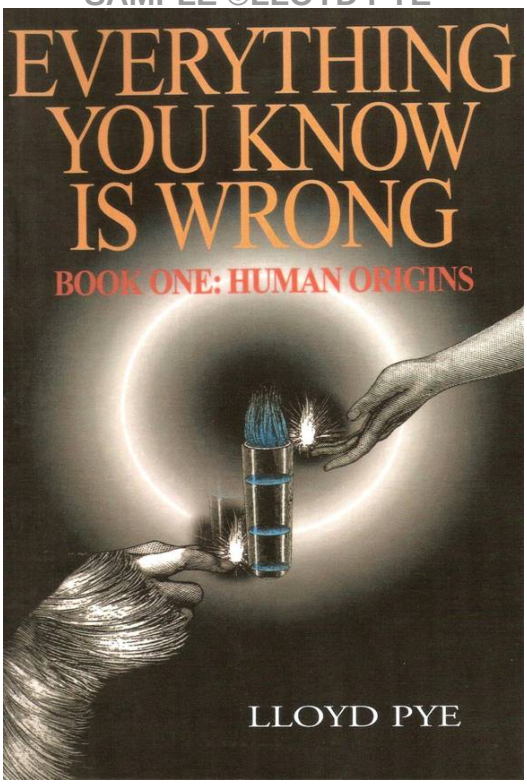

DEDICATION

To my parents, of course;

and to all members of
the Invisible College

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

No project of this size and duration can be completed without a great deal of help along the way. Therefore, I must sincerely thank the following people, all of whom have provided me with either technical advice, critical feedback, emotional support, or financial assistance: Dr. Lloyd A. Pye, Sr. and Nina Pye, Jonathan Pye, Evie L. Pye, Thomas Wilfred Pye, Susan (Pye) Stone, Bob and Susan Dawson, Col. Jim Spring, Weldon Russell, Carolyn Mistoler, Joe Eddy Anzalone, Paul Arnold, Bob Aulicino, Karren Baugh, Joanna Broussard, Coach Dale Brown, William E. (Bill) Brown, David Carter, Fred Carpenter, John Cogswell, Teresa Campos-Coelho, Charles Cabler, Dr. Larry Fambrough, Don Galias, Germaine Galjour, Debbie (Westall) Garcia, John Graham, Logan Guess, Harvey Hagman, Dr. Madelaine Hedgepeth, Mark and Debbie Herlyn, Cynthia Hutchinson, Larry Jacobson, Bud Johnson, Shirley Leong, Mike MacNees, Ron and Marion Marcotte, Mary Mocsary, David de Neufville, Susan Norris, Greg Purdy, James Redfield, Ken Redler, William T. “Boogie” Roberts, Bob Roesler, Bob Rue, Zecharia Sitchin, Bruce Stewart, Mike Sharp, Marie Sheffield, Phyllis Simpson, Dr. Butch Sonnier, Carmen Sunda, Nat and Francis Toulon, Bob Vickrey, Katie Wainwright, Jim Williams, Bruce Young, Kay Young, and those who prefer to remain anonymous. You know who you are.

PREFACE

This book consists of four Parts, I and II of which are relatively short, while III and IV are both twice the length of I and II combined. If you have heard about the sensational aspects of the latter two parts, do not succumb to the temptation to go straight to them. If ever a book was constructed to be read from first page to last, this is it. Though the latter parts are indeed sensational, they are much more so if read after absorbing the basic information provided in Parts I and II.

***

As for the "Invisible College" mentioned in the dedication, its original "student body" was comprised of the first (1950's) UFO researchers, who labored in quiet obscurity for nearly two decades before gathering enough evidence to override constant official denials and make UFO's understandable and acceptable to a majority of people worldwide.

Now a similarly controversial subject—how humans came to be on Earth—is being studied by a scattered group of iconoclasts quietly pursuing their "post-graduate" work in a different part of the Invisible College. This book is designed to be a basic text for that unsanctioned course of study, and to help current "students" enroll their friends and acquaintances.

INTRODUCTION

This book is about life on Earth, how it came to be here and how it has progressed from that point forward. On opposite sides of the issue are

two main groups: Darwinists and Creationists. Darwinists believe life is explainable as an ongoing process that began in utter simplicity and steadily proceeds toward increasing complexity. Creationists believe a Supreme Being was divinely inspired to create all life whole and complete, with no alterations or addendums since the original effort brought it all forth. Naturally, Darwinists are quick to point out that alterations and addendums are an easily detectable fact of life, while Creationists are equally quick to note that evidence for a gradual progression of life forms from simple to complex is dubious at best. This leaves the two sides at loggerheads, fueled with enough facts to prove their opponent is at least partially wrong, but not possessing enough proof to establish their own case beyond doubt.

Accepting that both sides have serious holes in their arguments, it seems logical to seek a better understanding of life's processes somewhere in the large swath of middle ground between the current entrenched positions. That is what this book attempts to accomplish, the staking out of a defensible position in the terra incognita beween the Darwinists and Creationists. Of course, such a contentious objective will strike many as hopelessly quixotic because to question Darwinism is to doubt the collective wisdom of the entire scientific community, while to question Creationism is to defy the teachings of every major organized religion. To dispute both groups simultaneously is even more quixotic, and will strike others as a senseless act of deranged lunacy.

