Blood test used to prove evolution fails

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The rise and fall of the once-major evidential proof of evolution, the blood precipitin test, was reviewed. Although creationists successfully argued against the theory as early as 1925, it was used in the textbooks as a major proof of evolution as late as 2014.[1] This is one more example of the many once-common evidences for Darwinism that have now been discarded due to advancing knowledge as documented by various recent articles and books.[2]

Because blood is critical for life, and blood traits vary in many life-forms, these differences that enable making blood comparisons were once used as an important 'proof' of evolutionary relationships.[3] Evolutionists for decades claimed blood similarity was strong evidence that certain animals evolved from other animals, or that they both had a common ancestor. The test used to measure blood homology was the precipitin test, also called the serological test. A precipitate is formed when a chemical reaction occurs and a new compound precipitates out of solution, producing a solid that can easily be seen in the solution either above or below the clear or coloured liquid called the supernatant.

The test used comparisons of blood serum and other bodily fluids to determine evolutionary closeness of the two life-forms tested. Professor Nuttall of Cambridge University first developed a human blood test that formed the basis for the tests now still used in several different disciplines, including criminal investigation[4]

If an antibody binds to an antigen on blood cells, a precipitate forms. If the antibody binds poorly or not at all, no precipitate will form. To determine specifically how close an animal is to humans, the test evaluates the *amount* of precipitate produced in animal blood when adding blood antibodies that were produced to react to human blood.[5]

The theory was based on the belief that the *closer* the evolutionary relationship of the animal tested to humans, the *greater* the level of precipitate formed.[6] No precipitate forms when human blood antibodies are mixed with reptile blood, and a slight precipitate forms when blood antibodies are mixed with bird blood or other animals that are judged by evolutionists to be evolutionarily closer to humans than reptiles, but still 'low' on the theoretical evolutionary scale.

When antibodies designed to react to human blood are added to the blood of creatures that are purportedly evolutionarily *close* to humans, such as monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees, a *larger* amount of precipitate forms. Furthermore, evolution theory would predict more precipitate with chimpanzee than baboon blood. If this occurs, the test then supports the evolutionary teaching that humans are evolutionarily closer to chimpanzees than to baboons.[7]

As described by one popular biology textbook, this blood homology test produced one of the most important evidences of evolutionary relationships due to the fact that the more closely related "one animal is to another, the more nearly alike will be their blood proteins".[8] The test was even used to help determine the evolutionary closeness of animals that could not be determined by other methods.[9]

How the test works

When blood from an animal is injected into a different kind of animal, the white blood cells respond by producing specific proteins called *antibodies*. Antigens are proteins located on many cell structures, including blood cells, that are used by the immune system as identification marks to determine self-cells from foreign cells. For the test, the antibodies designed to react with human blood combine with the human antigen causing a clumping or separation from the liquid plasma called agglutination, a form that is visible to the naked eye.[10]

If the antibody that combines with human blood is placed into a container with rabbit blood, the rabbit blood antigens are close enough to human blood that the antigens and antibodies combine to cause the blood to precipitate out of the blood plasma solution. The assumption was that the closer the animal's evolutionary relationship was to humans, the greater the agglutination level that will occur.[11] Thus, the greater the precipitate that occurs, because more antigens and antibodies will combine. And the

> "… more alike the blood of the test animals, the closer the [evolutionary] relationship. By injecting a series of rabbits with serum from different species, it has been possible to obtain a series of antibodies. Each of the antibodies is specific for the blood proteins of one kind of animal. Many thousands of tests have been performed. The results show that cats, dogs, and bears are more closely related to one another than they are to other mammals. Sheep, deer, antelope, goats, and cows are closely related to one another, but not so closely related to bears, dogs, and cats."[12]

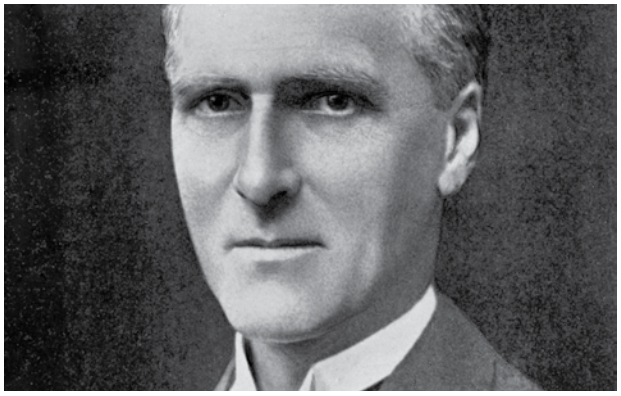

Figure 1. Sir Arthur Keith was a leading evolutionist who, as president of the Royal Anthropological Institute, was very influential in supporting the blood precipitin test, once a major proof of evolution. Support by prominent Darwinists such as Keith were an important reason in its early acceptance.

