

Review: Niles Eldredge, *The Monkey Business: A Scientist Looks at Creationism*, Washington Square Press, NY, April 1982

Pages: 138

Monkey Man's Business

The author, supposedly a direct descendant of an ape creature, attempts to defend evolutionism by attacking creation, a tacit acceptance of the creationist's view that these are the only two games in town (and one is wrong). Of course, the evolutionist makes the deck naturalistic by stating science "must invoke naturalistic explanations for phenomena".

The knock-down 'evidence' is meant to be "descent with modification": radiometric dating of moon rocks at 4.5Ga; horses used to have four toes (50mya); and anatomical similarity between lifeforms.

Unfortunately his understanding of the creationist position is deficient, e.g., that creationists are trying to prove Genesis by scientific evidence (incorrect; creationists philosophically necessarily assume Genesis is a true revelation of God, then find corroborating evidence in creation).

Examples of inconsistent thinking include:

- These self-refuting "no statement is the ultimate truth".
- Manuscript copying analogies to show common descent (which beg the question how the author got his full manuscript in the first place for it to be altered).
- Child-like thinking that "given enough time, all manner of changes will accrue".
- Evolution is "rock-solid operational science", however, palaeontologists never study evolution directly.
- The author incorrectly assumes it takes thousands of years to form a new species.

What value is there in a book so ‘dated’? Since evolutionary dogma is largely unchanged since Darwin, except for the odd later ‘revelation’ like magical quantum evolution, heretical neutral theory, and vicariance, it still gives up-to-date information about this religion. The missing bones are still missing, frauds have piled up, and the human evolutionary tree has collapsed under a load of confusion.

The most educative part of the book is the preface which contains Chapter 1 of Genesis from the King James Bible.

Preface (pp. 7-10)

I) Once More Unto the Breach...Creationism Revisited (pp. 13-24)

The Tennessee statute (Butler Act) forbade the teaching of man’s descent from lower animals.

John Scopes was fined \$100 for teaching evolution in his 1925 trial.

The author almost laments that creationists today are highly educated, intelligent and skilled debaters.

Trusting in radiometric dating, the author quotes moon rock samples ‘always’ giving dates of 4.5Ga, which is used as a proxy for the age of the earth.

II) America and Science: Ham and Eggs or Cats and Dogs? (pp. 25-40)

“No statement is the ultimate truth.” [!]

Horses use to have four toes (50mya) [!]

Descent with modification is meant to be proven by anatomical similarity.

Thiamine (B-vitamin) can treat lead poisoning.

III) More Simple Predictions, The Fossil Record and the History of Life (pp. 41-50)

The 'oldest' sedimentary rocks are claimed to be from Warrawoona in NW Australia (at 3.5Ga). Greenland granites are the oldest at 3.8Ga.

Scottish farmer James Hutton in the 1790s said there was "no vestige of a beginning, no prospect of an end."

Evolutionists conclude that single-celled life was already flourishing from 3.5bya (in the Australian rocks). Eukaryotes didn't appear in rocks until 1.3bya.

Large bodied animals (coelenterate jellyfishes) appeared 700mya.

Then came an unexplained explosion over 10-15Ma 600mya in which all hard-shelled modern animals appeared.

The arbitrary claim is more primitive forms antedate more complex.

Red rock beds have high concentrations of Fe_2O_3 . Algae took several billions of years to produce the rust's oxygen to enable more complex life to evolve.

Vertebrates include fish, reptiles, and mammals. The earliest ones which climbed out of the sea had to return to the water to reproduce.

IV) How Life Has Evolved: The Evolution of Evolutionary Theory (pp. 51-78)

In the 1920s, Neodarwinism was born to incorporate the theory of inheritance.

German biologist Auguste Weismann proposed that no bodily cause can effect germ cells.

Genes lie in linear arrays on their chromosomes.

"Given enough time, all manner of changes will accrue."

Each gene has two or three alleles

Electrophoresis separates proteins on a paper strip to study gene variations.

Neutral Theory founded in the 1960s worked against evolution stating that nature could not easily see mutations and so emphasis was shifted to random mutations as the saviour.

Trilobite sedimentary fossils are 'dated' via igneous rock intrusions.

"Vicariance" is another name for evolutionary stasis.

The author incorrectly assumes it takes 1,000s of years to form a new species.

"Palaeontologists can never study evolution directly".

V) Creationists Attack: 1. Scientific Style and Notions of Time (pp. 79-112)

In December 1978, ICR's Wendell R. Bird defined the creationist model as:

- 1) Special creation of the universe and earth.
- 2) Entropy begins.
- 3) Special creation of life.
- 4) Fixity of original kinds.
- 5) Distinct ancestry of man and ape.
- 6) Geology explained by Noah's Flood.
- 7) Recent origin of earth.

The original creation of God cannot be studied scientifically.

Nicolas Steno framed the Law of Superposition regarding older rock layers being below upper younger ones.

James Hutton founded geology.

The author suggests a ten-year observation of river erosion as sufficient to assume uniformitarianism.

Geologic 'deep' time was already established long before Darwin.

Rock layers can be explained by ecological zonation, hydrodynamic selectivity and more mobile creatures fleeing to higher elevations.

VI) Creationists Attack: II. The Origin and History of Life (pp. 113-139)

Biston betularia is the English peppered moth.

Evolutionists just that a few biological mistakes can prove beneficial.

Natural selection is somehow assumed to 'select' out hypothesised beneficial mutations.

VII) Creationism, Religion, and Politics (pp. 141-149)

Creationism is classed as "scientific" (no Biblical belief), Biblical (no scientific belief), or Scientific Biblical (both Biblical and scientific belief).