

Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

May/June, 2005; Vol. 22 No.3

Seek and Ye Shall Find...

by Mark Sonmor

In March the world was amazed when, what appears to be, soft tissue was found in the thighbone of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* — seemingly complete with blood cells and blood vessels. Mary Higby Schweitzer of Montana State and North Carolina State Universities, stated, “They are transparent, they are flexible...The microstructures that look like cells are preserved in every way.”¹ To see pictures of these fantastic findings, visit: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7285683>.

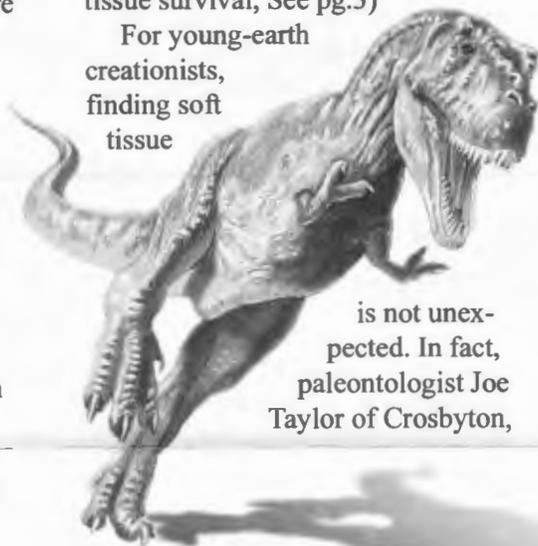
Obviously, one of the first questions that comes to mind is: Can researchers locate any DNA in order to clone a dinosaur?

In a video interview on the site listed above, Schweitzer related the sobering obstacles that lie in the path of cloning a dinosaur. Even if DNA can be located, cloning is practically impossible based on the information available at the current time. However, she was optimistic about what might be learned of their physiology.

When asked how tissue could survive in a dinosaur bone for 70 million years, Schweitzer replied that, “...a lot of our research doesn’t allow for this.”² In a separate interview she said “...there has been an awful lot of analytical and experimental studies about how cells and tissues degrade after death. We know the chemical cascades involved. We know the molecules involved and we know what happens to cells and tissues

during degradation. Knowing that, knowing the chemistry, soft tissues will go away easily within 100 years of death. Easily, except in very rare cases where you have things mummified, for example, or things frozen in ice.”³ Because of this, she is very cautious to say what the tissue is for sure. (For more on the question of tissue survival, See pg.3)

For young-earth creationists, finding soft tissue



is not unexpected. In fact, paleontologist Joe Taylor of Crosbyton,

TX found collagen fibers (shown above and on pg.3) in his own samples of *Tyrannosaurus rex* bone.

For those committed to long ages of evolutionary time, this can pose a problem. Rather than question the geologic timeframes, however, some, including Schweitzer, have said, “...we will have to do some rethinking of some of the basics of the model of fossilization.”⁴ Others have gone so far as to suggest that the dinosaurs possessed some unknown substance

that allowed their tissues to remain soft until now.

Schweitzer first made headlines in 1997 when her team discovered blood cell fragments in the bone of a *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Since this most recent finding, her team has found similar samples of soft tissue in two more *Tyrannosaurs* and a *Hadrosaur* (duckbill dinosaur).

However, these are not the first reports of soft tissue being discovered in dinosaur bone. A few studies have already been published (cited in the source below) by both evolutionists and creationists.

Because the prevailing assumption has been that soft tissue could never be found in something so old, these reports have apparently gone unnoticed by mainstream science and the popular media. Now, paleontologists are hoping museums will crack open their dinosaur bones and begin looking for soft tissue.

As exciting as these findings are, it is sobering to think they may have gone undiscovered if not for a few scientists who ignored the evolutionary assumptions and dug a little deeper. **T&B**

¹Rueters, March, 24, 2005

^{2,4}MSNBC Interview (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7285683>)

³Howe, Linda Moulton, 2005, www.earthnews.com

[Editor's Note: Images of T-rex bone courtesy of Mark Armitage, M.S. For further information on this work, please see: Armitage, M. 2001. *A scanning electron microscope study of mummified collagen fibers in fossil Tyrannosaurus rex bone*, *CRSQ* 38(2):61-66.]

Frozen In Time

by Mark Sonmor

In this issue you will notice a recurring theme: Evolutionary thinking often prevents scientists from considering reasonable answers and workable theories. Nowhere is this more evident than in the secular theories postulated for the Ice Age.

For many years, uniformitarian geologists would not even acknowledge the possibility of an Ice Age. After all, if the present is the key to the past, continent-wide ice sheets 10,000 feet thick would be impossible. However, as evidence mounted, they gradually gave into the idea.

Its general acceptance, however, has posed more problems than it has solved for evolutionists. For example, what mechanism would



"Fascinating!"

— Glenn Pearson, AOI

cause the necessary drop in temperature and produce such huge amounts of snowfall? What would explain hippos coexisting with reindeer, musk oxen, and woolly mammoths in places like England, France, and Germany?

What about evidence that indicates places such as the Sahara Desert were once well-watered and produced lush vegetation?

