

WELL DESIGNED



The Barrel-eye Fish

Barrel-eye Fish, spend most of their lives 2,000 feet (600 meters) beneath the surface of the Pacific Ocean. With a head that resembles the cockpit of a fighter-plane, these fish look almost unreal.

Sometimes known as a *Spookfish* this weird fish has a transparent head with two very unusual eyes. They are rather like a pair of binoculars, with tubes which point upwards. At the top of each tube there are green domes, which scientists believe are to protect its eyes, and filter the small amount of sunlight shining through the water. This enables the fish to easily spot jelly-fish, which are part of its food. The Barrel-eye was discovered in 1939, but scientists have only recently spotted that its eyes rotate inside its see-through head, in the same way that the pilot of a plane can tilt his head to look in different directions.



A Pacific Barrel-eye Fish. Its eyes are inside the green domes. The two black spots which look like eyes are actually nostrils.



Side view of the Barrel-eye fish

The Barrel-eye fish is unique among fishes, and it seems impossible that it could have evolved by gradual stages from an “ordinary” fish. The whole of its head would have had to change into a transparent dome, and special bones and muscles would need to form to move those special eyes. How would it have been able to see and survive while all these changes were happening?

We believe the evidence suggests that this remarkable and unusual fish must have been designed by an intelligent and wise Creator.

CONSENSUS PROVES NOTHING!

It's easy to accept what others tell us just because we think they know what they're talking about. This is probably why most people believe in evolution. Surveys suggest that 97% of scientists accept evolution, which seems pretty overwhelming. However, let's pause for a moment: how many scientists are there in the world? The answer is around 8.8 million. If 97% of them believe in evolution, this means that there are 264,000 scientists who don't! That's quite a lot, although they certainly aren't all Biblical creationists. But truth isn't decided by majority vote, and consensus proves nothing. In fact it can actually hinder research. Believing in God and creation has implications, which may explain why many people prefer not to believe it — people like philosopher Dr Thomas Nagel, who wrote: “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.” However, the alternative is to believe that the universe, and our own lives, are meaningless and pointless.



“My greatest discovery is Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour.”
—Dr James Simpson, Discoverer of chloroform anaesthetic.

We believe the evidence points clearly to God's existence, and that we are all ultimately answerable to Him. The Bible records that God created all life, but sadly our world has been spoilt by human sin. To prove His love, God came to us in the person of Jesus Christ, His Son. He died to take the penalty for the sin that separates us from God, and rose again to give eternal life to all who believe. He said, “I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full.” (*The Bible, John 10: 10*).

Most of our great pioneer scientists were Bible believers, and saw no conflict between science and faith. Millions of people, including many scientists, have discovered that God is real, and that Jesus Christ is alive. Why not you?

SMILE

Did you hear about the first restaurant to open on the moon?
It had great food, but no atmosphere.

How do you know that carrots are good for your eyesight?
Because you never see rabbits wearing glasses.



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The REAL SCIENCE paper!



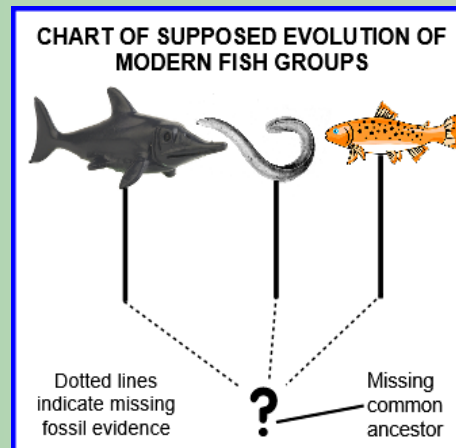
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WONDERS OF THE SEA

The ocean is certainly a mysterious and wonderful place, and scientists are regularly discovering new sea creatures, many of which are weird and even bizarre. This makes it more and more difficult to believe that the amazing variety of sea life was produced by a process of evolution from a common ancestor.



