



Insects! Some people give them a wide berth on principle. Nasty, creepy, crawly flying things! Even the magnificent giant moths elicit only screams from some people. But the insects under discussion are guaranteed to cause no such sensation. Initial disbelief, amazement, titillation and

delight are the sensations to be expected from an encounter with these exotic “bugs”. Among the insects, at least 800,000 species have been described. One would expect plenty of variety in life-style and shape within a class this big. Indeed, this is the

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Adventures on Ararat

The recent death of Dr. John Morris of ICR brings to mind the occasion when he collaborated with Rev. Edward Crawford of Edmonton to travel to Mount Ararat.

On a stormy night at the end of February, 1976 Edward Crawford and more than three thousand other Ed-

montonians crowded into Jubilee Auditorium to hear John Morris, Field Director of the Institute for Creation Research in San Diego. Morris' update on the status of expeditions to Mount Ararat included a number of slides. Mr. Crawford however saw something that others missed. He saw an inscription on a boulder on Mount Ararat. He recognized some of the characters as ancient proto-Sumerian. What was the story behind these writings? He wondered how messages came to be in such an inhospitable part of the world.



Improbable as it may seem, six years later, Mr. Crawford, an amateur linguist, set off for Turkey with Dr. Morris to seek more ancient inscriptions on Mount Ararat. It was the spring of 1982. Their proposal to the Min-

istry of Information for Foreign Affairs was that they be allowed to make rubber molds and photographs of inscriptions in caves on Mount Ararat. Permission was not forthcoming that year.

Again in March of 1983 Messrs. Crawford and Morris went to Ankara. Told that the approval of the top Turkish expert on ancient languages would help their cause, Mr. Crawford sought him out. Minus an introduction, his chances of ever seeing the expert were poor. He did get to meet him however and the linguist enthusiastically added his support to the research proposal. Turkish officials assured the Americans that the necessary permits would shortly be issued.

In August of 1983 a party of four Americans met in Washington to collect research permits from the Turkish Consulate. Besides Morris and Crawford the party included Brian Bartlett, mountaineer and Don Barber, survival specialist in charge of logistics.

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by
Margaret
Helder

Celebrating a Milestone!

It seems a long time ago, yet not a long time ago at all. In the early 1970s Alberta was poised to see a mass immigration of Canadians from other parts of the country, and later people from other parts of the world. The promise of a new prosperity lured many to the province. But ideas were changing too and the schools in the province were about to see a new emphasis on increasingly blatant humanistic and pro-evolution content, especially in science and social studies.

Since they had front row seats for observing these changes, a number of junior high and high school teachers decided to do something about this. At the very least, they could inform others about what was taking place. Teachers from Grande Prairie, Hythe, Lacombe, Edmonton and Stettler established a Committee for True Education in 1973 which morphed into the Creation Science Association of Alberta in 1975. The first issue of *Dialogue* was published in 1974. That issue, as special recognition, was printed in its entirety by the Alberta Science Teachers' Council and distributed in schools throughout the province. Now we have reached volume 50 #1. This is an amazing milestone for an association made up of volunteers!



One representative of the original committee, declared on the occasion of the printing of volume 1 #1 of *Dialogue*, that it was the hope of the organizers to

promote scientific creation in the schools of Alberta as a valid alternative to the theory of evolution. And he further promised that his committee was doing their part to support this agenda “by publishing the periodical *Dialogue* and circulating it in the intellectual community of Alberta.”

Generations of students have since passed through Alberta schools. The curriculum has changed multiple times and the emphasis on evolution has only increased. But Creation Science Association of Alberta has continued an active program including the publishing of *Dialogue*. It is apparent, given our roots, that we still exhibit an emphasis on good scientific information which conforms to the Bible. This publication and CSAA seek to encourage and to promote an appreciation of interesting information about nature which surely reflects the glory and work of God, the Creator. Our whole agenda and the resources that we make available, all are chosen to foster good education in the schools and good lifelong learning!