One of the most perplexing problems has been the mass extinctions of large mammals that occurred toward the end of the ice age — just as things should supposedly be getting better. Particularly puzzling has been the burial of thousands to millions of mammoths in the permafrost of Siberia. Many are frozen with their stomach contents still recognizable.

No event in recorded history can account for all these conditions and events evident in the Ice Age unless, of course, you allow for a global flood. With this in mind, the pieces begin to fall into place.

In *Frozen In Time*, meteorologist, Michael Oard explains how the biblical record of history explains all of these anomalies and more.

After showing the shortfalls of secular Ice Age theories, he addresses questions like: Were their multiple Ice Ages or a single Ice Age?; Ice cores: do they prove long ages?; and: What was man doing during this time?

Oard's common-sense analysis and clear diagrams make sense of a period of time that many are unaware of. *Frozen In Time* is a great resource for Christians and skeptics alike. If you like figuring out mysteries, you'll love this book. **T&B**

Sunbeam Hot Springs: A Lesson in Presumption

by Grant DeJong

Sunbeam Hot Springs is a geothermally influenced spring located near Stanley, Idaho. Water emerges at the main vent at 72°C (162°F) as it runs downhill before crossing under a highway and entering the Salmon River. Because I was working periodically in the area between October 2000 and April 2002, I had five seasonal opportunities to sample the aquatic organisms. In total, I found seven taxa of invertebrates, including five kinds of insects, one kind of water mite, and one kind of seed shrimp. Total density estimates ranged from 86-186 organisms/m².

I started sampling before I had read anything on hot springs in the scientific literature. After the first collecting trip, I did some research and discovered

that I should not have found any invertebrates. To my surprise, a scientific article stated flatly that, in hot springs, "[N]o insect lives above 50°C. [122°F]"¹

On subsequent visits I rechecked my work, took more thorough temperature measurements to rule out possible explanations, and decided that I had, indeed, found an entire community of insects living at temperatures ranging from 52-58°C.

I presented my findings at a scientific meeting in June 2004. After the presentation the comments of the audience were enlightening — not because they shed more light on my studies in the hot springs, but because they showed an interesting aspect of human behavior.

Several scientists, including a university professor, told me that they had previously read Dr. Pritchard's article and had since neglected collecting organisms in any hot springs where temperatures exceeded 50°C. They presumed those springs would be lifeless. Because I had not read Dr. Pritchard's article, I didn't know that my collecting should be futile.

This observation is parallel to the evolutionary indoctrination going on in our mainstream education system. Thanks to evolutionary propaganda, many students who might naturally conclude there is a Creator-God, have foregone belief in Creation only because its honest teaching is excluded from the curriculum. **T&B**

¹Pritchard, 1991. "Insects in Thermal Springs." *Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Canada*

Dinosaur Soft Tissue: How Long Can It Really Last?

by Mark Sonmor

Researchers have found, what appears to be, soft and pliable tissue in the bone of a Tyrannosaurus rex. Evolutionists claim it is 70 million years old. Can tissue survive in this state for that amount of time? Most people would say that's impossible.

However, since we can't sit around and watch tissue degrade inside a fossilized dinosaur bone for 70 million years, we really can't say with certainty how long tissue can last. Therefore, we have to make projections based on present observations and our beliefs about the past.

Thanks to the Egyptians, we do have some mummies we can examine. We also have mammoths that were frozen in the Ice Age. However, this dinosaur didn't have the luxury of being wrapped in bandages nor was he found frozen in ice. Therefore, the chances of finding soft tissue is even more unlikely.

The following is a list of natural processes that dinosaur tissue must overcome in order to be preserved in the state that was reported.

Scavengers: To have their soft tissue preserved, we know that dinosaurs needed to be buried quickly. If the carcass remained exposed, scavengers would dismember it and soon little or no trace would be left.

Bacteria: When an animal dies, burial alone won't insure tissue preservation. With no immune system to block them, bacteria have free reign over the inside and outside of the carcass.

Oxidation: If the tissue is protected from bacteria, it must still contend with oxidation or chemical breakdown. If left to themselves, the atoms and molecules that make up soft tissue will lose electrons and become broken and denatured.

Heat: In addition to oxidation, molecules are continually vibrating due to heat. This causes chemical reactions/breakdowns that double nearly every 10° Celsius. Over time, even heat at low temperatures can have damaging effects.

Water: In living cells, when amino acids come together to form proteins, they automatically release water molecules. After death however, when these same amino acids are exposed to water, they separate and take back their water molecules, breaking down the structure.

In a limited sense, it's like gluing a chain of dehydrated banana slices together with Elmer's® glue. Because they're dehydrated, they can accept the glue and be bonded together. Yet, in the presence of water, the bananas rehydrate. When this happens it dissolves the bond of the Elmer's® glue and the chain falls apart.

Enzymes: Each of our cells carry their own self-destruct systems. Collections of lytic enzymes, known as lysosomes, are bound up inside the cell to digest unwanted or foreign material or products of cell injury. However, if a cell is irreversibly damaged, all the lysosomes are activated to destroy the whole cell. Therefore, when the systems of the

body shut down, these enzymes begin breaking down the body itself.