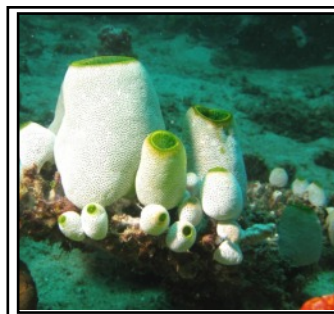
Fish are vertebrates (creatures with a backbone), and all living fish can be classified into three groups: cartilaginous fish such as sharks and rays, jawless fish like lampreys and hagfish, and bony fish. These groups are said to have evolved from a common ancestor. According to *Wikipedia*, “The evolution of fish began about 530 million years ago during the Cambrian explosion. It was during this time that the early chordates developed the skull and the vertebral column.” However, there is no hard evidence for this, and evolutionists can't agree on a candidate for the common ancestor of the vertebrates.

According to *Encyclopedia Britannica online*, “The ancestral vertebrate (protovertebrate) has been sought for more than 100 years, and the likelihood of finding it today is not much greater than in the past. It can be assumed that the protovertebrate was small and soft-bodied, two factors that suggest the improbability of finding a fossilized form in a recognizable condition.” Yet numerous soft-bodied creatures, such as jellyfish, have been preserved as fossils.

“The origin of fish is obscure”

Around 97% of living creatures are invertebrates (animals without an internal skeleton or backbone). Many of them have an exoskeleton — hard parts on the outside of their bodies. According to evolution theory, the first fishes evolved from some kind of invertebrate. This would have meant that, somehow, they lost their external skeleton and developed an internal one. Evolutionists believe that some kind of worm-like creature was the ancestor of all the vertebrates, but there is no agreed candidate.

According to the British Geological Survey: “The origin of fish is obscure, but may be found in something like the invertebrate sea squirts (above left) or echinoderms.” (www.bgs.ac.uk). The problem with that theory is that the fossils of a true fish with a backbone known as *Metaspriggina* (reconstruction below left) have been found in the same (Cambrian) rocks as fossil sea squirts, dated at “500 million years old.” Incidentally, living sea squirts, like those in the photo, show no evolution from their fossil counterparts.



By Nobu Tamura: CC BY-SA 3.0



A crab has an exoskeleton

UNDERSEA WONDERS CHALLENGE EVOLUTION

THE variety of underwater life is incredible. The oceans teem with weird and wonderful creatures. Some are very strange, even bizarre, and very different from each other. Most people have been persuaded that these all evolved by gradual changes over millions of years, but how many pause to consider just how this could have happened through the mechanism of natural selection? Natural selection works for the benefit of the creature, only selecting those traits which will enable it to survive, so anything that was not immediately useful would be de-selected and eliminated.

The fossil record is of little help, since many living fish are almost identical to fossil specimens. "Although a great many fossil fishes have been found and described, they represent a tiny portion of the long and complex evolution of fishes, and knowledge of fish evolution remains relatively fragmentary."¹

1, www.britannica.com/animal/fish/Evolution-and-paleontology

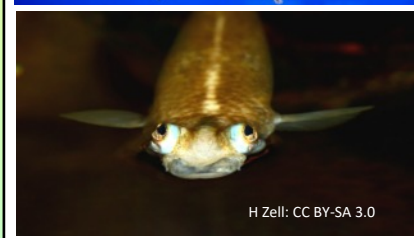


The Nudibranch Sea Slug steals the poisonous stingers from Sea Anemones, then swallows them without bursting them. Tiny tubes lined with moving hairs take the stingers from its stomach to those fronds on its back, where they are stored and used as weapons against its own enemies! Challenge to evolutionists: explain how natural selection could have produced the seal slug's amazing mechanism.



The Deep-Sea Anglerfish lives in the dark depths of the ocean. The females have a "fishing-line", complete with a lure to attract small fish, lit by bioluminescent bacteria. How did this fish acquire its fishing-line and the bacteria to light it, by gradual evolutionary changes?

Below are (top to bottom) A camouflaged Leafy Sea-dragon, a Lionfish, which is covered in long, poisonous spines, and a 'four-eyed' Anableps. By what evolutionary pathway could these fish, all so different, have evolved from a common ancestor?



Did fish evolve legs and become amphibians?

According to evolution theory, some lobe-finned fish ventured on to the land and evolved into amphibians, eventually leading to all land dwelling creatures, including humans. According to Professor Richard Dawkins, "The move from water to land launched a major redesign of every aspect of life, from breathing to reproduction."¹ Professor Dawkins' use of the term "redesign" would seem to imply an original design, although he would deny this. However, this theory raises important questions. How could fish, with gills designed for breathing under the water, have evolved into amphibians, with lungs designed to breath air? And how could fins, with no connection to the spine, have become legs which need to be joined to the spine for support?



