

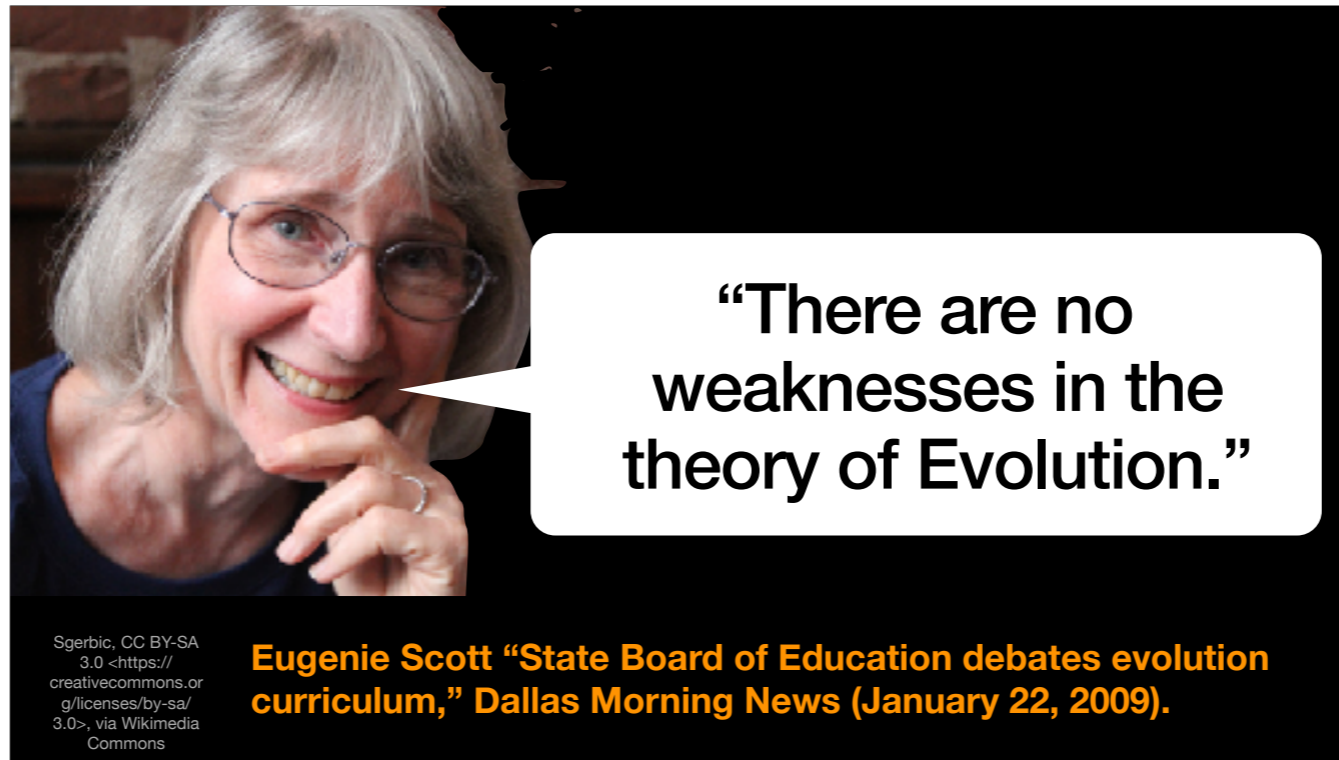


Common Challenges to the Faith

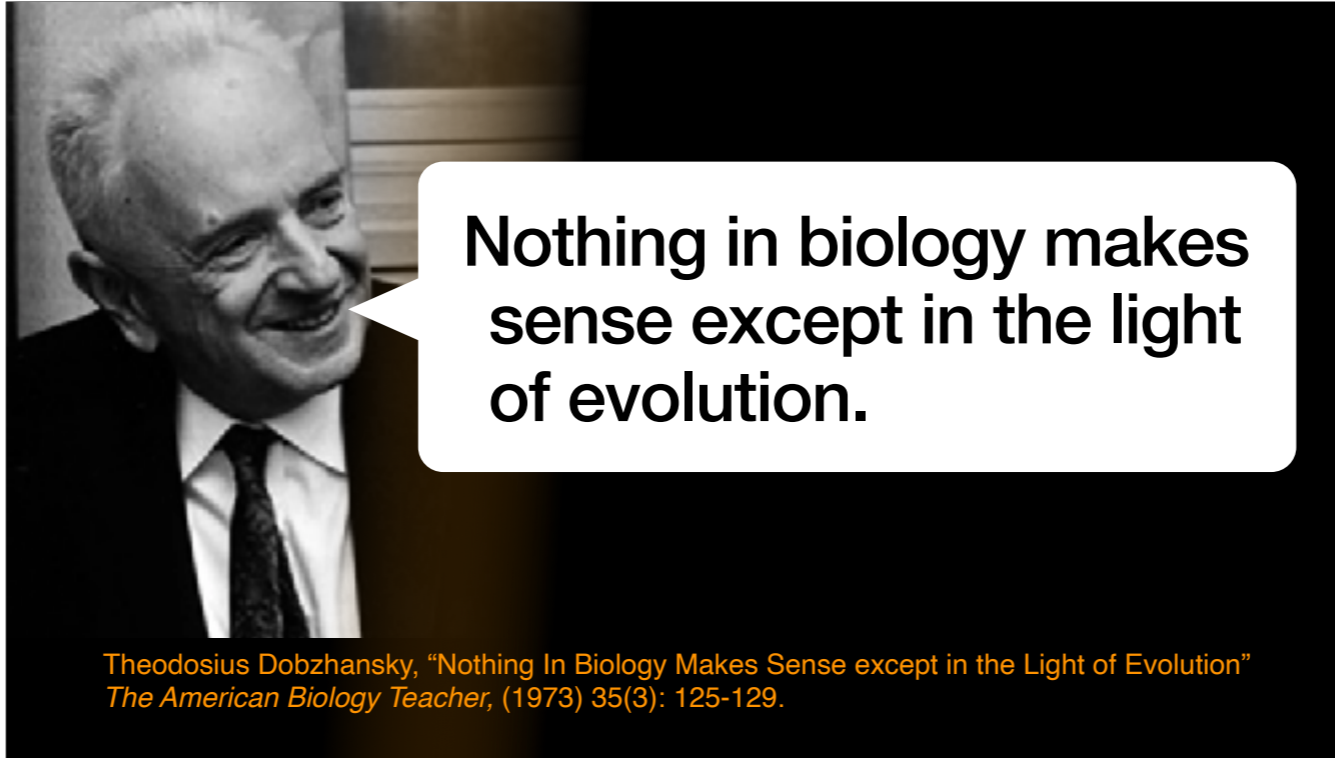
Science and the Bible Part 5b of 8:
Science and life: Does Science Prove Life Evolved without a Creator? (Continued)



J. W. Loubet



In 2009 the Texas State Board of Education voted to require students to learn about both the scientific evidence for and against Neo-Darwinian evolution. Scott made the above declaration to the media... BUT IS IT TRUE?



Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution.

Theodosius Dobzhansky, "Nothing In Biology Makes Sense except in the Light of Evolution"
The American Biology Teacher, (1973) 35(3): 125-129.

“It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane...”

Richard Dawkins “Should Science Speak to Faith? (Extended version)”. Interview with Lawrence M. Krauss, www.scientificamerican.com. June 19, 2007



In this interview Dawkins quotes himself and argues that ignorance is not an insult. He misses the point of most of his detractors. He has asserted that all who are not ignorant are believers in evolution as he defines it, or else have some mental or moral deficiency. “Should Science Speak to Faith? (Extended version)”. Interview with Lawrence M. Krauss, www.scientificamerican.com. June 19, 2007.

“Fundamentalist Christians are passionately opposed to evolution and I am passionately in favour of it. Passion for passion, we are evenly matched.”
Dawkins, Richard. *The God Delusion* (pp. 18-19). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

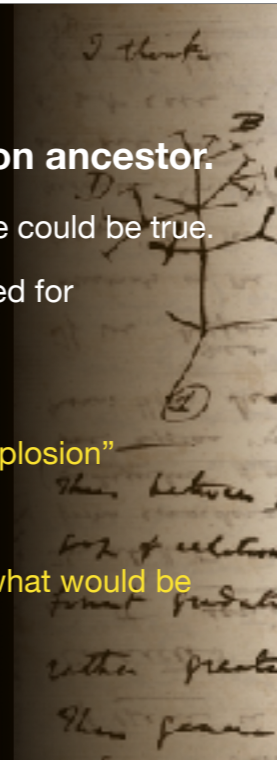
“If all the evidence in the universe turned in favour of creationism, I would be the first to admit it, and I would immediately change my mind. As things stand, however, all available evidence (and there is a vast amount of it) favours evolution. It is for this reason and this reason alone that I argue for evolution with a passion that matches the passion of those who argue against it. My passion is based on evidence. Theirs, flying in the face of evidence as it does, is truly fundamentalist.”
Dawkins, Richard. *The God Delusion* (p. 19). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

Despite this claim, others have observed of Dawkins that he is as sensitive to criticism as a black hole in space... (Berlinski, *The Devil's Delusion*)

