

# WELL DESIGNED!



## Elephant Seals



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**E**LEPHANT Seals can hold their breath for more than 100 minutes, and dive to 1,550 m (5,090 ft) beneath the ocean's surface. The deepest recorded dive of an elephant seal is 2,388 m (7,835 ft)! They have a very large volume of blood, allowing them to hold a large amount of oxygen for use when diving.

They can store oxygen in their muscles, and have a larger proportion of oxygen-carrying red blood cells. They can slow down their heartbeat to one third of normal, and divert blood flow from the external areas of the body to important core organs. They are also able to slow down their metabolism during deep dives. Elephant seals also have a heat exchange system, with their arteries and veins organised in a way that maintains a constant body temperature as the cool blood flowing to the heart is warmed by blood going to external areas of their body.



Scientists have only recently discovered how Elephant Seals use their whiskers to help them navigate in the dark depths of the ocean. They strapped miniature video cameras to their heads to study how they use them to track down prey in the dark ocean depths. Seals have the highest number of nerve fibres per whisker of any mammal, and they move them like antenna to sense water flow and the movement of prey. The researchers described this as “a super specialized sensory system.” (*Scientific American*, 13th June 2022).

**These incredibly well-designed sea mammals defy an evolutionary explanation. They point to special creation by an all-wise Creator.**

## THE EVIDENCE FITS!

**T**HE theory of common descent is usually understood to mean that all life on earth had a common origin. There is no proof that LUCA (the Last Universal Common Ancestor) ever existed. However, according to the *New York Times* (24th November 2018) “A new study revealed that all humans are descendants of the same man and woman who lived 100,000 to 200,000 years ago. The researchers [at Rockefeller University and the University of Basel, Switzerland] studied the DNA of five million animals, including humans, to come to their conclusions. They also found that every nine out of 10 animals come from the same original creatures.” This is extremely significant. Although we would dispute the dating, the evidence fits the Biblical record of creation. “God created mankind in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (*Genesis 1: 27*). It also refutes the false idea that there are different “races” of people, so there is no justification for racism. Also, the evidence that animal species can also be traced to a single couple fits perfectly with the Biblical record of a worldwide flood, when representative pairs were the progenitors of all species alive today.

This evidence should warn us against the uncritical acceptance of evolution, and dismissing the Bible as a true record of human history and a description of the world and life in general. The Bible not only tells us that we are created by God, but that we have become separated from Him by our sin. The Bible also tells that we can be reconciled to God, through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. “There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.” (*1 Timothy 2: 5-6*). Through Him we can have new, abundant life!



Adam and Eve, the first human pair, depicted in a window in St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Flicker photo by Lawrence Op: CC BY-NC 2.0

## SMILE

Why do French people like snails?  
Because they hate fast food.

Two snails are chatting beside the road: “I need to cross over,” says one.  
“Well, be careful,” says the other one, “there’s a bus due in an hour.”



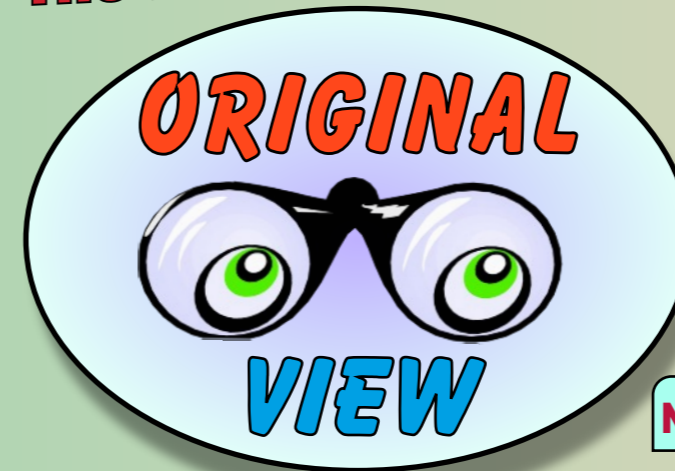
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The **REAL SCIENCE** paper!



