

## REFERENCES

1. Beasley, G. J., 1992. Is the African 'Eve' misconceived? *CEN Tech. J.*, 6(1):42-48.
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.

---

## 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.

Gerald A. Aardsma,  
El Cajon, California,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

## 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.