

Article for English Corner Discussion

Article: 6-1 Darwin's Missing Link

Darwin's theory of evolution (达尔文进化理论) assumed (假定) two different evolution processes: **microevolution** (微进化) and **macroevolution** (宏观进化). His micro-evolutionary theory states that variations (变化) within a species (物种: cats, dogs, humans, etc.) can produce radical (根本的) changes over time. It is the scientific account of why the living world comes in so many shapes and sizes. Darwin believed that overpopulation (过度繁殖) of a species creates food shortages (缺少), so life advances by **survival of the fittest** (适者生存).

We have observed examples of microevolution in which variations exist within a species. But there is **no** evidence supporting macroevolution. Darwin's claim of macroevolution – for struggle to survival one species evolving into another species. Darwin championed the idea of favorable mutations. (有利的突变) That is, the DNA (遗传基因) of an organism (有机生物) would, on rare occasions, mutate favorably, which over time would lead to other favorable mutations, and the next thing you know. Darwin assumed that life advanced over time from one-celled creatures (单细胞) all the way to humankind (人类). Certainly there should be many millions of transitional fossils (过渡时期化石), since it is estimated that over a billion species have existed in Earth's history. For the past 150 years paleontologists (古生物学家) have been busy digging, classifying, and looking for these transitional fossils in a worldwide hunt (寻找). Billions of fossils representing about 250,000 species have been scrutinized (详细检查). Does the fossil evidence support Darwin's theory of macroevolution? If it does, the missing links Darwin predicted should no longer be missing.

We commence our fossil search with the mysterious (不了思议的) Cambrian period (寒武记时期), an era (时期) geologists (地质学家) date at around 530 million years ago. Suddenly, complex (复杂) life-forms with fully developed eyes appeared during the Cambrian period. It has been called by some “biology's big

bang (生物大爆炸).” 人民日报(海外版)在 1995 年 7 月 19 日文章 “向进化论挑战的云南澄江化石” (详情请看”游子吟”第 191 页) Only fossils for simple life-forms have been discovered from the time prior to the Cambrian period. Then, suddenly, the fossil record is shown with more complex life-forms than exist today. It is called the “Cambrian Explosion (寒武记大爆炸).” What paleontologists find in the Cambrian explosion is the appearance of 50 completely different body types without prior transitions or predecessors (祖先). Darwin staked his entire theory (他的理论全部下赌在) on the belief that a species could never suddenly appear. He said, “If numerous species, belonging to the same families, have really started into life at once, that fact would be fatal to the theory of evolution (对进化论是致命打击) through natural selection.” Yet complex body organs such as eyes suddenly appeared during the Cambrian period. The trilobite (三叶虫) eye has dozens of complex tubes, each with its own intricate lens (复杂眼球). Darwin predicted that transitional fossil (过渡化石) discoveries would eventually prove his theory right. Stephen Gould, a staunch advocate (坚决维护者) of evolution said: “We do not know why the Cambrian explosion could establish all major anatomical designs (生理结构) so quickly. The Cambrian explosion (寒武记生物大爆炸) was the most remarkable (奇特) and puzzling (困惑) event in the history of life.” Although the Cambrian explosion doesn't disprove Darwin's theory, it certainly does raise a huge question mark. (The source of this article is from Wikipedia encyclopedia)

2. Discussion:

1. Tell us “What is Darwin's Evolution Theory”
2. A theory without prove is still a theory, should we believe a theory as a fact?
3. Is there any other alternative to Darwin's evolution theory?

3. Proverb:

Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth and the life” (Gospel of John 14:6)