

Evolution is Still in the Running

By: Mehruba Alam

The concept of how the human species came to be is surrounded by much controversy. There are essentially two sides to this historic debate. One side that states scientific evidence about how evolution is a plausible idea, demonstrating how Homo sapiens evolved from past species. Then there is the creationist side who is opposed to this idea and believes in ideas that are interpreted from religious texts. Both sides have valid points, however the hard evidence about the ideas of evolution seem does not contradict the ideas of creationists. Henry M. Morris, a prominent Ph.D. in hydraulic engineering, is known as the founder of the creation science movement. He presented many arguments as to why evolution is not credible, even though there is much evidence to back up the claims made by evolutionists. It would seem more practical for creationists to intertwine both of these ideas of how the human species came to be than to rather completely ignore the facts of evolution. In Morris's text, *The Scientific Case Against Evolution*, he made many claims about evolution and backed up those claims with faulty logic. The problem in Morris's texts are that he completely disregards evolution instead of taking its ideas into context. This paper will be responding to some of the points he made by explaining how evolution has enough evidence to backup its claims and how it can be combined with his arguments. In the plethora of years that evolution has been a concept of how human existence originated, along with the evidence proponents use to back up its claims are enough to create an argument that evolution is in fact a plausible notion and can be combined with creationist beliefs.

Of the many arguments Morris presented about creationism, one that stood out was his saying that evolution never happened in the past ^[1]. He states that there has never been any

vertical evolution where one species directly evolves from the previous to become something better. One flaw in this argument is that evolution occurs incredibly slowly and it takes millions of years to see such differences. Another flaw is that there is evidence to show that species may be related to each other or have vertically evolved from one another through different limbs that are known as vestigial, homologous and analogous structures. These structures show the similarities in origin such as homologous structures. There may be different functions for these such as arms. A whale uses them to swim, while a bird uses it to fly or humans use them to grab items. They may have different functions, however many species have them and they help show a recent common ancestry. Another structure that shows common ancestry are vestigial structures. Although these serve no use in organisms, they show similar sequences in DNA which can be related back to other organisms. Morris stated that vertical evolution never occurs where one species directly evolves from the previous to become better, however there is proof that shows the same species are still here and living, but with different features which have helped them survive in the changing environment.

Morris made an additional claim that "Since there is no real scientific evidence that evolution is occurring at present or ever occurred in the past, it is reasonable to conclude that evolution is not a fact of science, as many claim."^[1] This argument is questionable because of the discoveries of the fossils of Lucy, Ardi and naledi. These represent the different branches of how Homo sapiens came to be. When Ardi was found after Lucy, it brought us closer to the evolution of Homo sapiens because it was seen as having had a mix of "primitive" traits, shared with its predecessors, and "derived" traits, which it shares exclusively with later hominids.^[3] This means that its derived traits were adopted by later hominids, which is a sign of vertical evolution. Also, something that made her different than the primates of her day is that she had more vertebrae in her lower back, something that is seen in Homo sapiens today. Then the

recent discovery of a brand new species called Homo naledi was a fascinating discovery for evolutionists. The concept that only humans buried their dead diminished when it was seen that Homo naledi's, an older species compared to Homo sapiens, buried their dead as well.^[4] It should also be questioned as to why humans bury their dead. Stating that evolution never occurred in the past is a harsh and critical statement to make because Morris himself never had evidence to backup this claim.

If evolution never occurred in the past, where did this concept exactly come from if not adopted from an earlier species.

Another claim made by Morris was "The fact is that evolutionists believe in evolution because they want to. It is their desire at all costs to explain the origin of everything without a Creator."^[1] At no point in the evolution argument is it stated that creationism is wrong. It just supports its own beliefs through much evidence and facts. Evolutionists back up all of their claims made with hard scientific evidence. They are just building an argument about how evolution has occurred through the millions of years of evidence. The man known for being the founder of evolution, Charles Darwin, made many valid points without the use of technologies available today. Through studying finches, he was able to make arguments such as natural selection. He stated that only the finches that could adapt to the environment would survive and it was the truth. He collected years of data that showed short beaked finches lived where there was a specific type of food while finches with long and narrow beaks lived on an island with a different type of food. He also noted that when the food supply changed on one island, there were different finches living on the same island the next year. Evolution through natural selection might be the most prominent and realistic idea in evolution. The idea states that "all life on Earth is connected and related to each other," and this diversity of life is a product of 'modifications of populations by natural selection...' ^[5]. Valid claims such as these are reasons

that make evolution a plausible idea. Also back to his original claim that evolutionists desire to explain things without a Creator is a bit harsh. When the question “Doesn’t evolution contradict religion?” was asked, the following definition was given. “Not always. Certainly it contradicts a literal interpretation of the first chapter of Genesis, but evolution is a scientific principle...To scientifically test a religious belief one first must find some empirical test that gives different results depending on whether the belief is true or false. These results must be predicted before hand, not pointed to after the fact. Most religious beliefs don’t work this way. Religion usually presupposes a driving intelligence behind it, and an intelligent being is not always predictable. Since experiments judging religious beliefs cannot have predictable results, and may give different results under the same circumstances it is not open to scientific inquiry.”

With millions of years of evidence to evolution, there is enough substantial proof to make the theory of evolution a probable idea. The concept of creationism was never discredited, but to argue that evolution could never have occurred seems irrational. Being able to incorporate the idea that maybe some aspects of evolution are possible may help accredit the notion of creationism or help make it more thorough.

(Find a christian audience website instead of ICR)

Fix tone to say that his points are not wrong but how both ideas can be combined
so who says God makes mistakes? maybe its a beautiful idea of how both things grow
Present ideas from both creationism and evolution scientists to help persuade audience
In conclusion, talk about how this may change the culture in the future, does resolving the
tension between these two ideas point towards some sort of cultural framework
does acceptance to evolution from faith based people point towards a bigger picture

References

1. [Morris, Henry M.](#) The Scientific Case Against Evolution.
2. [St. Rosemary Educational Institution.](#) 2015. Darwin's Theory: Homologous, Analogous, Vestigial Features.
3. [Ardi-](#) Human Origins.
4. [McKenzie, David.](#) 2015. Homo naledi: New species of human ancestor discovered in South Africa.
5. [Than, Ker.](#) 2015. What is Darwin's Theory of Evolution?.