

lard Libby said about this very problem some forty years ago. Libby had developed the ¹⁴C dating technique in 1948 and later received the Nobel prize for this work. As for any other method of measurement used in science, it was necessary for Libby to calibrate his equipment using samples of known age; in this case historically dated wooden coffin lids. He reported his work and the following quote is found as Libby's footnote to his paper, Accuracy in Radio Carbon Dates, published in *Science* vol. 140 (19 April 1963), p. 278:

'The Egyptian historical dates beyond 4,000 years ago may be somewhat too old, perhaps 5 centuries too old at 5,000 years ago.'

Libby's statement referred not to a publication but to a private communication with an authority on Egyptian dating, I.E.S. Edwards. This confession completely vindicates works such as Velikovsky's *Ages in Chaos* (1952) where this author asks the question: Are six hundred years missing from Israel's history, or have six hundred ghost years crept into Egyptian history? The six hundred added years have continued to cast doubt upon Israel's early history but it would be going beyond the limits of this letter to pursue this fascinating question. Sufficient to say that William Mure raised the same question in 1829 and concluded that the addition originated with the doubtful work of Jean-François Champollion.¹

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References

1. Taylor, I.T., *In the Minds of Men*, 3rd edition, TFE Publishing, Minneapolis, pp. 347, 349, 462 and notes 8 and 9, 1996.

118–127, 2003) has drawn our attention not only to a powerful refutation of neo-Darwinism, but to a potential tool for testing the biblical view of the fossil record. The lack of mutations in dental fossils argues against the mutational view of evolution, and it also reveals the relatively slight mutation load on the animals that died in Noah's Flood. It should theoretically be possible to find evidence of genetic 'perfection' very broadly across the whole fossil record. Symmetry, for example, is commonly used as a sign of genetic integrity, so by examining fossils for symmetry (and comparing them with extant organisms) we might be able to test this prediction of the biblical view.

Noah's Flood occurred only about 1,500 years after creation, and presumably a similar time since the Fall, when mutations would have begun to accumulate. The law against incest (which we can infer was meant to protect humans from genetic defects) was not given until about 1,000 years later. We might reasonably infer that at the time of the Flood, genetic perfection was still a real factor in the lives of many creatures.

Today, about 6,000 years after the Fall, we have suffered from mutations for about four times as long as the organisms that died in the Flood. Under the biblical model, therefore, mutation load today should be very much greater than that found in fossilized organisms. But under the neo-Darwinist model, mutations have been a constant factor for millions of years throughout the whole fossil record, so we would not expect to find less mutations in fossils than we see among extant organisms today.

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Don Moeller replies:

The author of the letter is correct. Examination of animal and human dentitions found in the fossil record should exhibit the effects of an increasing mutational load through time. Dental cascade developmental abnormalities should also demonstrate specific effects of loss of information mutations which occurred after the Fall. Abnormalities which are unaffected by diet, such as eruption sequence, positional eruption variation, and dental pathology from unerupted teeth, are all good indicators of mutational loads. Almost all animals with teeth have some modifications of these subsystems which then may be mapped as they occur in the fossil record.

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Erratum TJ 16(3)

The Tower of Babel Account Affirmed by Linguistics: on p. 28, at the bottom of the second column under American families, the sentence, 'The Miao-Yao is found in northern Canada from the eastern part of Alaska to Greenland', should be changed to 'The Miao-Yao (Hmong-Mein) are found in Southern China, mainly Guizhou and Guangxi Provinces (as well as Guangdong) and into Southeast Asia.'

Erratum TJ 17(2)

Proconsul africanus: *an examination of its anatomy and evidence for its extinction in a post-Flood catastrophe*: in Figure 2 on p. 13, the image shown is the maxilla and not the mandible.

Genetic perfection in the fossil record

Don Moeller's article 'Dental fossils and the fossil record' (*TJ* 17(2):