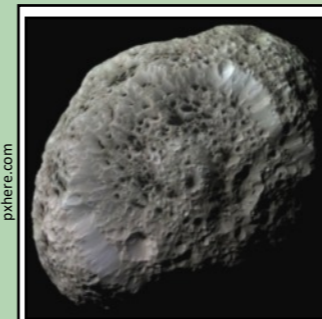
**No. 98**

No Luck in Locating Luca!  
No 'finely graduated chain'  
A Bible-believing botanist  
Spot the Difference  
No Chance  
Well Designed:  
Elephant Seals  
The Evidence Fits!

## STRETCHING THE TRUTH ABOUT ORIGINS

Recent news headlines claimed that the “building blocks of life”, namely amino acids, have been found in outer space on asteroid samples brought to earth in 2020 by a space probe.<sup>1</sup> Despite the media hype, this in no way proves that life could have arisen from non-life.

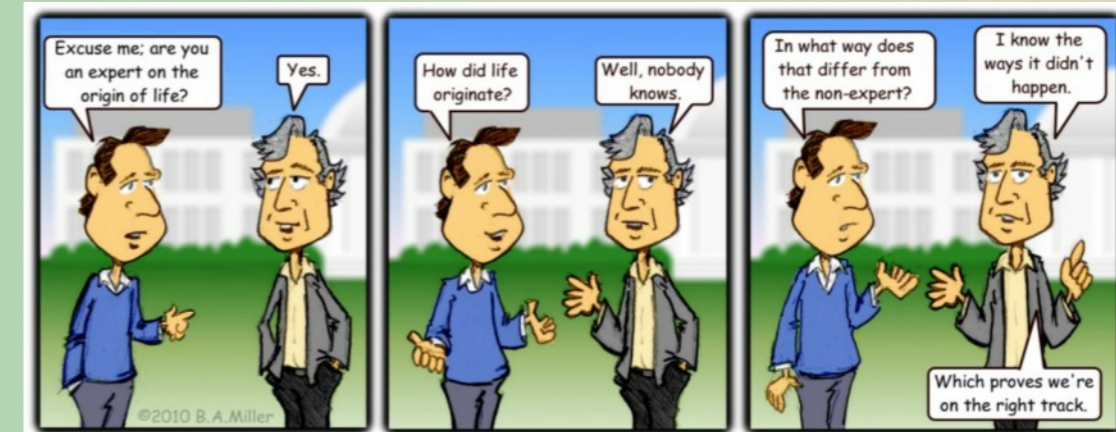
For a start, amino acids are not really the “building blocks of life”, but the building blocks of *proteins*, which are made of strings of amino acids, folded into a complex three-dimensional structure.



An asteroid

Proteins are a major part of living cells, but are not themselves life. Many people have been led to believe that, somehow, amino acids formed in a kind of “primordial soup” on the early earth, and then joined up to form proteins, which, in turn, developed into the first living cells. However, experiments to get amino acids dissolved in water to join together to form proteins have failed. This failure to support the “primordial soup” theory has led some secular scientists to look to outer space for the answer to the mystery of life’s origin, hence the excitement about finding amino acids on an asteroid.

1. Japanese researchers found amino acids in asteroid samples brought back to Earth by the *Hayabusa 2* probe in December 2020.\* This was reported in the *Japan Times*, with the following comment: “The acids discovered are a very important substance for living things and could hold clues to understanding the origins of life.” **Is this claim true? See inside for more on this.**

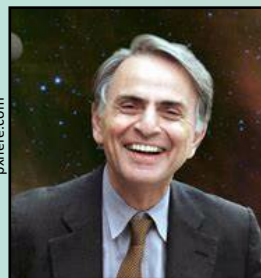


**\*For a detailed article about the amino acids found by the Hayabusa 2 probe, see: [www.creation.com/asteroid](http://www.creation.com/asteroid)**

## NO LUCK IN LOCATING LUCA!

According to *Astrobiology.nasa.gov/news*<sup>1</sup> “Around 4 billion years ago there lived a microbe called LUCA – the Last Universal Common Ancestor. There is evidence that it could have lived a somewhat ‘alien’ lifestyle, hidden away deep underground in iron-sulfur rich hydrothermal vents. Anaerobic and autotrophic, it didn’t breath air and made its own food from the dark, metal-rich environment around it. Its metabolism depended upon hydrogen, carbon dioxide and nitrogen, turning them into organic compounds such as ammonia. Most remarkable of all, this little microbe was the beginning of a long lineage that encapsulates all life on Earth. If we trace the tree of life far enough back in time, we come to find that we’re all related to LUCA.” 1. 30th March 2017.