Deranged or not, lunacy or not, this book is filled with fact-based propositions and logical suppositions that will convince many readers of its veracity, while others will disagree, some quite strongly. That is usually the case when radical ideas are presented for public examination. But no matter how you have come to this book, whether as a Darwinist, a Creationist, or an "agnostic" without a firm opinion, it will forever change how you view the origin and progression of life on Earth. You may even end up reevaluating your own place in that grand, glorious scheme.

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EVERYTHING YOU KNOW IS WRONG

BOOK ONE: HUMAN ORIGINS

PART I: LIFE ON EARTH

INTRODUCTION

This book's title is clearly a misnomer because certain facts are undeniable: 2 + 2 = 4, the sky is blue, etc. However, in a universe filled with dark matter and black holes, event horizons and parallel dimensions, singularity and relative time, it is hard to know what is real, much less true beyond doubt. So *Everything You Know Is Wrong* might well be more to the point than *Many Important Things You Think You Know About The World Are Serious Misconceptions*.

Title aside, this book deals with some of the most fundamental issues of human concern: What is life? How did it come to be on Earth? What is humanity? How did we become such an unusual species, so incredibly different from everything else here? And underlying all that: *Why* are we here? This cartoon expresses it perfectly:

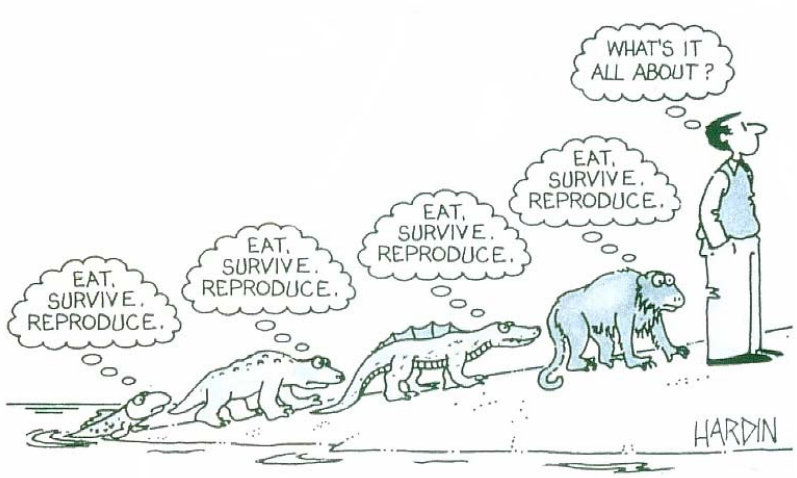

Fig. 1. ©Patrick Hardin

Many people (especially scientists) believe life on Earth has been well accounted for since 1859, when Charles Darwin's *The Origin Of Species By Natural Selection* suggested it was the result of gradual transitions among and between species. Darwin's theory postulated that simple forms developed into more complex forms by incremental, ever-ascending spirals of improvement generated by survival pressures inherent in any environment. That concept hit like a bombshell in a world that until then had looked only to religion for secular guidance and wisdom.

Until the mid-1800's ignorance and superstition had been the bedrock of cultures around the world, so it was relatively easy for the abstract mysticism of religion to hold sway. But education of the masses was making inroads everywhere, replacing ignorance and superstition with knowledge and rationalism. Enlightened individuals were coming to realize that life's profound questions were being plausibly answered by the naturalism of science, which made religion's entrenched orthodoxy ripe for overthrow. Darwin's theory provided the means to supplant it.

Naturally, such a profound societal power shift can never occur easily. Darwin's supporters and detractors battled toe-to-toe until 1925, when a Tennessee teacher named John Scopes agreed to be the point man for an attempt to settle the debate once and for all. In defiance of his state's laws against teaching evolution—as "natural selection" came to be known—he admitted doing so and was arrested. The subsequent trial created a riveting battle between science and fundamentalist Christians, who represented all religions confronting erosion of their influence by the worldwide proliferation of education. However, the tide had irrevocably turned. *The Origin of Species* had struck religion a crippling blow, then its humiliation at the Scopes Trial seemed to knock it out of contention. Now, seven decades later, we know it went down but not out.

***

The Scopes Trial was a watershed for Darwinists because it legitimized propagating evolutionary theory. They did it so thoroughly that today children everywhere are taught life began in ancient seas filled with countless complex but inanimate (non-living) molecules whose presence turned the seawater into a "prebiotic soup." Those isolated molecules somehow came together (with the possible influence of lightning) to link themselves into ever more complex chains. At some point a critical mass was reached and voila! Life spontaneously began, transforming those previously dead clumps of molecules into creatures that could somehow (to this day no one can say exactly how) utilize other molecules in the soup to perform the miracle of reproduction.

After reproduction, of course, came growth into ever more complex forms: algae and bacteria became early sea plants and worms, worms became fish, fish became amphibians, amphibians became reptiles, reptiles became birds and mammals, mammals became humans, and humans became scientists, who assure us that wherever they look they find Darwin was correct, evolution *is* how life works, and nothing is left to proving his theory except dotting a few i's and crossing a few t's. Well, there is a bit more to it than that.

