

Disclosure

of things evolutionists don't want you to know

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TOP EVOLUTION STORIES OF 2016

We review the evolution stories that Discover magazine and Science News thought were the most important in 2016.

January is the traditional time for magazines to review the previous year. This year, *Discover* published a list of 100 top science stories, and *Science News* picked 10. Most of them don't deal with evolution, so we will ignore those. Here are their choices for the most important evolution stories in 2016.

DISCOVER MAGAZINE'S #4

OLDEST HUMAN DNA REVISES OUR FAMILY TREE

This story deals with the speculative ancestry of fossils found at Sima de los Huesos in Spain. We first wrote about these fossils in January, 2014.¹ It was big news then because a leg bone had some mitochondrial DNA which was thought to be closer to the mythical Denisovans than Neanderthals. This was surprising (and unsettling) to some evolutionists because it didn't fit their prejudice.

In 2016, all was right with the evolutionary world again! ☺ They found an excuse to change their story.

After developing new technology, a team from Germany's Max Planck Institute salvaged 0.1 percent of the Sima genome from one femur bone and a tooth.

It was enough DNA to be definitive: Sima hominins were Neanderthal ancestors, according to a *Nature* study published in March. Knowing where the 430,000-year-old Sima hominins belong in our family tree

¹ *Disclosure*, January 2014, "DNA Stunner", <http://www.scienceagainstevolution.info/v18i4n.htm>

establishes a "firm point in the timeline of human evolution," says lead author Matthias Meyer.²

That is important because

... geneticists can estimate when species diverged based on the number of genetic differences between them. Sima's "firm point" allows researchers to revise the date Neanderthals and modern humans split to more than 550,000 years ago — double some previous estimates.

Doesn't that make you feel better? ☺

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #5

BIOLOGISTS CREATE ORGANISM WITH SMALLEST GENOME

and

SCIENCE NEWS #7

SYNTHETIC CELL MAY REVEAL WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR LIFE

Both magazines gave a high rating to creation of a synthetic organism. We didn't cover it in our previous newsletters because we considered it an example of intelligent design—not evolution—and therefore not relevant. Upon further reflection, we have changed our mind.

One of biology's biggest achievements of 2016 was intentionally as small as possible: building a bacterium with only 473 genes. That

² *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, "Oldest Human DNA Revises Our Family Tree", page 14, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/4-oldest-human-dna-revises-our-family-tree>

pint-size genetic blueprint, the smallest for any known free-living cell, is a milestone in a decades-long effort to create an organism containing just the bare essentials necessary to exist and reproduce.³

If it takes purposeful, intelligent designers decades to create a “simple” organism with only 473 genes (by starting with a more complex organism and deleting as many genes as possible without killing it), how can we believe any simple organism could have happened by chance? If chance had brought together only 472 of the needed genes, the organism would not have lived, and therefore could not have produced a mutant offspring with all 473 necessary genes.

In March, the J. Craig Venter Institute in California unveiled *Mycoplasma mycoides* JCVI-syn3.0, the first artificial species ever created. It has 473 genes — a staggering 149 of which are of unknown function. The “large number of unknown genes argues that our standard tools of biological study are very limiting,” Venter asserts.

Syn3.0’s creation was in part trial and error, in which scientists added and removed genes until it sustained life and allowed for reproduction.⁴

Discover also published this table comparing numbers of genes as background information:

Tomato:	31,760
Human:	20,000-25,000
E. coli (bacteria):	4,500
<i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i> :	525
Syn3.0:	473 ⁵

Determining what genes do is real science. Making up stories about how genes formed accidentally is not science.

We support Venter because his work has practical medical application. He has discovered many genes are necessary for life even though we don’t know what they actually do.

