

## Essay for "Evolution Exposed" Contest 2007

Creation vs. Evolution is a very important discussion, due to its' foundational nature. I thank AiG for the opportunity to participate in this dramatic contest!

I chose the topic of natural selection because it is a fundamental problem with Evolutionary theory. Although I knew it would be difficult writing, I realized it was critical to present a first-class argument if the paper were to affect Evolutionists. Philosophical ponderings and hypothetical scenarios are often shrugged off with little care by those who wish to do so.

The research impacted me greatly as well. I realized that Evolution is not only against reason and scientific evidence, it is actually self-contradictory.

Pastor Tony Romo was encouraged by my paper and my participation in this contest. I also explained the thesis to my great-uncle Roger Magnuson, a pastor and prominent lawyer in Minneapolis. My friend, Moses Hackett, and his father, Mark, likewise appreciated the material. My Dad, an ordained minister, discussed the paper with me extensively and stated that it was a welcome challenge to examine Evolution once more in an in-depth way.

This paper is intended to be further refined and used as a springboard to encourage people to trust in God, not non-functional, disabled "science" based on fallible conjectures and assumptions.

*Rev. Roy G. Magnuson*

*R. Josiah Magnuson*

*ROY MAGNUSON*

*April 16, 2007*

*Porta M. Hackett*

*MARK HACKETT*

*I know Josiah has been discussing and preparing this paper with us and the home-schooled children in our home, as well as a couple of other pastors. His best friend Moses has read it but is not available to sign his name. Thanks for the contest! Roy Magnuson*

Excellent paper Josiah  
on a number of levels -  
esp. scientific, historical and grammatical  
thank you for the hard work. A+

## Survival of the Functional

How Natural Selection Kills Darwinian Evolution

By R. Josiah Magnuson

### Introduction

Today, there are those who believe that all of life, and in fact everything which we observe in the natural world, can be explained by chance, random processes acting within the confines of scientific Law over billions of years of time. This explanation for the universe is known as Evolution, and forms the philosophical framework for many basic propositions of our culture.

Good Intro.

However, such an explanation falls far short. In actuality, it is a self-contradictory idea. As stated in the recently published book, *Evolution Exposed*, "[One] cannot expect Evolution, which requires a net gain in information over millions of years, to occur as a result of mutation and natural selection. Natural selection, Evolution's supposed mechanism, causes a loss of information and can only act on traits that are already present."<sup>1</sup> Hence, there is no way Evolution can create completely new functions. Though it may modify existing systems, the process of natural selection, even in combination with mutations, has no inventive capacity. This is true because new functions require many components of a system, which are often inter-dependent and must exist simultaneously for the system to operate.



Evolution is impossible because natural selection would have had to select in favor of less-fit organisms, possessing uselessly isolated components, in order to gradually compose the inter-dependently functional systems and organic information

Make your  
thesis smoother.  
eliminate "ly" and  
add comma.

which may be observed today.

← God strong subject...  
This statement is a bit wordy tho. Try to strengthen it more. Simplify. Perhaps try breaking it up into 2 sentences

### I. Natural Selection Defined

The idea of natural selection came twenty-four years before Darwin's book *The Origin of the Species* was published, and was developed independent of the Evolutionary model of origins. Natural selection was first discovered and researched by Edward Blyth between the years 1835 and 1837.<sup>2</sup>

✓

There was a key difference between Blyth's theory of natural selection and Darwin's modification, however. Darwin believed random mutations working with such a system could produce new organisms, whereas Blyth believed that new organisms would have to be designed by intelligence. ~~As~~ Blyth stated in a 1835 article in the *Magazine of Natural History*, "There has been, strangely enough, a difference of opinion among naturalists, as to whether these seasonal changes of colour [in rabbits] were intended by Providence as an adaptation to change of temperature, or as a means of preserving the various species from the observation of their foes, by adapting their hues to the colour of the surface; against which latter opinion it has been plausibly enough argued, that 'nature provides for the prey as well as for the prey.' The fact is, they answer *both* purposes; and they are among those striking instances of *design*, which so clearly and forcibly attest the existence of an omniscient great First Cause."<sup>3</sup> Edward Blyth saw nothing in natural selection that could provide for the creation of completely new organisms.

✓

Great quote and observation.

A pro-Evolution source even admits, "Edward Blyth had also published a natural selection theory in 1837, but he argued against transmutation of species because if it

✓

occurred it would destroy species' integrity: 'we should seek in vain for those constant and invariable distinctions which are found to obtain.'"<sup>4</sup> In other words, Blyth believed there were some characteristics inherent to every organism which made each organism what it was, and these would never be changed. He believed in fact that natural selection contributed to this reality. Blyth saw natural selection as a system to conserve existing organisms, and keep them from becoming extinct.