MISSING LINKS

In *The Origin Of Species* Darwin never used “evolution” to describe the process underlying his theory. He called it “natural selection,” while today we use the more cryptic “descent with modification” or “gradualism.” Whatever it is called, it expresses the idea that all life forms continually upgrade themselves into more complex (higher) forms by very slight genetic changes multiplied and/or combined over vast periods of time. Favorable changes remain in a species’ growth pattern, adding to the abilities of higher incarnations in an unbroken chain of increasing sophistication. Unfavorable changes are eliminated by not being passed on.

The most pivotal aspect of the theory is that it calls for “innumerable intermediate forms” (Darwin’s own words) to appear in the fossil record, where life’s myriad species are frozen for eternity. In 1859 there was a complete absence of transitional forms, but this did not greatly concern Darwin because he knew his era’s fossil record was woefully inadequate. He was confident that once his theory caused his colleagues to begin intensive searching, they would find many so-called “missing links.” Unfortunately, that bold prediction has left his followers continually chasing their tails in frantic efforts to explain why no matter where they look they cannot find any, not in 1860 and not now, nearly 140 years later. In fact, what today’s much more complete fossil record reveals is that life forms have never—*never*—existed the way Darwin predicted they would.

In geological terms every life form appears virtually overnight, with both sexes fully developed and functioning, in the physical state they maintain until they go extinct, which on average requires about a million years, and which has happened to as many as 99% of all species that have ever lived. There can be certain degrees of physical change (size, weight, etc.) during a species’ lifecycle—sometimes profound changes—but never transformation into another genus (the biological classification above a species). In other words, small sharks may have “evolved” into larger sharks, and vice versa, but no shark ever evolved into an amphibian.

By 1882, when Charles Darwin died, the “missing links” hole in his theory had seriously widened. Today all Darwinists know (but rarely admit) that the doctrine undergirding their entire ideology is fatally flawed. Some have even constructed modifications to it (such as “punctuated equilibrium,” to be discussed later), trying to plug the holes without admitting the basic concept is in doubt. That distortion of reality is embarrassing but necessary because Creationists are not content to hold contrary opinions about evolution solely as a matter of faith. They insist everyone else should see the matter only as they do, so they have to be met head-on and defeated in open intellectual debate, which by default has become the responsibility of the Darwinists.

***

Throughout human history the most powerful group of individuals has been the equivalent of today’s Creationists. (Don’t think of spit-shined beggars like Jimmy Swaggart and Jim Bakker, who are aberrations.) For much of the human epoch “holy” men of most cultures have been able to execute—often without question—anyone who challenged, offended, or otherwise confounded them. (Sadly, echoes of those days remain; just ask Salman Rushdie.) Consider the Crusades, the Inquisition, or Galileo, forced to recant his “heresy” that Earth was not the center of the universe. Religious dogmatists had the upper hand then and wore an iron glove when they used it—especially against scientists, who were a small minority of the populace and were considered “wicked” and/or “evil” because they did not blindly accept “God’s word” in the Bible.

Whether openly or surreptitiously, questioning the Bible’s veracity put early scientists on a par with the small mammals scurrying underfoot when dinosaurs ruled the Earth. Then came the miles-wide asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs and lifted the scurrying mammals from obscure bit players to stars at center stage. Similarly, Darwin’s theory of natural selection was an intellectual asteroid that in one brilliant stroke unseated the religious hierarchy that had ruled society until then. It gave science and scientists the upper hand, and they have clung to their newfound power as fanatically as the ecclesiastics ever did. In fact, Darwinism itself has become a kind of religion to them, to be taken on faith no matter how the evidence stacks up against it.

IN THE BEGINNING

In the beginning Earth coalesced from a primordial cloud of dust and gas to become a protoplanet with the viscosity of thick soup. By dating cratonal rocks (remnants of the original crust), geologists have determined this occurred around 4.5 billion years ago. For the next half-billion (500 million) years the seething ball cooled, forming a thin crust of silicates the way a cooling milk-based soup forms a "skin." As the crust grew thicker, it added a pressure-cooker effect to the ball it encased, which—as any cook might anticipate—thickened the soup's consistency while accelerating gas venting (primarily as steam) and the formation of more crust.

By 4.0 billion years ago rock was present all over the ball, pebbling its new surface like chunks of meat and vegetables in a stew. It was not land as we know it because there was still far more stew than rock at the surface, but the stew continued to cool, which kept forming more rocks and venting more gases—still mostly steam that would condense into water. That process continued until the surface had hardened into true land and sea, around 2.5 billion years ago. Not until that "continental threshold" was reached, providing a foothold of sorts for subsequent generation and proliferation, does it seem life would have the necessary environment to kickstart itself and then gradually flourish, as—according to all Darwinist tenets—it so obviously did.

In their view the only questions remaining are "How?" and, perhaps peripherally, "Why?" Life would start small, no doubt, with molecules having a chemical affinity somehow managing to clump together in the prebiotic soup. Then, somehow, someway (no one is quite sure how), they would cross the line from inanimate molecules to animated life force. However, if it did happen that way it was nothing less than a divine miracle because the absolute simplest form of animated life has hundreds of genes (humans have 100,000), and that complexity compares to the largest inanimate molecules the way a metropolis like New York City compares to a rustic village.