CSAA, though the years, has provided valuable resources and opportunities for learning to the people of Alberta and beyond. Our newest initiative is designed to provide amazing information and resources to high school, post-secondary and all interested adults where they are, which is often online. Our HeadStart resource is user friendly in every possible way. Now we are developing a Junior HeadStart resource aimed at the junior high level. Discussions of earth history, rocks and fossils as well as ecosystems, energy, richness and variety of life forms, wonderful design, and environmental principles, will all be discussed with a Christian emphasis. With thanksgiving for past blessings, CSAA looks forward to future programs and future service in Alberta.

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Flowers that Fly

by
Moxie

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Articles on insects are always well illustrated with exotic beetles, flies and butterflies. Among these, cicadas represent an insect family which is seldom discussed on the prairies for the simple reason they do not live there. But in eastern and central Canada and in the United States (except the northwest quarter of the country) summers in woodlands reverberate with the loud clatter, clatter of male cicadas' courtship calls.

Cicadas are heavy bodied insects with similar appearing membranous wings which arch over the abdomen when an adult sits at rest. Most representatives of this group live in the tropics or subtopics. Among those who seek to grow trees or shrubs in these parts of the world, cicadas are highly unpopular. The immature or larval states (called nymphs) lie in the soil and dine on tree roots. They eat plants too because their development is slow. Depending on the species, it takes between 4 and 20 years to produce a winged adult. The adults emerge and remain above ground and few live more than a week.

Thus far, little about cicadas seems guaranteed to produce sensations of delight among the readers. However in the grasslands of east Africa there live some cicadas called flatid bugs with wings that are coloured coral, yellow, white or green. These creatures are small as cicadas go, at most about 1 cm long. The remarkable thing about these insects is their colonial habit. The offspring of individual broods remain together and they arrange themselves on sticks or stems in such a way that they resemble spectacular flower clusters (inflorescences). Some experienced botanists have been fooled by these insect groupings which resemble lupine, broom or hyacinth flowers.

The whole ideas of insect inflorescences gave Robert Ardrey, author of *African Genesis* (1961 Collins p. 66) “mental indigestion”. While protective imitations (mimicry) exist widely in nature, particularly among insects, they almost always involve only single individuals. The coordinating of a whole colony of individuals into a unit of camouflage is a situation almost unheard of in nature. During the 1950s at the Cornydon Museum in Nairobi broods of one cicada species were hatched in captivity. And from each batch of eggs there would consistently emerge at least one individual with green wings, and several with in-between

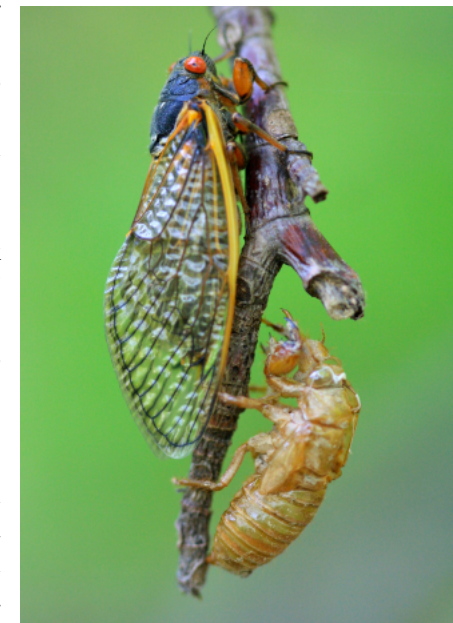
shapes of green as well as the mass of coral coloured individuals. Those with green or partial green wings always took up a position at the tip of the inflorescence, thereby simulating unopened buds at the tip.

The idea that evolution could bring about such perfection, gave Ardrey a “prickling sensation in the scalp.” It seemed amazing, almost unbelievable, to him that evolution could have produced colonies of insects which know

how to imitate flowers. Even more amazing still is the fact that the coral flower which the insect imitates, *does not exist in nature*. Ardrey concluded that the flatid bug society had created the flower form. Now that sounds an awful lot as if a separate creative intelligence placed the “know-how” in these insects, doesn't it? Indeed, that is the only logical conclusion. Cicadas, of the “flatid bug” group, were very definitely created!

