

2. In fact, some creationist students of the fossil bones believe that e.g. Lucy's pelvis was consistent with bipedalism. See Murdock, M., These apes were made for walking: the pelvis of *Australopithecus afarensis* and *Australopithecus africanus*, *Journal of Creation* **20**(2):104–112, 2006.
3. Chiefly *A. afarensis* (of which 'Lucy' is the best-known) and the later (by evolutionary 'dating') *A. africanus*, of which Raymond Dart's Taung child was the earliest discovery.
4. The ones who deny that the australopithecines were in the human line include Charles Oxnard, who was Professor of Human Anatomy at both the University of Western Australia and the University of California at Santa Barbara. Oxnard performed detailed multivariate computer analyses of the fossil anatomy of the creatures, comparing them to humans and living apes, to try to remove the 'subjective' element from such studies.
5. Spoor, F., Wood, B. and Zonneveld, F., Implications of early hominid morphology for evolution of human bipedal locomotion, *Nature* **369**(6482):645–648, 1994.
6. Charles Oxnard, already mentioned in reference 4.
7. See Oard, M., Did Lucy walk upright? *Journal of Creation* **15**(2):104–112, 2001, <[www.creationontheweb.com/content/view/1823/](http://www.creationontheweb.com/content/view/1823/)>; and Catchpoole, D., New evidence: Lucy was a knuckle-walker, 5 May 2000, <[www.creationontheweb.com/content/view/3655/](http://www.creationontheweb.com/content/view/3655/)>. If Lucy were already walking around like humans, what was natural selection doing not getting rid of such a useless structure?
8. A term used to describe consistent differences of form in males and females within a given species.

## Dinosaur demise did not jump start mammal evolution

Michael J. Oard

You have heard it said that the mammals were small and undiversified during the time of the dinosaurs, but then after the dinosaurs became extinct the mammals blossomed tremendously in an 'adaptive radiation'. Robert Carroll writes: 'The extinction of the dinosaurs left vacant a broad range of adaptive zones that were subsequently occupied by therian mammals.'<sup>1</sup>

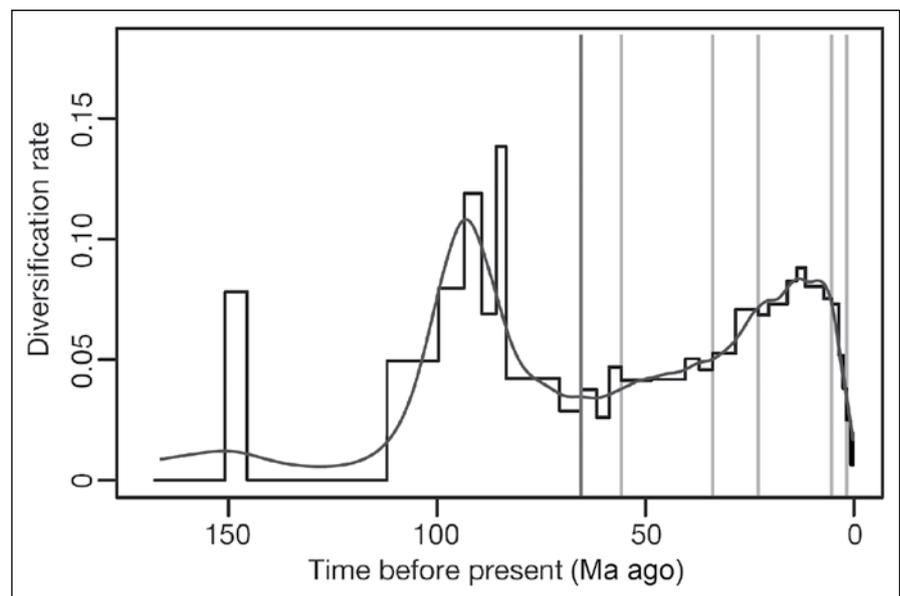
The notion of an adaptive radiation is considered to be based on the fossil record. However, the age distribution of fossils is partly based on circular reasoning.<sup>2–5</sup> In other words, the finding of a dinosaur automatically places the rock containing the fossil into the Mesozoic, and mammalian fossils are always assumed to be Cenozoic. Similarly, the end of the Cretaceous is often defined as the last preserved dinosaur in a vertical sequence.<sup>6</sup>