To illustrate his view, let us describe the scenario in which natural selection progresses. First, the environment in which a kind of organism resides undergoes an ecological change. This event requires an organism to obtain greater resources for its survival. Some individuals in the group of organisms cannot cope with the different conditions, and are ultimately excluded from the life cycle. Small subsets in the group which have the best variations from the average survive to reproduce and keep the class of organisms itself alive and intact.<sup>5</sup>

Good illustration  
and  
prep for  
transition  
to next pt.  
social

Why might Edward Blyth have seen a limit to how far this chain of events could go? Can a class of organisms over time change into an entirely different class of organisms?

More carefully  
show relationship  
of 2nd ques. to  
the first or you  
weaken your  
progress  
or at least  
slow it  
down  
unnecessary

## II. Natural Selection Distorted

The Evolutionary model of origins teaches that natural selection, coupled with random mutations and millions of years of natural processes, can indeed form many new and marvelous constructions. Alleged to have come about through this organic system is everything from photosynthesis to human mathematical calculation.

Entire functions are gradually invented, as dinosaurs develop flight, fish walk, and

pig-like creatures gradually become elephants and woolly mammoths. The very first life-form would have been a type of single-celled creature which could have formed at some ancient point in prehistory through a chance arrangement of organic compounds. This life-form became able to reproduce itself and did so. Later, more variations began to occur in the structure of the life-form; and these began the life-form's upward development into other organisms, through the process of natural selection and mutations which we have described. Evolution is alleged to work step-by step, with the components and functions of every living thing acting as parts in a transition to a completely new composition and functionality, and thus to ever-new types of organisms themselves.<sup>6</sup>



The Evolutionary model offers an explanation for life on Earth which does not involve intelligence or hyper-dimensional activity.<sup>7</sup> It attempts to provide a self-existent or naturalistic cause for natural things. But does the Evolutionary system actually contain the glorious scientific luster often ascribed to it?

### III. Natural Selection and Design

Natural selection, due to new developments in scientific observation, in fact poses an unusual problem for Evolutionary theory.

Great, simple  
intro  
and  
example(s)

One example of this problem may be seen in the reproduction and re-creation of systems of life. This process involves DNA, RNA, and proteins and enzymes.<sup>8</sup> The DNA is a code, and is transcribed by special proteins into RNA copies. The RNA copies are then used to create new proteins, enzymes, and other intracellular machinery. Some of the proteins constructed serve to duplicate the DNA during the cell's reproduction itself.

This information system for the reproductive function is fully inter-dependent. All the elements are necessary. If the DNA information did not exist to begin with, the system would not work; if the RNA materials did not exist, the system would not work; and if the amino acids making up the proteins and enzymes did not exist, the system would not work. Also, if two of the three existed without the other, the system would not work either.

✓  
nice  
Diagrams

Could the DNA information in the above example have been generated spontaneously? No. It requires too much complexity. Likewise, the RNA requires too much complexity, and so do the proteins and enzymes. None of the elements in this system could have begun instantaneously.<sup>9</sup>

✓

Information Theory agrees that statistical data and processing of the sort in DNA and its associates cannot arrive by sudden chance. Dr. Werner Gitt, a professor at the Federal Institute of Science in Germany, and an expert in this field, points out that "Man is undoubtedly the most complex information processing system existing on earth. The total number of bits handled daily, in all information processing events occurring in the human body, is  $3 \times 10$  to the 24th power."<sup>10</sup>

"Agrees"  
with what?  
Be more  
clear in a  
formal pap

Evolution attempts to explain this apparent difficulty by stating that complex systems and functions emerged gradually from very simple systems and functions, cumulatively gaining information and ability. This explanation relies on natural selection as the "guiding force."

✓  
← [wow!] appropriate strong quote,

However, natural selection would have actually eliminated any organism which developed a piece of an element, or even a whole element, of an inter-dependent system like that of DNA, because such an object is of no use! Such an object would take energy

✓

✓

and resources away from the organism, and thus the organism would be less able to survive than its counterparts.

The way in which the light is perceived in the eye is such a system.<sup>11</sup> There are a number of chemicals involved in this super-complex functionality. Through an amazing reaction, light contacts the retina of the eye and creates an electric charge powered by sodium ions which is sent down the optic nerve to the brain. Afterwards, the system actually resets itself, and the cycle occurs again. The entire cycle repeats microsecond after microsecond, much in the way a video-camera takes pictures.