His work also shows how foolish evolutionary fables about accidental functionality are. Just think about it. A tomato had to acquire nearly 32,000 genes by accidental trial and error through natural selection. How could anyone who claims

³ *Science News*, Dec. 24, 2016/Jan. 7, 2017, “Synthetic cell may reveal what is necessary for life”, <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/minimal-genome-top-science-stories-2016?mode=pick&context=175>

⁴ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, “Biologists Create Organism With Smallest Genome”, page 15, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/5-biologists-create-organism-with-smallest-genome>

⁵ *ibid.*

to be a scientist believe that?

SCIENCE NEWS #6

GENETICS ALONE WON’T EXPLAIN HOW HUMANS LEFT AFRICA

and

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #16

WE ARE ALL AFRICANS

and

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #68

Our First Date Out of Africa?

These three stories deal with the fundamental assumption of evolutionists that some ape-like creatures evolved into Negroes and moved out of Africa where they evolved into more advanced humans. If that sounds racist, it is because it is. Evolutionists seem to think that if they can prove we are all Africans, it is somehow less racist. Here’s what *Science News* said.

“I’m beginning to suspect that the ancient out-of-Africa process was complex, involving several migrations and subsequent extinctions,” says evolutionary geneticist Carles Lalueza-Fox of the Institute of Evolutionary Biology in Barcelona. ...

Three new studies expanded the list of present-day populations whose DNA has been analyzed. The results suggest that most non-Africans have inherited genes from people who left Africa in a single pulse between about 75,000 and 50,000 years ago (*SN: 10/15/16, p. 6*). ...

The timing of those migrations may be off, however. A fourth study, based on climate and sea level data, identified the period from 72,000 to 60,000 years ago as a time when deserts largely blocked travel out of Africa. Computer models suggested several favorable periods for intercontinental travel, including one starting around 59,000 years ago. But archaeological finds suggest that humans had already spread across Asia by that time.⁶

Discover said,

Genetic similarities between peoples of Eurasia, Oceania and the Americas indicate that all non-Africans descend from a small population that left Africa roughly 60,000 years ago.

Older *Homo sapiens* made it out of Africa, but these populations must have mostly died out. Only one of the three studies detected a

⁶ *Science News*, Dec. 24, 2016/Jan. 7, 2017, “Genetics alone won’t explain how humans left Africa”, <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/ancient-human-migration-top-science-stories-2016?mode=pick&context=175>

trace of their existence: About 2 percent of the genomes of Papuans are probably from these earlier migrants.⁷

So, the studies still don't agree. That's not news. (And it isn't science.)

A few pages later, *Discover* had another article on the same subject.

They identified DNA in the Siberian Neanderthal that was inherited from a group of modern humans, now extinct, who apparently left Africa more than 100,000 years ago. Such a group previously had only been hypothesized based on ambiguous fossils and artifacts, mostly from the Middle East. Coincidentally, that's the farthest south that Neanderthals appear to have traveled; researchers believe they evolved in Europe and never reached Africa.

The genius of these new computational methods is their ability to detect unknown episodes of mating and infer a complete demographic history. Says Gronau: "Evolutionary history is riddled with curious things that people are not even thinking of yet."⁸

If a person comes up with a fantastic story, it can be easily dismissed. So, the new approach is to program a computer to come up with a fantastic story, which makes it more credible (to people who haven't programmed computers for a living).

DISCOVER MAGAZINE'S #10

DID LUCY FALL AND NOT GET UP?

Lucy is the nickname for a famous, very complete skeleton of an *Australopithecus afarensis*, which (depending upon which evolutionist you ask) may or may not have been a human ancestor and may or may not have been a tree dweller.

Published in *Nature* in August, the study fanned the flames of the old ground- versus tree-dwelling debate. Critics also complained the team did not provide enough evidence to support their conclusions.

Donald Johanson, the paleoanthropologist who found Lucy more than 40 years ago, noted that other fossils discovered nearby also appear damaged, possibly from a stampede, or from the weight of sediment and other material collecting over millennia.