***

Darwin's theory of gradualism would be in perfect harmony with the above scenario, but what actually happened was nothing like it. The planet was still a seething cauldron when life first appeared, suddenly and without precedent at around 4.0 billion years ago. And it didn't come in one form, it came in *two*; both quite different, and complex rather than simple. Yet despite their obvious differences, they had equally obvious similarities in their genetic makeup, which could only mean they shared a common ancestor of greatly reduced complexity.

That common ancestor is another serious problem for Darwinists because it had to exist much further back in time than when its two progeny appeared on the early Earth. That, in turn, means Earth could not have been its spawning ground because not enough time was available for evolution to work its magic. Consider the timeframe: about 4.0 billion years ago, only 500 million since Earth's timeline began (11% of 4.5 billion), with only thin, steam-drenched crust floating on viscous, scalding magma, two kinds of single-cell bacteria left indirect traces in the earliest rocks. Then, at 3.8 billion years ago, they left bodies as fossils. Thus, by at least 4.0 billion years ago (if not earlier) life was here on the protoplanet, fully formed and with no apparent predecessor.

The first single-cell bacteria were called prokaryotes (pro-carry-oats), and originally it was thought there was only one kind. But in the late 1970's bacteriologist Carl Woese studied prokaryotic RNA and—to his own astonishment and the even greater astonishment of scientists everywhere—discovered there were two separate, distinct types. The predominant ones he named "eubacteria," which have come to be known simply as bacteria. The new group he called "archaebacteria" (archae means "ancient") because they seemed more primitive in function than the apparently adaptive bacteria. They have since come to be known as

archaea.

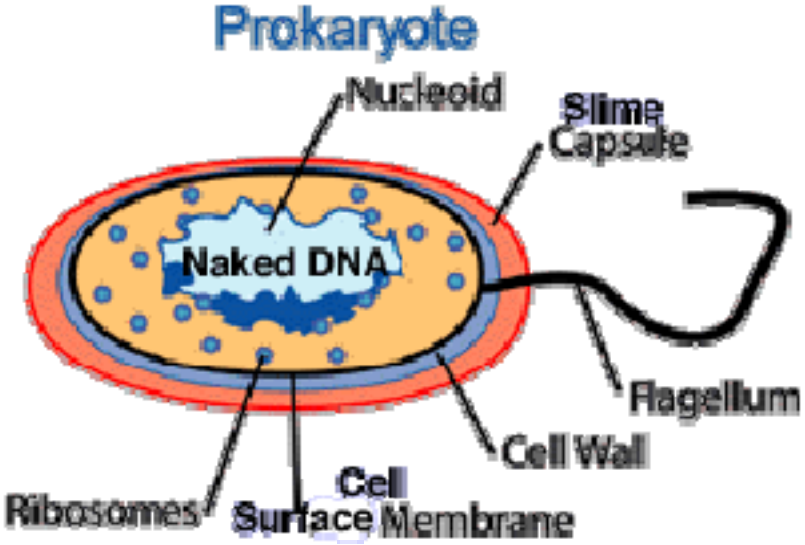

Fig. 2. Prokaryotic cell

Woese's discovery was the bacteriological equivalent of finding two distinct types of human beings, each with roughly half the same genetic sequences and half completely different. Yet the two prokaryotes were clearly related because, in addition to sharing genetic sequences, neither had a cell nucleus, leaving their genes to float freely within their body membranes.

That dramatically separated them from the next life form to come along (about 2.0 billion years ago), the eukaryotes (you-carry-oats), a much more sophisticated form of bacteria whose unicellular bodies held their genes in a nucleus enclosed by an inner membrane.

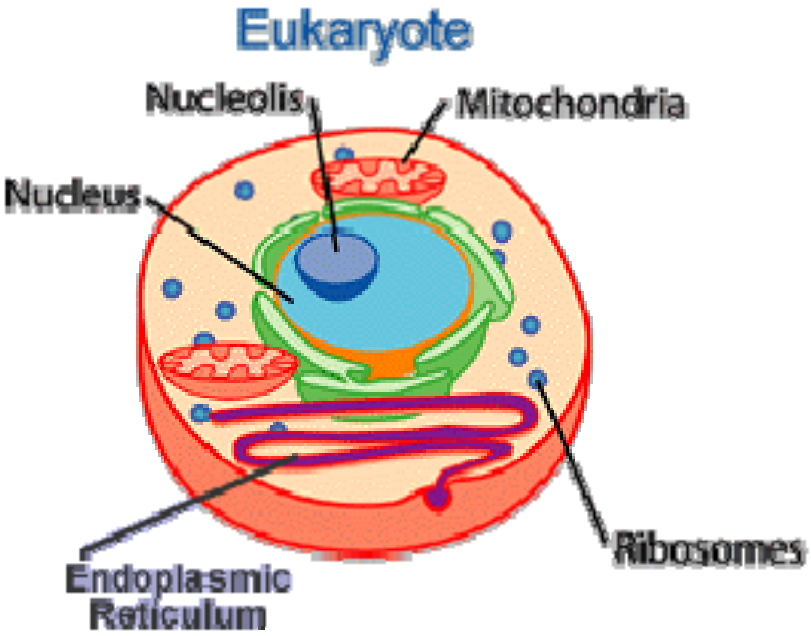

Fig. 3. Eukaryotic cell

Scientists contend that the enclosed nuclei of eukaryotes makes them the obvious precursor of all subsequent “higher” plant and animal life forms, all of which have similarly enclosed nuclei, and all of which—including humans—are technically classified as eukaryotes. However, the following chart clearly shows that from day one of its presence on Earth, life did not follow the Darwinist scenario of initial simplicity leading to increasing complexity in gradual stages.

