

**Review: David Klinghoffer, *Metamorphosis-The Case for Intelligent Design in a Chrysalis*, The Discovery Institute, Powder Springs, GA, 2011**

**Pages: 85**

### **Wonder of Transformation**

The backstory to the exquisite DVD production *Metamorphosis* is almost as fascinating, and will surely increase enjoyment and appreciation of the film.

When confronted with the egg-->larva-->pupa-->adult conundrum evolutionists are at a loss, so much so that original apostles like Alfred Wallace came to express doubts over Darwinism.

**I) About This Book: A Still Small Voice (pp. 7-12)**

**II) Reviewing Metamorphosis: The Case for Intelligent Design in a Chrysalis (pp. 13-16)**

The Monarch butterfly navigates via calculating the angle of the rising sun and sensing magnetic tugs from the iron in target mountain ranges.

**III) An Interview With Lad Allen, Producer and Director of Metamorphosis (pp. 17-21)**

A caterpillar self-encases in a chrysalis where its organs are dissolved in a chemical soup. The 'soup' then slowly develops into wings, compound eyes, a reproductive system, and other organs which had never previously existed.

Monarchs which emerge in late August live the longest (nine months) and are called a "**Methuselah** Generation".

Female Monarchs must lay their eggs on Milkweed plants.

Over a billion butterflies migrate from Mexico to Canada (wing flaps are audible).

#### **IV) Stranger Than Fiction: The Riddle of Metamorphosis (pp. 23-38)**

Invertebrates supposedly first appeared 520-540mya during the Cambrian explosion.

*Lepidoptera* means "scaly wings".

The main *holometabolus* stages of change are: egg; larva; pupa [chrysalis]; adult.

The main *hemimetabolus* stages of change are: egg; nymph; adult.

No one ever reaches a destination using a random walk!

Evolutionists trust in a "magic bridge" between a fertilised egg and gamete-producing adults, one which builds itself simultaneously as the person traverses it.

Evolution first requires some variation, that it is advantageous, and finally it must be heritable (the three legs of the "evolutionary stool"). Crucially, life can never 'evolve' with foresight past the next selected and inheritable mutation.

#### **V) Mimicry and Protective Resemblance: A Philosophical Appreciation (pp. 39-48)**

These are the twin mechanism of the butterfly's defence which is otherwise helpless.

Some butterflies feed on poisonous alkyloidal plants (e.g. Mistletoe) are larvae which is integrated into their body tissue making them poisonous to predators. Mimicry means some species are designed to appear as poisonous butterflies when in reality they are not.

**VI) What Is it About Butterflies That Drives Men to Doubt Darwin? Bernard d'Abrera, With a Note on His Curious Encounter With the Smithsonian Institution (pp. 49-55)**

*A lepidopterist* studies butterflies.

D'Abrera spent six years and seven figures cataloguing butterfly photos for his mammoth work *Butterflies of the World*, only to have the Smithsonian Institution (with Walt Disney funding) lift 60% of them without acknowledgement or payment)!

**VII) "The Grand March of Nature":The Evolution of Alfred Russel Wallace's Intelligent Design (pp. 56-64)**

Alfred Wallace amassed a 23,000-specimen collection of butterflies. He attributed all to the "grand march of nature", however, later in life he became a teleological-spiritist.

**VIII) Magic Masks of Mimicry: Vladimir Nabokov as Darwin Doubter (pp. 65-73)**

Genital part analysis at the microscopic scale are needed to separate many butterfly species.

Some wings imitate oozing poison, and leaf-mimickers even have insect bore-holes!

**IX) Darwin Vs. Beauty: Explaining Away the Butterfly (pp. 74-85)**

Reductionism posits that the best way to understand something is to identify its material parts as far down as possible (e.g. down to Richard Dawkin's "selfish gene").