"SUCH A [?]  
SYSTEM!"  
Clarity is  
critical,  
esp. in a  
first sent.

NICELY  
STATED.

However, without the complete set of proteins, ions and organic molecules, the cycle would never occur. A component for the biochemical system of vision is therefore useless junk when created in isolation from the rest of its wonderful team.

"team [?]"  
perhaps a  
Thesaurus  
will help you  
here.

In some cases, the production of only one component of a system and not others would even cause the death of the organism. To use the instance of DNA, this information system and all of its components are intrinsic to life as we know it. Tampering with the organization or structures would mean an inability to reproduce or perform any cellular function.<sup>12</sup>

Organisms with inter-dependent functionalities would have had to come into existence one of two ways. First, each part would have been individually added by random cumulative mutations. In this case, natural selection could only have eliminated organisms with such isolated, useless, and fully non-functional scraps.

← Good point.

Alternatively, all the parts would have been generated at the same time. As we have noted, this scenario is naturalistically impossible due to the sheer complexity of the parts and the system they would form. However, there is no reason why such could not

"naturally"  
should suffice

Missing  
word.

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

have been accomplished by a hyper-dimensional Intelligence. The Evolutionary assumption that the universe and everything in it are self-existing is not only unnecessary, it is irresponsible and opposed to rational scientific investigation.

✓

To summarize, non-functional systems do not convey advantage. More importantly, non-functional and disconnected organisms are simply not alive. Natural selection disallows organisms and systems containing non-functional elements from surviving, and thus it disallows the possibility of step-by-step Evolution itself which contrariwise requires the selection of non-functional systems and organisms.

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As Dr. Jobe Martin simply states, "Dead things don't evolve."<sup>13</sup>

Perhaps strengthen your argument by coming back with "common sense would suggest 'dead things can't evolve.'"

### Conclusion

Evolution as a model for the origins of life-forms is fundamentally unworkable.

In fact, it commits rational suicide. The twisted and misapplied version of natural selection turns on its "mutant" overlord and smashes it. From the darkness, the gloom of the Evolutionary system gives place to a new day shining forth for those who would champion true science, investigation and natural Law.

nice Gen 1 type metaphor, Josiah!

True science indeed always acknowledges the intelligent, hyper-dimensional Creator and the universal Laws He enacted. While opinions and conjectures constantly change, the friend of truth and clarity can understand where these Laws in their moral sense fundamentally reside: the revelation of the Truth Himself, Jesus Christ.<sup>14</sup> It is through learning from Him that one can be sure of what one believes, and realize a far greater purpose for existence than that proposed by the unscientific, fully "non-functional" system of Darwinian Evolution.

Good conclusion and ramifications to God's glory Excellent.



- <sup>1</sup> Roger Patterson, *Evolution Exposed* (Hebron, KY: Answers In Genesis Publications, 2006), p. 61
- <sup>2</sup> Russell Grigg, *Darwin's Illegitimate Brainchild*,  
<http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v26/i2/brainchild.asp>, 4/12/07
- <sup>3</sup> Edward Blyth, *An Attempt to Classify the "Varieties" of Animals*,  
<http://www.wku.edu/~smithch/biogeog/BLYT1835.htm>, 4/12/07
- <sup>4</sup> John Wilkins, *Darwin's Precursors and Influences*,  
<http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/precursors/precursnatsel.html#r5>, 4/12/07
- <sup>5</sup> Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia [CD-ROM] 2002, "Natural Selection;" Jonathan Sarfati, *Refuting Evolution* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 1999), pp. 34-37
- <sup>6</sup> Microsoft Encarta Multimedia Encyclopedia [CD-ROM] 2004, "Evolution"
- <sup>7</sup> "Hyper-dimensional" refers to an existence outside space and time; i.e. not within our material universe.
- <sup>8</sup> World Book Encyclopedia, 1975, "Cell"
- <sup>9</sup> Although not directly discussed in this paper, this fact interestingly also rules out abiogenesis.
- <sup>10</sup> Werner Gitt, *In the Beginning was Information* (Bielefeld, Germany: Christliche Literatur - Verbreitung e.V., 1997), p. 88
- <sup>11</sup> Michael Behe, *Darwin's Black Box* (New York, NY: The Free Press, 1996), pp. 18-22
- <sup>12</sup> *Unlocking the Mystery of Life* (Illustra Media, 2002), DVD
- <sup>13</sup> *Incredible Creatures that Defy Evolution Vol.1* (Reel Productions, 2000), DVD
- <sup>14</sup> John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me."