wings and halteres. All this indicates a neural network outside as well as inside the insect's brain, which is capable of immensely complex and sophisticated tandem actions that eclipse our present technology. Dr Dickinson refers to many remaining 'puzzles' about how flies fly, and says he thinks that these creatures are 'more fantastic and exciting' than anything ever dreamed up in a science fiction movie.

Summary/conclusion

1. There is no proof that flies evolved from any 'primitive ancestor'.
2. There is no evidence, either, which forces one to conclude that halteres are 'vestigial leftovers' of what were once true (rear) flight wings.
3. Experimental evidence indicates that halteres are part of a highly sophisticated, and immensely complex, flight system which continues to baffle and amaze all who study it.
4. This evidence (as well as that from the fossil record) strongly supports the belief that flies were created as flies, complete with all the necessary sophisticated precision machinery for them to astonish us with their performances.
5. Obviously, at least some of the fly types today function as part of the Curse on a fallen Creation due to Adam's sin.

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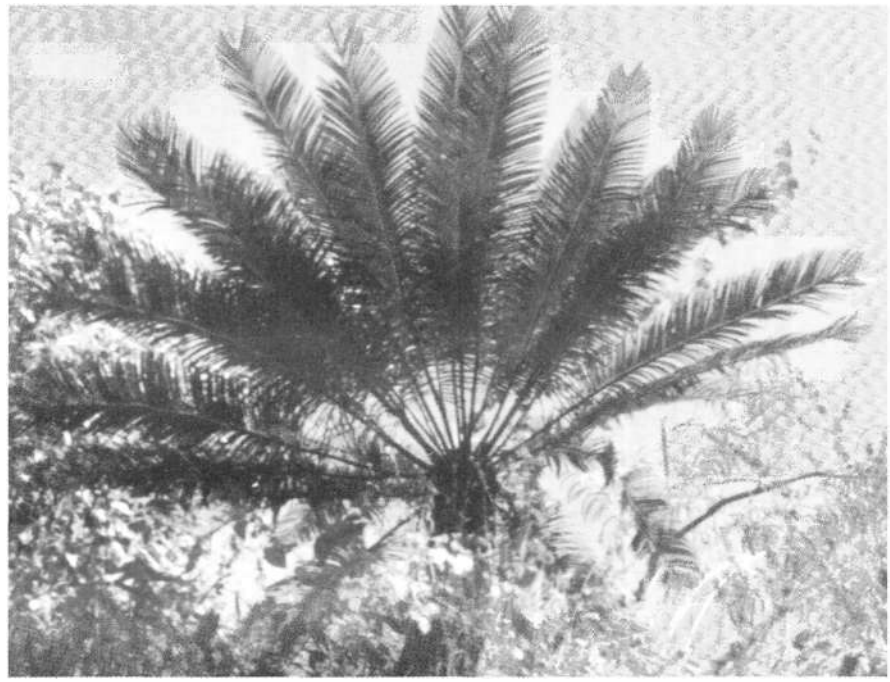

Tropical cycad reinforces uniformitarian paleofloristic mystery.

The northwestern United States is famous for its numerous Cainozoic paleoflora sites.[1] Paleoflora is even found within marine sediments on the Olympic Peninsula in western Washington State.[2]

Many tropical and subtropical species are found at some locations. The paleoflora are mostly dated as Eocene within the uniformitarian geological timescale.

The most diverse paleoflora in all of western North America is located at Republic in northeast Washington, where more than 300 species of plants have been unearthed. If the relatively nearby paleoflora of Princeton, British Columbia, Canada, is included, the Okanogan Highlands record 450 different species of Eocene plants.[3] Cool climate plants predominate in the Okanogan Highlands, but subtropical and even tropical species have also been discovered. There is no close modern analogue.[4] Wesley Wehr and Dennis Hopkins describe the puzzle this way:

'The Okanogan Highlands fossils show us that, in the middle Eocene, temperate trees such as spruce, fir, and hemlock grew alongside members of such tropical groups as mahogany, magnolia, cashew, pistacio, and tropical laurel. How can we explain this mixture of plants that are today, in essence, mutually exclusive climatically, vegetationally, and floristically?' [4]

Based on an analysis of the paleoflora, especially the absence of palms, Jack Wolfe and Wesley Wehr have concluded that the Republic paleoflora is an 'upland' assemblage that grew at an altitude of 727-909 m ASL. The paleoclimate had a mean annual temperature of 12-13 °C and a January mean of less than 1 °C.[5] These temperatures, especially the January mean, seem hard to reconcile with the tropical and subtropical species at Republic. Although Wolfe and Wehr's estimated January temperature seems too cold, it is still significantly warmer than the present January mean temperature for northeast Washington of about -4 °C with a yearly winter low around -25 °C.