A new article in *Nature* now claims that this evolutionary belief is a myth.<sup>7</sup> Bininda-Emonds and others have constructed an evolutionary lineage of nearly all living mammals using DNA comparisons tied to fossil dates for the beginning of major lineages. They have called their results 'supertrees'. The authors admit that using molecular data alone or fossil data alone sometimes gives *conflicting* results:

'Molecular data and the fossil record can give conflicting views of the evolutionary past.'<sup>8</sup>

In the case of mammals, the fossil record favoured (or at least had favoured) an explosive increase in mammal diversification just after the Cretaceous/Tertiary (K/T) boundary, but the molecular data pushed most origins of the same orders back into the Late Cretaceous.<sup>8</sup> The authors compiled a huge data set, and from the phylogenies they developed they were able to estimate diversification rates with time, all within the evolutionary paradigm of course.

Because their analysis is tied to the recent findings of many complex mammals in the Jurassic and Cretaceous,<sup>9,10</sup> their diversity analysis showed an increase in diversity in the



Net mammal diversification rate according to the latest uniformitarian sources. Note little change through the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary but diversity rates peak in Mid-Cretaceous and Miocene. (After Bininda-Emonds *et al.*,<sup>7</sup> p. 510, figure 2b).

mid Cretaceous, 85 to 100 Ma, and in the early Eocene. In fact, nearly all the living orders of mammals had originated by 85 Ma.<sup>10</sup> However, there was little or no change in diversity through the K/T boundary, as had been assumed for over 100 years. In fact, the few mammal groups that did diversify after the K/T boundary subsequently declined or died out.<sup>11</sup> The graph leaves the evolutionists with a major question of mammal evolution:

‘What, then, was delaying the diversification of present-day mammals? Clearly, the priority is to identify why net rates of diversification remained low for so long after the major lineages became established.’<sup>11</sup>

It is interesting that their diversification graphs show the mammal diversification rate increasing to a maximum in the Miocene and then rapidly dropping to zero today.<sup>11</sup> This implies that there is no evolution occurring in living mammals today, nor has there been in the recent geological past. Such a change is what we would expect in the post-Flood world—any changes that do occur are just the shuffling of genes within kinds. Because there is diversification of mammals up until the very late Cenozoic, the graph implies that the Flood/post-Flood boundary is in the very late Cenozoic based on this parameter, since any significant diversification rate in the rock record would likely represent burial characteristics in the Genesis Flood. The Flood interpretation of the diversification graph reinforces other evidence that the Flood/post-Flood boundary is in the very latest Cenozoic.<sup>12–14</sup>

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## Wild, wild floods!

Emil Silvestru

Recently the Brits have found out what really separated them from mainland Europe: catastrophic flooding! And not once but twice! Detailed studies of the bottom of the English Channel have revealed an ancient river valley that once collected the waters of the Thames, Somme, Rhine-Meuse and the Scheldt—rivers that all discharge today into the North Sea.<sup>1,2</sup>

High resolution imagery of the seafloor has not only revealed an ancient river but also clear signs of large-scale flooding (megafloods)—signs like flat-topped, elongated and streamlined islands up to 10 km long and 4 km wide, plus grooves nearly 200 m wide, 2–3 m deep and 10–15 km long.<sup>1</sup>

The flooding discharged an estimated  $1 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  of meltwater from a pro-glacial lake located where the North Sea is today. Within the evolutionary (long-age) timeframe, the first flooding event is believed to have occurred about 425,000 years ago during the Ice Age. In my view, however, the first erosional event was the receding water of Noah’s Flood<sup>3</sup> (~4,500 years ago, Genesis 8) cutting a deep canyon through the landbridge that then connected Europe and the British Isles, a *structural ridge* known as the Weald-Artois anticline made almost entirely of chalk.

Then, at the end of the last episode of intense freezing (believed by evolutionary scientists to have taken place 20,000 years ago) an even larger meltwater lake formed north of the canyon which is believed to have been dammed by moraines or some other obstacle. At some point the dam breached and a flood which they claim was even greater than the previous one<sup>4</sup> scoured away all that remained of the structural ridge, creating the English Channel as we know it today.<sup>1,2</sup>

### History repeated

This newly accepted megaflood is the last one in a series that began to make its way into the scientific establishment