

Did Darwin plagiarize Matthew?

I would like to thank Dominic Statham for authoring an excellent article on Darwin's plagiarism of the theory of evolution by natural selection. His article 'Did Darwin plagiarize Matthew?' was published as an essay in *J. Creation* 29(2):119–123, 2015.¹

Dominic's article is about the evidence for Charles Darwin's (1858/59) plagiarism of Patrick Matthew's (1831) prior published theory.

Matthew (1831) originally coined the term 'natural process of selection' and published it as a theory of organic evolution. Darwin (1859) four-word shuffled Matthew's name for his theory to re-coin it as the 'process of natural selection', with no reference to Matthew's prior published book containing the entire complex theory he replicated.

Dominic's 2015 article on page 121 does cite my 2014 e-book on this topic: 'Nullius in Verba: Darwin's greatest secret',² and he cites several of my original research findings therein. However, earlier in his article, he uses several of my original research findings without attributing them to their prior-published source.

The purpose of this letter is to address the wrongful impression given that data from the historic publication record, taken from my original research,² is long-known common knowledge, or else, that it should be attributed to Dominic Statham.

Prior to my research and its 2014 publication, the only person known to have cited Matthew's (1831) pre-1858 was John Loudon. And that is something the Darwin Industry has pretty much kept under wraps for over 160 years.

My original research, using the IDD method³ led to the publication of two unique lists of entirely new research data in my 2014 book. List 1—all those newly and most importantly

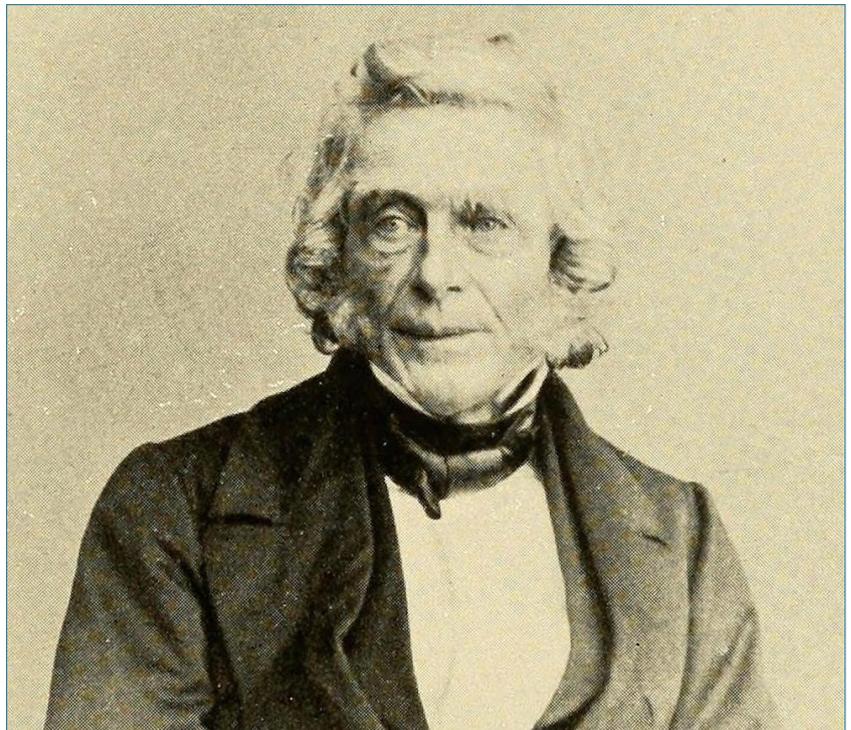


Fig. 1. Patrick Matthew (1790–1874)

originally discovered by the big Data IDD method in my 2013/14 research to have cited Matthew’s 1831 book pre-1858; and list 2— all those who were apparently first to go into published print with apparently unique phrases or terms from Matthew’s 1831 book, *On Naval Timber and Arboriculture*.⁴

My original research findings used by Dominic but not attributed to my prior published source² are as follows:

1. On page 120 of his article, without citing my book as the original source, Dominic cites David Low (my list 2) as replicating Matthew’s apparently original phrase “long continued selection”.
2. On page 121, Dominic cites Prideaux John Selby (my list 1).²
3. On page 121, Dominic cites Cuthbert Johnson (my list 1).²
4. My book² is the first publication to reveal that Selby edited the journal that published Wallace’s Sarawak paper. On page 121, Statham fails to attribute that fact to my original research.
5. My book² is the first publication to reveal that Matthew’s 1831 book was advertised in the 1842 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. On page 121, Statham fails to attribute that original finding to my research.

Do the above five examples constitute research plagiarism?

The University of Oxford (2020) provides us with arguably the world’s most famous definition of what constitutes plagiarism:

“Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work or ideas as your own, with or without their consent, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition.”

Citation plagiarism of the kind that has occurred in Dominic’s article may occur through careless attitudes towards citation,⁵ or it may occur

through an act of what Allen⁶ calls ‘blatant plagiarism’, which is done with an aim to steal the research finding to deceive others by taking credit for it. I have no reason not to afford Dominic Statham the benefit of the doubt and to presume the former applies in this case.

However, the issue is serious because the data plagiarised was found with a new method.³ Plagiarising a research finding can also constitute ‘research method plagiarism’ if the method used to make that finding is original. This is because if that original method made the original finding the plagiarist will also, by default, most certainly, in effect, plagiarise the method used to find it.

If *J. Creation* would like me to write for it a more detailed account of the story of Darwin’s plagiarism and his proven lies about Matthew’s prior-readership I would be more than happy to do so, since Darwin’s and Wallace’s plagiarism of Matthew’s prior published theory is most certainly the world’s biggest science fraud. And there are long-neglected issues about ‘God mocking’, belief in ‘The Creator’, and even ‘Intelligent Design’ in the writings of Darwin and Matthew that your readers will, I am sure, be interested to know about.

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References

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4. Matthew, P., *On Naval Timber and Arboriculture: With critical notes on authors who have recently treated the subject of planting*, Adam Black, Edinburgh, 1831; gutenberg.org/ebooks/53678.
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6. Allen, M., *The sage encyclopedia of communication research methods*, vols. 1–4, SAGE Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA, 2017; methods.sagepub.com/reference/the-sage-encyclopedia-of-communication-research-methods/i10779.xml.

» **Dominic Statham replies:**

Firstly, I would like to thank Dr Mike Sutton for his courteous letter and do hope that my reply will resolve matters satisfactorily. I have every reason to accept his claim to priority in respect of his points 1–5.

Secondly, I wish to commend him for his undoubted contribution to the debate as to whether Charles Darwin did plagiarise Patrick Matthew. Such is the importance of Mike’s book, I cited it three times in the main text of my article and another six times in the endnotes. In fact, I felt so indebted to him that, before the article was published, I sent him a copy with a note to the effect that I hoped that he would feel I had adequately acknowledged his work. I recall that he sent me a polite reply with no suggestion that I had plagiarised him.

My article explicitly credits Mike for the IDD method and, in references 38 and 39, the information in his lists 1 and 2. For example, in column 2 of p. 121, I wrote: “Sutton demonstrated that Patrick Matthew was the first to coin the phrases ... ‘long continued selection.’” Then, two sentences later, “Low referred to ‘long continued selection’”, citing reference 39 as my source (i.e. Mike’s book). My reference to the advertisement in the 1842 edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* appears in the last paragraph of column 1 of p. 121, at the end of which is a reference to Mike’s book.

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