

More expansion of fossil time ranges

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For more than 25 years, I have been reporting on the extension of fossil ranges either up or down within the geological column. Other creation scientists, such as Woodmorappe,¹ have also been reporting range extensions. I also have been reporting on new archaeological (SG) finds that post-Flood man was more sophisticated ‘earlier’ than evolutionary scientists presume.^{2,3} Sometimes these extensions are significant and other times minor. Although some general trends show up, the range extensions show that secular scientists do not know the exact time various organisms lived within their deep time worldview. They also do not know that the various types of post-Flood people were fully human from their first appearance. The last article I published on these subjects in the *Journal of Creation* was in 2017.⁴ In this article, I document more evidence that Neandertal man was a type of modern man and discuss the downward extension in the geological column of seven more organisms or organic structures. Regardless of when a fossil is found in the geological column, there still are no transitional fossils.

Early Neandertals more modern than thought

Scientists have discovered the remains of an annular construction 336 m within a cave in southwest France attributed to Neandertals, since they are supposed to have been the only humans around.⁵ They found a regular geometry of broken stalagmite circles with several traces of fire that was dated

by uranium-series to be 176.5 ka. This is the first evidence found displaying Neandertal’s construction ability and revealing a complex social network.⁶ Thus, “humans from this period had already mastered the underground environment which can be considered a major step in human modernity”.⁷ The authors also conclude:

“Until now no evidence has been found for regular Neandertal incursions into caves, except for a possible case of footprints, and Neandertal constructions inside caves, at least at a distance that is no longer exposed to daylight, were totally unknown.”⁸

This finding supports the other human abilities of Neandertals, including painting sophisticated images in caves⁹ and jewelry making.¹⁰

Algae with siliceous structures ‘evolved’ earlier

Chrysophytes are a diverse group of algae mainly found in freshwater. Their ‘oldest’ known representatives are found in the early Cretaceous, 110 Ma ago according to the evolutionary dating scheme. This group of algae commonly form siliceous (SiO₂) structures and was assumed to have evolved following the ‘great dying’ of the Permian/Triassic transition. Recently siliceous algae cyst fossils from chrysophytes have been discovered from Late Triassic ‘lacustrine’ (lake) strata from the Ordos Basin, China.¹¹ The cyst fossils were already highly diversified and dated about 230 Ma ago, suggesting that their ‘evolution’ occurred much earlier. This pushes chrysophytes back about 120 Ma, and the ‘molecular clock’ suggests their origin is in the Paleozoic. The molecular clock often suggests that fossils should be found earlier, but regardless pushing chrysophytes back 120 million evolutionary years still shows that the fossil record is broader than they earlier thought.

Unique bird vocal organ ‘originated’ earlier

Birds produce unique sounds from an organ called a ‘syrinx’. The oldest known syrinx was unofficially reported from the Eocene (about 40 Ma). Now a fossil syrinx has been found from the Late Cretaceous, about 66–69 Ma in the evolutionary scheme, on the Antarctica Peninsula.^{12,13} This pushes this unique vocal organ about 28 Ma back in the geological column.

Gliding mammals now pushed back into Jurassic

Sophisticated mammals have been pushed back into the Jurassic.¹⁴ A gliding mammal found in China was loosely dated as Late Jurassic or early Cretaceous.¹⁵ Secular scientists have now found a ‘securely dated’ gliding mammal dated as Late Jurassic, 160 Ma ago, from China.¹⁶ Gliding “requires considerable shoulder and forelimb maneuverability”.¹⁷ But some features of the sophisticated forelimb structure are claimed to have evolved several times in other mammals by ‘convergent evolution’.

Jellyfish fossils pushed back tens of millions of years

Scientists have discovered what they believe are the oldest jellyfish strandings in the Phanerozoic.¹⁸ This extends the record back tens of millions of years to the Early Cambrian. These secular scientists obviously do not accept Precambrian jellyfish fossils that have been found in Western Australia¹⁹ or South Australia,²⁰ although they admit other soft-bodied macrofauna are found in marine sandstones in the Neoproterozoic and early Paleozoic.²¹

Oldest evidence of trematode parasitism in bivalves

Trematodes are flatworms of the phylum platyhelminths. They are

parasites of mollusks and vertebrates. Researchers have recently found the oldest evidence of trematode parasitism of bivalves in the 76 Ma old Judith River Formation of Montana, USA. This parasite-host association was previously reported from Eocene (about 40 Ma ago) marine bivalves in Europe. Now the record has been pushed back 36 Ma into what is believed to be a freshwater ecosystem, since the Judith River Formation is famous for its dinosaur fossils.

Key plant groups pushed back tens of millions of years

Probably the most significant range extension is the discovery of the Permian fossils of Southern Hemisphere evergreen trees and bushes, the podocarps, in the Middle East of the Northern Hemisphere (figure 1).^{22,23} The earliest previous fossils were of Triassic age, and one was even assumed to be an ‘index fossil’ for the Triassic. The fossils are exquisitely preserved and survived the supposed ‘great dying’ of the ‘Permian extinction’. They push the fossil record of this group of living conifers back tens of millions of years.

Unique insect egg-hatching mechanism found in 130 Ma amber

Hatching from an egg is an important moment in the life of an animal that comes from an egg, but the mechanisms of breaking out of the egg

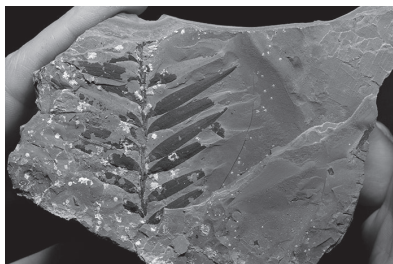


Figure 1. A podocarp shoot fragment previously thought to be from the Triassic is now found in the Permian (from Pennisi²³).

are diverse and complex. Of course, the fossil record of the evolution of any hatching mechanism is almost totally absent:

“However, the evolutionary processes by which hatching mechanisms and related embryonic structures became established in deep time are poorly understood due to a nearly complete absence from the fossil record.”²⁴

Now they have obtained multiple neonate (new-born) green lacewing larvae in 130-Ma-old Lebanese amber showing serrated blade egg busters that can split the eggshells. Moreover, this is the same or similar to mechanisms observed in modern lacewing larvae. And since several organisms possess this special egg-busting mechanism, the authors suggest that ‘convergent evolution’ was responsible. It is amazing how often evolutionists apply the magical convergent evolution to explain the independent evolution of similar features in organisms not closely related.

Conclusion

Critics ask creationists to explain the fossil record, but it is the evolutionists who have the problem. The precise fossil record is not yet available, and there could be some major changes in the future as a result of more discoveries. Many recent discoveries are awkward to explain from an evolutionary perspective, but are what is expected from a record deposited by the global Flood. Regarding the bird fossil syrinx, O’Connor states:

“But as we repeatedly find in the world of palaeontology, inferences derived from the fossil record are ephemeral entities lasting only until the next spectacular fossil is recovered.”²⁵

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