



ETCSA

East Tennessee Creation Science Association

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Anableps tetrophthalmus "Four Eyes"

Anableps tetrophthalmus belongs to the numerous groups of fish called minnows. This little fish has four eyes. It lives in tropical fresh water in Central and South America and reaches a maximum size of approximately twelve inches, though the average is around eight inches. He spends most of his life swimming along the surface of the water with two eyes above, two below. It is designed so each set of eyes can see under entirely different conditions.

Not only does he have two separate corneas (the tough transparent membrane of the eyeball, covering the iris and the pupil), but even separate retinas (delicate, multilayered, light-sensitive membranes lining the inner eyeball and connected by the optic nerve to the brain) in the back of the eyes. Any object seen out of the water is viewed through his special air-viewing eyes, flattened much like the human eye lens and transmitted to his lower retina. But objects he sees under the

water are viewed through an oval shaped eye and is seen through the under cornea and brought into focus on the upper retina.

Ichthyologists first wondered whether its extra set of eyes were for capturing food. But extensive observation indicated they are purely for defense - for spotting predators and escaping potential enemies.

Anableps tetrophthalmus has fantastic jumping ability. When his below-the-waterline-eyes spot an approaching predator, he leaps clear out of the water.

How did it develop those four eyes?

If pre-Anableps were forced by natural selection to develop their extra set of eyes (which would have taken an innumerable number of years) in order to survive, then how were they able to survive without them? If they needed to develop two other eyes to survive - weren't they taking the hard way? Why stay at the surface where they are so

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DEVOTIONAL SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:18). We are in a state of spiritual warfare. This is made clear in a remarkable passage (vv.10-18) on the spiritual armor of the believer, equipping him for the great battles he must fight. A glimpse of this warfare also can be seen in Daniel 10. When Daniel prayed, God

sent the answer immediately, but it was twenty-one days before the angel conveying the answer got to Daniel. The answer was hindered by the "prince of the kingdom of Persia" (Daniel 10:13), even though Daniel, himself, was situated in Persia. The implication is that key emissaries of Satan (not flesh and blood) (Ephesians 6:12) rule over each geographic area of the world.

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Special points of interest:

- June meeting: 22nd, 7:00 PM, Fireside Room, First Baptist, Concord
- July meeting: 20th, 7:00 PM, Fireside Room, First Baptist, Concord
- August meeting: 17th, 7:00 PM, Fireside Room, First Baptist, Concord
- We have books, videos and tapes for sale! Check out our website for more details: www.etsa.org/

"Startling Stars"

source: Science News, 9/18/99, p180

The next Astrophysical Journal Letters will have the results of a team looking for dark matter in our galaxy. Back in the 70's astronomers realized that we couldn't find enough objects in the galaxy with enough gravity to hold the Milky Way together for more than about 250 thousand years. There's been a lot of guessing as to where is this extra gravity. Black holes, neutrinos; you name it.

They had to assume that a lot of it was in the galactic halo (a spherical area of space around our entire galaxy). Now, 15 faint objects in the halo have been identified as white dwarf stars. A halo full of these could account for maybe half the "missing mass."

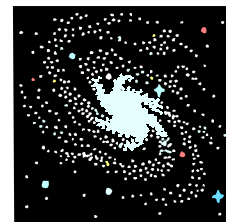
This is a problem. According to stellar evolution the-

ory, these dwarfs should put out a lot of carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen into the space around them. There's not enough of these elements in the halo. Plus, it looks like galaxies really can't have that many white dwarfs, anyway.

Halo dwarfs as the missing mass? Bohdan Paczynski of Princeton says it's "trading one set of difficulties for another that is equally as difficult." I wonder why.

Could it be that the galaxy really would fall apart long before 12 billion years; and that it's really a lot younger? Keep thinking.

Sam Fox



*How old is
the Milky
Way?*

ROSE (from John Mackay's email newsletter)

GENETIC BLUES as 10 years ago genetic engineers set out to produce a blue rose by transferring a gene from a purple petunia that codes for an enzyme used to make a blue pigment (delphinidin) (New Scientist, 22/5/99 p7). However it seems that more than one enzyme is needed to produce blue roses. In roses the delphinidin pigment seems to be masked by already existing pigments or altered by acids in the petals. Yet delphinidin does turn White carnations purple and these 'unnatural' plants are now available in flower shops.



*A rose is a
rose is a
rose....*

Ed. Com: This kind of genetic manipulation reminds us that God programmed information into living things and made them to multiply after their kind. Carnations and roses were not given blue genes so no amount of breeding could produce blue flowers. Genetic engineers had to find the information for blue colour in other flowers and then, by intelligent manipulation, transfer it to roses and carnations. When all is said and done, the Purple carnation is still a carnation and the hoped for blue rose will still be a rose. (Ref. genetic engineering - rose)

Dan Schobert Quote

[A] story reminds me of the need to begin creation-evolution discussions at the proper point. When those who advocate the evolutionary perspective start, they must begin with nothing existing...and explain how, from nothing, we have something. At the start there can be an absolute emptiness, not something out there but nothing...which, in itself, is pretty hard to define because once you try to define

nothing, it becomes something. Nevertheless, they have to either explain something from nothing, or explain how something like an eternal universe could come to exist. these are not scientific questions but are related to a person's view on reality. Eventually it becomes: what do you want to believe? Everything from nothing, or everything from God. Your choice.