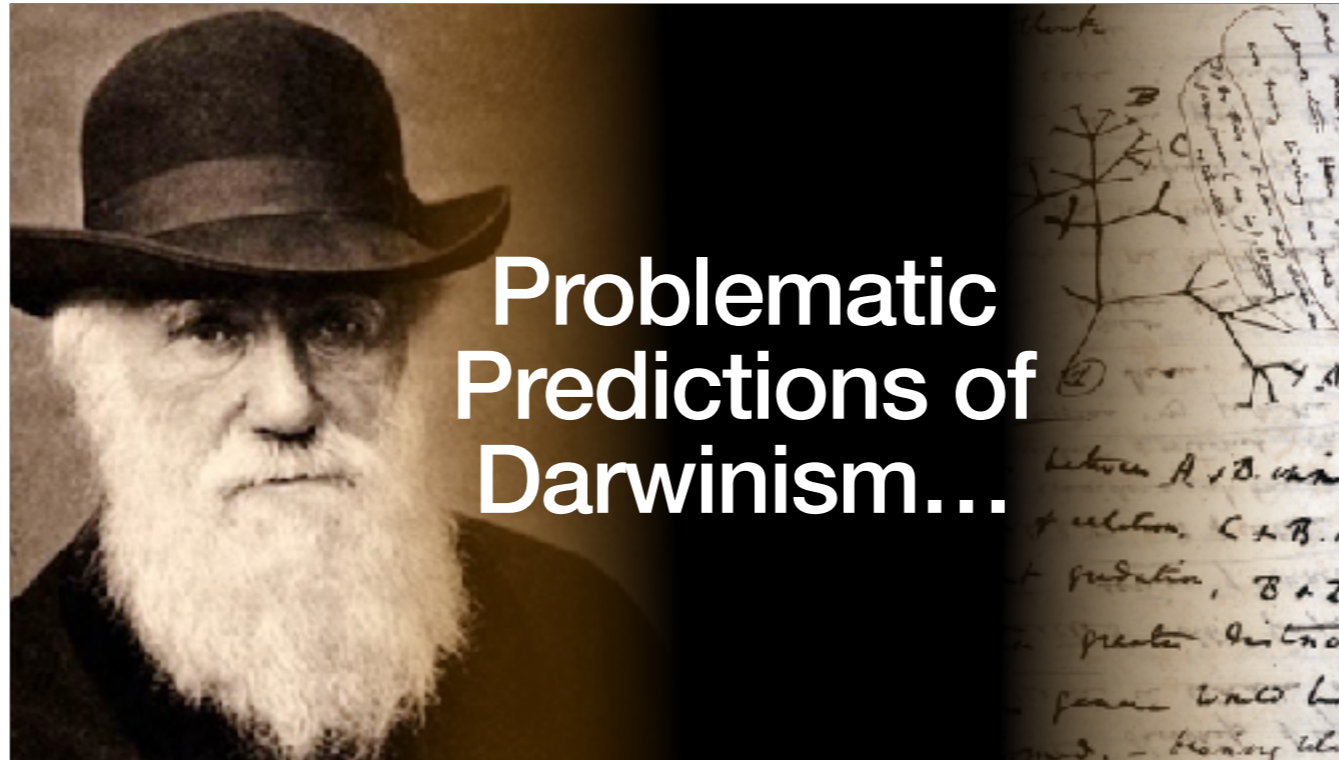
Top Challenges to Evolution

Why life cannot develop naturalistically from a common ancestor.

- Different methods lead to different evolutionary trees—at most, one could be true.
- Random mutations cannot generate the genetic information required for irreducibly complex structures.
- Natural selection struggles to fix advantageous traits.
- Abrupt appearance of species in the fossil record — “Cambrian Explosion”
- Geographic distribution of species.
- The theory of evolution has consistently led to bad predictions of what would be found.
- Evolution cannot explain the human mind (adequately)



Due to space and time, we're just going to touch on a few of these today.



**Problematic
Predictions of
Darwinism...**

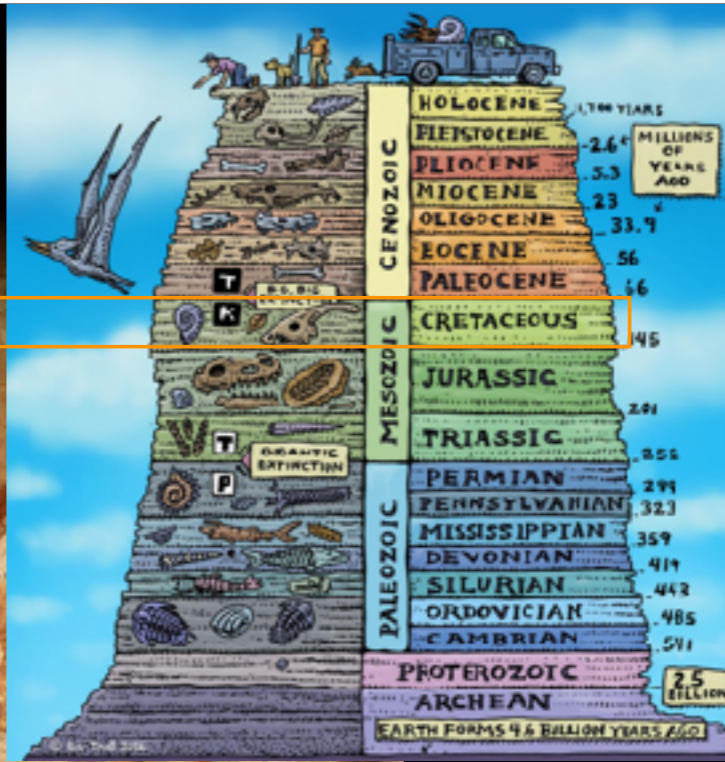
Sketch
A
B
C
D
A
Between A & B. variation
of relation. C & B. B
+ mutation, B & D
greater distance
from C & D
- Henry

Problematic Predictions of Darwinian Evolution

- The great antiquity of fossils and coal means **Carbon dating** of will not produce measurable results.
- Embryo development will show signs of evolutionary ancestry (**ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny**).
- Mutation and natural selection will produce **significant new genetic information**.

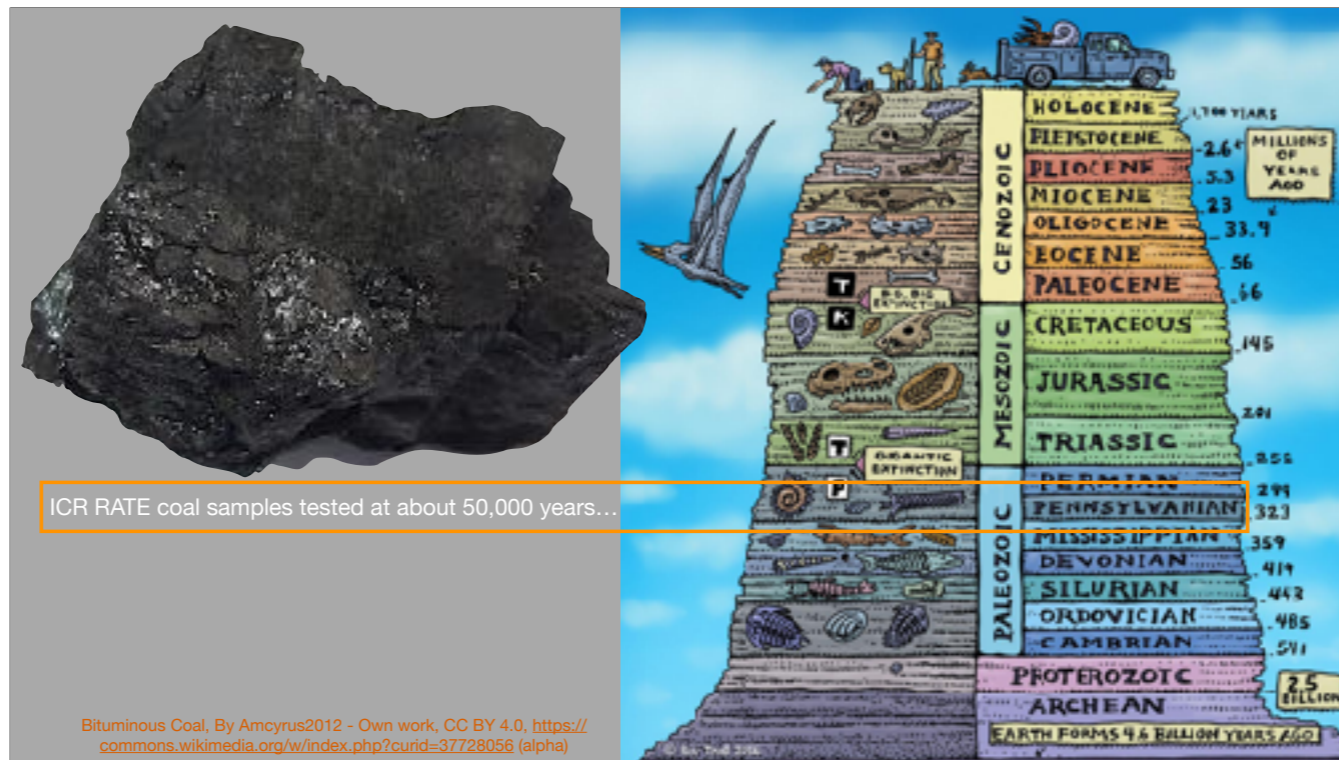
Radiocarbon Ages for Fossil Ammonites and Wood in Cretaceous Strata near Redding, California

Snelling's Ammonites & Petrified Wood



For more detail, look to last week's presentation...