⁷ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, "We Are All Africans", page 26, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/16-we-are-all-africans>

⁸ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, "Our First Date Out of Africa?", page 68, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/68-our-first-date-out-of-africa>

"The suggestion that she fell out of a tree is . . . neither verifiable or falsifiable, and therefore unprovable," he says. "*Australopithecus afarensis* was essentially a terrestrial animal."⁹

So, it is just another non-story.

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #15

MORE HOBBITSES, PRECIOUS!

Speaking of human ancestors based on dubious evidence, we reported about the imaginary ancestors of the Hobbits last July.¹⁰ We won't repeat what we said last summer, but here's part of what *Discover* said.

The jawbone is at least 20 percent smaller than those from Liang Bua, suggesting *H. floresiensis* may have evolved from an even smaller hominin.

"My co-authors and I are convinced the fossils represent the direct ancestor of *H. floresiensis*," says van den Bergh, now with Australia's University of Wollongong.¹¹

Oh, how easily some people are convinced! Based on a jaw smaller than previously discovered jaws, they conclude it must have come from an evolutionary ancestor.

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #36

T. REX EVOLUTION: SMARTS FIRST, SIZE SECOND

Discover magazine really went off the deep end with this story.

We've known that *T. rex* and other giant tyrannosaurids, such as *Tarbosaurus*, evolved about 80 million years ago from much earlier, much smaller dinosaurs.

The big mystery was the crucial transition between a primitive little fella trying to survive and a highly evolved apex predator. Thanks to an analysis of fossils from the deserts of Uzbekistan, published in March by Brusatte and colleagues, we now know that missing link is the horse-sized *Timurlengia euotica*. It's the only known tyrannosaur from the Middle Cretaceous.

"It had a big brain, and an ear well-tuned to picking up low frequencies. We thought that weapon was exclusive to the big *T. rex* arsenal,"

⁹ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, "Did Lucy fall and Not Get Up?", page 21, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/10-did-lucy-fall-and-not-get-up>

¹⁰ *Disclosure*, July 2016. "Likely Hobbit Ancestors", <http://www.scienceagainstevolution.info/v20i10n1.htm>

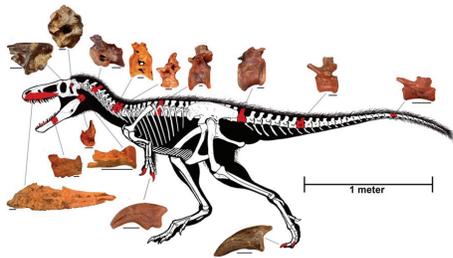
¹¹ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, "More Hobbitises, Precious!", page 25,

<http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/15-more-hobbitises-precious>

says Brusatte. “We know the ear could pick up low frequencies because the cochlea was really long. That’s something we typically see in predators hunting things that are bigger than they are over a wide area. It’s a kind of super sense.”

According to Brusatte, *Timurlengia* proves these dinos evolved smarts first and size second: “*Timurlengia* pre-adapted their super powers, waiting for an opportunity to rise up the food chain. We know *Timurlengia* relied on speed and agility, and we can guess that it had a great sense of smell, like the larger, later tyrannosaurs. We’re also sure it was a nasty creature you didn’t want to run into.”¹²

Discover was nice enough to show us the fossils, and where they fit in this missing-link dinosaur.



Everything that isn’t red in the diagram above has been supplied by the scientists’ imaginations. Only the 15 bone fragments are real. But there can be no doubt they all came from an evolutionary ancestor which was smart, agile, with a great sense of smell, and excellent low frequency hearing. ☺

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #51

THE TULLY MONSTER MYSTERY

We didn’t address the Tully Monster specifically, but it was on the periphery of some of our recent articles about classification and cladistics. Scientists had trouble classifying a fossil known as the Tully Monster. It was called a monster because it had a mixture of features (like the duck-billed platypus has).