Update

The flowers that fly are called *Flatida rosea* (or *Phromnia rosea*), a planthopper insect native to tropical dry forests of Madagascar. The nymphs are covered in white wispy waxy tendrils that curve



above the young insect's body. These waxy sticky nymphs are most unappealing to birds. Of course the birds are not interested in inflorescences made of adult insects, either. Both the coral coloured adults and the nymphs pierce the bark of the Liana plant and suck out lots of sweet juices. Nobody is going to disturb these insects, but they can hop anyway.

A taxonomically similar planthopper insect of the genus *Issus coleoptratus* was the first planthopper species in which the function of the perfect gears in the hind legs of the nymphs was described in 2013 in the journal *Science*. As Michael Behe relates in his video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iyrga53Cwc4&vl=en> Bugs with Gears (Secrets of the Cell with Michael Behe episode. 3), these insect nymphs (young) can jump so quickly and so high that the birds are totally confused. These insects are not a good bet for a bird's diet.

What a pleasure it is to learn more about wonderful design and the Creation!

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Reprinted from *Dialogue* volume 23 #1 February 1996

Adventures on Ararat

Continued from page 1

After a week's delay, full archaeological permits were issued. This was the first time that such comprehensive permits were issued to a foreign team. With high spirits the four set off for Turkey. Shortly thereafter they arrived at the tiny village of Aralet, 600 miles (1000 km) east of Ankara. This was to be their 'jumping off' point to Mount Ararat.

The local gendarme however refused to recognize their documents. He sent them to Kars, the provincial capital. A head-on crash with a truck on a hair-pin turn almost landed Mr. Crawford in jail. Police blamed the one with international driver's license from Edmonton, but a signed statement from seven soldiers, witness to the mishap, resulted in an out-of-court settlement in Mr. Crawford's favour. Nevertheless, they wasted three days in Kars after which they were sent to the city of Dogubeyazit and Agri – both well out of their way.

None of the documents issued in Washington by the Turkish Consulate was ever completely honoured. Eventually other documents were signed and they got to the mountain almost two weeks late. They were not permitted however to carry out much of the work that had been promised. Time was running out. It was the end of August.

In desperation they elected to walk 65 miles. Each carried a 70 lb. pack as they circled the mountain and climbed to 13,000 ft (3500 m). Thousands of dollars worth of research equipment had to be left behind as they could not carry it.

Guides unaccustomed to that part of the mountain and to research work, plus the hazards of the mountain nearly finished the team off. The extreme incline and unstable condition of the scree and talus were dangerous in themselves. The roaring of the glaciers was so loud that speaking was almost impossible. Fierce bears which are known for killing people, had to be given wide berths. Sudden extremes of temperature and sudden storms also can be fatal to those on the mountain. Braving all this, the American party managed two and one half days at their target destination in and above the Ahorra Gorge. They had planned for two and one half weeks.

Despite the problems, the expedition was not without some successes. Several caves were located, one of which contained inscriptions. One was in the Ahorra Gorge. Some exposed boulders bearing inscriptions were also located. It is the ancient character of the script which has excited Mr. Crawford and his fellow explorers.

Among the oldest known written records are cuneiform inscriptions on clay tablets. Early forms of this writing are dated by scholars to be older than 3000 B.C. Common to the early scripts (proto-Sumerian) and the later ones (Sumerian) is a complex system of mathematical calculations based on the number 60 (compared to our decimal system with base 10). No primitive people these, they could easily extract square roots and cube roots. We still use some elements of the Sumerian system: the 12-month year, the 24-hour day, the 60-minute hour and the 360-degree circle.