The fact that there is any radioactive carbon in these samples is a problem for evolutionary theory

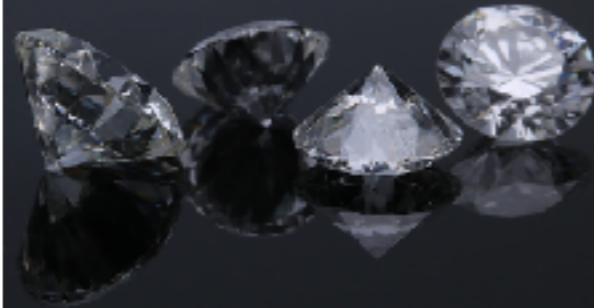


ABOVE FROM: Andrew A. Snelling, *Earth's Catastrophic Past: Geology, Creation & the Flood*, V.2 (Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research, 2009) 849.

Other samples from throughout the Paleozoic through Cenozoic, conventionally dated between 34 million and 311 million years old, all showed between .10 and .46% modern carbon (C14). At this age, none should exist. After 20 half-lives, or about 114,000 years, there one millionth of the original C14.

Don DeYoung, *Thousands Not Billions: Challenging an Icon of Evolution. Questioning the Age of the Earth* (Green Forest, AZ: Master Books, 2005) 52.

What do diamonds have to do with dating?

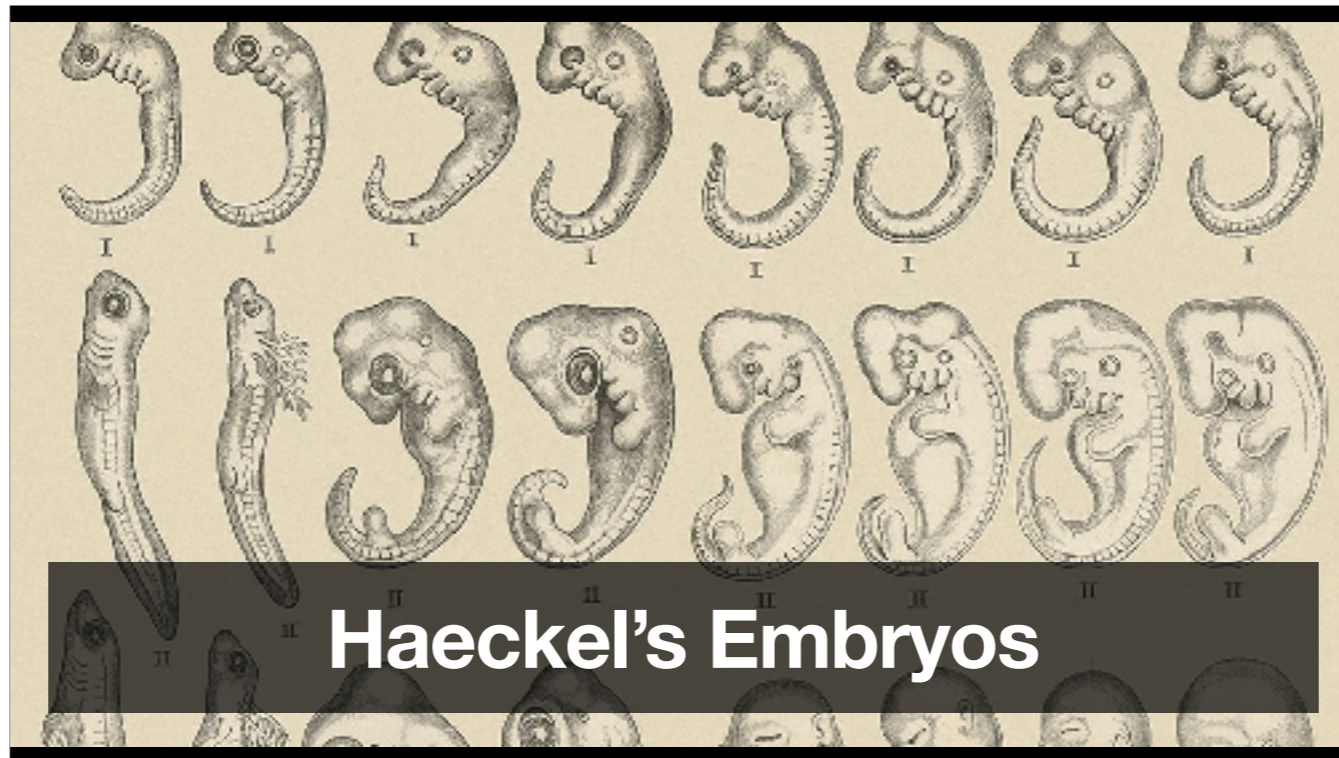


ICR RATE diamond samples still contained C14...

Bituminous Coal. By Amcyrus2012 - Own work, CC BY 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=37728056> (alpha)



Diamonds aren't forever—especially if they're ground up and tested for radiocarbon. ICR's RATE team had multiple industrial grade diamonds from different sites tested. All of these diamonds had measurable C14 in them *ABOVE* the .08 pMC that was subtracted from their values. These 'rectified' values ranged from .02 pMC to .31 pMC. As the conventional dates were in excess of one billion years, the fact that there is ANY C14 in these samples is a problem for the accuracy of C14 dating.



“Haeckel wanted to convince his readers that all vertebrates share a common ancestor, and that, as he put it, “ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny” – our embryonic development repeats our evolutionary past. This aphorism was soon disproved, but the use of Haeckel’s drawings persisted, particularly in education. There were waves of criticism, from the 1870s when the drawings were published, up to 1997 as Haeckel’s “fraud” was rediscovered and exploited by creationists.”

Matthew Cobb, “How fudged embryo illustrations led to drawn-out lies” *New Scientist*, January 14, 2015.



Notice that Scott admits the problem, but excuses it...

Problematic Predictions of Darwinian Evolution

- The **geologic record will show evidence of transitional forms** as time and excavation proceed.
- Due to evolutionary changes, organisms will have **vestigial organs** with no current function.
- Due to the process of mutation and natural selection, large portions of the genome will be **“junk DNA”**

The notes below are supplementary and were not included Sunday Morning
Most of the below is due to the work of Don Deal, to whom I wanted to give credit...

Horatio Hackett Newman

During the Scopes trial in 1925, evolutionary biologist Horatio Hackett Newman contended that there are over 180 vestigial organs and structures in the human body, "sufficient to make of a man a veritable walking museum of antiquities."

in 2008 the journal *New Scientist* reported that, since the days of Professor Newman, the list of vestigial organs "grew, then shrank again" to the point that today "biologists are extremely wary of talking about vestigial organs at all."

Junk DNA

Brown University evolutionary biologist Kenneth Miller argues that "the human genome is littered with pseudogenes, gene fragments, 'orphaned' genes, 'junk' DNA, and so many repeated copies of pointless DNA sequences that it cannot be attributed to anything that resembles intelligent design."

Richard Dawkins likewise writes that "creationists might spend some earnest time speculating on why the Creator should bother to litter genomes with untranslated pseudogenes and junk tandem repeat DNA."

In his 2006 book *The Language of God*, Francis Collins claimed that some "45 percent of the human genome" is made up of "genetic flotsam and jetsam."¹⁶⁶(Flotsam and jetsam, of course, is useless trash floating in the ocean.) Sounding much like Dawkins, he makes the implications clear: "Unless one is willing to take the position that God has placed [shared functionless repetitive DNA] in these precise positions to confuse and mislead us, the conclusion of a common ancestor for humans and mice is virtually inescapable."

Jerry Coyne wrote: *[T]he evolutionary prediction that we would find pseudogenes has been fulfilled — amply. Virtually every species harbors dead genes, many of them still active in its relatives. This implies that those genes were also active in a common ancestor, and were killed off in some descendants and not others.... Our genome — and that of other species — are truly well-populated graveyards of dead genes.*" Coyne, *Why Evolution Is True*, pp. 66-67. For a fuller refutation from an OEC perspective see: <https://iconsofevolution.com/why-darwinism-is-false/>

BUT...

Biologist Richard Sternberg surveyed the literature and found extensive evidence of function for repetitive DNA. Writing in the *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, he found that functions for repeats include forming higher-order nuclear structures, centromeres, telomeres, and nucleation centers for DNA methylation.

Repetitive DNA was found to be involved in cell proliferation, cellular stress responses; gene translation, and DNA repair.

Sternberg concluded that "the selfish [junk] DNA narrative and allied frameworks must join the other 'icons' of neo-Darwinian evolutionary theory that, despite their variance with empirical evidence, nevertheless persist in the literature."

- Functions of non-protein coding DNA:

- Repairing DNA
- Assisting in DNA replication
- Regulating DNA transcription
- Aiding in folding and maintenance of chromosomes
- Controlling RNA editing and splicing
- Helping to fight disease
- Regulating embryological development

Sternberg, along with University of Chicago geneticist James Shapiro, predicted in 2005 in the journal *Cytogenetic and Genome Research* that "one day, we will think of what used to be called 'junk DNA' as a critical component of truly 'expert' cellular control regimes."

The day foreseen by Sternberg and Shapiro may have come sooner than they expected. In September, 2012, the journal *Nature* reported the results of a years-long research project, involving over 400 international scientists studying the functions of non-coding DNA in humans. Called the ENCODE Project, its set of 30 groundbreaking papers reported that the "vast majority" of the genome has function. The lead paper reporting ENCODE's results stated:

These data enabled us to assign biochemical functions for 80% of the genome, in particular outside of the well-studied protein-coding regions. [The ENCODE Project Consortium. An integrated encyclopedia of DNA elements in the human genome. *Nature* 489, 57–74 (2012). <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature11247>]

Ewan Birney, ENCODE's lead analysis coordinator commented in *Discover Magazine* that since ENCODE looked at only 147 types of cells, and the human body has a few thousand, "It's likely that 80 percent will go to 100 percent."¹⁸³ The same article quoted Tom Gingeras, a senior scientist with ENCODE, noting that, "Almost every nucleotide is associated with a function of some sort or another, and we now know where they are, what binds to them, what their associations are, and more."

