



**Figure 1.** Drawing of a winged serpent with feet from Belon's *Voyage en Egypte*, p. 133b.

have believed that 'tannim' referred to a serpent-like (reptilian) creature.<sup>4</sup> However, in Lamentations 4:3 we read that 'Even [dragons] ('tannim') offer the breasts, They nurse their young' (NASB). Therefore Figure 2(b) would tend to support this verse and the interpretation of dinosaur for 'tannim'. This dinosaur was evidently a mosaic animal, part mammalian and mostly reptilian, the duck-bill platypus being another mosaic example.

My other comment is about Figure 7(b). The flying reptile in this figure is authentic and apparently first appears in *Voyage en Egypte*, authored by de Pierre Belon in 1547 (see my Figure 1). Belon says,

*'We found ourselves looking at some carcasses embalmed and completely whole from certain winged snakes, also possessing feet.'*<sup>5</sup>

And he also says,

*'When they are skinned and stuffed, they are twice as thick as natural.'*<sup>6</sup>

This would explain the oversized body. Perhaps the wings had shriveled since the death and embalming of the flying serpent. He also refers to this figure as a picture of the flying snake in the text (from 1547, before Edward Topsell's *The Historie of Serpents*, 1608).<sup>7</sup> More information on this subject will be given in the article 'The pterosaurs of Isaiah'.<sup>8</sup> Let's not allow the dinosaurs to be propaganda for evolution but, as is said in Psalms 148:7, 'Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons' (KJV).

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2. Morris, . M., 1984. *The Biblical Basis for Modern Science*, Baker Book House, Michigan, pp. 351-352.
3. Gish, D. T., 1993. *Creation Scientists Answer Their Critics*, Institute for Creation Research, El Cajon, California, p. 34.
4. Pick, Aaron, 1977. *Dictionary of Old Testament Words for English Readers*, Kregel. Originally published as *The Bible Students Concordance* by Hamilton, Adams and Co., London, p. 122.
5. Ce Volume le Premier Publie de la collection des voyageurs

occidentaux en Egypte, A ete imprime en 1970 par L'institut Francais D'Archeologie Orientale du Caire, p. 133b. Originally published as *Voyage en Egypte*, de Pierre Belon du Mons, 1547. Translated from the French by Dr Sharon Lee, Piscataway, New Jersey, USA.

6. Ref. 5.
7. Ref. 5.
8. Goertzen, J. C., 1993. The pterosaurs of Isaiah (in prep.).

## AFRICAN 'EVE' REVIVED

Dear Editor,

With reference to the African 'Eve' debate,<sup>1</sup> many evolutionists have assumed that, since 'her' proponents have admitted that the original statistical analysis is flawed, the proposal itself is dead. However, readers may be interested to know that a session on the origin of modern humans at the 1993 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has shown that this is far from being the case.

It appears the session was actually organised by Milford Wolpoff, the world's leading anti-Eve campaigner, to 'dance on her grave'.<sup>2</sup> Wolpoff, who thinks the fossil (rather than molecular) evidence will resolve the debate, believes that the various races of humans evolved fairly separately over long ages. Rather than Eve's descendants wiping out and replacing Neanderthals, these latter became modern Europeans, while Peking Man evolved into modern Chinese and so on.<sup>3</sup>

Unfortunately for Wolpoff, Maryellen Ruvolo, one of the biologists who found the flaws in the original 'Eve' work announced that she has studied another mitochondrial gene in a very diverse group of modern humans and concluded that they 'are very closely related and all evolved from a common ancestor quite recently'.<sup>4</sup> Such a conclusion not only supports the 'Eve' hypothesis, but also the biblical model of human origins (Acts 17:26).

Ruvolo estimated the time when this small group lived by using the 'molecular clock' hypothesis. The dates ranged from 55,000 to 455,000 years ago, 'depending on which estimate of the clock she chose'.

Such obviously flexible 'clocks' are calibrated according to pre-existing evolutionary chronological beliefs on other molecules. The molecular data could easily accommodate a biblical time-scale for Eve/Babel.

Dr Wolpoff, whose theory requires a date in the millions, says of humans: 'I don't think molecular clocks work in this species'.<sup>5</sup>

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2. Gibbons, A., 1993. Mitochondrial Eve refuses to die. *Science*, 259(5099):1249-1250.
3. For an outline of how both sides of this controversy may give support for the biblical model, see C. Wieland, 1991, No bones about Eve, *Creation Ex Nihilo*, 13(4):20-23.
4. Gibbons, Ref. 2, p. 1249.
5. Gibbons, Ref. 2, p. 1249.

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## LONG-LIVED TREES

Dear Editor,

I greatly appreciated Greg Beasley's recent, encyclopedic article 'Long-lived trees: Their possible testimony to a global Flood and recent Creation'.<sup>1</sup> A better compilation of long-lived specimens is not likely to be found anywhere. I especially appreciated his up-to-date coverage of current creationist research into tree-rings, and his sensitive handling of the difficult biblical issues posed by the extended oak and bristlecone pine chronologies.

Greg suggested (p. 59) that radiocarbon dates of bristlecone pine wood may be inflated due to the presence of old (that is, radiocarbon deficient) carbon in the soils on which these trees grow. This suggestion seems unlikely for

several reasons. First, it appears to be the case that the carbon which is incorporated into the tissues of these trees while they are living comes only from atmospheric carbon dioxide, not from root-absorbed carbonates. The fact that presently living bristlecones do not yield anomalously old radiocarbon dates supports this observation. Second, it seems unlikely that dead bristlecones might become contaminated with groundwater-leached carbonates because of the resinous nature of the wood. Furthermore, it seems a standard practice to extract and date only the cellulose fraction of wood because of its inertness to potential carbon ion exchange processes. Finally, the measured radiocarbon concentrations in the extended European oak chronology match closely those found in the bristlecones. This fact argues against any alteration of the radiocarbon content of these trees due to local environmental factors.

In my opinion, Greg is to be commended for this extensive and thorough review of long-lived trees, together with his own creative thinking about how the problems they pose to a strict biblical chronology might be abated. Congratulations to Greg (and *CEN Tech. J.*) for a fine article.

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## REFERENCE

1. Beasley, G. J., 1993. Long-lived trees: Their possible testimony to a global Flood and recent Creation. *CEN Tech. J.*, 7(1):43-67.