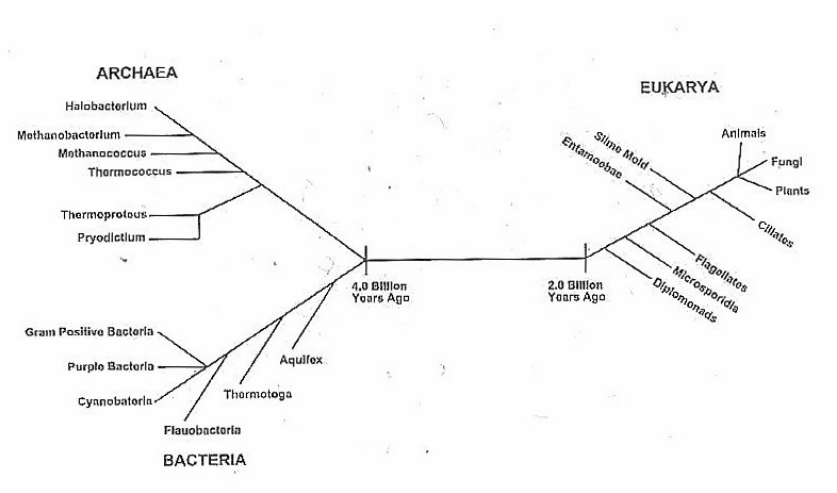

Fig. 4. Archaea, bacteria, and eukarya

Faced with such an unexpected, inexplicable "tree" of earliest life forms, biologists have diligently searched for Darwinian links between them (such as one bacteria "blending" into another), but thus far they have found none. In fact, when the entire genome (1.7 million genetic letters) of *Methanococcus jannaschii*, a methane producing "extremophile" (archaebacteria living in the most hellish environments on Earth, which resemble their original homes on the cooling protoplanet), was completely sequenced, it was found that 44% of *M. jannaschii*'s genes were similar to those in bacteria or eukarya, while 56% were completely different from any genes yet sequenced in other unicellular organisms. This suggests that all three types of early life forms are indeed related to some common distant ancestor, but as stated earlier, there is simply not enough time available for that ancestor to have evolved on Earth.

Naturally, all this is a severe embarrassment to Darwinists, driving many of them to begin seriously considering the once-preposterous notion that life may not have originated on Earth, but instead was "seeded" from beyond by the blizzard of comets and asteroids that crater evidence on the

Moon indicates bombarded the cooling protoplanet from 4.5 billion years ago to around 4.0 billion years ago, when everything seemed to stabilize (more about this in Part IV). That such a profound change of philosophical tack is being contemplated, much less openly discussed, is testament to the squeeze of the rock and the hard place the Darwinists find themselves stuck between.

Another of their difficulties is trying to explain how one or both prokaryotes might have evolved into early eukaryotes. Here they suggest that during the 2.0 billion year gap between their appearances, small prokaryotes "invaded" the bodies of large ones, established symbiotic (mutually beneficial) relationships, and thus evolved into eukaryotes. Others from the fang-and-claw school contend that small prokaryotes were "eaten" by larger ones, then turned into nuclei by some inexplicable osmotic (equalization of pressure on both sides of a membrane) process. While superficially satisfying, these explanations do little to account for the vast increase in complexity found in eukaryotes. In fact, the jump from prokaryotes to eukaryotes is equal to the jump from inanimate molecules to animate life: both are like comparing a rustic village to New York City.

Apart from strong overtones of implausibility and desperation, those "explanations" fail to address the bottom-line question: How did prokaryotes and eukaryotes gain life in the first place?

WHAT IS LIFE?

The standard Darwinist answer to that is built around the famous Harold Urey and Stanley Miller experiment of 1953. As a graduate student of Urey's at the University of Chicago, Miller approximated in a glass flask what was then thought to be the forming Earth's earliest atmosphere (predominately methane and ammonia), then he sent sparks through the mixture to approximate lightning (which is assumed—but not proven—to have been a constant in Earth's history). That ingenious experiment produced tiny amounts of two amino acids, the essential ingredients of proteins, which made Darwinists everywhere giddy with delight because amino acids could legitimately be publicized as "the building blocks of life." Similar experiments using different assumed atmospheres produced other amino acids and compounds involved in the processes of life, so it was easy to suggest a rain of such materials filled Earth's earliest seas and

turned them into the original prebiotic soup, in which inorganic molecules somehow came together and lived.

The public and media (which readily exploits such simplified imagery) needed only a small leap of imagination to equate the Miller-Urey experiment with Victor Frankenstein's electrical creation of life. They jumped on the Darwinist bandwagon and resolutely disregarded several troubling facts that subsequently came to light regarding the prebiotic soup theory:

(1) No one can be certain what the early Earth's atmosphere was actually like. Even now, guesses are the best anyone can manage, although today's atmospheric chemists believe carbon dioxide was the main constituent. (Ironically, if they are right, then the whole range of molecules needed to construct a living organism would have been virtually impossible to synthesize.)