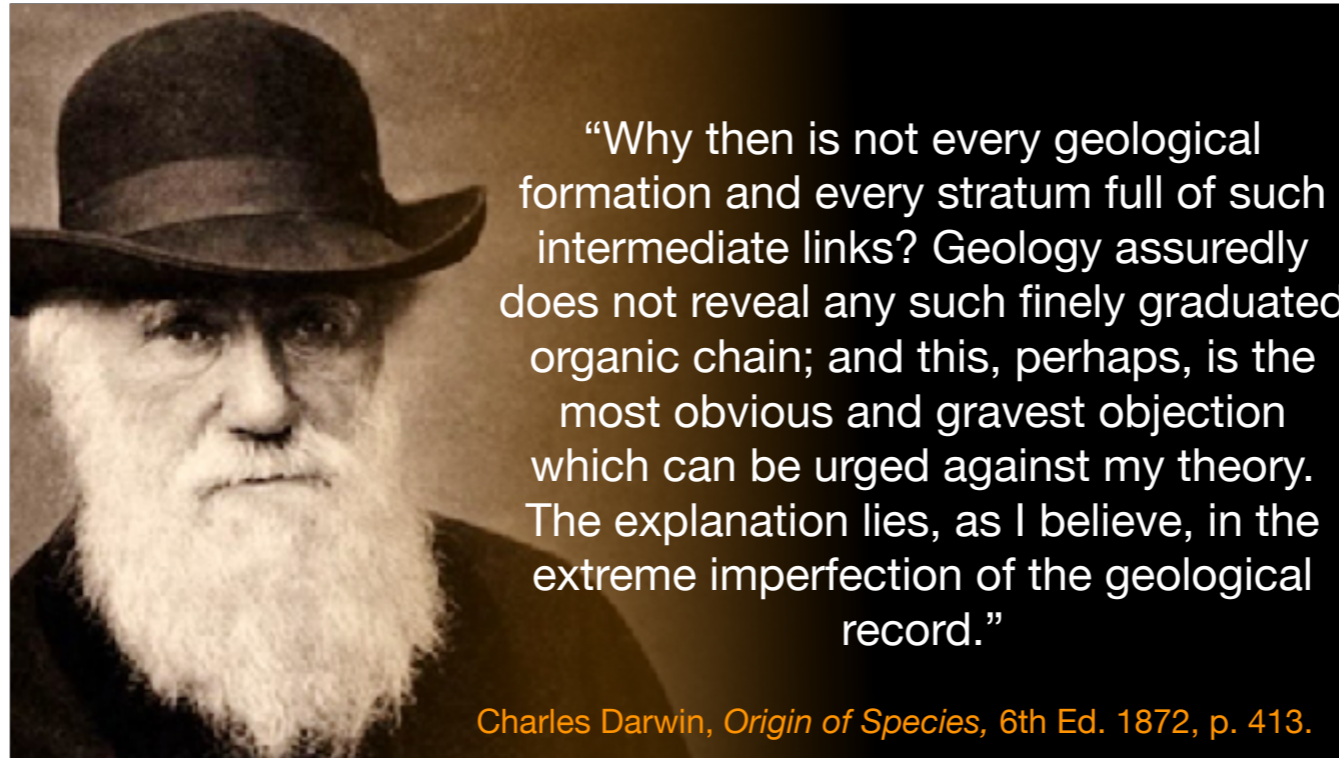
Another *Nature* commentary noted that "80% of the genome contains elements linked to biochemical functions, dispatching the widely held view that the human genome is mostly 'junk DNA.'"

Discover Magazine put it this way: "The key point is: It's not 'junk.'"

Although catchy, the term 'junk DNA' for many years repelled mainstream researchers from studying noncoding DNA. Who, except a small number of genomic clochards, would like to dig through genomic garbage? However, in science as in normal life, there are some clochards who, at the risk of being ridiculed, explore unpopular territories. Because of them, the view of junk DNA, especially repetitive elements, began to change in the early 1990s. Now, more and more biologists regard repetitive elements as a genomic treasure.

Recent advances have established that the DNA of a pseudogene, the RNA transcribed from a pseudogene, or the protein translated from a pseudogene can have multiple, diverse functions and that these functions can affect not only their parental genes but also unrelated genes. Therefore, pseudogenes have emerged as a previously unappreciated class of sophisticated modulators of gene expression, with a multifaceted involvement in the pathogenesis of human cancer.

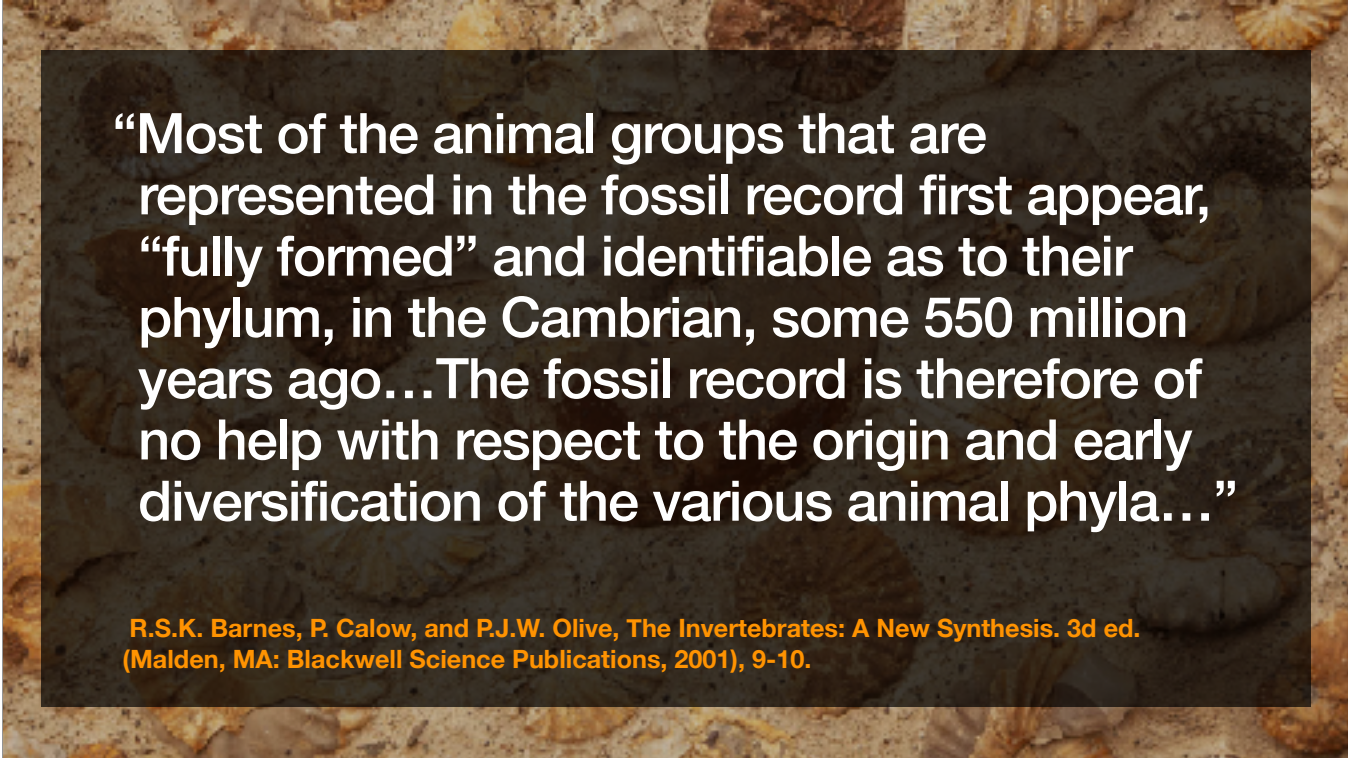
Pseudogenes have long been labeled as 'junk' DNA, failed copies of genes that arise during the evolution of genomes. However, recent results are challenging this moniker; indeed, some pseudogenes appear to harbor the potential to regulate their protein-coding cousins.



“Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory. The explanation lies, as I believe, in the extreme imperfection of the geological record.”

Charles Darwin, *Origin of Species*, 6th Ed. 1872, p. 413.

