Appendix Not Useless, But Evolution Is

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In this month's *Reason & Revelation*, Dr. Houts explains that for several decades now, evolutionists have been using various worn out, disproven lines of reasoning in an attempt to bolster their increasingly fragile theory of common descent for all organisms. One of these outmoded tactics is the idea that the human body contains leftover, virtually useless vestiges that once, in our early ancestors, were vibrant organs necessary for survival. In fact, in the late 1800s, evolutionary scientists believed that the human body supported more than 180 such organs.

These "useless" vestiges of evolution, however, turned out to be nothing of the sort. Dr. Houts noted that these organs were "useless" only in the sense that scientists and medical doctors were ignorant of their functions. As the medical community applied more research to the human body, the list quickly dwindled to a tiny fraction of the original number. Today, there is not a single organ that scientists can accurately and confidently proclaim to be a useless vestige of evolution. This realization, however, has not yet trickled down to the popularizers of evolution.

Live Science posts several "Top 10" articles that give the alleged Top 10 items in a given category. For example, there is a list of the "Top 10 Killer Tornadoes" and another of the "Top 10 Ways to Destroy Earth." One of their lists is titled, "Top 10 Useless Limbs (and Other Vestigial Organs)" (Miller, 2007). Listed as number one in that article is the human appendix. Concerning the appendix, Miller wrote: "Biologists believe it is a vestigial organ left behind from a plant-eating ancestor" (2007). He then reiterated ideas that Alfred Romer penned in 1949, stating "that the major importance of the appendix would appear to be financial support of the surgical profession, referring to, of course, the large number of appendectomies performed annually" (2007).

As one would expect if God designed the human body, aspects of the body would exist that our finite human minds could assess only after years of intense research. Such is the case with the appendix. Elsewhere in this issue of *R&R*, Dr. Houts notes several functions and uses already known for the appendix. A recent article published in *Theoretical Biology*, however, adds another interesting function to the appendix's increasing workload. Researchers from Duke University believe they have stumbled upon another reason humans have an appendix, and it is not because it is an evolutionary leftover (Borenstein, 2007).

Human digestion requires huge amounts of beneficial bacteria. Certain illnesses, however, destroy or remove both good and bad bacteria from the intestines. In order for digestion to continue, cultures of the good bacteria must be regrown to repopulate the gut. That is where the appendix comes in according to the latest research. Borenstein noted: "Diseases such as cholera or amoebic dysentery would clear the gut of useful bacteria. The appendix's job is to reboot the digestive system in that case" (2007). Bill Parker, co-author of the latest research, said that the appendix "acts like a bacteria factory, cultivating the good germs" (Borenstein, 2007).

Evolutionists should simply admit that the idea of vestigial organs is false, they should promptly remove it from their arsenals, and reevaluate the data that supposedly prove evolution true. But that is not what happens. Because evolution is so "plastic" and can be expanded to fit any data, even data that is exactly the opposite of what has been used in the past to teach evolution is twisted as new "proof" of evolution. Borenstein quoted Brandies University biochemistry professor Douglas Theobald as saying that the explanation for the function of the appendix "seems by far the most likely" and that the idea "makes evolutionary sense" (2007). So, we are told that the appendix is a useless leftover, and that "fact" proves evolution to be true. Then we are told that the appendix has a very important function and that fact "makes evolutionary sense." Which is it? In truth, that which proves too much proves nothing. Finding an important function for the appendix is exactly what one would expect if the human body was designed by God.

As for other organs in the human body that have been dubbed vestigial in the past, those who use the vestigial argument should proceed with extreme caution. Borenstein wrote: "The theory led Gary Huffnagle, a University of Michigan internal medicine and microbiology professor, to wonder about the value of another body part that is often yanked: 'I'll bet eventually we'll find the same sort of thing with the tonsils'" (several functions of which already are known, see Bergman, 2000). The only thing that appears to be useless in this discussion is the theory of evolution and the false evidence used to support it.