No one knows where these ancient literate people originated. The rocks on Mount Ararat may provide some evidence. A seemingly early form of

by
Margaret
Helder

proto-Sumerian script has been located on rock used as a building block in the ancient city of Ebla. Located in modern Syria, not far south of the Turkish border, Ebla was an important city about the time of Abraham (about 2200 B.C.) The rock with the proto-Sumerian inscription was apparently very old, having previously had another use. Some of the inscriptions found on Mount Ararat, including the Ahorra Gorge, are similar to the building block in Ebla. The script is in pictograph and is non-stratified, one of the earliest kinds of script.

Another team has found the remains of an ancient Sumerian town in southeastern Turkey which may coincide with the Sumerians on Mount Ararat. It is an interesting fact that in Sumerian the words for 'country' and for 'mountain' are identical. Scholars are certain that the Sumerians built the original artificial mountains known as ziggurats. The tower of Babel was a ziggurat. Remains of this latter tower were still extant round 600 B.C. at the height of Babylon's glory.

Studies on the proto-Sumerian script are still in their infancy and progress in translation will certainly be interesting. Nevertheless these indications of Sumerian origins on Ararat, Mr. Crawford believes, go a long way to establishing the historicity of Noah. In testimony to Mount Ararat's past, the very stones cry out!

[The Rev. Edward Crawford, pastor of Edmonton's Bible Presbyterian Church, came to Alberta from the United States (after completing theological training in Northern Ireland). His American contacts were helpful in his interesting John Morris in going to Turkey once again, this time to research ancient script markings on the mountain. Archbishop Ussher and others have placed the birth of Noah at about 2900 B.C., so the dating



of this script would locate it as close to the time of Noah. The information in this article was communicated by the Rev. Crawford to Margaret Helder. We also heard his exciting presentation on the 1983 adventures which he gave in his church one evening in early 1984.

The occasion when Ed Crawford heard John Morris in Edmonton in 1976, was sponsored by Creation Science Association of Alberta and took place in the Jubilee Auditorium on the campus of University of Alberta].

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Reprinted from *Dialogue* volume 11 #2 May 1984



Victims or Voluntary Swimmers?

by
Moxie

Sometimes it takes a youngster to come up with an interesting question. The occasion was a lecture on dinosaurs, presented in Edmonton's Provincial Museum on December 11, 1990. Following the main address by Dr. Philip Currie of the Royal Tyrrell Museum, an excited group of boy scouts was asking most of the questions. "Is it fun to look for fossils?" "How many dinosaurs has Dr. Currie found?" "What is the biggest fossil found in Alberta?" ... Dr. Currie patiently fielded all the queries. Then one young boy asked "Did dinosaurs swim?" As Dr. Currie answered the question, it became evident that this really was an interesting topic.

Dr. Currie remarked that little is actually known about dinosaur habits. There are some tantalizing hints however concerning ankylosaurs or armoured dinosaurs. These remarkable animals were built something like tanks. Their hides were decorated and weighed down by row upon row of bony knobs and spikes. In Alberta, the vast majority of articulated ankylosaur skeletons are found upside down. They lie on their back with feet projecting upward. Most experts, Dr. Currie included, suspect that these animals foolishly ventured into water over their heads. Unfortunately, as their bodies were top heavy, these animals tipped over, sank and drowned.

One wonders if the ankylosaurs voluntarily entered deep water, or if a flash flood overtook the victims. Evidence of similar sad events are widely dispersed. In an interview with an *Edmonton Journal* staff writer (January 23, 1989), palaeontologist Dr. Dale Russell reported finding an armoured dinosaur, called a stegosaur, upside down in China's Gobi Desert. Also Dr. Robert Bakker in his 1986 book *The Dinosaur Heresies* (William Morrow and Company, Inc. New York) discussed several occurrences of armour-plated nodosaurs (ankylosaurs) found upside down in marine sediments. He asks the rhetorical question whether these

dinosaurs foolishly went swimming or whether their carcasses were merely washed out to sea. He concludes: "The problem of oceangoing nodosaurs is especially perplexing because the Como carcass, upside down at the bottom of the Benton Sea, is not an isolated instance. Nodosaur carcasses lying on their backs cropped up in marine beds in Kansas in 1909 and several times since in similar sedimentary circumstances." (p. 40)

Update

The above article demonstrates the relevance of a dinosaur fossil discovery in Ft. McMurray in 2011.

