

06/2007

Re: Missing the Mark

Dear Editor,

It's difficult to know where to begin responding to Darrin Yeager's empty attack on evolution. For example, he states "matter [cannot] come from nothing" as if cosmology or quantum physics have anything to do with biological evolution, though in fact physical evidence abounds for both the big bang and particle pair production. Next he claims "non-living material [cannot] become alive", which again has little or nothing to do with natural selection, though he might want to ask a bio-chemist whether a virus (once memorably characterized as "a bit of nucleic acid with attitude") is alive. Skipping his third point for the moment, I confess I am at a complete loss as to what he means by "explosions [cannot] produce order". His last point "name 50 transitional fossils" seems to repeat his third point that "species can[not] change". Aside from the humorous observation that creationists used to ask science to "name one transitional fossil", I will respond with several hundred in the vertebrate animal fossil record alone: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/faq-transitional.html>

In contrast to the well documented, painstakingly investigated, rigorously challenged, constantly improving scientific explanation of evolution by natural selection, what exactly are the creationists able to offer? Apparently just that "God did it". Well, maybe God "did do it". In fact maybe God "did" evolution by natural selection over millions of years. Heck, maybe God "did" the whole shebang ten thousand years ago along with the fossil evidence already in place, or maybe he "did it" all ten minutes ago. God can "do" anything, right?

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