Scientists finally moved past “problematica” — creatures defying boundaries — in March. Yale graduate student Victoria McCoy and her team cataloged the monster’s features and compared them with modern and ancient animals, finding Tully was a vertebrate and likely lamprey relative. Understanding the relationship between the animals shows the jawless lamprey are themselves “just remnants

¹² *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, “T. rex Evolution: Smarts First, Size Second”, page 42, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/36-t-rex-evolution-smarts-first-size-second>

of a very diverse, ancient clade,” McCoy says.
¹³

Since we addressed the topic last August, September, and December, let’s just remind you that classification is subjective, and the shape of the Tree of Life often changes.

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #54

SKIN-DEEP EVOLUTIONARY LINK

Discover summarizes the issue this way.

Biologists have long debated whether reptile scales, bird feathers and mammal hair evolved from the same body part on the animals’ distant shared ancestor. But it seemed unlikely, because the body coverings were thought to grow differently: Feathers and hair develop from specialized plates of thickened ectoderm — an embryonic cell layer — called anatomical placodes, structures not seen in reptiles. Scales were thought to develop from raised skin areas without placodes.

As Milinkovitch scrutinized differences between embryos of his naked dragons and normal lizards, he realized normal lizards *do* have placodes, but they exist for a few hours and appear in different places depending on the species and the developmental stage.¹⁴

Although it was based on fraudulent diagrams, Ernst Haeckel’s false Biogenetic Law (“Ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny”) is still believed by some evolutionists who are looking for proof that the development of an embryo follows its evolutionary history. That’s why they are excited about this.

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #62

DARK WINGS DECODED

The peppered moth argument just won’t die. Creationists have addressed this countless times.

When the Industrial Revolution caked British cities with soot, peppered moths’ light, speckled wings made them easy targets for predators. As a result, a dark-winged variant emerged that could hide in a carbon landscape. Within a century, all-black moths replaced the speckled variety.

To uncover the underlying genetics of this quintessential example of natural selection,

¹³ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, “The Tully Monster Mystery”, page 56, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/51-the-tully-monster-mystery>

¹⁴ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, “Skin-Deep Evolutionary Link”, page 58, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/54-skin-deep-evolutionary-link>

University of Liverpool scientists crossbred lines of black and speckled moths. Their genetic mapping technique identified DNA segments unique to black moths. And eventually, they converged on their target: a transposon, or so-called “jumping gene,” which can move from one place on the genome to another, causing mutations. The team’s models revealed that the “jump” likely occurred around 1819 — the midst of coal-fired industrial might.

How this mutation alters wing colors is still a mystery, but the discovery helps decipher the nuts and bolts of evolutionary adaptation.¹⁵

As has been noted countless times, light- and dark-peppered moths existed before, during, and after the Industrial Revolution. Natural selection changed the ratio of the two variations, but did not cause one to mutate into another. Evolutionists think they have isolated the genetic difference between the two variations, but don’t really know when or how it happened. In any case, the moths are still moths. They didn’t evolve into dragonflies, or anything else.

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #65

DAWNING OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

We told you 16 years ago about *Eosimias*, “the first primate,” whose existence is known only from two small bones the size and shape of kernels of rice.^{16 17} Last year they found comparable evidence for an even more primitive primate.

Researchers have unearthed the most primitive primate yet discovered, a tree-dwelling creature that could nestle in the palm of your hand, according to an October paper in the *Journal of Human Evolution*. They found 25 bones from the creatures among 54.5 million-year-old fossils discovered in Gujarat, India.

Although other primate fossils are technically older, some by at least 500,000 years, the latest examples are the most primitive in terms of evolutionary development, and likely approximate our oldest primate ancestors. The discovery sheds light on the dawn of primates, which eventually led to monkeys, apes and humans.

“These fossils give us the best picture of what that very first primate looked like,” Dunn says.¹⁸

¹⁵ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, “Dark Wings Decoded”, page 65, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/62-dark-wings-decoded>

¹⁶ *Disclosure*, September 2000, “Eosimias”, <http://scienceagainstevolution.info/v4i12n.htm>

¹⁷ *Disclosure*, September 2001, “Parent of the Apes – Part 1”, <http://scienceagainstevolution.info/v5i12f.htm>

¹⁸ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, “Dawning of the Planet of

What do these 25 bones look like? We are glad you asked. *Discover* showed the two most important, next to a quarter for scale.