(2) No matter what combinations of gases were tried, the most any experiment ever produced was a handful of amino acids, life's most primitive "building blocks," which were not even close to organic. In addition, equally essential components of life like proteins, nucleic acids, polysaccharides, lipids, etc., were nowhere in sight, so where might they have come from?

(3) The intense temperatures of the volatile early Earth would rapidly reduce any organic compounds to their constituent elements. This makes it doubtful the prebiotic soup ever existed.

(4) If life could spontaneously generate itself anywhere on primordial Earth, shouldn't it have done so in different ways in different places? That would give us multiple genetic codes.

These are vexing conundrums for Darwinists, and here is another: assume everything on primordial Earth was just as they claim, and life could spontaneously create itself in seas clogged with amino acids, sugars, and all the other necessary building blocks. How were those disparate components brought together to create functioning units when even today, with all the high technology available to our best biochemists, they cannot

approach the first stages of actually creating life? Its simplest form—the multigened prokaryote bacteria—is so mind-bogglingly complex that none of its internal components can be assembled, much less the entire organism.

So even if the prebiotic soup did exist and teemed with all the necessary building blocks of life, how could they have been correctly assembled into an actual living prokaryote? The task has been wonderfully analogized by astronomer Fred Hoyle, the man who first proposed the notion that life did not evolve on Earth but was seeded from outside by comets and/or asteroids. He calculated the likelihood of any living organism—even one as simple as an (assumed) prokaryote ancestor—emerging naturally from a prebiotic soup is equal to "a tornado sweeping through a junkyard and assembling a Boeing 747 from the materials therein."

Another conundrum for Darwinists is that the biochemistry of life on Earth is not quite right. Logic tells us the ratios of elements in organic molecules should bear a strong resemblance to the ratios of elements on their home planet, but on Earth there are odd exceptions. For example, hydrogen and oxygen are abundant and combine as water to dominate both the planet itself and all of its life forms. Chromium and nickel also abound, yet they are relatively unimportant in biochemistry. On the other hand, elemental molybdenum is scarce, yet it plays a significant role in many crucial enzymatic reactions. Darwinists resolve these mysteries with a blunt syllogism:

(Major Premise)—Life obviously exists.

(Minor Premise)—It can only exist by "natural" means explainable in "scientific" terms, which requires a mechanism like the prebiotic soup theory.

(Conclusion)—Therefore, the fact that all available evidence makes such a theory *seem* impossible in naturalistic, scientific terms does not necessarily mean it *is* impossible. It could mean we simply have not reached a point yet where we can fully comprehend it.

Such reasoning is as difficult to refute as the idea it defends is to prove.

***

The next conundrum bacteria and archaea present for Darwinists is that after appearing at 4.0 billion years ago, most stay virtually unchanged

to this day (which is how Carl Woese's RNA analyses of them and the eukaryotes were possible). Yes, there have been dramatic changes of lifestyle among certain extremophiles (archaea)—some methanogens learned to utilize oxygen instead of methane; halophiles learned to live without salt; thermophiles learned to survive without boiling heat—which makes them seem more flexible than bacteria. However, such changes are nowhere near the transformation called for by descent with modification to a higher form.

On the other hand, the nuclei of the eukaryotes seem to grant certain of them the possibility of transforming themselves into more complex forms, so Darwinists accept eukaryotes as the seeds from which all subsequent life on Earth evolved. This is despite the fact that there are *no* intermediate forms that indicate connections between any of the eukaryotes (say, an organism that is part diplomonad and part microsporidia, or part flagellate and part ciliate). Thus, with no visible links between species in the earliest fossil record, Darwinists must rely on another syllogism:

(1) All eukaryotes have nuclei in their cells.

(2) All plants and animals have nuclei in their cells.

(3) Therefore, while there is no discernable evidence for links between eukaryotes and plants and animals, such links *must* exist. We humans have just not managed to find them—yet.

What the above establishes is the complete muddle at the beginning of Charles Darwin's work, the flawed foundation on which his theory's complex superstructure rests. So if natural selection cannot plausibly account for even the rudiments of what happened "in the beginning," what can it ever hope to explain? How about when higher, multicellular life forms first appear?

THE CAMBRIAN

At about 1.0 billion years ago multicellular algae (a plant type) appears, still remarkably simple but definitely multicellular. At 600 million years ago soft-bodied corals and tiny worm-like creatures appear. All come suddenly and—like prokaryotes and eukaryotes—with no precursors. Then, within only a few million years of those, something else suddenly appears: ediacaran fauna, which are exceedingly bizarre creatures that have always befuddled the scientists who try to characterize them. They were not definitively plants nor animals; they had no heads, no tails, no outsides, no insides, no fronts, no backs. Nobody knows exactly what they were, but they left fossils that resemble small, extremely thin seaweeds, and they lasted until a mass extinction wiped out most of them and cleared the way for the next major step in the ascent toward complex life.

