

big bang or other evolutionary cosmology.

Alas, Hoyle paid for his outright questioning of the materialist paradigm. In the 1950s, Hoyle had some ingenious ideas about stellar fusion, and predicted that the Carbon-12 nucleus would have a certain energy level (called a *resonance*) to enable helium to undergo fusion.¹⁴ His co-worker William Fowler eventually won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1983 (with Subramanyan Chandrasekhar), but for some reason Hoyle's original contribution was overlooked, and many were surprised that such a notable astronomer missed out. Fowler himself in an autobiographical sketch affirmed Hoyle's immense contribution:

'Fred Hoyle was the second great influence in my life. The grand concept of nucleosynthesis in stars was first definitely established by Hoyle in 1946.'¹⁵

But for all his ability to see through popular anti-God science, Hoyle's own views about God were equally un-Biblical. He still held onto panspermia, and in his last book, *A Different Approach to Cosmology*,¹⁶ Hoyle and his co-authors reaffirmed a quasi-steady-state theory for the universe, but this time one that requires ongoing episodic creation by some intelligent force within the universe (a complete denial of a six-day Creation *ex nihilo* by a transcendent, personal God).

Hoyle was also known as a science fiction writer. That he took to this sort of writing is not surprising, given his fascination with space and extraterrestrial life forces.

While Hoyle's comments on the big bang theory and Darwinian evolution are helpful, it is sad to see that Hoyle died apparently having rejected the truth about Creation. God has revealed the truth for all to see in the Bible, the History Book of the Universe. All the answers about the origins of life and the universe can be found right there in the first book, Genesis.

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Time's alleged 'ape-man' trips up (again)!

Jonathan Sarfati

Once more, *Time* magazine has loudly trumpeted the 'fact' of human evolution, and once more, based on flimsy evidence.¹ The latest find is 'dated' between 5.6 and 5.8 million years old, although one toe-bone is 'dated' a few hundred thousand years younger. This was discovered by the Ethiopian graduate student Yohannes Haile-Selassie (no relation to the late Emperor) enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, and a student of well-known paleoanthropologist Tim White. His original papers were published in *Nature* with commentary.²⁻⁴

Other recent 'missing links'

Readers should be aware that this is far from the only recent article that has tried to promote evolution on the basis of a few fragments of bone. Also, a claim that they've found the 'missing link' now is a tacit admission that they haven't found it before, despite their extravagant claims!⁵

Another alleged missing link is claimed to be even older at 6 million years, and was named *Orrorin tugenensis* or the 'Millennium Man' because it was discovered near the turn of the Millennium.⁶ But this was based on 13 fossil fragments comprising broken femurs, jaw bones and teeth. There were accusations that the fossils were collected illegally, which were denied and seem to be unproven.⁷

Another recent evolutionary claim was *Kenyanthropus platyops*, allegedly 3.6 million years old. Readers would find our preliminary response 'Not another (yawn) "ape-man"?'⁸ and follow-up article 'New Hominid Skull from Kenya'⁹ helpful. Readers who are already familiar with these will see the latest *Time* article as *déjà vu*. It's a good lesson that there is no need to be frightened by the latest media anti-God proclamations—they have been discredited time after time. Another

example is the alleged life from the Martian meteorite.¹⁰

What was the latest discovery?

So, what is so special about this latest *Time* article? This ‘new’ find is *Ardipithecus ramidus kadabba*. This comes from the local Afar language: Ardi = ground or floor, ramid = root, *kadabba* = basal family ancestor. But this means it is just a subspecies (i.e. a variant) of *Ardipithecus ramidus*, which is nothing new. *Time* wrote about this ape-like creature (among other alleged ape-men) two years ago, ‘Up from the apes’,¹¹ and we responded on our Website.¹²

Even this wasn’t the first we had heard of this creature—in 3 October 1994, *Time* published ‘One less missing link’¹³ when this creature was first discovered by Tim White and others, and published in *Nature*.¹⁴⁻¹⁷ However, back then, it was called *Australopithecus ramidus*, i.e. thought to be a type of the famous australopithecines. At the time, it was considered the oldest fossil human ancestor, ‘dated’ 4.4 million years old. But even back then, it was known to be highly doubtful that australopithecines were human ancestors. Evolutionary anatomist Charles Oxnard performed detailed multivariate analysis on them, and concluded that they did not walk upright in the human manner and were more distinct from both humans and chimpanzees than these are from each other.¹⁸

As we reported in ‘Root of the trouble’,¹⁹ a later *Nature* article admitted it was ‘possible that *Australopithecus ramidus* is neither an ancestor of humanity, nor of chimpanzees ...’, and even a tongue-in-cheek suggestion:

‘By 2000, *A. ramidus* will have been removed to a new genus, and regarded as a member of what we have dubbed the ramidopithecines.’²⁰

As we now know, he was right about renaming, if not about the new name *Ardipithecus*!²¹