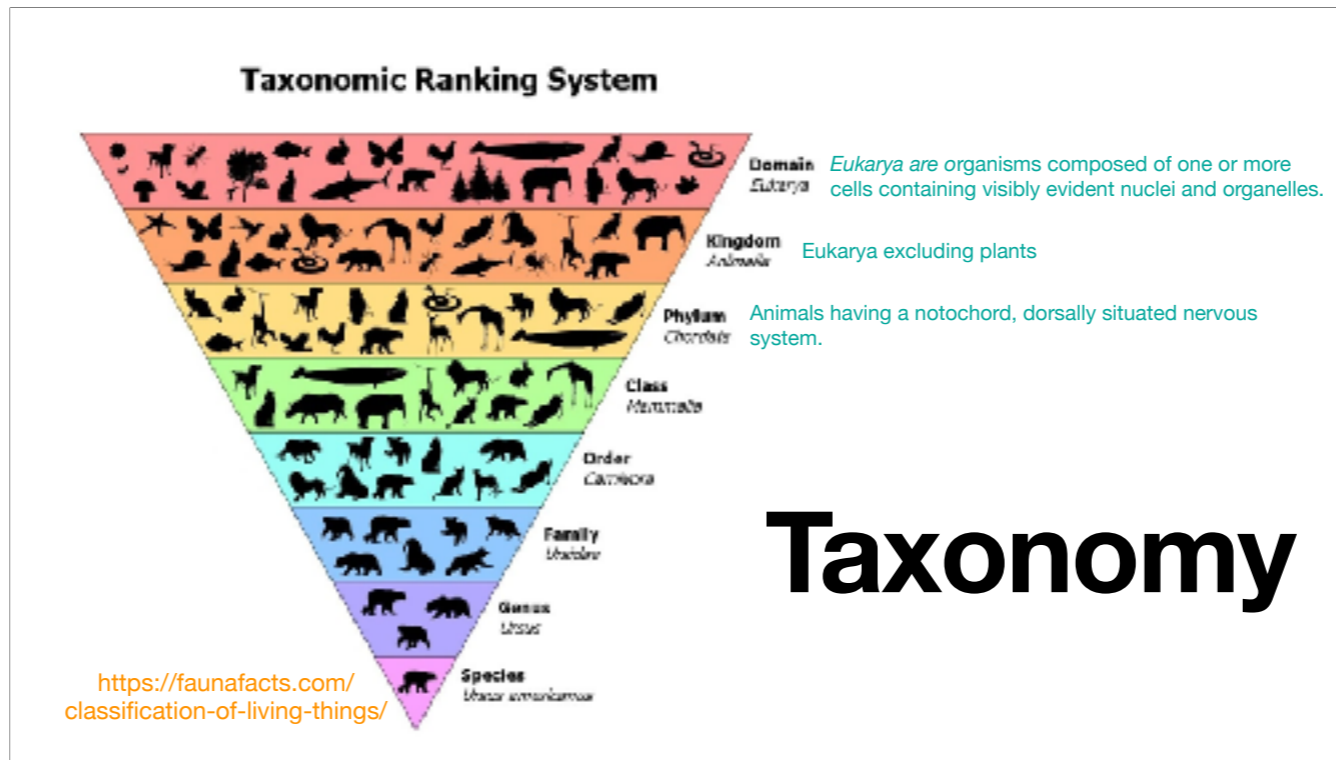
Darwin tried to explain away the problem of a lack of transitional forms based on the “imperfection of the geological record.”



“Most of the animal groups that are represented in the fossil record first appear, “fully formed” and identifiable as to their phylum, in the Cambrian, some 550 million years ago...The fossil record is therefore of no help with respect to the origin and early diversification of the various animal phyla...”

R.S.K. Barnes, P. Calow, and P.J.W. Olive, *The Invertebrates: A New Synthesis*. 3d ed. (Malden, MA: Blackwell Science Publications, 2001), 9-10.

R.S.K. Barnes, P. Calow, and P.J.W. Olive, *The Invertebrates: A New Synthesis*. 3d ed. (Malden, MA: Blackwell Science Publications, 2001), 9-10. [Cited in: Holden, Joseph M.. *The Comprehensive Guide to Apologetics* (p. 486). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.]



The problem for evolutionary theory is that they phyla — where the biggest differences are — are already present at the “Cambrian explosion.”
 Too many varieties show up too quickly to explain by Neo-Darwinian Theory



The increased understanding of the fossil record has made the problem worse, not better...

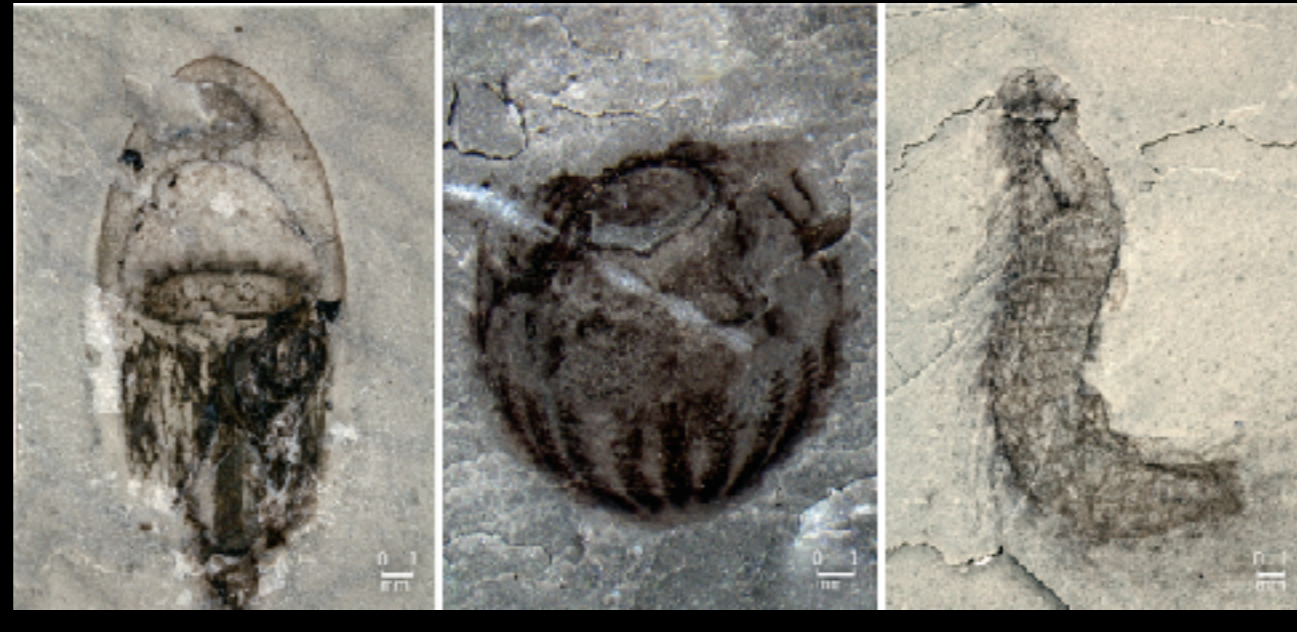
We can now trace the continuity of one “mega sequence” into another, through many apparent ages. There are significant signs of continuity in the fossil record, but I can’t take time to develop that now.



For a long time many argued that the very tiny and soft bodied would not be fossilized...

In the late 1800s, a few decades after Darwin wrote the *Origin of Species*, the Burgess Shale was discovered.

Soft bodied fossils from Qingjiang, China.



For a long time many argued that the very tiny and soft bodied would not be fossilized...

These are soft-bodied organisms and very small out of Qingjiang, China.

The more we dig, the more diversity we find “early” in the strata. It becomes harder and harder to explain and explain away, but that doesn’t stop evolutionary biologists from trying.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/fossil-treasure-trove-ancient-animals-unearthed-china-180971769/>

“The earliest fossils of *Homo*, *Homo rudolfensis* and *Homo erectus*, are separated from *Australopithecus* by a large, unbridged gap. How can we explain this seeming saltation? Not having any fossils that can serve as missing links, we have to fall back on the time-honored method of historical science, the construction of a historical narrative.”

Ernst Mayr, *What Makes Biology Unique?* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 198.

Translation: Human fossils and supposed human-like ape fossils are so far separated that there is no demonstrable path between them, only “just-so-stories”

Ernst Mayr, *What Makes Biology Unique?* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 198. [Cited in: Holden, Joseph M.. *The Comprehensive Guide to Apologetics* (p. 486). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.]

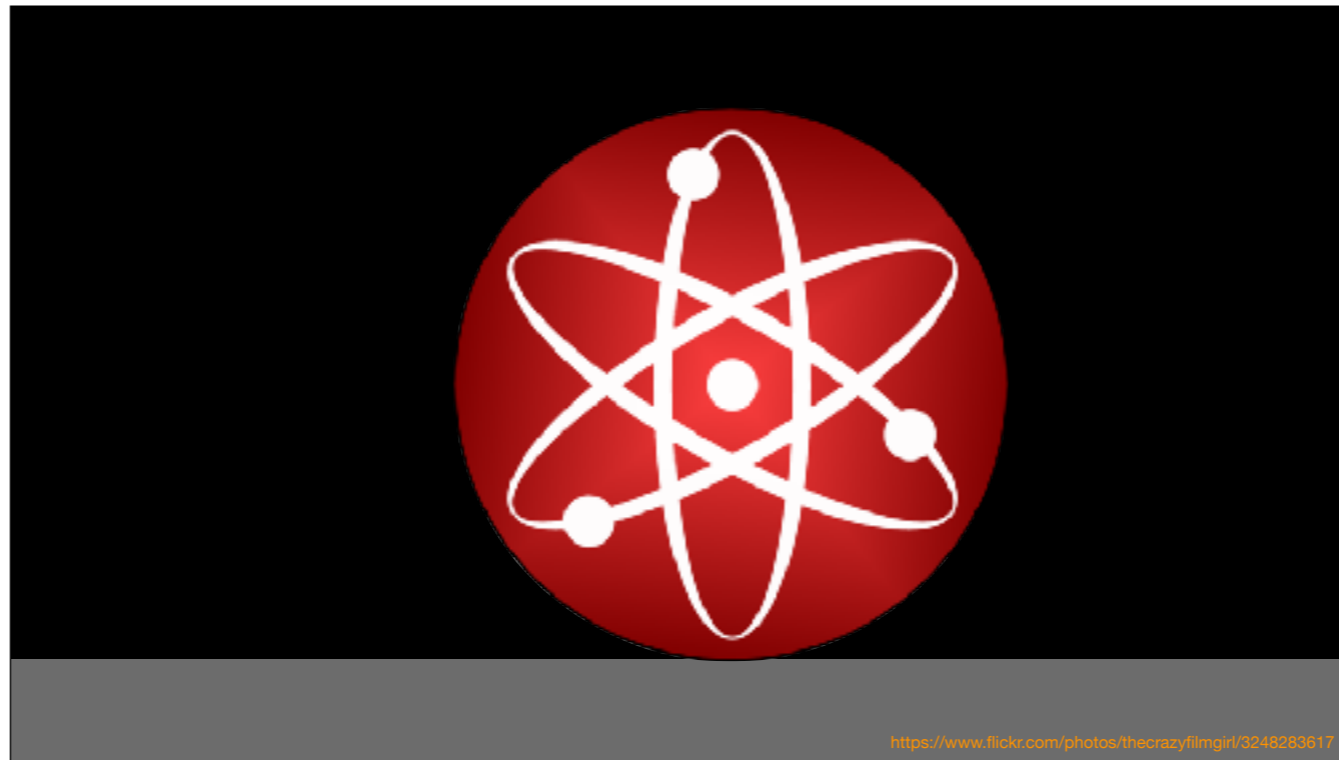
“Although catchy, the term “junk DNA” for many years repelled mainstream researchers from studying noncoding DNA. Who, except a small number of genomic clochards, would like to dig through genomic garbage?”



