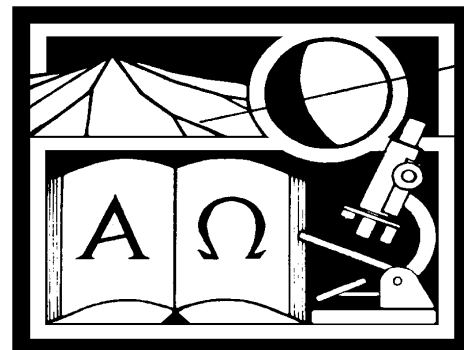


Origins Insights

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April 2002

So, How Old is That Fossil Anyway?

by Jim Hawk

When most people think of fossils, they think of plants and animals that lived millions of years ago. However, there are problems with this train of thought. For one, fossils only exist in the present – it is merely the interpretation of fossils that creates the thoughts that these plants and animals lived long ago. Another problem is the belief that layers of rock were laid down over many years – this gives the illusion that fossils were formed many years ago. This conclusion is based on several assumptions that will be mentioned in this paper. As I will show, you will find that layers of rock can be laid down in a short period of time – a matter of minutes in some cases. I will also display several fossil examples that will help disprove the theory that long periods of time are needed between layers.

So what is a fossil? The American Heritage Dictionary defines a fossil in this way: “A remnant or trace of an organism of a past geologic age, such as a skeleton or leaf imprint, embedded in the earth’s crust” (333). The

phrase ‘past geologic age’ makes me immediately think that these fossils were created millions of years ago, yet I know from personal study that dating methods make a lot of assumptions in determining the age of a fossil. One

of the main assumptions that researchers make is that the way we observe events happening in the world today are the same way they have been happening for millions of years. For instance, the rate of decay of radioactive elements

MEETING INFORMATION

TOPIC: I WANT TO KNOW": MEMBER QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
PRESENTER: DENNIS WERT et. Al

**Come to the meeting
to hear some answers
to questions you might have
about creation/evolution.
Bring a friend!**

DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2002

TIME: 7:30 PM

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

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used in radiometric dating has remained the same. There is no way to prove this, yet the assumption is made. Another assumption is that rock layers take many years to lay each band of sediment. While the first assumption mentioned is not provable since we weren't around to observe how things happened in the past. The second assumption can be proven by observation of events that have happened in recent history.

How fossils are formed will help in deciding whether or not it took many years for each layer of sediment to form. The Ultimate Visual Dictionary 2000 has this to say about the formation of fossils, "Most dead organisms soon rot away or are eaten by scavengers. For fossilization to occur, *rapid burial by sediment is necessary*. The organism decays, but the harder parts – bones, teeth and shells, for example – may be preserved and hardened by minerals from the surrounding sediment..." (278) (Emphasis mine). On one hand, we are taught that each layer in the geologic column took many years to form. On the other, we are taught that fossilization requires "rapid burial by sediment".

The Ultimate Visual Dictionary goes on to say "...The study of fossils (paleontology) not only can show how living things have evolved, but can also help reveal the Earth's geological history – for example, by aiding in the dating of the rock strata" (278). Unfortunately for scientists, this method can have embarrassing results. One example of an index fossil is the coelacanth. The coe-

lacanth is a fish that many though had become extinct 70,000,000 years ago. However, as shown by Walt Brown in his book, 6 coelacanths were filmed in their natural habitat in 1987, as well as being caught as early as 1938 (29). And what is an evolutionist's response to this? Jacques Millot in his article, The Coelacanth had this to say, "Throughout the hundreds of millions of years the coelacanths have kept the same form and structure. Here is one of the great mysteries of evolution—that of the unequal plasticity of living things." (37). An alternate thought to this is that maybe the coelacanth is not as old as they are saying. If they are around today much the same as their fossil remains, you can no longer say that their fossils are hundreds of millions of years old – they could have been created during the last event that caused rapid burial of that coelacanth, whatever that event may be.

