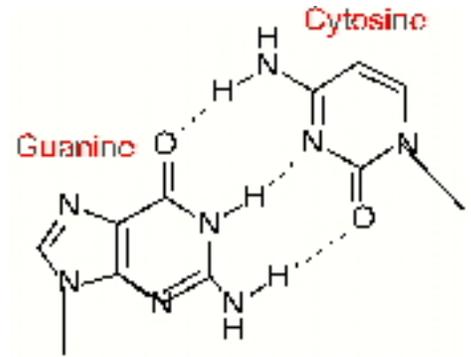
3. The amino acids produced are 50/50 left and right handed, those in living molecules are all left handed stereo isomers.
4. The temperature was too high to preserve products.

Temperature is an important problem. Some evolutionists believe that life originated around hydrothermal vents in the ocean. Dr. Stanley L. Miller doesn't agree. "I have a very simple response to that. Submarine vents don't make organic compounds; they decompose them. Indeed, these vents are one of the limiting factors on what organic compounds you are going to have in the primitive oceans."

The spontaneous generation of life has even more very significant problems. For life to have erupted spontaneously RNA had to be present. RNA contains the sugar, ribose and the nitrogen bases adenine, guanine, cytosine and uracil. At the hot temperatures that would have existed RNA would decompose in 73 minutes For a biogenesis to take place all ingredients must be present simultaneously. Some ingredients will decompose too soon and not be available. What kind of temperature would be needed for life to arise by spontaneous generation? "We know we can't have a very high temperature, because the organic materials would simply decompose. For example, ribose degrades in 73 minutes at high temperatures, so it doesn't seem likely. My thinking is that a temperature between 0 and 10 degrees C would be feasible. The minute you get above 25 degrees C there are problems of stability." [Dr. Stanley L. Miller, University of California San Diego]

At 100 ° C cytosine has a half-life of 19 days while the half-lives of adenine and guanine is about one year. Uracil will last about 12 years. These short life expectancies are an extreme problem for proponents of a biogenesis.

The nitrogen bases needed for RNA production have similar problems with high temperature.



All living things require DNA and RNA. Both DNA and RNA require cytosine. The problem is that cytosine has not been found in neither gas discharge experiments nor meteors. However, it is possible to produce cytosine from the reaction of two compounds that are produced in gas discharge experiments. One of these compounds, cyanoacetylene, has a half-life of only 11 days a 30 ° C and pH 9. A further problem is that cytosine decomposes rapidly in ultraviolet light.

Let us be reminded of what is needed for life:

- All 20 left-handed [L] amino acids
- The nucleic acids DNA and RNA
- The chemical mechanism for nucleic acid replication
- The chemical mechanism for protein synthesis
- Phospholipid membranes
- Right-handed [D] carbohydrates and

LIFE

What really evolved? Less than half of the required amino acids [both L and D forms]

Here is the problem:

All proteins in living organ-

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(Continued from page 3)

isms are produced with the active involvement of the nucleic acids, DNA, and RNA. No protein is synthesized without their aid.

Over seventy other proteins are used to construct an ordinary protein.

Twenty proteins are active in the construction of a DNA molecule!

Both DNA and protein are required to synthesize either one.

It is not rational to contend without the aid of proper DNA and other proper protein.

It is not rational to contend that DNA could without the aid of proper proteins plus previously existing DNA.

Let us acknowledge that the 21st Century belief in the spontaneous generation of life is not based on observation of nature but on necessary inference!

We need a pathway, a succession of chemical steps leading from the first building blocks of life to the RNA world. Chemistry, however, has so far failed to elucidate this pathway. At first sight, the kind of chemistry needed seems so unlikely to take place spontaneously that one might be tempted to invoke, as many have done and some still do, the intervention of some supernatural agency. Scientists, however, are condemned by their calling to look for natural explanations of even the most unnatural-looking events. [Christian De Duve. 1995 *Vital Dust: Life As a Cosmic Imperative*]

Christian De Duve accepts an unlikely and unnatural conclusion because of the foundational premise in his paradigm concerning the living world.

"More than thirty years of experimentation on the origin of life in the fields of chemical and mo-

lecular evolution have led to a better perception of the immensity of the problem of the origin of life on Earth rather than to its solution. At present all discussions on principle theories and experiments in the field end in stalemate or in a confession of ignorance. " [Klaus Dose, "The Origin of Life: More Questions than Answers," *Interdisciplinary Science Review* 13 (1998), 348] Charles Thaxton wrote; "It is becoming clear that however life began on earth, the usually conceived notion that life emerged from an oceanic soup of organic chemicals is a most implausible hypothesis. We may therefore with fairness call this scenario "the myth of the pre-biotic soup." [Thaxton.C. 1984. *The Mystery of Life's Origin: Reassessing Current Theories,* (Philosophical Library, New York)]

"An honest man armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going." [Nobel Winner, Francis Crick, 1981, *Life Itself*]

The materialistic formation of life from non-life would seem to require intelligent actions too miraculous to imagine. **It's much more realistic (and requires less blind faith) to simply acknowledge,**

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth [and all of the life-forms contained therein]." (See Genesis 1.)

"He is the image of the invisible God. By him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" [Colossians 1: 15-16]

The Ultimate Truth!

Major Problems with Primordial Soup Myth

God, who is extra-material and extra-Universe created life by supernatural means.