Wojciech Makalowski, “Not junk after all,” *Science*, 300 (May 23, 2003): 1246–1247. DOI: 10.1126/science.1085690

...However, in science as in normal life, there are some clochards who, at risk of being ridiculed, explore unpopular territories. Because of them, the view of junk DNA, especially repetitive elements, began to change in the early 1990s.”

Some of these “clochards were ID favoring scientists who didn’t believe that the genome was mostly junk



“...atheistic materialism ... can retard technological progress, while openness to intelligent causes can enhance it. You need to look no further than “junk DNA” for one dramatic example of this. For years, evolutionists such as Richard Dawkins, Ken Miller, Michael Shermer, Jerry Coyne, and others have maintained that the regions of DNA that did not code for proteins—which comprise about 98 percent of the human genome—had little function. They asserted that evolution had rendered that part of the genome largely useless junk. It was merely an accumulation of random mutations left over from the long trial-and-error process of evolution. That belief led many biologists to stop investigating the noncoding regions.”

Turek, Frank. *Stealing from God: Why Atheists Need God to Make Their Case* (p. 248). NavPress. Kindle Edition.

Was this research important?

The image shows a screenshot of a news website with two articles. The top article is titled "Is 'junk DNA' a key to killing cancer cells?" dated October 28, 2021. Below it is a banner for "SCI NEWS". The middle article is titled "Study. Junk DNA Could Be Key to Extinguishing Fear-Related Memories" dated Nov 21, 2022, by Kenneth J. Frank. The bottom article is titled "Aussie scientists unravel frightfully important role of 'junk' DNA" dated April 5, 2022. The website has a navigation bar at the top with categories like "Home", "About", "Contact", etc. The main content area has a sidebar on the left with "Related to" and "Tags" sections. The bottom article has a "Featuring" section with "Mutations in Noncoding DNA Are Found to Protect the Brain From ALS".

Newscenter

Is 'junk DNA' a key to killing cancer cells?
October 28, 2021

SCI NEWS

Study. Junk DNA Could Be Key to Extinguishing Fear-Related Memories
Nov 21, 2022 by Kenneth J. Frank

Aussie scientists unravel frightfully important role of "junk" DNA
April 5, 2022

Mutations in Noncoding DNA Are Found to Protect the Brain From ALS
April 5, 2022



One of the biggest accusations leveled at biblical creationists is that they don't make testable predictions...

Specific Predictions of Young Earth Creationism

- Geology:
 - Since the earth is younger than the maximum testable age of radiocarbon, organic fossils of all strata should show some radiocarbon. [They do...]
 - Since the earth was destroyed by water, we should see sedimentary formations on a massive scale beyond anything that is seen forming today. [We do...]

Specific Predictions of Young Earth Creationism

- Biology:
 - Since all creatures were created after their kinds, we would expect to see no evidence of natural selection working to diversify beyond biblical kinds. [No proven evidence against this...]
 - Since creation was cursed and “subjected to frustration” at the fall, we should be looking for signs of that change and degradation in genetics (among other areas has occurred—ie. That the genome is degrading with time.) [It is...]
 - Diversification within kinds will be a function of expressing existing information (or limiting diversity) not of new genetic material. [It is...]

All of these have been researched and there is increasing evidence for a biblical worldview based on the findings.

If you want to dig deeper into the degradation of the human genome, for instance, see John Sanford’s *Genetic Entropy*, or read about the issue for free at the link below:
<https://www.geneticentropy.org/whats-genetic-entropy>

Specific Predictions of Young Earth Creationism

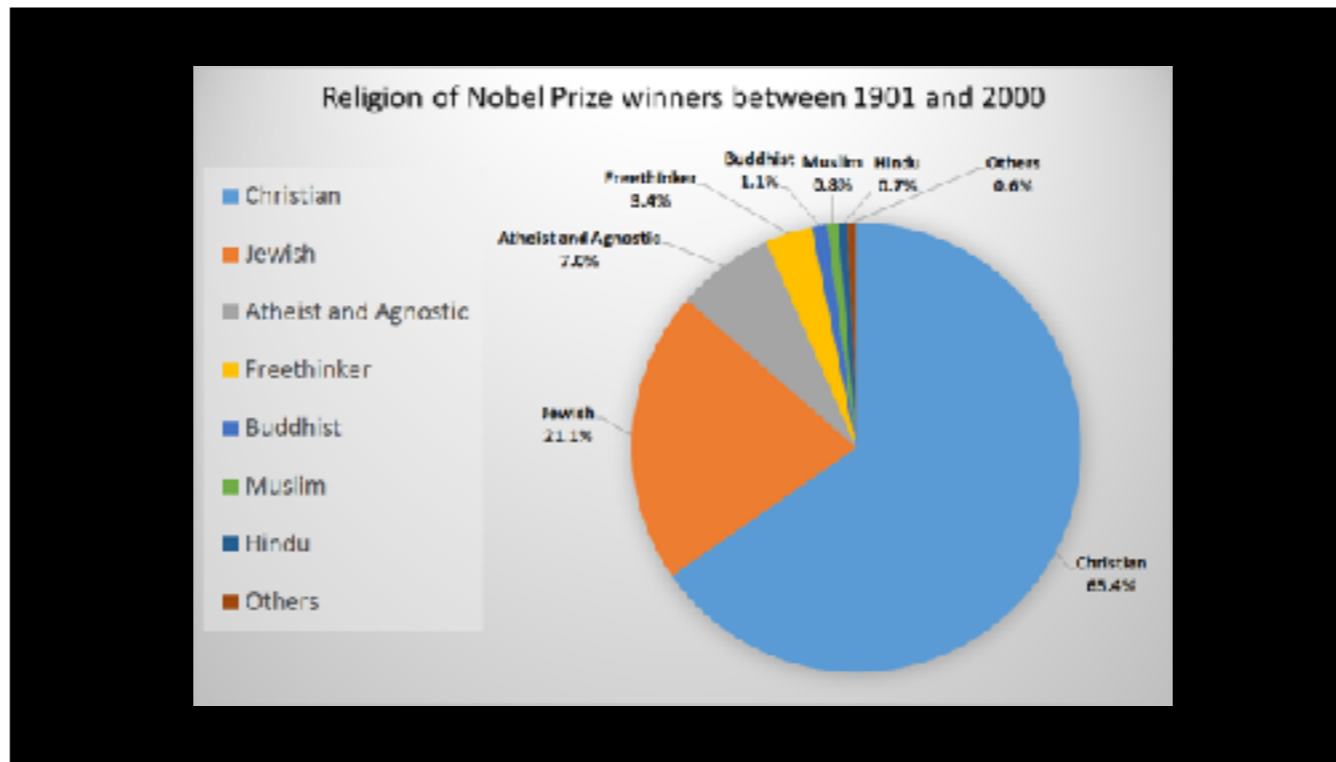
- Biology:
 - As part of God's intelligently laid out creation, there will be little to no "junk DNA" and what is there will be due to degradation, not evolution. [this prediction looks better all the time...]
 - Since God created all kinds individually, there will be no vestigial organs—all have purpose, and all are suited to the organism, not leftovers of the past. [the evidence fits creation better than evolution...]

All of these have been researched and there is increasing evidence for a biblical worldview based on the findings.

“For decades, evolutionists have claimed that our bodies and genomes are full of useless parts and genetic material—“vestigial” organs—that show life is the result of eons of unguided evolution. Structures that were previously—and incorrectly—considered to be vestigial include tonsils, the coccyx (tailbone), and the appendix.”
Holden, Joseph M.. *The Comprehensive Guide to Apologetics* (p. 260). Harvest House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

**Holding a Christian worldview
definitely isn't a "science stopper"**

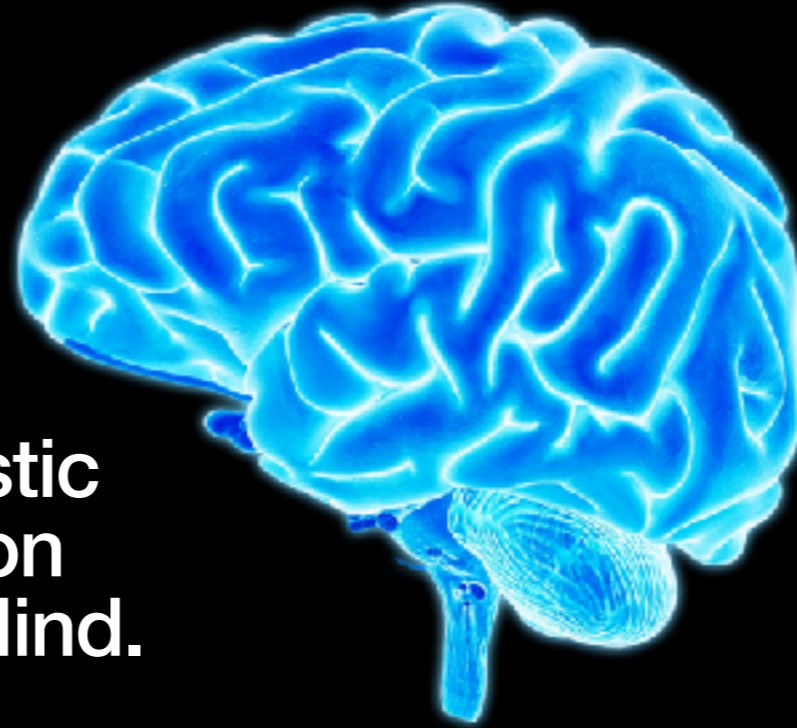
What it does do, is enrich science by feeding in different perspectives and focusses that naturalistic methodologies and mindsets overlook.