It is now approximately 4.0 billion years since Earth coalesced, and 3.5 billion since life first appeared. During those 3.5 billion years trillions of microscopic creatures have permeated the planet's water, air, and land with free forms of the element oxygen, making our world ripe for exploitation by any creatures that could utilize it in their metabolism. Sure enough, at around 530 million years ago, the start of the geological epoch known as the Cambrian, with free oxygen available throughout the biosphere, there was a literal explosion of animal forms in the oceans, rivers, and seas. This event was so unlikely in its occurrence, so comprehensive in its scope, and so unbelievable in its consequences, most attempts to explain it fail to do it justice.

Within 5 to 10 million years (.0021% of the 3.47 billion years of bacterial life preceding it), all major groups of complex animal life—the phyla (body design) subgroupings within the animal kingdom—appeared in large numbers. Imagine it: all 26 animal phyla, including the entire spectrum of invertebrate life—sponges, brachiopods, arthropods (trilobites, chelicerates, crustaceans), mollusks—along with the spineless chordates in the same phylum as vertebrates . . . all of it came in that nuclear-level explosion of life forms.

Not surprisingly, the Cambrian Explosion (its acquired name) is the greatest obstacle presented to Darwinists by the entire fossil record. Its comprehensive suddenness has been verified by modern genetic analysis of living phyla, which strongly indicates they all did, in fact, come into

existence at about the same time. So to explain it solely within the parameters of what the facts indicate, the most likely scenario requires a stretch of imagination few Darwinists can make. They would have to suppose something like “cosmic dumptrucks” teeming with life forms are cruising the universe looking for planets to “accept” their loads. One or more finds Earth a likely “landfill” capable of supporting their cargo, so they lift the bed and dump it out. But even disregarding all such explanations as preposterous, the Cambrian Explosion nonetheless defies classic Darwinism.

Another defiance of Darwinism is the intriguing fact that no new phyla have developed on Earth since the original twenty-six appeared during the Cambrian Explosion. Darwinists logically anticipate countless examples of altered body structures in the subsequent 500 million years, yet the actual history of life on Earth shows anything but that. After 3.0 billion years of unicellular life forms (both prokaryote types and the early eukaryotes), and 500 million years of exceedingly simple multicellular life (the ediacarans), there is 5 to 10 million years of intense creativity followed by another 500 million years of variation on the anatomical themes established during the 5 to 10 million years. This is hardly the steady progression called for by the tenets of classic Darwinism.

Darwin, of course, had no idea anything had lived before the Cambrian because the bacterial evidence had not been found, and the bizarre ediacaran fauna would not be discovered until the mid-1860's, a few years after *The Origin of Species* was published (and then they would be misinterpreted as gas bubbles that had percolated up through ocean sediments and been trapped and fossilized). That led him to concede that any absence of intermediate forms preceding the Cambrian would be potentially fatal to his theory. “The case [for no predecessors] at present must remain inexplicable,” he wrote in *The Origin of Species*, “and [it] may be urged as a valid argument against the views here entertained.” In other words, if his theory was correct, then the Pre-Cambrian eras must

have swarmed with intermediate forms evolving toward the known phyla. If not, his theory could only be judged wrong—no ifs, ands, or buts.

After nearly 140 years of diligent searching by every Darwinist worthy of the name, none has yet discovered a legitimate precursor to even one creature that appeared in the Cambrian Explosion. In most areas of inquiry, 140 years would be long enough to indicate a wrong approach has been taken. However, because evolution plays such a dominant role in the ideological war between Darwinists and Creationists, the Darwinists cannot afford to acknowledge Darwin's own admission of worst-case fallibility. So how do they handle it? They deftly work around it.

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Because the lack of Cambrian predecessors is such a backbreaker for Darwinists, they have devised two exculpatory brainstorms to try to explain it away. The first is called the artifact theory, which says missing links did exist but for unknown reasons—possibly bodies too soft or too light to imprint on ancient seabeds—the fossil record failed to preserve them. This is in spite of microscopic, virtually weightless bacterium fossilizing for millennia prior to the Cambrian Explosion, and the exceptionally flimsy ediacaran fauna also fossilizing with astonishing clarity.

The second theory, called fast transition, says Cambrian precursors either did not exist or were not identifiable as such, and the process by which all the phyla appeared was simply Darwinian evolution inexplicably but temporarily jammed into fast-forward. In other words, somehow the accelerator got floored for a brief evolutionary joyride, then everything returned to its usual gradual pace. Unfortunately for Darwinists, they must stand by one or the other of those options with nothing in between. Either all of the "innumerable"—remember, Darwin's own word—predecessors called for by the theory of natural selection were somehow able to disobey the usual rules of fossilization; or evolution as Darwin described it was not really evolution as he described it.

Despite the difficulties posed by both theories, most Darwinists support the fast-transition scenario because the evidence against precursors is so overwhelming. Also, it is obvious to all but the most hidebound diehards that strict Darwinian evolution (gradualism) bears little relation to reality. In fact, it might never have gained such a firm grip on the public's imagination if it had not been put forth precisely when it

was: in an era of burgeoning social enlightenment when millions were looking for ways to break the stranglehold religion had on intellectual freedom.

DARWIN

The 19th century's greatest scientific quest was trying to explain how and why all forms of life on Earth were so clearly related at the most basic levels. It was obvious that: (1) everything shared a few common body designs (external skeletons, internal skeletons, etc.); (2) everything could be loosely grouped into categories (mollusks, conifers, vertebrates, etc.); and (3) everything showed lesser or greater similarities within those categories. So the question was, how were they linked to each other, and to the vast interlocking web of every species, both living and extinct?

