

# Origins Insights

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February 2003

## Homology Dethroned

by Bob Harsh

Let us return to Michael Behe's important book, *Icons of Evolution*. In 2000 Biologist Jonathan Wells published one of the most important books ever written about the exaggerated claims and deceptions used in the teaching of evolution. Wells reported on the ten most commonly cited examples of Darwinian evolution. Jonathan Wells claims that "all of them, in one way or another, **misrepresent the truth**. 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. Worst of all, some are **directly contrary to well-established scientific evidence.**"

***Icon #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."***

**Homology is such a powerful icon that it is very difficult to even consider the possibility that it is invalid.**

***Why do scientists believe something to do a valid explanation of nature..***

- 1- **Empirical evidence** that is **not influenced by pre-suppositions**
- 2- **Deductive reasoning**: Inferences that are **influenced by presuppositions**
- 3- **Blind acceptance** of scientific orthodoxy

**Belief that homology of vertebrate limbs supports neo-Darwinism is based on #3 [Scientific Dogma] and then #2 [Inferences] but not #1 [Empirical Evidence].**

***Most Biology teachers simply take it for granted that homology is true, without a second thought!***

### Carnegie Adventure 2003

**DATE:** Saturday, Feb 22, 2003

**TIME:** Museum opens at 10am we are asking all to be little early to take head count and get tickets. Arrive 9:30-9:45 am

**COST:** Discount Prices: Adults: \$7.50 - Children: \$4.50

**WHO TO PAY:** Members and guests should pay CSF, via cash or checks made out to CSF. Money can be paid on that Saturday morning.

**NOTIFY:** Call 412-341-4908 and let us know how many adults and children will be coming so we may anticipate tour group size.

**WHERE TO MEET:** Meet at Carriage Circle Entrance. Just off the parking lot behind the museum.

The power of deductive thinking:

- If two types of organisms have similar structures, we can feel fairly sure they have similar genes.
- If they have similar genes, we may deduce that they must have common ancestors.

## Deductive line of reasoning

- 1- Vertebrates have similar limb bones.
- 2- Vertebrates have their particular skeleton because their genes coded for that skeleton.
- 3- All vertebrates got their genes from their ancestors.
- 4- If two types of organisms have similar structures they have similar genes.
- 5- If two types of organisms have similar genes they must share a common ancestor

Problem-

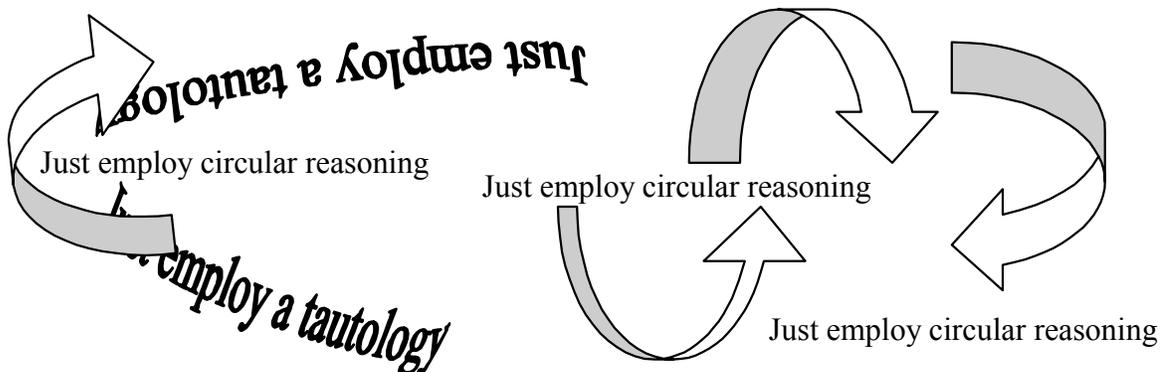
The octopus eye and human eye are more similar than octopus eye and snail eye. No biologist really believes the octopus is more closely related to humans than to snails. By appearance the octopus eye and human eye are homologous. By orthodox phylogeny they are not closely related.

