

thinning of the annual layers and diffusion. This is where the ice flow modelling kicks in to 'guide' the rest of the annual layer dating.

I have tried to check the claimed annual layer dating at mid levels of the ice core, but the annual layer data on any ice core has never been published. To be sure, there are widely-spaced measurements of oxygen isotope ratios and other variables available for Greenland and Antarctic ice cores, but the more detailed measurements are what is required to check the basis for 15,000 years of time. For further information on how ice cores are dated and an alternate creationist timescale, consult Dr Larry Vardiman's technical monograph on the subject.¹²

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Mirror, Mirror on the Wall — Which is the Strangest Theory of All?

Certain molecules come in both left and right-handed forms, mirror images of each other. This includes those sugars which form part of the sub-units that are then assembled into DNA and RNA strands. This is also true of the amino acids which are the building blocks of the long chains called proteins (see Figure 1). For any of these substances by themselves, there is no chemical difference between the left and right-handed forms. Each takes part in chemical reactions with the same ease as the other.

In all living things, the proteins are made up entirely of left-handed amino acids, whereas the DNA/RNA is exclusively made up of right-handed sub-units. This property of life is called homochirality. Studies have shown that it is vital for life. Two complementary strands of DNA cannot bind with each other if they are in a 'natural' mixture (that is, one made up of a 50:50 mix of left and right-handed forms, which is what unaided [chance] chemistry

produces).

A recent world conference on 'The Origin of Homochirality and Life' made it clear that the origin of this handedness is a complete mystery to evolutionists seeking to explain the origin of life in terms of chemistry.¹

Theorists are divided as to what came first — some form of life which later became homochiral, or did some unknown process cause homochirality so that life could evolve? Stanley Miller is in the first camp. He is famous for the classic 1953 Miller - Urey experiment in which simple organic compounds were formed by electronically 'zapping' a mix of gases — an experimental

direction which has basically gone nowhere since. He believes that life had to come first, based on some non-homochiral precursor of DNA — which then became homochiral later.

Organic chemist William Bonner, Stanford Professor Emeritus, strongly disagrees. He insists that you somehow have to explain chemical chirality first, and only then can you have life. He and others have hunted fruitlessly for 25 years for some such explanation on Earth, so they now speculate that the first homochiral molecules came from outer space. Perhaps a supernova explosion caused polarized light which caused an excess of one 'hand' in space, which was then carried by comets to

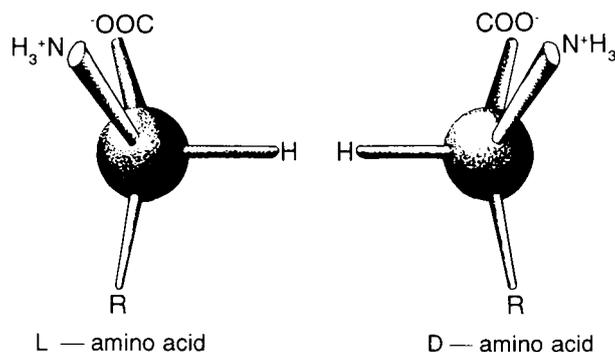


Figure 1. Left-handed (L) and right-handed (D) amino acids — mirror images of one another.

Earth. In spite of all the huge problems with this idea, in the future NASA intends to look for homochiral molecules on a comet (and possibly on Mars). However, amino acids in meteorites have been shown to be 'racemic' (a 50:50 mix of both forms).

This huge expenditure of tax dollars is all based on fervent faith in evolution, and rejection of the obvious — that the machinery of life was originally created in a fully-functioning state.

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Hairy Mole Rats Upset Theories

Ant and termite colonies are examples of eusocial behaviour, in which only a queen and a few males reproduce. The rest of the colony co-operates for the care of the young and the survival of the species.

This sort of behaviour has long been a 'puzzle of natural selection'. So-called sociobiologists felt they were coming close to an evolutionary explanation with 'selfish gene' theories. Even though it is still hard to detail a step-by-step scenario for how such behaviour could have evolved, they pointed out that working for the

survival of a closely related member of your species ensures the survival of a good portion of your own DNA.

The naked mole rats of Africa are one of the few types of mammals which also exhibit eusocial behaviour, and here also a pattern of relatedness similar to that in insect colonies was found.¹

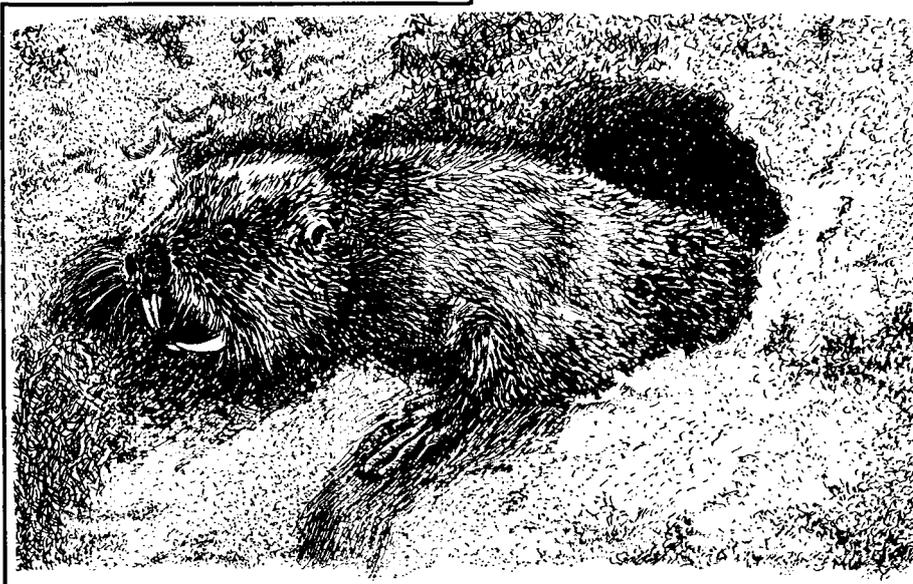
However, contrary to the expectations of the evolutionary sociobiologists, the hairy Damaraland mole rat, bigger than its more renowned cousin, does not conform. Although just as eusocial, the degree of genetic relatedness among colony members does not appear to be the crucial factor. The colonies are much more genetically diverse than those of naked mole rats.

The eusocial behaviour of the Damaraland variety appears to have a lot to do with the need to co-operate in areas of patchy resource availability. Other non-eusocial types of mole rats live in areas where the food supply is more predictable.

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Did Darwin Get it all Right?

The strongest study yet, say many researchers interested in the punctuationalist/gradualist controversy.¹ Fossil expert Alan Cheetham studied the fossils of coral-like creatures called *bryozoa*, expecting to find evidence for the gradual, pervasive evolutionary change which most textbooks once claimed was the dominant reality of the fossil record.²

Instead, he found that species stayed the same for 'millions of years', then,

just as Gould and Eldredge's punctuated equilibrium concepts indicated, they either entered or left the record abruptly.

Creationist/Flood geological models of the fossil record, though not viewing the record as one of vast ages, would predict that when the record is studied from bottom to top, it will give the same jerky appearance as the punctuationalists highlight, and not generally show the smooth change expected by gradualists.

When evolutionists talk of a species 'staying the same for millions of years' then being replaced by another species, all this means to a creation model is that representatives of a particular type of organism were buried in a succession of layers (which are interpreted by evolutionists as representing millions of years), then another type was buried on top of those layers. The evolutionist sees this as proof of a 'punctuational' mode of evolution, but this is of course only so if evolution itself is first assumed. The bare fact is that one type of organism exists in one series of layers, and another above it — without any