**“It has left no known fossil remains, nor any other physical clues to its identity.”**



Another science article claimed: “Every living thing on Earth - from humans to bacteria, from bluebells to blue whales - is thought to be descended from one single entity, a sort of primitive cell floating around in the primordial soup three or four billion years ago. So what did it look like? How did it live, and where? Named the “last universal common ancestor”, or LUCA for short, it has left no known fossil remains, nor any other physical clues to its identity.” —*New Scientist* 31st August 2005.

The late atheistic cosmologist Carl Sagan (left) once said: “Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.” The claim that all life on earth evolved from LUCA is an extraordinary claim for which there is no solid evidence at all. It’s a “just-so” story!

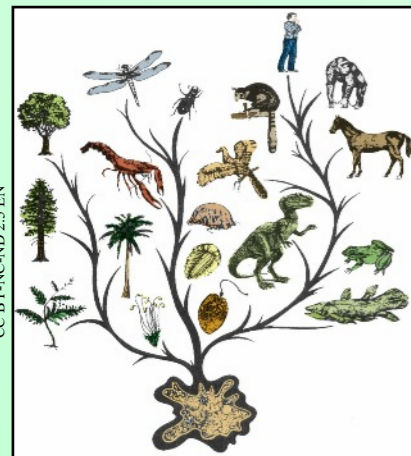
## A PICTURE OF LUCA\*

?

**\*Sorry —we couldn’t show a picture because no-one has ever seen it, and there’s no evidence it ever existed!**

## NO “FINELY GRADUATED CHAIN”

The article quoted above claims: “If we trace the tree of life far enough back in time, we come to find that we’re all related to LUCA.” But can we really trace our ancestry back in time to a common ancestor? The answer is a categorical

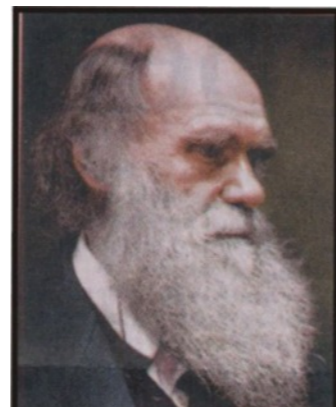


“No!” There is no continuous line of fossils to link us to some imaginary common ancestor. The evolutionists’ “tree of life” (left) isn’t really a tree at all, but a collection of unconnected limbs, as many evolutionists have admitted — including Charles Darwin himself (right). The late Prof. Stephen J Gould complained that the failure to find fossil links was “the most puzzling fact of the fossil record.”<sup>1</sup> And well-known evolutionist Prof. Steve Jones wrote: “The fossil record — in defiance of Darwin’s whole idea of gradual change — often makes great leaps from one form to the next. Far from the display of intermediates to be expected from slow advance through natural selection,

many species appear without warning, persist in fixed form and disappear, leaving no descendants.”<sup>2</sup>

So belief in a Universal Common Ancestor is based on faith. It is just as scientific to believe that “in the beginning God created.”<sup>3</sup>

1. *Natural History* 93(2):14–23, Feb. 1984. 2. *Almost Like a Whale*, Doubleday, 1999.  
3. *The Bible*, Genesis 1, verse 1.

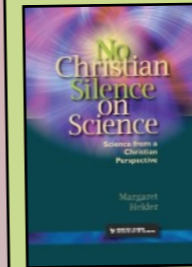


‘The number of intermediate varieties which have formerly existed must have been enormous. Why then is not every geological formation full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated chain; and this, perhaps, is the most serious objection which can be urged against my theory.’ —Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species*, 1859.