The author of the most widely used University Biology textbook wrote, “Homologous structures are structures in different species that are similar because of common ancestry.” [Biology, 1993, Campbell, Benjamin/Cummings Publishing]

**Problem:**

**If we cannot prove ancestry  
can any structure qualify as a homologous organ?**

**Not a Problem for Neo-Darwinists**



Over 50 years ago Alan Boyden criticized the circular reasoning of homology in the *American Midland Naturalist*. Neo-Darwinian homology requires “that we *first* know the ancestry and then *decide* that the corresponding organs or parts are homologous. As though we could know the ancestry without the essential similarities to guide us!” [Boyden, A. 1947. Homology and Analogy. *American Midland Naturalist* 37]

## Homology from DNA sequences

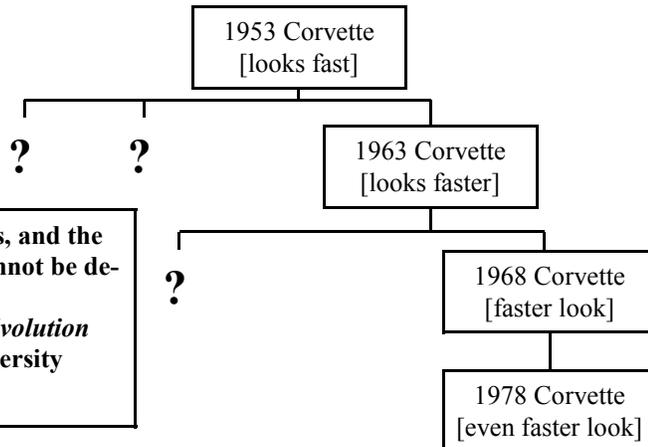
Evolutionists also employ the reasoning of “Homology” with the comparing of DNA from various species. **Neo-Darwinists have stretched the meaning of homology to the point that it is a useless term. It is still impossible to determine *why* two sequences of DNA are similar. The phylogenies [stories of evolutionary past of organisms] conflict. It depends on which DNA sequences you choose. One sequence may suggest one phylogeny while another sequence may point to a different phylogeny.**

### Berra's Blunder

“If you compare a 1953 and a 1954 Corvette, side by side, then a 1954 and a 1955 model, and so on, the descent with modification is overwhelmingly obvious.”

“That is what paleontologists do with fossils, and the evidence is so and comprehensive that it cannot be denied by reasonable people.”

[Berra T. 1990. *Evolution and the Myth of Creationism*. Stanford University Press]



### ***Reasonable People Understand That Corvettes are DESIGNED BY ENGINEERS***

? Do fossils demonstrate that organisms, that have similar structures, have those structures because of descent with modification?

OR

Do organisms, that have similar structures, have those structures because an intelligent designer gave those structures to the organism so that it would be able to survive?

The key to explaining homology lies in understanding the continuity of information. [Van Valen L. 1982. Homology and Causes]

**IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE  
CONTINUITY OF INFORMATION  
FROM FOSSILS!!!!!!**

I will develop the story of homology and descent with modification in a future *Origins Insights*. I have run out of space this time.

## 2003 CSF Meeting Topics

Saturday, February 22 Carnegie Museum Tour - Hosts: Bob Harsh / Dennis Wert

Tuesday, March 18 Presentations by Young Creationist of Middle School to College age students. Host: Gail Pinkney, Student Presenters

Tuesday, April 15 "Creationist Response to the PBS Series on Evolution", Dennis Wert

Tuesday, May 20 "The Trinity as Seen in Creation", Bob Walsh

No Meetings for June / July/ August, Aug 4-9, International Conference on Creationism. Held at Geneva College

Tuesday, Sept. 16 "Highlights and An Overview of the 2003 ICC", Lionel Dahmer and Reid Moon

Tuesday, Oct. 21 "What is Relevance of the Biblical Creation Account to YOUR Christian Faith", Reid Moon

Nov 18 "Neo-Creationist Geology from 2003 ICC", Chuck Danley

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**Join CSF on Saturday February 22 for a Creationist Tour of the world famous Carnegie Museum of Natural History**

**Leaders will be Phillip McCaffrey and Bob Harsh**

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