You just can’t argue with evidence like that! ☺

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #77

ANCIENT MONKEY TEETH CHANGE EVOLUTIONARY TIMELINE

Here’s another great fossil discovery!

Seven fossilized monkey teeth discovered in the recent Panama Canal expansion pushed back the North American arrival date of the animals by nearly 18 million years.

... the fossilized teeth, which belong to the newly described monkey species *Panamacebus transitus*, predate the Panamanian land bridge by millions of years, according to the team that published the find online in *Nature* in April.

Sadly, the continent-hopping exploits of *P. transitus* were probably short-lived: They appear unrelated to any monkeys currently living in the region, indicating the pioneer population died out.¹⁹

Let’s look at the actual fossil teeth. They are the three black things stuck in the wax jaw below the plastic skull.



Believe it or not, the existence of the new species of monkey, *Panamacebus transitus*, is based on seven teeth and nothing else.

the Apes”, page 67, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/65-dawning-of-the-planet-of-the-apes>

¹⁹ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, “Ancient Monkey Teeth Change Evolutionary Timeline”, page 76, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/77-ancient-monkey-teeth-change-evolutionary-timeline>

Furthermore, “They appear unrelated to any monkeys currently living in the region.” In other words, they don’t look like any known monkey teeth. But the scientists believe they are monkey teeth. If they don’t look like monkey teeth, why would anyone think they came from a monkey?

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #81

A LEG UP ON ARACHNID EVOLUTION

Someone found a spider encased in a mineral and examined its shape.

This itty-bitsy fossil, *Idmonarachne brasieri* — less than half an inch long — is the closest relative to the first true spiders ever found. ... “It tells us the order in which things evolved in spiders,” says Garwood. “The front half evolved first; the limbs and mouthparts are very close to true spiders. But the back half is still rather primitive.”²⁰

It looks like a spider with a fat butt. If that is the criterion for being primitive, there are a lot of primitive people at the gym. ☺

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #86

CALL OF THE DINO

The 86th most important story of 2016 (according to *Discover*) is the sound dinosaurs made.

A June study in *Evolution* looked at the anatomy and sound repertoire of birds and crocodylians, the nearest living relatives of extinct dinosaurs. Verdict: Dinosaurs probably made mostly closed-mouth vocalizations, like crocodylians today.²¹

There is no experimental science here. They think they know what dinosaurs sounded like by studying birds and crocodiles.

DISCOVER MAGAZINE #97

BACTERIA BEEF UP NEW TREE OF LIFE

This is another story about the problem of classification. This is a problem for evolutionists because they are trying to classify organisms based on the incorrect notion that they descended from a common ancestor.

Mapping the genetic relationship between species, the tree shows that scientists have been oblivious to nearly a third of life — mostly

²⁰ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, “A Leg Up on Arachnid Evolution”, page 80, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/81-a-leg-up-on-arachnid-evolution>

²¹ *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, “Call of the Dino”, page 82, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/86-call-of-the-dino>

bacterial — on Earth. That’s because approximately half the world’s bacteria cannot be cultivated in a lab. Banfield and her colleagues overcame the problem by analyzing environments metagenomically: sequencing each community’s DNA and then puzzling together individual genomes.²²

They sequenced the DNA of lots of different bacteria living together, and then tried to sort out which DNA went with which bacterium. What could possibly go wrong with that?

SUMMARY

2016 produced no real scientific evidence for evolution. There were a lot of speculative studies, some of which were based on unverifiable computer models, but no scientific proof.

The DNA studies used computers to calculate what the intermediate DNA of missing links would look like if those missing links existed. But, since those missing links never existed, the models are as irrelevant as a computer model of what the DNA of a flying pig would be, if pigs could fly.