There is no convincing fossil evidence for this. A fossil named *Tiktaalik* (left) is often claimed to be a transitional form. Professor Dawkins called it "the perfect missing link."¹ However, the discovery in Poland of fossil tracks of four-footed animals dated at "18 million years older" than *Tiktaalik*, means the gap between fish and amphibians still exists. Jennifer Clack, writing about this discovery in *The Guardian* newspaper, commented, "It blows the whole story out of the water, so to speak." (January 6, 2010)

1. *The Greatest Show in earth*, Bantam 2009, p. 169



BIBLE-BELIEVING SCIENTISTS

Dr Donald Batten, Plant Scientist

Dr Don Batten received both his B.Sc. Agr. (First Class Honours) and his Ph.D. from the University of Sydney. He worked for 20 years as a research horticulturist with the NSW Department of Agriculture. He was responsible for researching many aspects of new fruit crops for the region, including lychee (left), mango, custard apple, guava, papaya, longan and subtropical peaches and nectarines. His research – which includes many articles in secular journals – involved environmental adaptation, breeding, mineral nutrition, post-harvest physiology and floral biology.



Dr Batten became a Christian in his teens, but accepted evolution, since he had not heard of any arguments against it. Then one day in college he was surprised by something a Professor of Zoology said in a lecture: 'Some of you are worried about this evolution stuff. Don't worry too much about it, I don't know whether I believe it myself.' Dr Batten comments: Something 'clicked' with me when he said this. I came to see, after considerable prayer and study, that evolution is really a belief system parading as science. It is an alternative religion designed to banish the creator God to the realm of abstract philosophy."

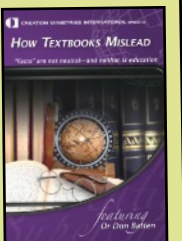
Dr Batten now works for *Creation Ministries International* (Australia), and co-edits their popular *Creation* magazine. He has spoken around the world on the creation issue, showing the errors in evolutionary ideas, and refutes the claim that science would be virtually impossible without evolution. He says: "I don't know anything of practical value in science that has come out of evolutionary thinking. In fact, evolutionary daydreaming has given rise to many dead ends. Examples include ideas such as embryonic recapitulation (leading to belief in 'gill slits' in human embryos, for example). Then there are the false notions that some organs are useless leftovers of evolution. Such ideas impede scientific progress." Dr Batten has produced an MP4 video "How Textbooks Mislead" which can be downloaded for £4.25 from www.creation.com

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Creation Ministries International



The fish that refused to evolve!

In 1938, fishermen in South Africa landed a catch which took scientists by surprise. Why? It was a **Coelacanth** – a kind of fish that was thought to have become extinct 66 million years ago, and was only known from fossils. Since then, quite a lot of these fish have been caught.



This Coelacanth fossil is claimed to be around 250 million years old

Until then, the Coelacanth had been regarded as a transitional form between fish and land animals. This was because the fossils showed it had bony fins which were thought to be evolving into legs. It is now known that they live in deep water, and don't use their fins to walk around on the sea-bed! So it is no longer regarded as a "missing link".



A Coelacanth swimming off the South African coast

We don't accept these dates of millions of years, but however old these fossils are it's clear that Coelacanths have not evolved, and are still happily swimming around in the ocean. They are 100% fish, and always have been.

Variety is the 'spice of life' (in the sea) – but it's not evolution!

Wide variety within fish types has been used as evidence for evolution in action. Two examples are guppies – a popular aquarium fish, and cichlids. Guppies are among the most well-known of aquarium fishes. They come in a vast array of patterns and colours and are wildly popular among dedicated aquarists.

Cichlid fishes are found all around the world, and there are more than 1,000 species in three African lakes alone, and they have diversified rapidly.

But is this really "evolution in action"? In the Bible's first book – Genesis – we read that the creatures of the sea were created "according to their kinds."

What we observe in guppies and cichlids is what we would expect to find if the Bible account is true. There has been no evolution from one kind to another, just variation, and all the species in each kind can interbreed. Variety is the spice of life – even in the sea!



Guppies



Cichlids

By Melanochromis: Wikipedia

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By Parent Gery: Wikipedia