



Lungfish by Mark Stewart

Evolution assures us all life, just as we know it today, evolved gradually. But if it did, how did it?

The Lungfish is a fish and yet he breathes air into a set of perfect lungs and more than that, he estivates.

Lungfish look somewhat like an eel and spend their lives in the lakes and mud flats of South America and Africa. They have the remarkable ability to estivate, that is, to lie dormant, for months and even years, at a time in dry mud, waiting for the next rainy season to again fill their shallow lake with water. There is one species in Australia which cannot estivate.

But how could these other five species "gradually acquire" such a fantastic ability? How could estivation be gradually acquired? How did a fish ever contrive to grow a pair of lungs?

Lungfish range in size from one recorded giant of 6 feet long and weighing 100 pounds to the maximum average size of about 2 and 1/2 feet.

Evolution asserts these fish gradually

grew a set of lungs and gradually acquired the ability to lie dormant in dry ground, for months at a time.

According to evolutionary theory lungfishes belong to the ancient order of the diproans - fishes with both gills and lungs. They date back to the middle of the Devonian, they say, when ponds and streams began to dry up and many fishes died. The lungfishes were not only able to breathe air but to travel from mud puddle to mud puddle on padlike fins. Eventually, they say, they acquired the ability to lie dormant in the mud, where they waited for the seasonal rains.

But how do such remarkable abilities - such intricate - designs - just "evolve" gradually?

Ever study into lungs? First, breathing is a combination of voluntary and involuntary action.

How could such a marvelous mechanism as the lung, with its millions of tiny globules of thin membrane, or "air sacs" with

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Special points of interest:

• *January Meeting: 18th, 6:30 PM, First Baptist, Concord, Fireside Room*

• *February Meeting: 22nd, 6:30 PM, First Baptist, Concord, Fireside Room*

• *March Meeting: 15th, 6:30 PM, First Baptist, Concord, Fireside Room*

• *We have books, videos and tapes for sale! Check out our website for more details: www.etcsa.org/*

SURVIVAL OF THE UNFIT - DEVOTIONAL

"Ye were . . . redeemed . . . with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:18,19).

Darwin's theory contemplates survival of the fittest and death to the unfit. God's truth proclaims the opposite! Jesus, the fittest of all ("without blemish and without spot") and sustainer of the entire universe (Colossians 1:17b), died so that the unfit might survive! See Him on the pages of Scripture reaching

out to the blind, lame, and dumb; see the compassion of One who cared for those blemished with leprous spots; see Him stop a funeral procession and raise the dead! May we bow our hearts in praise of such a Savior!

He offered His "precious blood" to redeem unfit people like us. He took death upon Himself so that blemished sinners might survive and experience eternal life. Even death was unable

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Every Dog has his Day (in court)

US News & World Report, 9/20/99, p19

The animal rights folks have announced that an ape will soon take the witness stand in a court of law, in order to give apes the status of "persons" under the constitution. The ape will use a voice synthesizer in order to testify.

What's wrong with this picture? Aren't apes animals? Yes, they ought to be protected by law, just like any other endangered species; but are they persons? This is just one example of the possible extrapolations from evolutionary thinking.

Harvard law professor Steven Wise says that once apes are declared to have rights, then the legal status of other animals may be decided. If you believe in evolution, this makes a lot of common sense. After all, apes (and all life forms) would actually be our cousin species, and should be seen as equal to all humans, legally. Keep thinking. Sam Fox (aka Glenn Jackson)



Darwin Day 2001 Schedule

Monday, 5 February at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 8029 Kingston Pike (confirmed) □ 7:00 PM *Theatre Talk - A Discussion of Media and the Theatre*, Doug Mason, Entertainment writer for the Knoxville News Sentinel; **Friday, 9 February** at the Clarence Brown Theatre (confirmed) □ 6:00 PM *Keynote Address - (title tba)* Ed Larson, author of the Pulitzer-prize winning book "Summer for the Gods"; *Teachers' Workshop, Monday, 12 February 2001, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, (registration begins at 5:30 PM), University of Tennessee, University Center, Shiloh Room*; 5th Annual Darwin Day Keynote Lecture: "Never Say Uncle: Creationism and Intelligent Design" by Dr. Barry Palevitz, University of Georgia, Where: Clarence Brown Theatre, When: **13 February 2001, 6pm**, More info: <http://fp.bio.utk.edu/darwin/>; **Tuesday, 13 February** □ 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Information Booth - UC lobby □ 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Documentary Videos - UC room 221 (schedule tba) □ 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Book Display - UC bookstore **Wednesday, 14 February** at the Clarence Brown Theatre (tentative) □ 6:00 PM *Debate: "The Merits of Intelligent Design Theory"* (tentative) Jonathan Wells, Discovery Institute, Seattle; Massimo Pigliucci, University of Tennessee **Thursday, 15 February** at the Clarence Brown Theatre (tentative) □ 6:00 PM *Keynote Address - "The First Amendment, the Scopes Trial, and Beyond"* Lloyd Cutler, senior partner at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in Washington, D.C. and counsel to several presidents over the last two decades.

