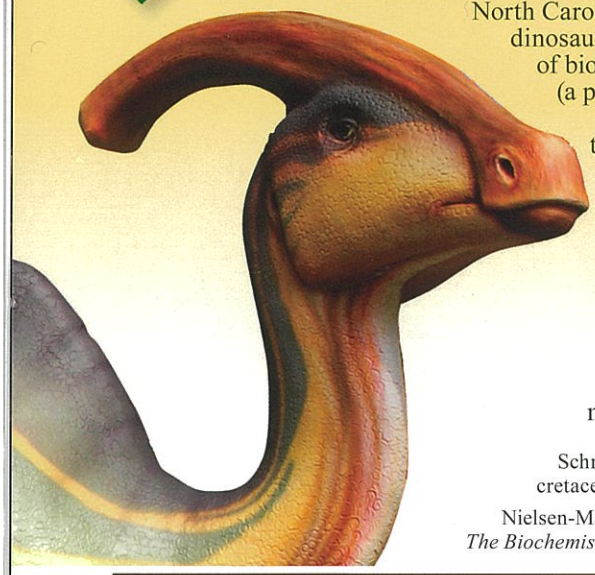
MORE SOFT TISSUE IN DINOSAUR BONES



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North Carolina State University researchers have discovered further evidence of soft tissue in dinosaur bones. Postdoctoral researcher Elena Schroeter and Mary Schweitzer, professor of biological sciences, have confirmed an earlier discovery of dinosaur collagen (a protein) in a duck-billed dinosaur.

This time around, the researchers found eight peptide (part protein) sequences, two of which were identical to what they first discovered in 2009. These peptides allowed the researchers to identify the specific type of collagen. It did not match any living animal, so it is highly likely to be dinosaur collagen, and not due to contamination.

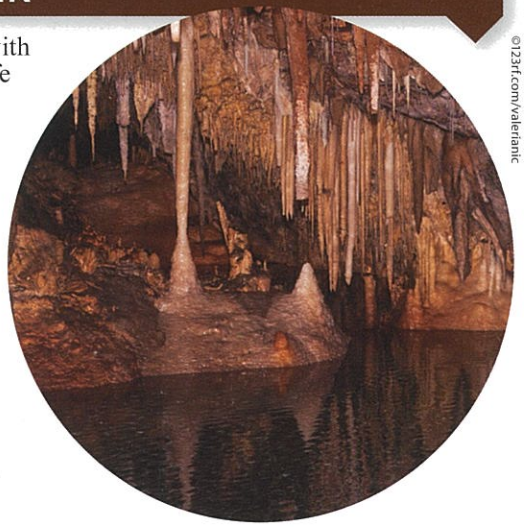
Based on laboratory experiments, at 20°C, bone collagen is expected to decay away, to below the detection limit, in just 15,000 years. So how is it that collagen is still present in these bones if they are 80 million years old? But rather than question the supposed evolutionary age of the bones, the researchers marvelled at how long proteins can last!

Dinosaur soft tissue continues to be a problem for those who hold to the idea of millions of years.

Schroeter, E.R. *et al.*, Expansion for the collagen I sequence and additional evidence of the preservation of cretaceous protein, *J. Proteome Res.*, January 2017 | doi: 10.1021/acs.jproteome.6b00873.

Nielsen-Marsh, C., Biomolecules in fossil remains: Multidisciplinary approach to endurance, *The Biochemist* **24**(3):12–14, June 2002.

UNDERGROUND LAKE HOLDS 'OLDEST' WATER



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Scientists who have found a lake 3 km (about 2 miles) underground in Canada with water about 10 times the salinity of sea water believe it could provide clues to life deep below the surface of planets such as Mars. There's no 'life' in the water but the researchers say it's "full of chemical energy for life". It's claimed the water is the oldest ever found at 2 billion years. This is based on its location in Precambrian rocks to which secular scientists have assigned a geological 'age' range of between 500 and 4,600 million years.

According to one veteran of the oil and gas industry, it is not unusual to find water at depths far exceeding 3 km. He told CMI by email: "I have drilled wells all over the world, offshore and onshore, and found water-bearing strata at depths far exceeding three kilometres—sometimes saline, sometimes fresh."

