

## Transitional Forms – What Does Evidence Say?

Dr. Don Johnson

Biological Evolution descent : with modification

- **Microevolution:** small-scale genetic change/adaption (proven observable fact accepted by all scientists)
- **Macroevolution:** descent of all species from a common ancestor (which has NEVER been observed, but 77% accept)
- **“All our data suggests that small-scale evolution cannot produce the sort of large-scale change Darwinism requires.”** Cornelius Hunter, Darwin’s Proof, 2003, p60
- **“The central question ... whether the mechanisms underlying microevolution can be extrapolated to explain the phenomena of macroevolution..., the answer can be given as a clear, No.”** Roger Lewin, “Evolutionary Theory under Fire,” Science: 210, 1980, p883

## Transitional Fossils

**Darwin :** "So that the number of intermediate and transitional links, between all living and extinct species, must have been inconceivably great. But assuredly, if this theory be true, such have lived upon the earth... Why then is not every geological formation and every strata full of such intermediate links?" Darwin Papers, V1, #5, Fossils

**“Evolution requires intermediate forms between species and paleontology does not provide them.”**

(D. Kitts, "Paleontology and Evolutionary Theory," Evolution, Sept 1974, p.467).

**Millions of fossils from exploration, deep drilling, & mining show no verified transitional forms**

## Neo-Darwinian Biology

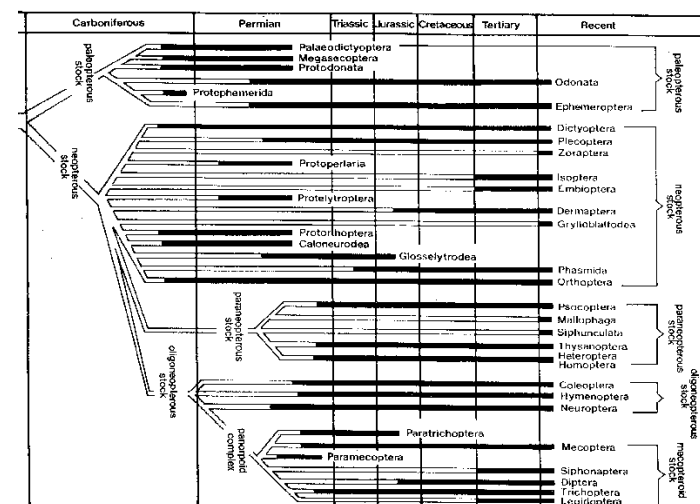
**“Each successive change in the gradual evolutionary process was simple enough, relative to its predecessor, to have arisen by chance.”** (Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*, 1996, p43)

**“If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down”** Darwin, *Origin of Species*, p154

**“We conclude—unexpectedly—that there is little evidence for the neo-Darwinian view: its theoretical foundations and the experimental evidence supporting it are weak.”** Orr & Coyne, *The Genetics of Adaptation: a Reassessment*, *Am Nat*, p726, 1992

**“The failure to observe even one mutation that adds information is more than just a failure to support the theory. It is evidence against the ... neo-Darwinian theory.”** (Spector, *Not By Chance*, p160)

Actual (black) vs. Presumed Connections (77 Ency. Brit.)



## Sudden Appearance and Fixity of Types

“Most of the animal phyla that are represented in the fossil record first appear, ‘fully formed,’ in the Cambrian... The fossil record is therefore of no help with respect to the origin and early diversification of the various animal phyla.” Barnes, Clow & Olive, *The Invertebrates*, 2001, p9–10

“It is as though they were just planted there, without any evolutionary history.” Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*, 1996, p229

The fossil record fails to support evolution with:

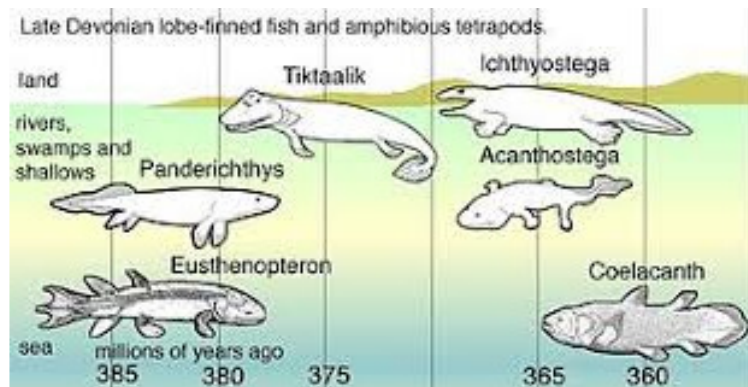
Multitude of life in the oldest fossil-bearing rocks

Fixity of species over "eons" of time

NO transitional forms verified, though many claimed – e.g. Tiktaalik



Presumed Transition of Fish to Tetrapods  
(Coelacanth was an “index fossil” dating rocks at 70Mya, until a live one caught in 1939)



## What Darwin Never Knew (2-hour PBS video)

Except for a minor gene mutation for mouse color modification (minute 39), all evolution evidence presented involved turning **existing genes** on or off via switches (no NEW information).

For the “perfect” **transitional form** (that was looked for and “proves” evolution of tetrapods from fish), Tiktaalik, “The genes needed to make legs and arms were **already** being carried around by prehistoric fish.” (min 78) But, a tetrapod 10 million years older was found! *Nature* (463), 2010, p43-48

From the information presented, one could conclude that the first life was created with all genes; all that was needed was control of gene expression.

## Archaeopteryx (Supposed reptile to bird)

A full set of teeth, a rather flat breastbone, a long, bony tail, “belly ribs” & 3 wing claws

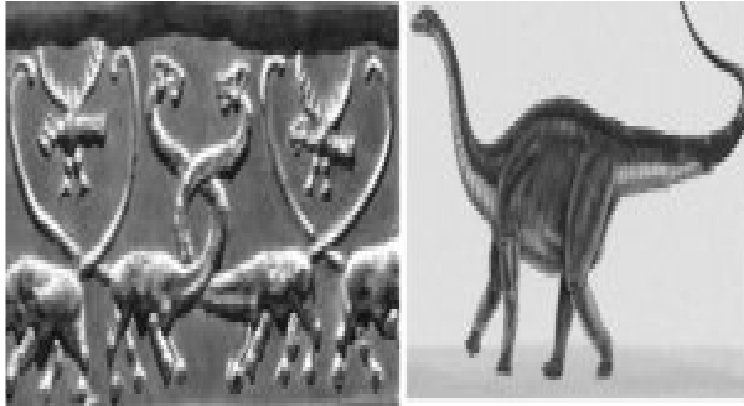
Modern feathers, wings, wishbone, & fingers

Modern bird, dated 60My older than archaeopteryx documented -- *Science-News* **112**:198, 9/1977

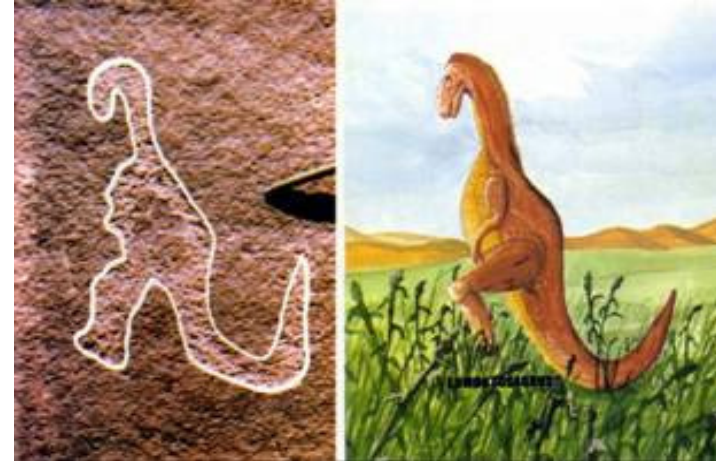


archaeoptery Skull Replica

### Wupatki NP Petroglyphs (Brachiosaurus)



### Grand Canyon NP Petroglyph Artist Depiction of Edmontosaurus



### Lake Superior Stegosaur



### Platypus: Transitional Form?

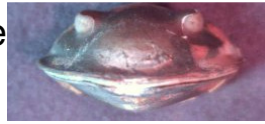
- Dismissed as a hoax at first
- Egg-laying mammal, no nipples
- Males Have Venomous Spurs