While many of these people may be only nominal in their respective faiths, and may practice methodological naturalism, the overwhelming majority of the greatest people in science are Christian and Jewish theists.

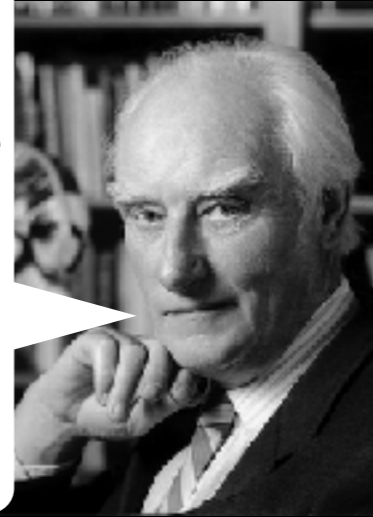
PHOTOGRAPH BY
XTREMERX,
DREAMSTIME

Naturalistic Evolution and the Mind.



This link is image credit, nothing else [<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/your-amazing-brain>]

The Astonishing Hypothesis is that “You,” your joys and your sorrows, your memories and your ambitions, your sense of personal identity and free will, are in fact no more than the behavior of a vast assembly of nerve cells and their associated molecules. As Lewis Carroll’s Alice might have phrased it: “You’re nothing but a pack of neurons.”



Francis Crick, *The Astonishing Hypothesis: The Search for the Human Soul*. (New York, NY: Touchstone, 1995) 3.

In his book *The Astonishing Hypothesis: The Search for the Human Soul*, Francis Crick, co-discoverer of DNA, begins his introduction with these words: [Slide above]

If, as Crick asserts, we are “nothing but a pack of neurons,” if our minds are reducible to physics and chemistry, then there are bound to be consequences in the realm of knowledge. Christian apologist Frank Turek, responded to Crick’s claim, saying, “Imagine if Dr. Crick had written this: ‘The Astonishing Hypothesis is that my scientific conclusions that I write in this book are in fact no more than the behavior of a vast assembly of nerve cells and their associated molecules.’”

We’ll let biologist J. B. S. Haldane explain... [next slide]

"If my mental processes are determined wholly by the motions of atoms in my brain, I have no reason to suppose that my beliefs are true...and hence I have no reason for supposing my brain to be composed of atoms."



J. B. S. Haldane, *Possible Worlds*, 209, quoted in, C. S. Lewis, "The Self-Contradiction of the Naturalist," in *Miracles: A Preliminary Study* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1947), 28-29.

Haldane later retracted this statement—but he was right the first time.

J. B. S. Haldane, "I Repent an Error," *The Literary Guide* 96 (1954): 7, 29.

“I think the evolutionary hypothesis would imply that though our cognitive capacities could be reliable, we do not have the kind of reason to rely on them that we ordinarily take ourselves to have in using them directly—as we do in science. [...] Evolutionary naturalism implies that we shouldn’t take any of our convictions seriously, including the scientific world picture on which evolutionary naturalism itself depends.



Nagel, Thomas. *Mind and Cosmos* (pp. 27-28). Oxford University Press. Kindle Edition.

[use the below only if you have time...]

Nagel Further writes: “But I agree with Alvin Plantinga that, unlike divine benevolence, the application of evolutionary theory to the understanding of our own cognitive capacities should undermine, though it need not completely destroy, our confidence in them.⁴ Mechanisms of belief formation that have selective advantage in the everyday struggle for existence do not warrant our confidence in the construction of theoretical accounts of the world as a whole. I think the evolutionary hypothesis would imply that though our cognitive capacities could be reliable, we do not have the kind of reason to rely on them that we ordinarily take ourselves to have in using them directly—as we do in science. In particular, it does not explain why we are justified in relying on them to correct other cognitive dispositions that lead us astray, though they may be equally natural, and equally susceptible to evolutionary explanation. The evolutionary story leaves the authority of reason in a much weaker position. This is even more clearly true of our moral and other normative capacities—on which we often rely to correct our instincts. I agree with Sharon Street that an evolutionary self-understanding would almost certainly require us to give up moral realism—the natural conviction that our moral judgments are true or false independent of our beliefs.⁵ Evolutionary naturalism implies that we shouldn’t take any of our convictions seriously, including the scientific world picture on which evolutionary naturalism itself depends.”

Nagel, Thomas. *Mind and Cosmos* (pp. 27-28). Oxford University Press. Kindle Edition.

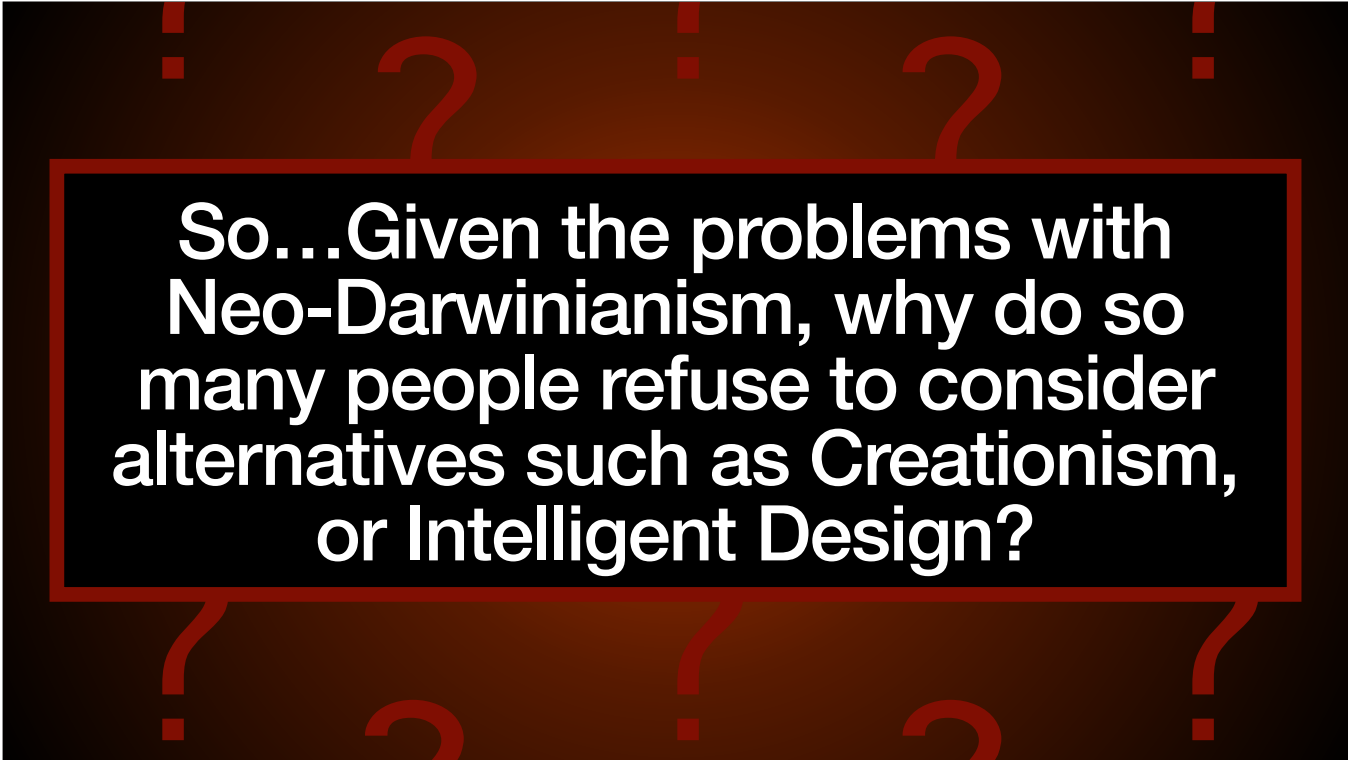
**Naturalistic evolutionary theory
undermines our confidence in our own
intellectual ability, and so in the theories
it generates—including evolution.
—more on that in another presentation.**

Victor Reppert lays out an argument drawn from the work of C. S. Lewis. His formulation is differently structured, but remains faithful to Lewis' overall argument.

