categorizing the 5.2 million-yearold toe bone with the rest of the fossils: not only is it separated in time by several hundred thousand years, but it was also found some 10 miles away from the rest.'

Note that this toe was the major 'evidence' for uprightness, yet it boggles the mind how it could be regarded as part of the same specimen!

Conclusion

This article is just one more example of evolutionary indoctrination by the media, but when closely examined, the evidence is found to be fragmentary and interpreted within a framework of wishful thinking.

References

- 1. One giant step for mankind, *Time*, magazine cover story, 23 July 2001.
- WoldeGabriel et al., Geology and palaeontology of the Late Miocene Middle Awash Valley, Afar Rift, Ethiopia, Nature 412(6843):175– 178, 2001.
- Haile-Selassie, Y., Late Miocene hominids from the Middle Awash, Ethiopia, *Nature* 412(6843):178–181, 2001.
- 4. Gee, H., Return to the Planet of the Apes [commentary on Refs. 2 and 3], *Nature* **412**(6843):131–132, 2001.
- <www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/faq/ Anthropology.asp>.
- Pickford, M. and Semut, B., Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences 332:145–152, 28 February 2001; cited in Ref. 2.
- Balter, M., Early Hominid sows division, Science Now 22 February 2001. This contains references to their denials published in Science and photographs of the fossils.
- 8. <www.answersingenesis.org/docs2001/0326news.asp>.
- Lubenow, M., New hominin skull from Kenya, TJ 15(2):8–9, 2001; and at: <www.answersingenesis.org/docs2001/0416news.asp>.
- 10. <www.answersingenesis.org/docs2001/0302mars life.asp>.
- 11. <cas.bellarmine.edu/tietjen/Evolution/Time/up_from_the_apes.htm>.
- <www.answersingenesis.org/docs/4113. asp>.
- 13. <www.time.com/time/magazine/ar-chive/1994/941003/941003.science.html>.
- 14. White et al., Australopithecus ramidus, a new species of early hominid from Aramis,

- Ethiopia, Nature 371(6495):306-312, 1994.
- WoldeGabriel, G. et al., Ecological and temporal placement of early Pliocene hominids at Aramis, Ethiopia, Nature 371(6495):330–333, 1994
- Wood, B., The oldest hominid yet [commentary on Refs 9 and 14], *Nature* 371(6495):330–333, 1994.
- 17. Anon., Discoveries in Africa, [editorial note about Refs 9, 14 and 15, *Nature* **371**(6495):330–333, 1994.
- 18. Oxnard, C.E., Nature 258:389-395, 1975.
- 19. Focus article, Creation 17(4):9, 1995.
- 20. Gee, H., Uprooting the human family tree, *Nature* **373**(6509):15, 1995.
- 21. On the topic of taxonomic difficulties, Ref. 20 contains a box 'Hominid and hominin' explaining these terms, and how there is no agreement among anthropologists about which is the proper term for a given species.
- 22. Wise, K., Australopithecus ramidus and the fossil record, CEN Tech. J. 8(2):160–165, 1994
- Batten, D., Australopithecus ramidus—'the missing link'? CEN Tech. J. 8(2):129–130, 1994
- 24. Anon., Ref. 17, p. 270.
- 25. <www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/faq/dating.asp>.
- 26. <www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/faq/young.asp>.
- 27. About Lucy's status as a missing link, see: Oard, M., Did Lucy walk upright, *TJ* **15**(2):9–10, 2001. This cites research by evolutionists showing that Lucy had wrist characteristics 'classic for knuckle walkers'.

Extrasolar planets

Rod Bernitt

Although the discovery of extrasolar planets has been heralded as evidence for stellar evolution, the opposite is more the case. The number has been steadily growing with about 60 now documented.¹ Recently, the star HD 82943 is reported to have a second giant planet orbiting.² Most of these planets are only some 90–200 light years away; relatively close by astronomical standards. However, some planetary dynamicists feel that the planets, if real, are unstable in their orbits. It seems they could only last thousands of years, or a million years at best.

Hot, giant-gas planets, or 'Jupiters', orbiting very close to their parent stars challenge the billion-year time scale. Orbital migration and gravitational interaction among giant planets would lead to the planet being engulfed by their parent star.³ Thus, for the evolutionist, who calculates the age of the star in hundreds of millions of years from the H-R diagram, the existence of such planets are an enigma—they should have been engulfed long ago.

Another problem is that the exoplanet orbits seem too elliptical. E.g. star HD 80606 has an exoplanet with an eccentricity of about 0.93. However, based upon the star's H-R diagram age, this planet should have evolved into a circular orbit 'long ago'.

The existence of these planets are a problem for the evolutionist's billion-year timescale, as they provide *prima facie* evidence for an abrupt and rapid formation of star systems and for their young age.

References

- 1. Spencer, W., The existence and origin of extrasolar planets, *TJ* **15**(1):17–25, 2001.
- News Notes, Disputed weird worlds among 11 new exoplanets, Sky & Telescope 102(1):24– 25, 2001.
- Israelian, G., Santos, N.C., Mayor, M. and Rebolo, R., Evidence for planet engulfment by the star HD82943, *Nature* 411(6834):163–166, 2001.

TJ 15(3) 2001