Some of the most famous armoured dinosaurs are the stegosaurs. Every young person knows about **Stegosaurus** and how funny they looked! The **ankylosaurs** are also armoured dinosaurs. Their four legs are much shorter than those of the stegosaurs. These animals were covered in heavy bony plates so that they seem built like tanks. They were big too, averaging about 6-8 m (20-26 ft) long. One book on *The Great Dinosaurs* by Alberta's dinosaur expert Philip Currie and Zdenek Spinar says about the ankylosaurs: "Because of the great weight of their armour, they would have had great difficulty in swimming because they would have a tendency to roll over onto their backs and sink." (1994 p. 126) This statement applies not only to the ankylosaur armoured dinosaurs but also to the nodosaur armoured dinosaurs which were a bit smaller than the ankylosaurs.

Good fossil remains of armoured dinosaurs are rare, so it was an exciting day when a new nodosaur fossil was discovered near Fort McMurray, Alberta in 2011 in the Suncor Millenium oilsands mine. More amazing however was the condition of the dinosaur remains. There was a fully three-dimensional body with the exterior skin, armour, and spikes preserved as they would have been in life. Even more amazing, its stomach contents were

preserved. It seems that this animal preferred ferns. Have you ever heard of such an amazing fossil? No? Neither had anyone else!!

Scientists from the Royal Tyrrell Museum were very surprised to discover that this newly discovered specimen was a land dwelling dinosaur and not a sea dwelling reptile like a plesiosaur. No land animal had ever previously been discovered in the oil-sands. Many people wondered how this heavy, long animal (18 ft) ended upside down in sediments typical of the ocean.

As with many other armoured dinosaur fossils, it seems that this creature was overtaken by rushing waters that tipped him over and carried him far away. Eventually the animal sank to the bottom of the water into soft sediments which perfectly protected its three-dimensional shape. Soon buried by other sediments, the whole thing hardened into a most unusual perfectly preserved fossil. This creature *Borealopelta markmitchelli* is a dramatic testimony to the power of unique flood waters to sweep away and bury heavy dinosaurs. Truly Alberta is a wonderful place to reflect on the impact of a unique worldwide flood.

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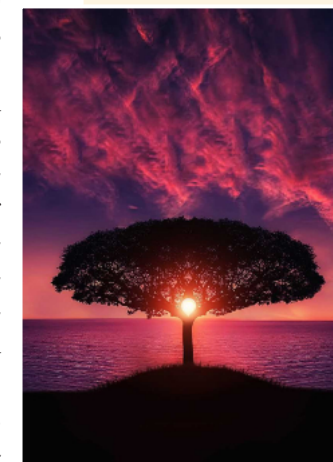


Nothing New Under The Sun!

A Reflection

It has been suggested by some people that Christians reacted poorly to the threat posed by Darwin's book *The Origin of Species*. Such criticisms miss the point. Influential English society had already abandoned an orthodox Christian faith and they were more than ready for Darwin's ideas. The situation was similar in the United States. There were no arguments which could have changed these hearers' minds. They heard what they wanted to hear and ignored what they did not like.

Naturally the first to speak out were prominent clerics. One of the most famous defenders of the faith was Samuel Wilberforce (1805-1873) Bishop of Oxford and son of the famous William Wilberforce who campaigned so long for the emancipation of the



slaves in the British Empire. The Wilberforce family was known for their devout faith. Thus in a review of Darwin's book, Bishop Wilberforce wrote: "Man's derived supremacy over the earth; man's power of articulate speech; man's gift of reason; man's free will and responsibility; man's fall and man's redemption; the incarnation of the Eternal Son; the indwelling of the Eternal Spirit all are equally and utterly irreconcilable with the degrading notion of the brute origin of him who was created in the image of God, and redeemed by the Eternal Son assuming to himself His nature." What the bishop was saying, was that if mankind descended from apes, then Christ's human body was similarly descended from apes. This was certainly heresy in the bishop's mind.