Trying to answer that question was equal to today's search for a Unified Field Theory to explain how all matter and energy interrelate. After thirty years of research and analysis, Charles Darwin supplied an answer that, like all great ideas, was appealing because of deceptive simplicity. Its essentials could be reduced to one easily understandable sentence: Life started billions of years ago and very slowly became more complex as simple forms improved themselves and grew into higher forms, the ultimate result of which is humanity. Better yet, such an upward spiral of slow, steady improvement reflected what all of history seemed to demonstrate, which was that everything stayed in flux and nothing ever seemed to regress.

Despite being apparently true and demonstrable in the 1800's, Darwin's theory of natural selection has not been well-served by time and the fossil record. Genetic research has proved him right about the biological interconnectedness of all living things, which is enough to justify much of his reputation. But a fairer assessment is that he deserves only about half of what he has.

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The correct part of Darwin's theory was the concept of microevolution, a breakthrough insight generated by his studies of animals on the Galapagos Islands, a chain of 16 isles (Darwin visited only 4) located 650 miles off the coast of Ecuador. Each species he studied had developed physical adaptations to the various environmental niches found throughout the island chain. The widest range of modifications had been developed by ordinary, garden-variety finches that had somehow (perhaps propelled by a storm) managed to wing their way from the South American mainland out to the Galapagos. The largest aspect of change was in beak modifications. There were long beaks, short beaks, thin beaks, thick beaks—whatever was needed to exploit the environmental niche any finch found itself in, whether for seed eating, insect eating, or fruit eating.

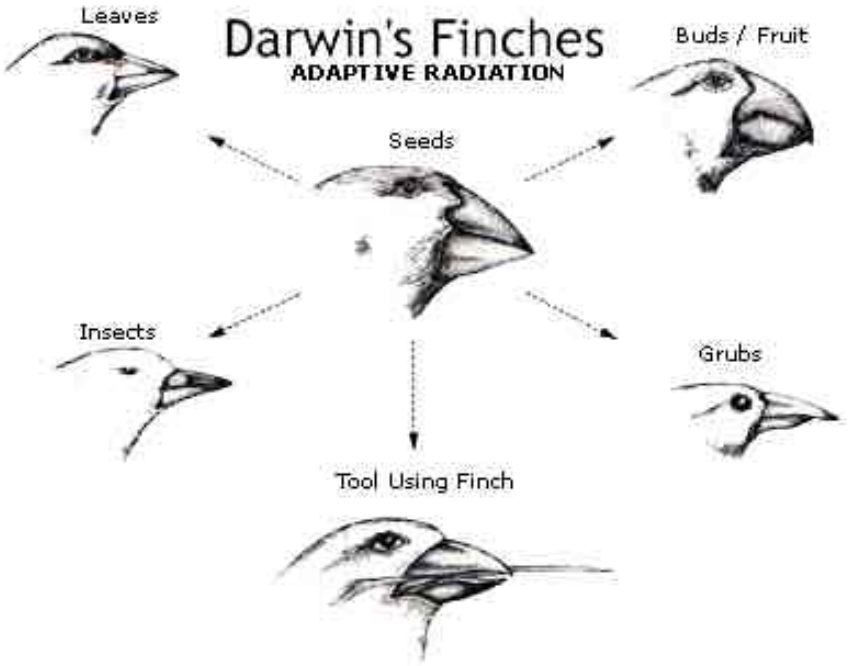

Fig. 6. Darwin's finches

Notice every finch was still a finch; that genus of birds had not turned into another. But because adaptive modification was and is so patently visible at the micro level, Darwin and his later supporters made

the unfortunate assumption that—given the enormity of historical time—change could likewise occur at the larger macro, species-into-a-higher-genus-into-a-higher-family (etc.) level. However, going strictly by the evidence, there is no such thing as macroevolution. There is no trace of it in the fossil record, nor in the world around us. Sea worms did not and do not become fishes, fishes did not and do not become amphibians, amphibians did not and do not become mammals. In every case the differences between critical body parts and functions (internal organs, digestive tracts, reproductive systems, etc.) are so vast, transition from one to another would require dramatic changes that would be easily discernable in the fossil record.

What the fossil record actually reveals is that every class, order, family, genus, or species simply *appears*, fully formed and ready to "eat, survive, reproduce." And they all exhibit a certain range of physical variation that is sometimes wide and sometimes narrow. For instance, one buffalo looks like any other (narrow), while Shetland ponies are nothing like Clydesdales (wide). Giraffes are giraffes (narrow), while dogs range from palm sized to Shetland sized (wide). Those limits on size and shape—which seem to be guided by laws of genetic inheritance—force all plants and animals to remain essentially what they are throughout their lifecycles on Earth.

A convincing proof of this is a series of experiments done with fruit flies. Some were bred with severe genetic mutations like multiple sets of wings, grotesque eye malformations, even legs growing where antennas should be—the more monstrous the better. However, if those "monsters" were then allowed to breed normally, in only a few generations their offspring reverted to typical fruit flies showing no traces of their aberrant ancestors. This demonstrates that not only is there the famous "wisdom" in all genetic codes, there is great tenacity and resistance to change.