

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.

REFERENCES

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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

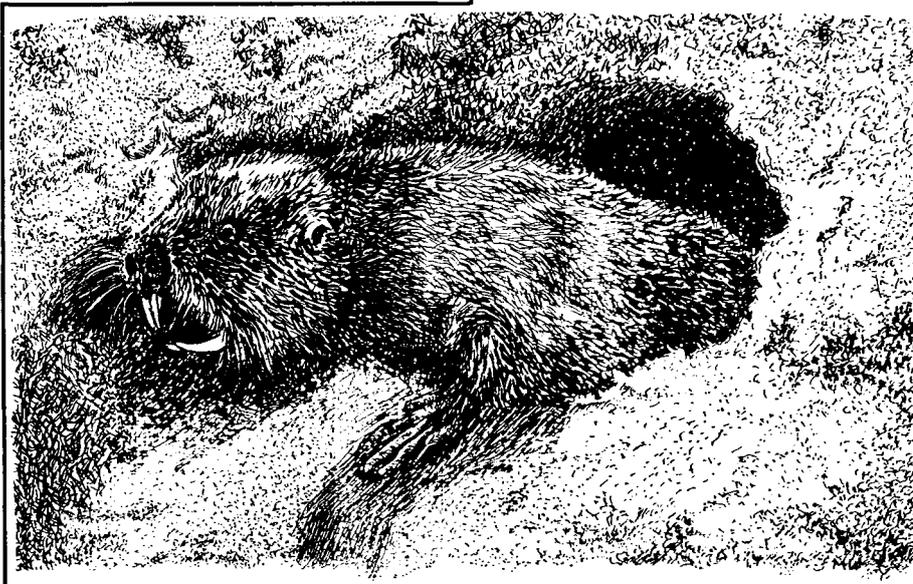
However, contrary to the expectations of the evolutionary sociobiologists, the hairy Damaraland mole rat, bigger than its more renowned cousin, does not conform. Although just as eusocial, the degree of genetic relatedness among colony members does not appear to be the crucial factor. The colonies are 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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1. Holloway, M., 1995. Socializing with non-naked mole rats. *Scientific American*, 272(1):11.

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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