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More Soft Dinosaur Tissue

Allegedly, "no human being has ever seen a live dinosaur" ("Age...," 1993, 183[1]:142). Evolutionary scientists insist that dinosaurs became extinct 60+ million years ago, while humans evolved approximately 57 million years later. Regardless of ubiquitous, ancient stories and artifacts that indicate man once coexisted with dinosaurs (see Butt and Lyons, 2005; Lyons, 2007), evolutionists continue to put their confidence in assumption-based dating methods, declaring dinosaur fossils to be many millions of years older than man or monkey. More and more evidence is coming to light, however, which casts serious doubt on evolutionists' claims.

In March 2005, "paleontologists were **stunned** to find that the soft tissue of a...dinosaur was preserved within a fossil from a Tyrannosaurus rex" (Boyle, 2007, emp. added). Dr. Mary Schweitzer and her colleagues reported the find in *Science* magazine, describing the demineralized *T. rex* femur and tibia fragments as "highly fibrous," "flexible," and so "resilient" that "when stretched, returns to its original shape" (Schweitzer, et al., 2005, 307:1952,1953; Schweitzer, et al., 2007, 316:277). Amazingly, the researchers were even able to **squeeze** round, dark-red-to-deep-brown microscopic structures from the presumed *T. rex* blood vessels (Perkins, 2005, 167[13]:195). Scientists were shocked! "Such a thing had never been seen before" (Boyle, 2007). How could a "**70-million-year-old**" *Tyrannosaurus rex* bone still contain soft tissue?

For those who may chalk this up as just some anomaly that should cast no doubt upon the multi-million-year evolutionary timetable, consider what *MSNBC* science editor Alan Boyle reported on July 24, 2007: "Today, paleontologists are still stunned—not only to find material that looks like dinosaur cartilage, blood vessels, blood cells and bone cells, but to **see the stuff in so many different specimens**" (emp. added). Paleontologist Kristi Rogers of Macalester College said: "It's not just a fluke occurrence.... It's something that's more pervasive in the fossil record" (as quoted in Boyle). Scientists have excavated a *Tyrannosaurus* and a hadrosaur from Montana, a *Titanosaurus* from Madagascar, and more samples that the famous dinosaur fossil hunter Jack Horner has uncovered in Montana, as well as Mongolia. Regarding the hadrosaur specimen found in Montana, Dr. Mary Schweitzer stated: "It's the 'freshest,' if you will, dinosaur bone that has ever had this analysis conducted on it" (as quoted in Boyle).

Although evolutionists continue to describe such dinosaur bones as "70 million years old," "miraculously preserved soft tissue" (Gebel, 2007) in a "growing number of tissue samples" (Boyle, 2007) around the world demands a reasonable explanation. Suggesting that these bones sat around for at least 70 million years (or 25.55 **billion** days) in "porous sandstone" (Morris, n.d.) without completely fossilizing or decomposing literally is unbelievable. A much better, more logical explanation is that dinosaurs once lived on Earth in the not-too-distant past—only a few hundred or thousand years ago, not 60+ million years ago. If soft, flexible, resilient, highly fibrous dinosaur tissue in many different specimens will not convince the gainsayer, what would?

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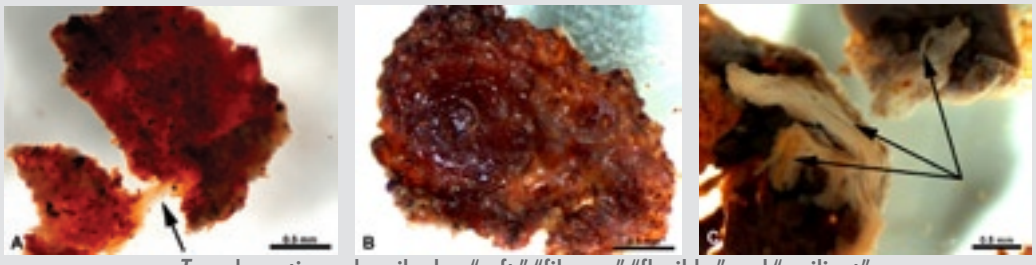

Associated Press

T. rex bone tissue described as "soft," "fibrous," "flexible," and "resilient"