The next thought I have is this – how do we know how long it takes to create these layers of rocks? Can we use the Grand Canyon as a textbook case of how a little bit of water over a long period of time can cut through rock? Most people are taught that the bottom layers in the Grand Canyon are hundreds of millions of years old, while the upper layers are increasingly younger. At first glimpse, this appears to make sense. If you look at the current erosion rate of the Colorado River, you would most likely come to this conclusion. However, we have an observable event in recent history to show that this thinking may be erroneous. The event I'm talking

about is the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in 1980.

During the recent eruption of Mt. St. Helens in 1980, scientists observed that thousands of layers were laid down in a matter of hours. They also were able to observe a canyon that was cut through solid rock in a matter of days – merely by the action of vast quantities of water. In his video, Steve Austin documents that 600 feet of strata were laid down on May 18th, 1980 by an air deposit from the eruption. Then on June 12th, another 25 ft was laid down by a lava flow. And finally, on March 19th, 1982, a mud flow deposited yet more in a matter of minutes. Another result of this eruption was a large body of water being formed because a river was blocked up. When it eventually built up enough pressure, it burst through the rock dam that was created and the resulting mud flow carved a canyon through solid bedrock in a matter of hours. When one happens upon this canyon and sees the river flowing through the bottom of the canyon, he will think that the river carved through the rock over a long period of time. But since we have photographic evidence of this event, we know it took lots of water and a little bit of time. This canyon system is actually a scale model of the Grand Canyon in the way that all the different aspects of the Grand Canyon mirror this little canyon.

When someone says that it took millions of years to create the Grand Canyon, I merely point them to Mt. St. Helens and show how a mini-grand canyon

(Continued on page 3)

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was created in a short time with lots of water, instead of the accepted little bit of water over millions of years. The same argument can be used for the creation of all those layers and the fossils that are found in those layers.

So the next time someone tries to tell you it took millions of years to create fossils and rock layers, just tell them know about the coelacanth, along with what happened during the after effects of the Mt. St. Helens eruption back in 1980. This is proof positive that what we believe about the age of the earth is based on false assumptions.

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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 :).

Evidence for a Young World

by Russel Humphreys

1. Galaxies wind themselves up too fast
2. Comets disintegrate too quickly
3. Not enough mud on the sea floor
4. Not enough sodium in the sea
5. The Earth’s magnetic field is decaying too fast.
6. Many strata are too tightly bent
7. Injected sandstone shortens geologic ‘ages’
8. Fossil radioactivity shortens geologic ‘ages’ to a few years
9. Helium in the wrong places
10. Not enough stone age skeletons
11. Agriculture is too recent
12. History is too short

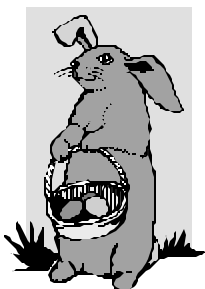
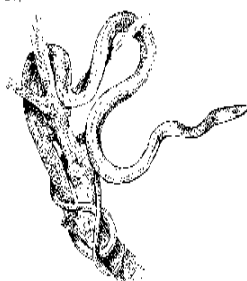
For details on the above list, visit
www.answersingenesis.com.

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



If there is an animal in your 'Easter story' this year, make sure it's a serpent rather than a bunny.



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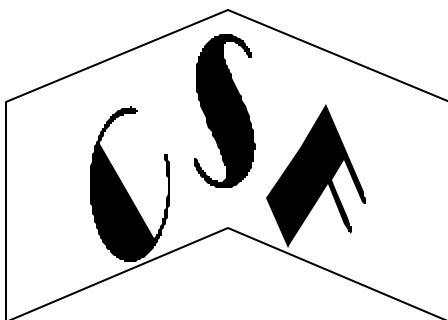
MEETING TOPICS FOR 2002

MAY 21, 2002

Irreducible Complexity:
Case in Point:
How Bacteria Get Around:
The Flagella -
Bob Harsh

JUNE 18, 2002

The State of the Creation Model:
Where are we? -
Bob Walsh



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