In the account of Noah's Flood we are told that the "fountains of the great deep burst forth" (Genesis 7:11); so the discovery of deep underground residual water all over the world is no surprise.

Yirka, B., New record for oldest water found in Canada, phys.org, December 2016.

Grimm, N., Oldest water on Earth found in Canada could provide clues to hidden life on Mars, abc.net.au, December 2016.

BREAKING DOWN LUCY CONTROVERSIES

WikiCommons

The famous 'Lucy' skeleton (*Australopithecus afarensis*) continues to attract both attention and contention, with the latest controversy concerning bone fractures.

Researchers from the University of Texas who examined CT scans of each of Lucy's bones concluded that she died from a fall, probably from a tree.

But Donald Johanson, the paleoanthropologist at Arizona State University credited with discovering and naming Lucy, says the 'fractures' are from "geological forces acting on the bones" during fossilization.

The most contentious claim about Lucy is that she is an 'early human' but many of her bony features suggest she is designed for tree climbing. The supposed evidence of her walking upright is based on the Laetoli tracks found in volcanic ash—but which some evolutionists have pointed out are identical to those of human children (except they 'can't be' because the 'dates are wrong'.) For more see creation.com/lucy-walk and creation.com/lucy-tracks.

Hoffman, A., Did a fall from a tree kill Lucy, our famous ancestor?, news.nationalgeographic.com, August 2016.

CROCODILE EGGS FOUND IN DINOSAUR NESTS

Crocodile eggs have been found in dinosaur nests in Portugal. Interestingly, in four cases the eggs were found in theropod (e.g. *Allosaurus*) nests, suggesting some sort of relationship.

Many of the eggs consisted of original eggshell material; the eggshell had not been replaced with other minerals. Of one batch of 13 eggs found, the authors say, "there is no evidence of recrystallization or replacement of the original composition of the eggs". This would *not* seem to be consistent with the claimed evolutionary age of 150 million years.

Furthermore, the authors concluded that, "Additionally, we verified and confirmed that the basic crocodiloid eggshell structure has shown a morphological conservatism over a period of 150 Ma". In other words, the eggs were much the same as modern crocodile eggs.

Russo, J. *et al.*, Two new ootaxa from the late Jurassic: The oldest record of crocodylomorph eggs, from the Lourinhã Formation, Portugal, *PLOS One,* March 2017 | doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0171919.

See also creation.com/stasis.

Yet another example of creatures reproducing "after their kind", i.e. stasis, rather than changing into something else (that is, evolving).

DINOSAUR IMPRINT BEAUTIFULLY PRESERVED

One of the largest recorded sauropod dinosaur imprints has been located in Mongolia's Gobi Desert. The fossil imprint is believed to have been made by a *Titanosaurus* which could have been about 30 m (100 ft) long and 20 m (65 ft) tall. Not only was the huge footprint—106 cm (41 in) long by 77 cm (30 in) wide—left behind, but also impressions of the titanosaur's claws, a very rare find.

The print is believed to have been made by the titanosaur on soft, muddy ground. Such prints typically don't last very long; it is believed that it was filled in by flowing sand which preserved it.

Fossil footprints such as this one can best be explained as having occurred at the time of the global Flood (Genesis 6–8). Cycles of rapid sedimentation were followed by temporary brief drops in local sea level. These allowed swimming animals that had not yet succumbed to the Flood to leave footprints on the fresh sediment, before another layer was quickly deposited, filling and covering the imprint with further sediment. Without such rapid burial, the foot and claw impressions of this magnificent animal would not have been preserved.

In some locations one can see the pattern from such cyclic sedimentation; repeating layers containing dino footprints are separated from the one above or below it by several intervening ones supposedly representing 'millions of years'. But what is the probability of such a 'repeat event' occurring millions of years later in the same spot just once, let alone over several successive periods of vast ages—especially when it involves, as it often does, the very same species of dinosaur?

Dinosaur footprint found in Mongolia's Gobi Desert among world's largest, researchers say, abc.net.au, October 2016.

Palazzo, C., Dinosaur footprint among largest on record discovered in Mongolia's Gobi Desert, telegraph.co.uk, October 2016.