

Review: David Klinghoffer (editor), *Signature of Controversy: Responses to Critics of Signature in the Cell*, Discovery Institute Press, Seattle, 2010

Pages: 105

Evolutionists Abandon All Reason

This collection of 'rebuttals' to the book *Signature in the Cell* demonstrate how bankrupt evolutionists are, scientifically and often morally (a 'charitable' P.Z. Myers calls it a "600-page pile of slop").

Upon closer investigation, all major objections against its content (whether regarding information definitions, ribozyme engineering, 'nonsense' SINE sequences, even weather forecasting) turn out to be arguments in favour of the book's thesis.

I) On Not Reading *Signature in the Cell*: A Response to Francisca Ayala (pp. 1-18)

The ID hypothesis is not merely that chance alone cannot account for the information of life, rather that ID is the best of competing hypotheses for its existence

So-called 'non-coding' portions (a.k.a. Short Interspersed Nuclear Elements-SINEs) of the DNA assist with timing and expression of genes.

II) When a Book Review Is Not a Book Review (pp. 19-21)

III) Falk's Rejoinder to Meyer's Response to Ayala's "Essay" on Meyer's Book (pp. 22-26)

Evolutionists realise change alone is insufficient to generate biological information and so rely on natural selection, group selection, genetic drift, and sexual selection mechanisms.

IV) Lying for Darwin (pp. 27-28)

V) Responding to Stephen Fletcher in the Times Literary Supplement (pp. 29-31)

Evolutionists hold to per-biotic natural selection working on self-replicating RNA catalysts to form a living cell. However, these RNA catalysts already contain vast amounts of information via their nucleotide bases..

Origin of Life (OOL) researchers are called ribozyme "engineers" and have only been able to make 10% of required RNA nucleotide base sequences.

VI) Responding Again to Stephen Fletcher in the Times Literary Supplement (pp. 32-34)

Life requires right-handed isomer sugars.

VII) Responding Again to Stephen Fletcher in the Times Literary Supplement on the RNA World (pp. 35-37)

The RNA World hypothesis was first proposed by Carl Woese, Leslie Orgel and Francis Crick in 1967, who argued at some time in the past the chicken was the egg!

For the hypothesis to work, there must be some chemical pathway from nucleotide to self-replicating RNA, and this must be plausible in per-biotic conditions.

RNA requires a nitrogenous base, sugar, and phosphate.

VIII) Why Are Darwinists Scared to Read Signature in the Cell? (pp. 38-40)

IX) Every Bit Digital: DNA's Programming Really Bugs Some ID Critics (pp. 41-42)

There are 3.5B two-bit sites in the DNA making it digital and combining to yield 7B bits of information (approximately 875k GB).

X) Responding to Darrel Falk's Review of Signature in the Cell (pp. 43-51)

University of Manchester chemist John Sutherland have synthesised a 5-carbon sugar ribonucleotide using D-glyceraldehyde and 2-aminooxazole. This indicates "letters" can be created, but does not account for their correct organisation.

Sutherland only used right-handed D-glyceraldehyde molecules (effectively ignoring the chirality problem). He also progressively purified the mixture.

The bond between the sugar-phosphate backbone and the nucleotides is called N-glycosidic.

XI) Asking Darrel Faulk to Pick a Number, Any Number (pp. 52-53)

While the human genome has 25,000 protein-coding genes, it has over 450,000 RNA-coding genes (for lengths of 20 letters to millions).

XII) Ayala and Faulk Miss the Signs in the Genome (pp. 54-58)

"Alu" sequences perform multiple functions and are not 'junk'.

LINEs and SINEs seems to display a negative correlation.

'R bands' have high C and G concentrations and replicate early in the cell cycle.

'G bands' have high A and T concentrations and replicate late in the cell cycle.

These bands are like alternating stripes on the chromosome arms.

XIII) Discovering Signs in the Genome by Thinking Outside the BioLogos Box (pp. 59-63)

XIV) Beginning to Decipher the SINE Signal (pp. 64-69)

SINE 'insertion events' across animals (e.g. mice and rats) are highly correlated, yet are supposed to have arisen from random mutational events.

XV) Intelligent Design, Frontloading and Theistic Evolution (pp. 70-72)

One 'compromise' is that God placed all the design for evolution to work somehow in the fabric of space and time.

XVI) Getting ID Right: Further Thoughts on the Beliefnet Review of Signature in the Cell (pp. 73-75)

XVII) Signs of Desperation? Early Responses to Signature in the Cell Are Readily Dismissible (pp. 76-82)

XVIII) Get Smart: Stephen Meyer's Critics Fail to Show Unintelligent Causes Can Produce Biological Information (pp. 83-88)

Shannon information merely measures the number of letters in a string, not their order.

Kolmogorov complexity is the minimum-length computer program required to write a string, however, this ignores the content of the string (which could be random).

The correct definition is based on functionality (i.e., the greater the functionality, the greater the information content).

XIX) Weather Forecasting as a Counterexample to Complex Specified Information? Jeffrey Shallit on Signature in the Cell (pp. 89-93)

Raw data is unspecified complexity, not real information like Functional Specified Complexity (FSC) or Complex Specified Information (CSI).

XX) Gotcha! On Checking Stephen Meyer's Spelling and Other Weighty Criticisms of Signature in the Cell (pp. 94-105)

The spliceosome is made of five RNA molecules and about 300 distinct proteins.