## BIBLE-BELIEVING SCIENTISTS

### Dr Margaret Helder, Botanist

Dr Margaret Helder holds a Ph.D. in Botany from Western University in London, Ontario (Canada). She was hired as Assistant Professor in Biosciences at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. From 1998-2012 she lectured by invitation at classes at the University of Alberta annually or bi-annually. When required to lecture in an evolutionary course, Dr Helder provided her students with the conflicting opinions which evolutionists held. She recalls, “It was apparent to the students that theories about plant evolution are fraught with problems.”



Her technical publications include articles in the *Canadian Journal of Botany*, and Chapter 19 in ‘Recent Advances in Aquatic Mycology’ (E. B. Gareth Jones, editor. 1976). Her scientific achievements include describing and naming a species of aquatic fungus new to science, *Chytridium deltanum*. More recently she authored *No Christian Silence on Science* (2016) which promotes critical evaluation of scientific claims, and in which she shows that all

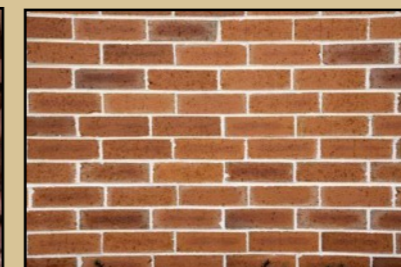
scientists have presuppositions that affect the questions they ask and how they interpret their results. She highlights the evidence of intelligent design in nature, and gives example after example of things that, by their very nature, are irreducibly complex and could never have evolved. Using recent scientific discoveries, she shows the importance of identifying assumptions, of asking questions, and of learning to look critically at interpretations of data. She concludes that “science, when critically evaluated, does not threaten a biblical understanding of how we came to be here.”

Dr Helder has also written a 41-page guide to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Alberta, Canada, in which she discusses the exhibits in the museum and points readers to creation and the flood as the best explanation for the fossils displayed there. Using a portable tape player, people can tour the museum listening to her alternative commentary on the exhibits. (For more about Dr Helder, see [creation.com/dr-margaret-helder](http://creation.com/dr-margaret-helder))

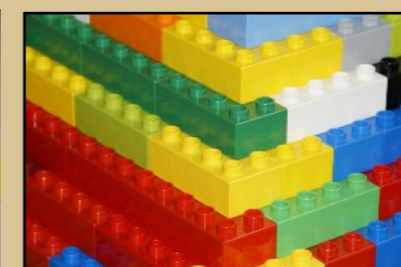


## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

The discovery of amino acids — wrongly described as the “building blocks of life” — on an asteroid, has caused some excitement, with some suggesting this supports the theory that life arose by chance in the beginning. However, chemical reactions are not life. And it is chemical reactions that form amino acids. They are not life, any more than a pile of bricks is a building.



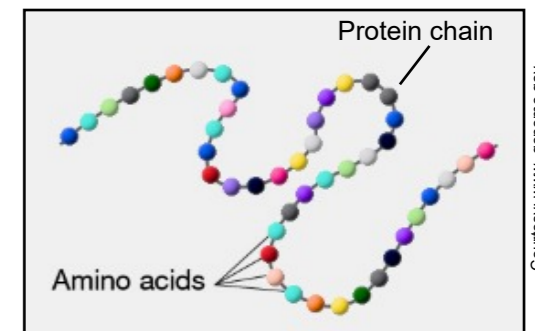
There is a clear difference between a collection of bricks or Lego pieces and a final construction. Neither would be possible without intelligent design and planning.



## NO CHANCE

As we have discovered, amino acids, though essential to life, are not really the “building blocks of life”, but the building blocks of *proteins*, the major ingredient of cells. If amino acids did form from chemicals in some “primeval soup” millions of years ago, they would have had to clump together to form proteins. And they would have to be joined in a *precise* sequence, not a random arrangement.

Scientists have been able to link amino acids in the laboratory to assemble some small proteins, but amino acids will not remain joined together in water, so proteins could never have formed by chance in oceans on the early earth.



Courtesy: www.genome.gov