The test's accuracy

Sir Arthur Keith (figure 1) concluded that the test was "a trustworthy and exact method of determining the affinity [evolutionary closeness] of one species of animal to another".[13] Harvard's Ernest Hooton concluded that homology measured by blood tests alone provided sufficient proof to establish human evolution as fact, writing that "if there were no evidences of human evolution other than those provided by zoological classification and blood antibody test[s]", these two methods

> "… alone would be sufficient to convince every impartial thinker that man and the anthropoid apes have evolved from some common ape-like ancestor … from a knowledge of the morphology and physiology of the anthropoid apes and of the lower primates, Huxley's scientific Saturnians would be driven to postulate the existence of man. For man is logically the next evolutionary step beyond the gorilla and the chimpanzee, or perhaps one should say the next *jump*."[14]

Professor Gordon Alexander, chair of the Department of Biology at the University of Colorado wrote in his biology textbook that "the most striking line of physiology evidence for organic evolution is that provided by *serology* … based on the antigen-antibody reaction [emphasis in original]."[15] Professor of Biology at Denison University, Arthur Lindsey, wrote in his popular zoology text that

> "… the method is capable of yielding far more accurate evidences of detailed [evolutionary] relationship[s] than Nuttall secured … and furnish[ing] more precise evidences of the relationships indicated by other taxonomic procedure[s]."[16]

Professor Lindsey concluded that in "the field of evolution" the precipitin test has become "an even more convincing evidence of the graded relationship of living things" than almost any other measure.[17] The test to document evolution is also found on biology class outlines such as those at University of Texas, Dallas.[18] Moreover, Presbyterian minister Floyd Hamilton in his article defending evolution called "the precipitin blood test … one of the most recent and widely heralded lines of proof for evolution", which was important in his acceptance of Darwinism.[19]

Problems develop in the test results

One early test rated old-world monkeys eight parts away from humans, and new-world monkeys 22 parts away. This specific finding and many others fit the evolution model,[20] but as more and more comparisons were completed, a large number of findings did not support evolution theory. An example is the discovery that sheep and horses were separated by only three parts. However, when comparing different kinds of apes to humans, the gorilla test produced *less* precipitate than human blood, and chimpanzee blood produced *more* precipitate than human blood! Consequently, this blood test would indicate that humans are a link *between* gorilla and chimpanzee! Pigs and hyenas were found to be closely related to just about every animal that was tested.[21]

In addition, the test results often depended on which specific example of an animal type was used in the test. One test of five different horses found one horse was related to only sheep and other horses, while another horse of the same breed was related to man, cat, hog, seal, pig, sheep, and several other different animals. The next horse tested produced an even different pattern.[22]

As the exceptions piled up, the test eventually was abandoned, relegating yet another 'proof' of evolutionary naturalism to the scrapheap. Nuttall himself obtained enough negative results that he believed some common problem, such as the manner of death of the animal or the method of blood withdrawal, was causing incorrect results in a large number of cases.[23] We now know that these factors could not affect the test results, only the antigen specifics of the blood sampled does. Also, there exist in humans and in many primates different types of blood groups, the most common ones in humans being A, B, AB, and O (figure 2), plus Rh+ and Rh- types. So far a total of 36 human blood group systems and 346 blood antigens are now recognized by the International Society of Blood Transfusion, virtually all of which are not of major importance in blood compatibility typing.[24] Chimpanzee blood is grouped using the V-A-B-D and R-C-E-F systems, which are counterparts of the human MNS and Rh-Hr blood group systems. Yet other systems are involved in other mammals.[25]

The similarity of blood, or any other body organ or part, does not in itself 'prove' evolution, only that a specific design has been reused by the Creator, often because it works perfectly well or because no need exists to modify it. A survey of biology textbooks published before 1960 found the blood precipitation test was often discussed in great detail, but biology and evolution texts published after the 1990s

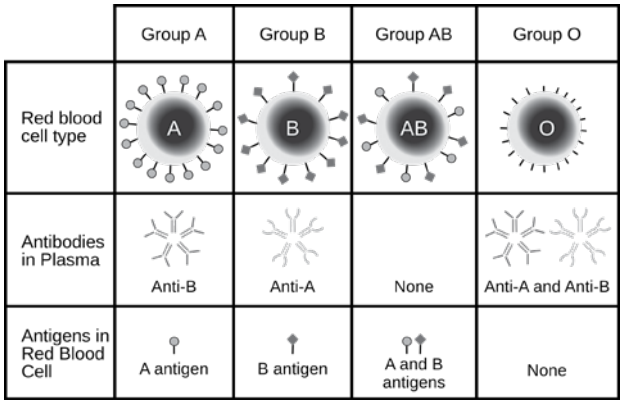

Figure 2. Human ABO blood groups

rarely mention this specific, now totally discredited, test. Yet some references still cover this long-discarded test.[26] An understanding of the many past blunders of evolution serves an important lesson today because it questions how many ideas currently accepted by evolutionists today are also false.[27] The test does support the creation view that each different animal kind was created separately and the test is one more proof of that conclusion.

A revised form of the test is still used today.[28] This far more complicated test also has some of the same problems. It goes by the term *immunological* testing, which is the topic of another paper. One short example is, as expected, human vs human test found 100% similarity according to the test; man vs chimpanzee found 97%, as expected; man vs baboon found 50%, not even close; and, man versus dog found 0%, which would not be expected, since they are both mammals.[18] The problem is that the chimp fits the evolution prediction, but the baboon value should be very close to the chimp.

Conclusion

The lesson from this once-promising, scientific evidence of evolution, as was true of Piltdown Man, is why did it require several decades to disprove? This case encourages caution in accepting other now-popular evidences of Darwinism. It is also another example of the tendency to uncritically accept evidence that supports our worldview, and reject other evidence that does not. In the end, our worldview should follow the evidence and not the other way around, as occurred in the blood precipitin test case. This is only one example of many others documented in reference 2.

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