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vulnerable to fish below and to predators from above? Why not swim toward the mud on the bottom and hide in caverns, under rocks, etc...Why not begin feeding down deeper in water? And if the extra set of eyes were not needed to survive, then why would they develop and by what forces could they develop?

Let us assume for the moment for the sake of argument, however, that they acquired an extra set of eyes, after hundreds of thousands of years, through mutations, reproduction and natural selection. What about its tiny nervous system? It too would have had to evolve or it long ago would have died out. How many millions of years did it take their retinas to follow their corneas? They would have to be able to sort out the double-images.

Evolutionists maintain that the entire characteristics did indeed develop together. But the odds are insurmountable. How can a blind and automatic sifting process like selection, operating on a blind and undirected process like mutation, produce organs like the eye or the brain, with their almost incredible complexity and delicacy of adjustment.

How can chance produce elaborate design? In a word, are they not asking us to believe too much? The answer is no! All this is not too much to believe, once one has grasped the manner the process operates. A little calculation demonstrates how incredibly improbable the results of natural selection can be when enough time is available. A proportion of favorable mutations of one in a thousand may not sound like much, but is probably generous, since so many mutations are lethal, pre-

venting the organism living at all, and the great majority of the rest throw the machinery slightly out of gear. And a total of a million mutational steps sounds a great deal, but it is probably an underestimate - after all, that only means one step every 2,000 years during biological time as a whole.

However, let us take these figures as being reasonable estimates. With this proportion, but without any selection, we should clearly have to breed 1000 strains to get one with one favorable mutation; one million strains to get one containing two favorable mutations, etc...up to 1000 to the millionth power to get one containing a million.

Of course, this could not really happen, but it is a useful way of visualizing the fantastic odds against getting a number of favorable mutations in

one strain through pure chance alone. 1000 to the millionth power, when written out, becomes the figure 1 with 3 million zeros after it:

and that would take three large volumes of about 500 pages each, just to print.

Stop and think. Look up information about eyes. Study the complexity of the eyes of fish. Look at the number of cones and rods, the shape of the different fishes' eyes, oils, lids and films used to cover them. The eyes function perfectly for specific and set purposes.

Is it a convenient accident that the Anableps has such a complex and intricate defense system or was it designed?

Mark Stewart

How can chance produce elaborate design?

QUOTES

"Men became scientific because they expected Law in Nature, and they expected Law in Nature because they believed in a Legislator. In most modern scientists this belief has died: it will be interesting to see how long their confidence in uniformity survives it. Two significant developments have already appeared - the hypothesis of a lawless sub-nature, and the surrender of the claim that science is true. We may be living nearer than we suppose to the end of the Scientific Age."

M. D. Aeschliman C. S. Lewis on *Mere Science* 1998 First Things 86 (October, 1998): 16-18.

"The more this country struggles to free itself from religion, the more we become entangled in the consequences. If people are taught that they came from slime, the obvious questions and consequences must follow:

- * What is the purpose of my existence [hopelessness],
- * Who made you the boss of me [lawlessness],
- * Why are your rules good and mine bad [relativism],
- * What does it matter how I live if I came from slime and return to slime [immorality and inhumanity]?"

--Joyce Minor, Asst. Director of Development and Alumni Relations, University of Alabama School of Law

Genuine science has not somehow falsified religion, but it was the goal of scientific intellectuals to fool the public into believing it had. Jeremy Beer in *The Intercollegiate Review*

Chandra Wickramasinghe in "Evolution from Space" said "The likelihood of the spontaneous formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with 40,000 noughts after it...It is big enough to bury Darwin and the whole theory of evolution."

Dennis Petersen offers a delightful definition of evolution: Unknown chemicals in the primordial past, through unknown processes which no longer exist, produced unknown life forms which are not to be found, but could through unknown reproduction methods spawn new life in an unknown atmospheric composition in an unknown oceanic soup completed at an unknown time and place.

Dr. Wilder Smith, with three Ph.Ds, gave us these interesting equations. : Evolution: matter and energy, plus time, lots of it, throw in the mechanism of change and you're going to get life. Creation: matter plus energy plus intelligence equals life.

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We're on the Web!
www.etcsa.org/



ETCSA

“Set in the Defense of Creation Science”

ORIGINS CONFERENCE

The dates for Origins 2000 at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee are July 17-21, 2000.

See www.bryan.edu/origins2000 for more info!



ROAD TRIP!!

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Not one inch of progress will be uncontested by Satan and his cohorts. Paul warns of the “wiles” (v.11) of Satan, which mean stratagems or specific plans directed toward each of us. In other words, Satan tailors his attacks to fit each person. The hierarchy within the Satanic organization is mentioned as well (v.12). Remember that we are also fighting a countless host of demons and fallen angels who are now in league with Satan. Since we are in a very real war, we need to be dressed in full armor. In this passage, the only unprotected part is the back. This surely implies that we must not turn and run. We must also note where the battle is being fought. This information is given in verse 18. The first activity mentioned, once we have donned the armor, is PRAYER. The place and time of prayer will be the focal point of the battle. However, we can go into battle knowing that we are not alone (v.18 tells us the Spirit is there). Satan is already defeated. Remember, “greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4).
JGH, ICR