Points to Ponder by Kent Hovind

Continued from last month...

14. The Bible says that the highest mountains were covered by 15 cubits of water. This is half the height of the ark. The ark was safe from scraping bottom at all times.

15. The large mountains, as we have them today, did not exist until after the Flood when "the mountains arose and the valleys sank down" (Ps. 104:5-9, Gen. 8:3-8).

16. There is enough water in the oceans right now to cover the earth 8,000 feet deep if the surface of the earth were smooth.

17. Many claim to have seen the ark in recent times in the area in which the Bible says it landed. There are two primary schools of thought about the actual site of the ark (see my *Creation Seminar Part 2* video for more on this). Much energy and time has been expended to prove both views. Some believe the ark is on Mt. Ararat, covered by snow (CBS showed a one-hour special in 1993 about this site). The other group believes the ark is seventeen miles south of Mt. Ararat in

a valley called "the valley of eight" (8 souls on the ark). The Bible says the ark landed in the "mountains" of Ararat, not necessarily on the mountain itself.

18. The continents were not separated until 100-300 years after the Flood (Gen. 10:25). The people and animals had time to migrate anywhere on earth by then.

19. The top 3,000 feet of Mt. Everest (from 26,000-29,000 feet) is made up of sedimentary rock packed with seashells and other ocean-dwelling animals.

20. Sedimentary rock is found all over the world. Sedimentary rock is formed in water.

21. Petrified clams in the closed position (found all over the world) testify to their rapid burial while they were still alive.

22. Bent rock layers, fossil graveyards, and poly-strata [through multiple layers] are best explained by a Flood.

23. People choose to not believe in the Flood because it speaks of the judgement of God on sin (2 Pet. 3:3-8). From Kent Hovind's *Seminar Notebook* (1998 ed.), pp19-20.

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the labyrinth of air tubes, sensory nerves, interlocking arteries and blood vessels, bronchial tubes, esophagus, etc. develop gradually?

Are there any half-lungs/half-gills around today? Are there any partly functional lungs and gills? Of course not!

Evolution asserts however that the processes cannot be observed in action, because they require such infinite lengths of time. The speculate various human organs, such as the appendix/tonsils are "carryovers" from some remote time. The Fact is they really don't know.

Let's take a look at the facts:

Every creature must exist on oxygen. By whatever means in any specific case, they must "breathe". There is no such thing as an imperfect partly developed, halfway method of receiving that oxygen supply. Each creature in order to survive, even moments/minutes/hours/ must continually recharge his supply of life-giving oxygen!

There is no such thing as an imperfect or partly formed, or inadequate, gill. Either it produces air for the fish, and the fish survives, or it does not. If it does not, then he won't be around very long! If it does, then the fish survived, whatever the span of time that survival took.

Let us suppose there was such a thing as an imperfect breathing apparatus and the fish could live only for a certain number of days; Which would be easier? To develop better gills? To develop better lungs? Still better, why not "gradually" develop a much shorter life span, mate, spawn and die all within a few hours and let the eggs become entrapped in the mud and hatch when the rains begin once again. But none of these occur. If any development could occur it would have had to have been immediate! or it would have perished. There is no fossil evidence of any pre-lung fish with an imperfect fin or lung.

If the intermediate species are missing because they were not so well "equipped to survive" then it would naturally follow there would be far more of such creatures in the fossil record than the "equipped" or "fully developed" ones. Why? If they were not equipped to survive, they would have all died. If they did there would be billions and billions of them, because there had to be enormously more intermediate stages than the "final" or "well-developed" ones.

Instead of perfectly formed fossils, looking, in most cases, exactly like life on earth today, and no intermediate species - the fossils would abound with "intermediate" species, and would be almost vacant of the developed ones. One of the most obvious, simple, and shockingly damaging evidences against evolutionary thought is the total absence of intermediate species - living or dead.