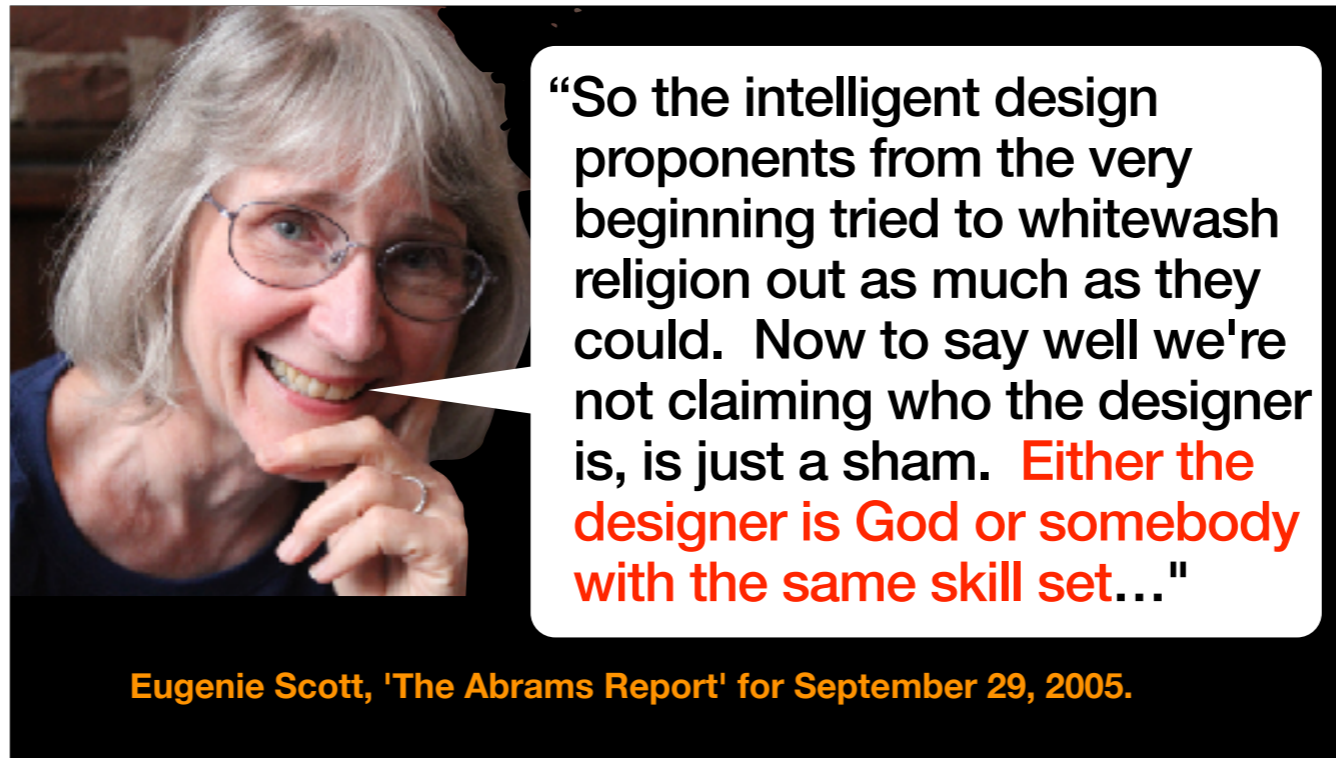
1. No belief is rationally inferred if it can be fully explained in terms of nonrational [sic.] causes.
2. If materialism is true, then all beliefs can be fully explained in terms of nonrational [sic.] causes
3. Therefore, if materialism is true, then no belief is rationally inferred.
4. If any thesis entails the conclusion that no belief is rationally inferred then it should be rejected and its denial accepted.
5. Therefore materialism should be rejected and its denial accepted.

The key here is the first conclusion (3). Materialism is held as a belief system. But if that belief system functionally denies the inference of beliefs, then it undermines itself. If it undermines itself, then skepticism regarding the conclusions of a mind materialistically construed is not only valid, but seems necessary.

Reppert, *C.S. Lewis's Dangerous Idea*, 57-58.



So... Given the problems with Neo-Darwinianism, why do so many people refuse to consider alternatives such as Creationism, or Intelligent Design?



<https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna9542288>

Here Eugenie (then director of the NCSE) is responding to the evidence that Steven Meyer laid out for ID. Notice that given the truth of his evidence, she sees no other candidate for the intelligent designer but God.

RESPONSE BY MEYER: I personally do think that God created the world. But the reason that as a design theorist, we are careful not to say more than we can detect intelligence is not because we are trying to pull a sham or the wool over anyone's eyes, we're trying to be careful about what the evidence can establish and what it can't.

MEYER: The argument for design is based on evidence and the evidence establishes an intelligent cause, but it can't establish the identity of the intelligence...

“I was pleased to see that Scott intuitively understood that evidence of intelligent design might well lead one logically to identify God as the designer, even if her understanding of the separation of church and state would not allow her to consider such a possibility. Even so, I don't think the evidence from biology alone can establish that the intelligence responsible for life necessarily has all the attributes that theists ascribe to God.”

Meyer, Stephen C.. Return of the God Hypothesis (p. 315). HarperOne. Kindle Edition.

“Science”

“Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of 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 unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. [...] Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.”



Richard C. Lewontin, “Billions and Billions of Demons” (a review of Carl Sagan’s *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark*.) *The New York Review of Books*, January 9, 1997.

Richard Lewontin (1929-2021) was an American evolutionary biologist.

Atheism

“I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that. My guess is that this cosmic authority problem is not a rare condition and that it is responsible for much of the scientism and reductionism of our time.”



Thomas Nagel, *The Last Word* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1997)
Kindle Edition, 130-131.

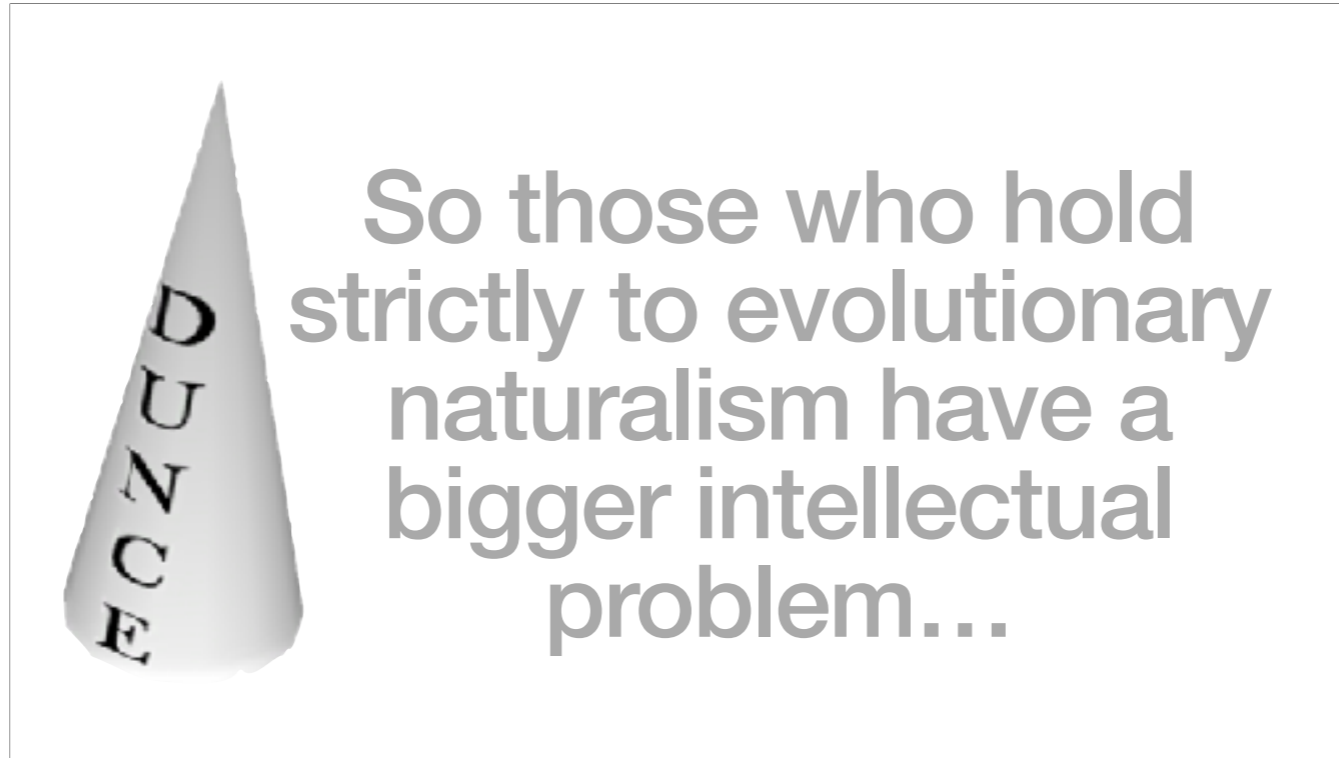
“If one doubts the reducibility of the mental to the physical, and likewise of all those other things that go with the mental, such as value and meaning, then there is some reason to doubt that a reductive materialism can apply even in biology, and therefore reason to doubt that materialism can give an adequate account even of the physical world.”



Nagel, Thomas. *Mind and Cosmos* (p. 14). Oxford University Press. Kindle Edition.

Incidentally, Nagel DID reject the Neo-Darwinian position.

In 2012 he published *Mind and Cosmos: Why the Materialist Neo-Darwinian Conception of Nature Is Almost Certainly False*. In this book he points out many problems, but holds fast to his atheism.



This is in response to Dawkins' statement cited above:

"It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet some-body who claims not to believe in evolution that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane..." Richard Dawkins "Should Science Speak to Faith? (Extended version)". Interview with Lawrence M. Krauss, www.scientificamerican.com. June 19, 2007.



Common Challenges to the Faith

Science and the Bible Part 5b of 8:
Science and life: Does Science Prove
Life Evolved without a Creator?

J. W. Loubet