- 1- It is unusual for macromolecules to form from simple molecules without aid of enzymes.
- 2- Nucleic acids do not form without proteins.
- 3- Proteins do not form without nucleic acids.
- 4- The production of nutrient molecules ultimately depends on photosynthesis or chemo synthesis.
-These biosynthesis processes are highly complex and require numerous enzymes and highly organized physical structures found only in cells.
- 5- Highly specialized enzymes and highly organized physical structures must exist to utilize the nutrients that have been "miraculously" produced.
- 6- Bio-membranes are highly organized and are never produced without the aid of living cells.
- 7- Replication of nucleic acids is a highly complex process involving at least five highly specialized enzyme systems.
- 8- Mutations never add new valuable genetic information. Complex enzyme systems are not produced by random alterations of existing DNA
- 9- No geological evidence indicates an organic soup, even a small organic pond, ever existed on this planet.

Most Important!

**Law of Biogenesis
must be violated!!!!**

**Cell Theory
must be violated!!!!**

**Pre-biotic Soup theory
is a Fairy Tail!!!!**

We will continue the story from Jonathan Wells' *Icons of Evolution* in March.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

**ATTENTION ALL
NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS:
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We need to hear from you if your subscription to the newsletter has expired. The date on the top line of your label is your expiration. Can you please call, write, or email us and let us know that you still want to receive our newsletter, *ORIGINIS INSIGHTS*. We will extend your subscription for one year as soon as we hear from you. As long as you are interested in *ORIGIN INSIGHTS* you are welcome to receive a continuing subscription at no charge. However, our publishing and mailing costs run about \$300 a month. So, if you can help by joining as a member and sending us the \$15.00 annual membership fee it would certainly be appreciated. In addition, members get to vote, submit articles for *ORIGINIS INSIGHTS*, and get a 10% discount on all CSF bookstore purchases. However, if you can't afford to send us anything, that's okay. We just need to hear from you so we know that you still want the newsletter delivered. In addition, you may opt to have us send you newsletter via email in Acrobat format to you and save us mailing and printing costs. **FOR ALL THOSE WHO JOIN or RENEW**, we have a **FREE** computer CD available. This CD has lots of resources about creationism: graphics, pictures, web links and creation science courses all on one CD which can be browsed on your computer even offline. One other note, CSF can not survive without your prayer support.

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cooperation.**

Dennis E. Wert, Chairman

**AIG CD for computer
available for all members
and friends of CSF.**

CSF is making available a great resource to answer the NOVA propaganda of its "Evolution Series" that aired in September of 2001 and will be distributed to schools nationwide for use by them in indoctrinating their students in the "fact of evolution". This is a great resource to give to students, teachers, libraries etc. It includes 350 pages of creation information including responses by Dr. Jonathan Sarfati to each of the seven "Evolution" programs. It also contains 40 minutes of video content, including the complete video, "From Frog to a Prince". The complete book "Refuting Evolution" by Dr. Jonathan Sarfati in PDF format and 13 audio interviews and messages (totaling over 3 hours) by creation scientists and speakers. All of this for \$2.00 each for members or \$5.00 each for non members. Shipping is \$2.00 for first disc and additional \$0.50 for each additional disc in a single shipment. Or, you can obtain them at the CSF monthly meeting and pay no shipping charges, another reason to attend :).

**WINTER WEATHER
SCHEDULE CHANGES:**

If the monthly meeting will be cancelled due to any weather related problem—or if you have a question if it will still go on as scheduled, please call the CSF phone number at **412-341-4908** after 12 noon on the day of the meeting date and there will be a message indicating any cancellation or confirmation of the meeting scheduled.

**Quotable quote:
Primeval soup —
failed paradigm**

'Although at the beginning the paradigm was worth consideration, now the entire effort in the primeval soup paradigm is self-deception on the ideology of its champions. ...

'The history of science shows that a paradigm, once it has achieved the status of acceptance (and is incorporated in textbooks) and regardless of its failures, is declared invalid only when a new paradigm is available to replace it. Nevertheless, in order to make progress in science, it is necessary to clear the decks, so to speak, of failed paradigms. This must be done even if this leaves the decks entirely clear and no paradigms survive. It is a characteristic of the true believer in religion, philosophy and ideology that he must have a set of beliefs, come what may (Hoffer, 1951). Belief in a primeval soup on the grounds that no other paradigm is available is an example of the logical fallacy of the false alternative. In science it is a virtue to acknowledge ignorance. This has been universally the case in the history of science as Kuhn (1970) has discussed in detail. There is no reason that this should be different in the research on the origin of life.'

Hubert P. Yockey, 1992 (a non-creationist). *Information Theory and Molecular Biology*, Cambridge University Press, UK, p. 336.

*Article above taken from
Answers In Genesis website:
www.answersingenesis.org*

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**MEETING TOPICS
FOR 2002**

MARCH 19, 2002

"MACRO - MICRO:
IS IT EVOLUTION OR
CHANGE WITHIN KINDS?" -
AMANDA PINKNEY

***APRIL 16, 2002**

"I WANT TO KNOW":
MEMBER Q&A -
DENNIS WERT et. Al

MAY 21, 2002

"THE STATE OF THE
CREATION MODEL:
WHERE ARE WE" -
ROBERT WALSH

***PLEASE SEND YOUR
CREATION/EVOLUTION
QUESTIONS VIA EMAIL
OR TO THE ADDRESS
ABOVE FOR THE
"I WANT TO KNOW"
MEETING, *WHICH WAS
CHANGED TO APRIL!***



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