It is possible that the paleoclimate would have been warmer and wetter if the Pacific shoreline were nearer and the Cascade Mountains were lower, both of which are postulated

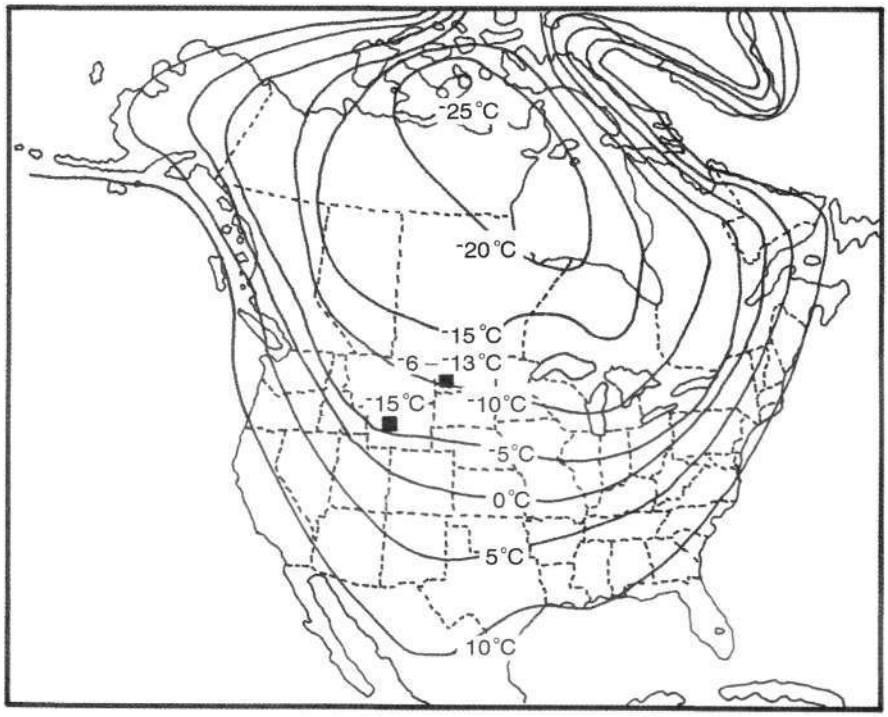

Figure 1. January mean temperature isotherms for North America from an 'Eocene' climate simulation model by Sloan & Borren[7].

for the Eocene of Washington state.[6] However, the Eocene paleoclimate has been simulated by a sophisticated computer model using Eocene boundary conditions, such as lower mountains and warmer high latitude sea surface temperatures. Regardless of these warmer boundary conditions, winter temperatures for the interior of North America and at high latitude are still very cold (see Figure l).[7] The January mean in the climate simulation for northeast Washington compares favourably with the present climate. The main reason for such cold Eocene temperatures in January is due primarily to a low sun angle. The lower coastal mountains and closer shoreline in the Eocene are probably offset by lower Rocky Mountains that would be less able to block Arctic air masses from reaching northeast Washington. Thus, there is a contradiction between the paleoflora and the postulated paleoclimate for northeast Washington.

This climatic mystery has been heightened by the new discovery of tropical cycad fossils at Republic.[8] Cycads are found exclusively in tropical or subtropical climates. The fossils come from the family Zamiaceae, similar to the modern *Zamia dictyophlebia* from Costa Rica. Thus, it is very likely that Wolfe and Wehr's estimated temperatures for the Eocene, and most certainly the average January temperature, need to be raised considerably.

This climatic anomaly at Republic is just one example of a similar pattern for the high latitudes and within the interior of North America during the early Cainozoic.[9] For instance, warm temperate to subtropical paleoflora and paleofauna are found on Axel Heiberg Island at 80°N in the Queen Elizabeth Islands of northeast Canada.[10] This anomalous climate even extends into the mid to late Tertiary.[1112] Plate tectonics is of no help since North America supposedly was at nearly the same latitude during the Tertiary. Thus, within the uniformitarian scenario, there is a major contradiction between the paleoflora and paleofauna, not just for northeast Washington, but for the mid and high latitude continents . This indicates that uniformitarianism is likely not the answer to this conundrum. An alternative hypothesis based on the Genesis Flood has been presented elsewhere.[13]

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