

groupings, *that* constitutes a confusion of categories.

My thanks go to Dr Batten for taking the time to review my work, for pointing out an error (my use of ‘polyploidy’), and for *not* pointing out a number of other genuine errors that might have sidetracked the review. I am aware that revisions and improvements must eventually come. I do hope, however, that rather than to be skeptical of a Biblical classification scheme’s usefulness to biology, Batten and others will remain open to the possibility that this is a logical extension of baraminology, providing a framework for an origins-based sorting of the Kinds. If Kinds, or holobaramin, are indeed discontinuous biological units of Creation (not ancestrally related to each other), then we should reconsider our practice of grouping these discontinuous units according to anatomical continuities, rather than according to the discrete groupings laid out in Scripture. My exhortation in this area was echoed by Richard Sternberg at the Discontinuity Conference, which I attended.² He challenged creationists to avoid evolutionary terms, and advocated the development of an alternate vocabulary.

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References

1. Batten, D., A rose by any other name, *TJ* 15(3): 27–28, 2001.
2. Wood, T.C., The future looks bright, *TJ* 15(3): 75, 2001.

The crimes of Galileo

I found Dr Schirmacher’s article in *CEN Tech. J.* 14(1) most interesting and enlightening. However, I am perplexed by a statement he made regarding the charges brought against Galileo. He writes (p. 97, para. 3):

‘The Court of Inquisition did

not accuse Galileo of teaching against the Bible, but of disobeying a papal decree.’

However, the actual charges brought against Galileo say otherwise:¹

‘We say, pronounce, sentence and declare that you, Galileo, by reason of these things which have been detailed in the trial and which you have confessed already, have rendered yourself according to this Holy Office vehemently suspect of heresy, namely of having held and believed a doctrine that is false and contrary to the divine and Holy Scripture: namely that Sun is the centre of the world and does not move from east to west, and that one may hold and defend as probable an opinion after it has been declared and defined contrary to Holy Scripture. Consequently, you have incurred all the censures and penalties enjoined and promulgated by the sacred Canons and all particular and general laws against such delinquents. We are willing to absolve you from them provided that first, with a sincere heart and unfeigned faith, in our presence you abjure, curse and detest the said errors and heresies, and every other error and heresy contrary to the Catholic and Apostolic Church in the manner and form we will prescribe to you. Furthermore, so that this grievous and pernicious error and transgression of yours may not go altogether unpunished, and so that you will be more cautious in future, and an example for others to abstain from delinquencies of this sort, we order that the book Dialogue of Galileo Galilei be prohibited by public edict. We condemn you to formal imprisonment in this Holy Office at our pleasure. As a salutary penance we impose on you to recite the seven penitential psalms once a week for the next three years. And we reserve to ourselves the power of moderating, commuting, or taking off, the whole or part of the said penalties and penances.

This we say, pronounce, sentence, declare, order and reserve by this or any other better manner or form that we reasonably can or shall think of. So we the undersigned Cardinals pronounce:

F. Cardinal of Ascoli
B. Cardinal Gessi
G. Cardinal Bentivoglio
F. Cardinal Verospi
Fr. D. Cardinal of Cremona
M. Cardinal Ginetti
Fr. Ant. s Cardinal of. S. Onofrio.’

Andrew Kulikovsky
Stockholm
SWEDEN

1. See <galileo.imss.firenze.it/museo/a/esenten.html>.

Protein families

As a molecular biologist, I read with interest Truman and Heisig’s recent article.¹ I had been pondering over this type of study a number of months ago, but had no idea of how I would even begin to estimate constraints related to function and correct protein folding. I wanted to estimate how unlikely it would have been for the proposed evolutionary bacteria to have spontaneously arisen based on DNA polymerase, RNA polymerase, some sort of tRNA loading enzyme, plus DNA encoding these components. If one imagined this floating in a nutrient rich pool, one could even forgo metabolic enzymes and packaging and just call the pool itself a life form if it could make more of each component. However according to this reported cytochrome c model, there would be more than enough problems even getting the DNA right for one of the enzymes, let alone spontaneous generation of the first proteins to transcribe/translate the DNA. This paper is an elegant demonstration of how, if the earth were treated as a giant test tube, sporting paranormal