We also covered *A. ramidus* in the *CEN Technical Journal* in 1994.²² One

writer (somewhat naïvely, in our view) accepted that the fragmentary remains were a genuine stratomorphic intermediate, i.e. both intermediate in the geological layer it was found (stratum) and in shape (morphology).²² But he thought that the fossil still fit best with a widely accepted creationist model of the post-Flood world’s climatic and biological change. But Batten in the same issue²³ showed that it was unreasonable to base missing link claims on fossils found at 17 locations spread over two miles! A lot of weight was given to eight teeth, mostly damaged, and the most detailed treatment was given to a tooth that was practically identical to that of a pygmy chimp (*Pan paniscus*). He also noted the caution of the editorial note:

‘The attractive epithet of the “missing link” had better be avoided until it is possible to answer with clarity the question “with what?”’²⁴

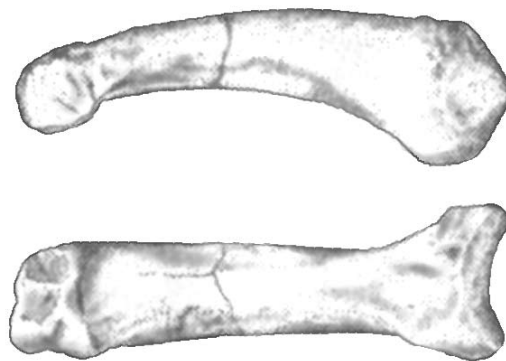
So what’s so special about this new discovery?

One feature is the allegedly ancient ‘date’, primarily by a radiometric technique called argon-argon dating of volcanic ash layers above and below the fossils. But there are many assumptions involved in such work.^{25,26} On the other hand, a lot of it is much the same. For example, much of the evidence is speculative, as shown by the following paragraph:

‘Haile-Selassie and his colleagues haven’t collected enough bones yet to reconstruct with great precision what kadabba looked like. ... The size of kadabba’s brain and the relative proportions of its arms and legs were probably chimplike as well. ... Exactly how this hominid walked is still something of a mystery ... Details of kadabba’s lifestyle remain speculative too ...’

Also, *Time* cites Lucy’s²⁷ discoverer Johanson as skeptical:

‘... when you put 5.5 million-year-old fossils together with 4.4 mil-



Lateral and plantar view of AME-VP-1/71, the toe bone (length 31.9 mm) considered part of *Ardipithecus ramidus kadabba* along with other fragments (after Haile-Selassie).³

lion-year-old ones as members of the same species, you’re not taking into consideration that these could be twigs on a tree. Everything’s been forced into a straight line.’

Uprightness?

The transition from walking on all fours to uprightness is fraught with difficulties—humans are designed for it, but an ape finds it strenuous, so any selective pressures would work against it. Evolutionists have proposed a few scenarios of where uprightness had compensations. But Meave Leakey, wife of Richard and head of paleontology at the National Museums of Kenya, while not questioning the ‘fact’ of the evolution of uprightness, is quoted as follows on proposed scenarios:

‘There are all sorts of hypotheses, and they are all fairy tales really because you can’t prove anything.’

But *Time* nevertheless reports that this new specimen was already walking upright, already at (what they claim is) the dawn of human evolution:

‘But unlike a chimp or any of the other modern apes that amble along on four limbs, *kadabba* almost certainly walked upright much of the time. The inch-long toe bone makes that clear.’

But how clear is this really? *Time* reports Johanson’s opinion: ‘Beyond that, he’s dubious about

categorizing the 5.2 million-year-old toe bone with the rest of the fossils: not only is it separated in time by several hundred thousand years, but it was also found some 10 miles away from the rest.’

Note that this toe was the major ‘evidence’ for uprightiness, yet it boggles the mind how it could be regarded as part of the same specimen!

Conclusion

This article is just one more example of evolutionary indoctrination by the media, but when closely examined, the evidence is found to be fragmentary and interpreted within a framework of wishful thinking.

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Extrasolar planets

Rod Bernitt

Although the discovery of extrasolar planets has been heralded as evidence for stellar evolution, the opposite is more the case. The number has been steadily growing with about 60 now documented.¹ Recently, the star HD 82943 is reported to have a second giant planet orbiting.² Most of these planets are only some 90–200 light years away; relatively close by astronomical standards. However, some planetary dynamicists feel that the planets, if real, are unstable in their orbits. It seems they could only last thousands of years, or a million years at best.

Hot, giant-gas planets, or ‘Jupiters’, orbiting very close to their parent stars challenge the billion-year time scale. Orbital migration and gravitational interaction among giant planets would lead to the planet being engulfed by their parent star.³ Thus, for the evolutionist, who calculates the age of the star in hundreds of millions of years from the H-R diagram, the existence of such planets are an enigma—they should have been engulfed long ago.

Another problem is that the exoplanet orbits seem too elliptical. E.g. star HD 80606 has an exoplanet with an eccentricity of about 0.93. However, based upon the star’s H-R diagram age, this planet should have evolved into a circular orbit ‘long ago’.

The existence of these planets are a problem for the evolutionist’s billion-year timescale, as they provide *prima facie* evidence for an abrupt and rapid formation of star systems and for their young age.

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