Death initiates a cascade of chemical chain reactions that increasingly break down the tissues. Without God's preprogramming that continually replaces and rebuilds our bodies, we simply fall apart.

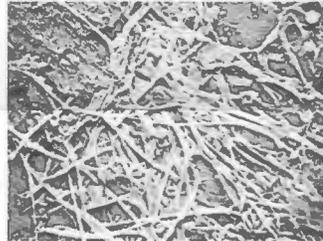
Mineralization: According to paleontologists, this dinosaur was entombed in sandstone of the Hell

Creek area of Montana. In most cases, sandstone is highly porous and water percolates easily through it. Minerals dissolved in the water replace the tissues of the t-rex. In a

wet environment, our tissue could run the risk of complete mineralization rather quickly.

Environment: During this supposed 70 million years of evolutionary history, evolutionists postulate the supercontinent of Pangea was still breaking apart; India was being pushed into Asia to form the Himalayas; and Antarctica was still finding its place at the bottom of the world. On top of that were multiple ice ages. That is a lot of geologic activity — sedimentation, erosion, freezing, thawing, tectonic activity, etc. To expect a dinosaur carcass to remain in a placid state of rest with all those earth-shaping processes going on around it is difficult to imagine. Many others say impossible.

When it comes to preserving tissue, time is not an ally for the evolutionist. In light of the processes listed above, it's difficult to imagine soft tissue being preserved for *thousands* of years, let alone millions. **T&B**



courtesy of Mark Armitage, M.S.



courtesy of Mark Armitage, M.S.

[Editor's Note: Images of T-rex bone courtesy of Mark Armitage, M.S. For further information on this work, please see: Armitage, M. 2001. *A scanning electron microscope study of mummified collagen fibers in fossil Tyrannosaurus rex bone*, CRSQ 38(2):61-66.]



Director's Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

Mary Jo & I, along with Alan & Diane Galbraith, one of our volunteer children's ministry teams, had an opportunity to teach an in-service training session on creation vs evolution for a group of 35 Christian school teachers in Santa Rosa, California. The teachers were thankful to get the creation information presented in an orderly manner. For some of these teachers, it was the first time they have heard any material on creation.

We were very excited to be able to share with this group of teachers. They were anxious to learn the material so that they could teach it to their own students. This session was right in line with our goal to multiply the creation ministry by training others to teach. We always welcome

more opportunities to expand this ministry to similar groups.

It was also fun to see another generation of trainees (the Galbraiths), be so eager to take part in passing the material down to yet another generation of trainees!

Our goal at AOI is to finish our whole training curriculum complete with all the needed teaching materials so that those trained will have all the

tools needed to teach the next generation. We certainly appreciate your prayers and support for this vital project!

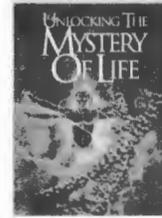
("And the things that thou has heard of me. . . the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." II Tim 2:2) **T&B**



Diane and Allan Galbraith use their creation training to minister to children across the country.

Unlocking the Mystery of Life...

Due to so much positive feedback, we are extending our current video offer. Unlocking the Mystery of Life dispels



"Unlocking The Mystery of Life is outstanding!" — Olathe, CO

any idea that life could have happened by chance. The exceptional animation of the inner workings of a cell is amazing.

If you missed it the first time, now is your chance to take advantage of a great deal on a great resource. Please use the enclosed order form or visit: <http://discovercreation.org/res/multim.htm>. **T&B**

Planning Ahead

by Glenn Pearson

When my wife and I got home from our honeymoon, 22 years ago, there was a letter from the local cemetery offering a deal on burial plots along with a convenient payment plan.

My first thought was, "that is a pretty unpleasant thought for someone with hopes for the future!" Then I realized that death sometimes needs to be discussed, even if it's unpleasant.

The reason I am relating this is that one of the ways to contribute to AOI is through your will. By structuring your estate in this way, you can continue supporting AOI in the future. As always, please talk to your financial advisor before changing any of your documents.

Also, please remember AOI through this time. According to research, many have diverted their normal giving to other national and international needs. Because of this, it is critical for those who understand the importance of the creation message to continue their support — especially through the notoriously lean Summer months. **T&B**

Creation Mountain Adventures

Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure July 3-8

State-of-the-art creation seminar with hands-on science! Dig fossils, tour the CO National Monument and a dinosaur museum. Enjoy all this, plus camp activities, guided plant walks, and fabulous scenery.

Redcloud Family Mountain Adventures July 31-Aug. 5 • Aug 7-12

Solid Biblical and scientific family-oriented teaching, horseback riding, 4 wheel drive trips to old ghost towns, fishing, climbing, rappelling, world-class accommodations — all in the majestic Lake City region of the Colorado Rockies.



For more information, call:

970-523-9943 or visit: www.discovercreation.org

Family Vacations with a Purpose!



ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE

PO Box 4343 • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • www.discovercreation.org

Think and Believe is published by Alpha Omega Institute, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Your donations are much needed and appreciated. © Alpha Omega Institute 2005