- They Have No Stomach & single opening**
- They Use Gravel As Makeshift Teeth

## Lowest Stratum Trilobite Eye

- Transparent calcium carbonate
- “Trilobites had solved a very



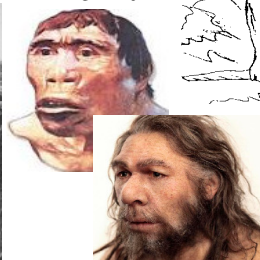
elegant physical problem and apparently knew about Fermat’s principle, Abbe’s sine law, Snell’s laws of refraction and the optics of birefringent crystals.” Clarkson & Levi-Setti, “Trilobite Eyes and the Optics of Des Cartes and Huygens,” Nature: 254, 4/24/75, p663 - 667

- “These lenses optimize both light collecting and image formation better than any lens...that optical physics has ever been able to formulate.” N. Eldredge, “A Trilobite Panorama in Eastern North America,” Fossils Magazine: 1, 1976, p58-67
- “The design of the trilobite’s eye lens could well qualify for a patent disclosure.” R. Levi-Setti, Trilobites: A photographic atlas (2nd edition), 1993, p58

**We still have not found the missing link between us and apes -- Scientists have been on the trail of the Last Common Ancestor for decades, and they still have not found it.** BBC News 5/18/17

Nebraska Man (from a pig’s tooth)

Piltdown Man (human skull, orangutan jaw)



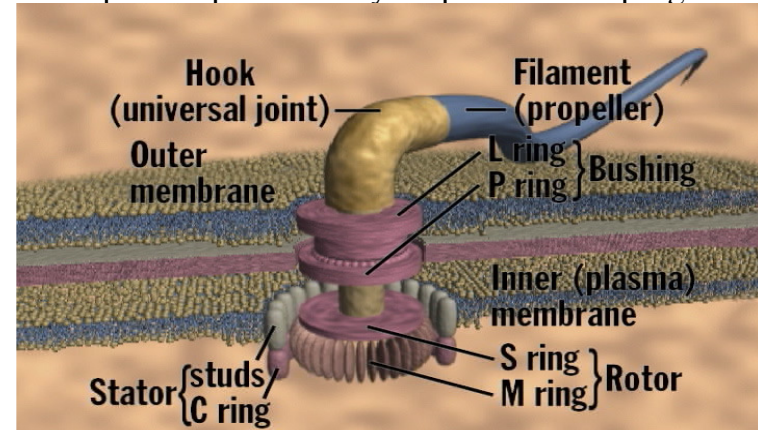
Java – ape skullcap, human leg (30’ sep)  
Neanderthal – Fully human



## Bacterial Flagellum: Irreducibly Complex

48+ proteins (>30 unique): <1 in 10<sup>5,250</sup> probability

Each protein produced by output of a real program



## 3.7 million-year old Laetoli Footprints

- “They looked so human-like, some scientists had a hard time believing that they were made by Australopithecus afarensis (Lucy’s species), the only human ancestor known to have lived at the time.” PBS
- Footprints are "indistinguishable from those of modern humans" Anderson, New Scientist 98:373, 1983



## Hobbits & *Homo naledi*

- Hobbit species of tiny (3' tall) humans discovered on the Indonesian island of Flores in 2003
- *Homo naledi* is one of the most astonishing “hominin” fossil finds in recent years, on par with the “hobbits” (*Homo floresiensis*) of Indonesia.



If they were on the order of two million years, they could be considered possibly transitional, but not if they were much younger. Well, now the answer is out; they're young.