The reports of newly discovered species are based on a few fossil fragments and an abundance of imagination.

The creation of a synthetic bacterium provides compelling evidence that even the simplest living thing is complex, and requires about 500 genes. It isn’t reasonable to believe they all formed at the same time by chance.

Smail

GROUP BEHAVIOR

Jo leads us into an area we have not sufficiently addressed.

Jo sent us this email regarding the scientific method. Yes, we’ve discussed the scientific method before,^{23 24 25} but she comes at the topic from a slightly different angle, which exposes an aspect of the issue that we might not have sufficiently addressed.

²² *Discover*, Jan/Feb 2017, “Bacteria Beef Up New Tree of Life”, page 90, <http://discovermagazine.com/2017/janfeb/97-bacteria-beef-up-new-tree-of-life>

²³ *Disclosure*, August 2016, “What is Science?”, <http://www.scienceagainstevolution.org/v20i11f.htm>

²⁴ *Disclosure*, December 2015, “Anti-science”, <http://www.scienceagainstevolution.org/v20i3e.htm>

²⁵ *Disclosure*, August 2015, “The War on Science”, <http://scienceagainstevolution.org/v19i11f.htm>

It is our policy not to correct errors in emails (unless the email comes from a non-native English speaker) because the errors give some insight into the educational background (or, in this case, dyslexia) of the writer. Here is Jo's email, exactly as she wrote it:

Dear Sir/ Madam, This is probably going to seem like random questions & probably quite ignorant. The truth is Science is not a subject I could get on with in school & in honesty I hated it.

But i've recently learned some things (via online discussion forums) that I don't fully understand.

Apparently scientists find a hypothesis, they test it and if it passes these tests then the hypothesis becomes a theory. (have I got that right?)

Scientist must then try and disprove the theory and if they cannot the theory becomes stronger. (is this true?)

My question is... who decided that scientist must try and disprove the theory and why?

I can to some extent see the logic in this but not fully sure.

I am an unofficial dyslexic and it takes me a long time to decipher the contents of written work so I would be very grateful if you could reply in as simple maner as possible, if you are in fact able to reply. (time permitting etc).

Much thanks.

Jo

The part of Jo's question we have never addressed is who invented the scientific method, and who decided it should be used?

Clearly all the famous scientists of the past, Newton, Maxwell, and so on, used the scientific method to make their discoveries; but one could go back even farther to Leonardo da Vinci or Archimedes, and probably even earlier. We aren't going to get into an argument about who should get credit for being the first one to use the scientific method. We just want to insist that the scientific method is a well-established, reliable way to determine the truth.

SCIENTIFIC CONSPIRACIES

Instead, we want to address Jo's question of who decides what is scientific and what isn't.

Evolutionists sometimes try to mock creationists by associating them with crazy conspiracy theorists, claiming creationists believe there is some shadowy organization secretly introducing false evolutionary theories into the public schools. Clearly there are some well-known evolutionists, but there isn't one person behind the movement to get "safe spaces" into universities so that students can be brainwashed without being confused by opposing views.

GROUP BEHAVIOR

Schools of fish, and flocks of birds, act as a

group. In my former occupation, it was important to understand group behavior because it was relevant to computer simulations of the movement of companies of soldiers, or a fleet of naval vessels, or a squadron of fighter jets engaged in battle. Scientists were interested in the apparently instantaneous many-to-many communication aspects of group behavior because it had obvious military applications.

I no longer have access to the latest classified research on the subject, and I haven't been motivated to see what there is in the open literature, but I can say this: It has been recognized for a long time that some individuals can function in a cohesive group with a purposeful goal without any apparent leader or obvious means of communication. As much as we would have liked to have found a way to identify the leader of a group and/or disrupt communication to defeat group behavior, we could not do it in the 20th century. As an outsider looking at the War on Terror, it appears we still can't do it.