We read that lungfish were not only able to breath air, but to travel from mud puddle to mud puddle on paddle like fins. Eventually they acquired the ability to lie dormant in the mud, where they waited for the seasonal rains. But how did the ancestors of lungfish first become able to breathe air?

Evolution tells us that they swallowed air and it passed through the intestinal tract and was regurgitated. Or that the air was swallowed so that oxygen would be absorbed

through the moist skin in the mouth and throat. Later these pre-lungfish developed this new breathing idea into lungs. Some were the ancestors of birds and mammals - by the way of the amphibians and reptiles and for those that remained in the water, this lung became an airfloat by which fishes improved their swimming. We are told that it was able to travel - over-land, from mud puddle to mud puddle on paddle-like fins.

How did he locate each puddle? Did he have some built-in navigational equipment? Was it smell?

How was he able to tell the next puddle was going to be deeper than the one he left, and therefore last longer? and why travel anyway? If he is able to estimate, there would be no reason. But he does and it can be a perilous journey especially if he meets up a predator. This is only a small part of the many problems that Evolution must face.

The fact is the lungfish is perfectly designed for his specific job in his own environment. Let's use the African lungfish species as an example:

When the dry seasons come to the Congo Basin, or the Gambi River, or the equatorial rivers of East Africa, the fish squirms into the ooze nose first, and then turns back upward, so his nose can be just below the surface, and close enough to breathe, now and then.

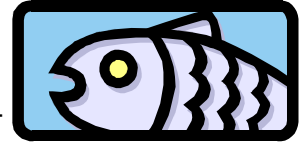
But as the lake gradually sinks in level, the fish keeps squirming further into the thickening mud, until his repeated surfacing for a breath creates a sort of cavity, or little air bubble, in the mud, which, as it hardens, is kept open on top by the fish's wriggling and breathing.

As the water dries up completely the fish can continue to breathe through a little blow hole at the top of the bulb-like cavity, without moving. Meanwhile, it has curled in such a way as to cover its delicate eyes with its slimy tail, with only its nose peaking out. Its body has been specially equipped with a slimy secretion, like mucous. As the muddy cocoon dries, this slime hardens into a parchment-like, waterproof cocoon that completely encases the body, so that the only opening remaining is a short little funnel where the fish is breathing.

But the lungfish, though he breathes, and estivates in remarkable fashion, is not an ordinary "air-breathing mammal". If unwrapped from his parchment-like covering and his muddy cocoon, he will die within only hours. During his estivation period, the fish lives off his own fat! His whole body metabolism slows down to a near standstill, with his breathing rate becoming slower and slower. He may take one breath every few hours in the deepest part of his estivation period.

His little heart slows down to three beats a minute and is able to remain safely enclosed for up to a record of seven years long!

When the rain comes and as the water first drains into the blowhole and fills up the pocket, it is unable to breathe.



...the lungfish is perfectly designed for his specific job in his own environment.

East Tennessee Creation Science Association

216 Paint Rock Road
Kingston, TN 37763

Contacts:

Kent: 376-5186 or kentsie@etcsa.org

Pam: Pjmassey63@aol.com

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



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The sudden cutting off of his oxygen supply causes him to awaken and make convulsive efforts to free himself. The tail uncurls from the head and the fish struggles upward. As the water immediately softens the top of his blowhole, he immediately struggles to the surface for air and goes about his search for tiny plant and insect life. Could all of this have evolved?

The lungfish is perfectly designed to do exactly as he is doing - designed for a specific environment, a particular place in the delicate balance in what man calls "nature". This creature is only one more example among millions of design - that incredible intricacy and interdependence that goes into every living creature.

Mark Stewart



When the rain
comes ... [the
lungfish] is un-
able to breathe.

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to hold this One in its grip. Jesus proved His fitness over death itself! “The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted” (Psalm 18:46).

Some have tried to further evolution along the supposed path to evolutionary advancement, but the redeemed follow a different path. May we who were once unfit—blemished with sinful spots but now washed in His precious blood, follow the lead of the Fittest-of-All by extending our hearts and hands to those who are not surviving very well. May we go to hospitals, love and adopt deformed children, care for the poor, and feed the starving. May we share the best news of all—that the Fittest came into this world so that the unfit might survive for an eternity with Him in heaven.

Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28–30). Paul G. Humber, M.S.