It is however the evangelicals who are considered by most observers to have led the fight against evolution. This however is not exactly the case. There were mixed opinions, as in most denominations. Prominent evangelical theologian Bernard Ramm (1916-1992) for example, was a bitter opponent of the creationists whom he called hyperorthodox. In his 1954 book *The Christian View of Science and Scripture* (Eerdmans), he declared that the hyperorthodox are inept but unfortunately still around (p. 27). Of these people he further declared that their pronouncements "lacked the measured control of cultured men." (p. 27) He further insisted that "Sad has been the history of the evil that good Christian men have done in regard to science." (p. 27) And he therefore declared that the hyperorthodox position is "impossible of credible defense." (p. 28)

Having thus disposed of the Biblical literalists, Bernard Ramm then undertook to reinterpret Scripture. The original creation was not as good as we might suppose: "God did not say that creation was perfect, but that it was good. In Scripture it is heaven which stands for perfection. The earth is the scene of man's probationary existence, and it is good but not heavenly perfect." (p. 93) It is not surprising therefore that Dr. Ramm believed that "there was death, disease and bloodshed in Nature long before man sinned." (p. 334) It is evident that such people as Dr. Ramm believed what they wanted, whatever Scripture declared.

This situation continues today. The objective of prominent organizations like BioLogos is to convince Christians that God used evolution to bring about His Creation. Christians however are to critically evaluate what they hear, just like the people of Berea in Acts 17. The choices are what Scripture tells us or what prominent theistic evolutionist supporters such as Dr. Timothy Keller and Dr. Francis Collins declare. Both of these men have been connected at one time or another with BioLogos. There are many more such individuals too. The issue has not disappeared whatever theistic evolutionists past and present may hope.

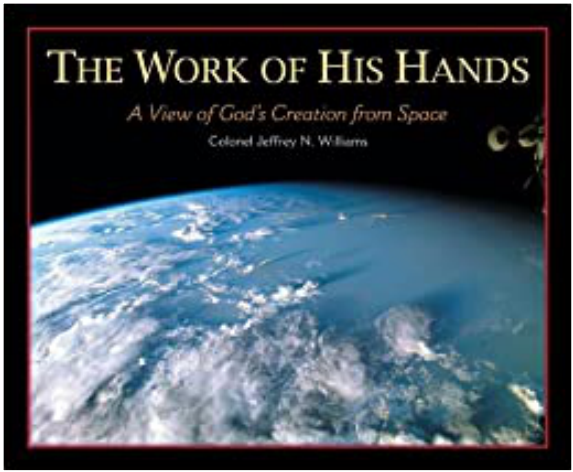
Col. Jeffrey Williams

The Work of His Hands

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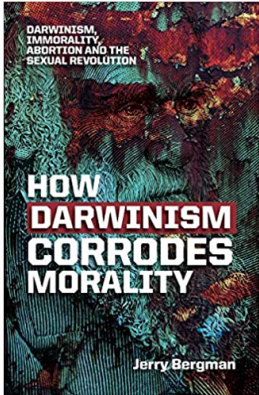


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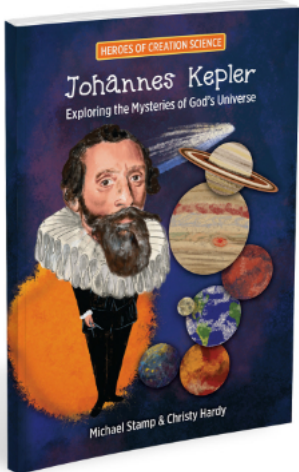
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