Evolutionists are organized like Islamic terrorists. There is no central evolutionist in command upon whom the entire movement rests. Instead, there is a unifying ideology to which they all subscribe. There are evolutionist cells on universities, and school boards, and on TV, and in print journalism, which move in unison without discernable lines of communication to advance that ideology. Evolutionists act like fish. One fish turns, and the whole school turns the same way.

THE ANSWER

All this is prelude to the answer to Jo's question, "Who decided that scientists must try and disprove the theory and why?"

The short answer to the first part of her question is, "There is no single individual leader." It is a group belief by some that the theory of evolution is true. There are prominent individuals in the evolutionary camp, but no official leader. Furthermore, communication exists between individuals in the group, but it is distributed over multiple communication channels (Internet, TV, radio, magazines, etc.) and therefore impossible to disrupt.

The short answer to the second part of her question is, "The meaning of life." Belief in evolution is fundamental to a person's attitude toward the meaning of life. Do we exist because we were created on purpose and given a responsibility to live in a certain way? Or are we here by accident and can choose to do whatever we want to do without answering to a higher authority? That's why they feel compelled to prove their unscientific evolutionary beliefs are correct.

DID A DINOSAUR GET ITS FEATHERED TAIL CAUGHT IN AMBER?

https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/feathers/did-dinosaur-get-feathered-tail-caught-in-amber/?utm_source=articlesmedia&utm_medium=email&utm_content=featurebutton&utm_campaign=20161217&mc_cid=01ee0d0c24&mc_eid=a29551800f

Answers in Depth

This month's website review looks at an article found in *1:1 Answers IN GENESIS* about what the popular media is proclaiming to be a new evolutionary breakthrough. Here are just some of the headlines. CNN: "Once in a lifetime find': Dinosaur tail discovered trapped in amber"; National Geographic: "First Dinosaur Tail Found Preserved in Amber"; USA Today: "Dinosaur tail feathers encased in amber may hold Jurassic secrets"; and NPR: "Baby Dinosaur's 99 Million-Year-Old Tail, Encased in Amber, Surfaces in Myanmar."

Here is some background about this new discovery:

"The feathered tail specimen known as DIP-V-15103 was discovered by Chinese paleontologist Lida Xing while shopping in an amber market in Myanmar (formerly Burma). He purchased a piece of Myanmar Mid-Cretaceous amber that contained a tiny feathered tail piece as well as various insects. Without knowing its *in situ* origin, right away, "he knew he had something special" and declared it to be the tail from a 99-million-year-old feathered theropod (bipedal) dinosaur. Had it merely been a piece of bird tail with feathers, it would have been of only passing interest. But a real dinosaur with undisputed feathers clearly attached to the tail is a very different matter." The fossil in the amber is not a whole dinosaur tail, but a small piece of a tiny feathered tail measuring about 1.4 inches in length and contains 8 vertebrae. Xing says, "It is estimated that this would make this presumed relative of *T.rex* about the size of a sparrow."

The article then critically examines the findings published by Xing, *et al.* in *Current Biology* (December 8, 2016). You can find a link to these published findings in the article and links to articles about this discovery published in *Science* and *Nature Communications*.

The article first discusses osteology, which is the study of the structure and function of the skeleton and bony structures of an organism. Here you will find a discussion about tail vertebrae and *Archaeopteryx* believed by some to be a fossil of an extinct bird and others as a transitional fossil between dinosaurs and modern birds. The author points out that "the presence of several tail vertebrae in a fossil is not necessarily evidence that the fossil is a dinosaur rather than a bird."

The next topic discussed in the article is plumage. Xing, *et al.*, refer to the feathers found in amber as "primitive plumage".

Myology and balance are the final topics discussed in the article.

Whatever it is that is found in the amber purchased Lida Xing, it certainly has generated a lot of press and interest by both evolutionists and creationists. Just search the Internet about this discovery and you will find a wealth of information that makes for interesting reading.



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