## ***Lewontin, Richard (Materialism)***

**"Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to understanding the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for the unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment to materialism. ... materialism is absolute for we cannot allow a divine foot in the door." in The New York Review of Books (January 9, 1997)**

## Nylon-Digesting Bacteria

- *In the 1970s, scientists made a surprising discovery: a bacterium that can digest nylon, a synthetic chemical not found in nature. (invented in 1935)*
- **Claim: a new information can evolve quickly**
- **A protein that already has a low level of activity for a particular substrate can be mutated to favor that side reaction over its original one, often in just a few steps. There are many cases of this in literature.**
- **The bacteria that digest nylon with only 8% efficiency, can no longer digest the normal diet of cellulose, so a net functional information loss is evident in the genome.**

## Darwinism Doubted by Thousands of Scientists

- **"Darwinism is not a testable scientific theory, but a metaphysical research program."** Karl Popper – Unended Quest: An Intellectual Autobiography (1976)
- **"Natural selection is not a mechanism, it's the process by which the results of evolution are sorted."** Bruce Runnegar, p188 of The Altenberg 16: An Exposé of the Evolution Industry, 2010 (Mazur)
- **"Stunningly, information has been shown not to increase in the coding regions of DNA with evolution. Mutations do not produce increased information... the amount of coding in DNA actually decreases with evolution"** [Abel, "The GS (genetic selection) Principle," Frontiers in Bioscience , 1/1/09, p2959-2969]
- **"We must concede there are presently no detailed Darwinian accounts of the evolution of any biochemical or cellular system, only a variety of wishful speculations"** Harold, The Way of the Cell, 2001, p205.
- **Darwinism says that random changes in functional programs yield better programs.**

## Extended Synthesis as Darwinism's Replacement

“The number of biologists calling for change in how evolution is conceptualized is growing rapidly.” Does evolutionary theory need a rethink? Yes, urgently. Laland, et al, Nature 514:161-164, 10/9/14

“A rising number of publications argue for a major revision or even a replacement of the standard theory of evolution, indicating that this cannot be dismissed as a minority view but rather is a widespread feeling among scientists and philosophers alike.” Why an extended evolutionary synthesis is necessary [rsfs.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/royfocus/7/5/20170015.full.pdf](https://royalsocietypublishing.org/content/royfocus/7/5/20170015.full.pdf)

## Evolution via Horizontal Gene Transfer (HGT) & “Jumping Genes”

• HGT transfers genes from one organism to another  
“How could modern biology have gone so badly off track?... it is a simple tale of scientific complacency... biologists were seduced by their own success into thinking they had found the final truth about all evolution” C Woese, quoted in New Scientist, 1/28/10.

HGT doesn't violate Information principles, but it does not generate new information (not a mechanism for generating new novelties) D Johnson, PoL, 2015, p89

Transposable elements are found in most organisms, making up more than 80 percent of the maize genome and nearly 50 percent of the human genome.

## Evolution via Natural Genetic Engineering

• “Molecular cell biology has revealed a dense structure of information-processing network... One of the traditional objections to Darwinian gradualism has been that it is too slow and indeterminate a process to account for natural adaptations, even allowing for long periods of random mutation and selection ... natural genetic engineering... employs a **combinatorial search** process based upon DNA modules that already possess functionality... Such a **cognitive component** is absent from conventional evolutionary theory because 19th and 20th century evolutionists were not sufficiently knowledgeable about cellular response and control networks.” James Shapiro, “Mobile DNA and evolution in the 21st century,” Mobile DNA 1/25/10 (Book: Evolution: A View from the 21st Century)

## Conclusions & references

Fossil record show sudden appearance & stasis  
Darwinian mechanisms have been disproved  
No natural explanation for life's information/programs

- Probability's Nature and Nature's Probability, Don Johnson (2 versions: 2009 Lite/2010 revised Scientists')
- Programming of Life, Don Johnson, 10/10, Video 8/11
- The Privileged Planet, Gonzalez & Richards, 2004
- Darwin's Black Box, Michael Behe, 1996
- Signature in the Cell, Stephen Meyer, 2009
- Darwin's Doubt, Stephen Meyer, 2013
- Uncommon Dissent, William Dembski, 2004
- [arn.org](http://arn.org), [intelligentdesign.org](http://intelligentdesign.org), [uncommondescent.com](http://uncommondescent.com), [scienceintegrity.org](http://scienceintegrity.org) (PDFs available there)