

Creation Truths

BATS Turn Evolution on its Head!

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Over the past few months, we've looked at a number of areas where evolution DOESN'T MAKE SENSE — where it doesn't FIT THE FACTS! associating them with vampires, witches and scary movies. Bats are, in fact, harmless to humans, and are actually *very important* to our well-being.

Those who believe in CREATION are often accused of being unscientific — of believing "by faith", rather than dealing with the facts "as scientists do." Ironically, it is usually the evolutionists who IGNORE THE FACTS, as they try to find ways to support the MYTH of evolution. Take insect pests, for example. The American little brown bat can catch and eat over 600 mosquitoes per hour! Some of the larger bats can consume over 1,200 insects in an hour. There is a colony of 20 MILLION Mexican free-tail bats living in Bracken Cave in Texas, who consume 250 tons of insects every night!

This month, let's look at another marvel of CREATION. And, as we do, let's ask a key question: what makes MORE SENSE — a perfectly designed creature made by an INTELLIGENT BEING — or the end result of millions of random accidents, having no direction or purpose? Worldwide, bats are the most important natural enemy of night-flying insects, and are a vital way to keep insect populations under control. Farmers, too, benefit from the work of bats. It is estimated that a colony of just 150 big brown bats can protect local farmers from up to 18 million or more rootworms.

Our subject this month is THE BAT.

Bat Basics

Bats are mammals. They give birth to live young, and suckle their "pups" on nipples located on their sides, under their wings. They are the only mammal able TO FLY. And also the only mammal perfectly adapted to hang UPSIDE DOWN! The fruit-eating bats are a major source of plant and flower pollination in tropical rain forests. Many trees and shrubs are *totally dependent* on bats to pollinate them and disperse their seeds. And without that pollination, many hundreds of

There are two basic types of bat. There are mega-bats or "big bats"; these are mainly FRUIT-eaters. Then there are micro-bats, or "little-bats", which are predominantly INSECT-eaters.

Many people are scared of bats,



other forest-dwelling creatures would struggle to survive.

Those of you who enjoy a glass of tequilla, may know that tequilla comes from the agava plant. Without bat pollinators, seed production in the agava plant reduces by over 99.9%! So tequilla drinkers can be very thankful to the bat population!

Bat Sonar

Although we often use the expression "blind as a bat", fact is that bats are *not* blind. Some do have poor eyesight, but most have good vision!

However, one of the most unusual and impressive talents of the insect-eating bats is their ability to use a form of SONAR — or echolocation — to navigate their way around, and find their prey. These bats have the ability to emit an ultra-high frequency sound and then, from the type of echo they get back, they can figure out *what* is around them, and *where* it is! This is how bats can fly around so contentedly in the dark or in caves — their sonar is actually more efficient than a modern aeroplane's radar!

Bats can dart around, wheeling, circling and spinning rapidly as their sonar detects moths or mosquitoes in the vicinity. As they home in on their prey in the blackness of the night, they can emit up to 200 ultra-sonic pulses each second. To avoid confusing themselves between the sound they are emitting, and the echo that comes back, bats can contract the muscles of their middle ear, to suppress the outgoing sound — so, effectively, they have to open and close their ears 200 times *each second!*

The bats' ability to echo-locate is so sophisticated that a bat can detect the fin of a minnow, as fine as a human hair, protruding only 2 millimetres above the surface of a pond. African heart-nosed bats can hear the sound of a beetle's footsteps walking in sand from over 6 feet away!

And each of the 20 million bats who live in Bracken Cave, Texas has to be able to isolate their *own individual echo* from all the others around them.

All of this, we are expected to believe, produced itself accidentally and purely at random!

The Origin of Bats

Where and how did bats originate?

For those who believe the Bible, the answer is clear and simple. Genesis chapter one tells us that GOD made all the creatures, each after his own kind.

For the evolutionist, matters are not quite so simple. Somehow, something somewhere, over millions of years, has *to become* a bat.

Evolution requires that *millions* of changes take place as a creature evolves. These changes are RANDOM, unplanned and accidental. Most changes would be *harmful* in nature (major or minor deformities), but over millions of years, we are told, enough good changes would accumulate to produce a "perfectly adapted" bat.

If that is, indeed, the case, and evolution has occurred, then we should be able to look at the fossil record and clearly see TWO THINGS:

The early "bat-creatures" in the very old fossils should be very simple and BASIC specimens, showing only rudimentary bat features. There should be *thousands* of transitional forms, showing the GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT to today's highly specialised and complex bat.

Okay, so what DO WE SEE when we examine the fossil record?

The oldest fossil bat (according to evolutionists' dating) is 60 million years old. Is it "primitive" and rudimentary? In his book, *Bats: A Natural History*, author John Hill says, "...all fossil bats, *even the oldest*, are CLEARLY FULLY DEVELOPED BATS ...".

Oops! So the fossil record shows that bats, from very earliest times, were *perfectly formed* and functioning? Isn't that CREATION, rather than evolution?

What about all the *transitional* forms that surely

marked the slow but sure progress of the evolution of bats? In *Bioscience* magazine for May 1992 we read, "Unfortunately, the fossils available only complicate matters. They DO NOT represent transitional morphology (changes) ... and they represent animals nearly as specialised as their modern relatives."

That's rather embarrassing for evolution. The oldest known bats look like today's bats, and there are no known transitions? According to that *hard evidence*, bats have ALWAYS been bats! Creation, rather than evolution.

Fairy Tale Time

Despite the evidence, our evolutionist friends insist that bats DID EVOLVE.

No matter how vivid our imagination, it would be difficult to imagine any way by which some early proto-bat could develop. Many millions of imaginary years ago, our first proto-bat did not have any wings, nor a sonar system, and didn't live upside down. He was just a regular little creature, perhaps something like a mouse.

Nevertheless, let's try to imagine how our proto-bat (we'll call him Barney) got on with his evolution.

To become a "real" bat, Barney needs to develop very long arms and fingers — even longer than his body — which will eventually become his wings. So one morning, by a strange and unexpected miracle, Barney wakes up and discovers that — yes — he has (somehow) acquired extremely long hands and fingers! What excitement as Barney realises that in only another million years, or so, his descendants will be able to fly! In the meantime, Barney needs to scamper off to get his breakfast. Whoops ... Barney trips up, and falls flat on his nose! Regrettably his long arms and fingers tangle with his feet, and he can no longer walk properly. Other mice, fully adapted to being just mice, run happily past on their way to breakfast, but poor Barney has to hobble slowly and awkwardly along. Still, at least he's on the first part of his journey towards being a bat.

Oops. Just then, a proto-cat comes along!

Barney can barely walk, and certainly can't run. So, unfortunately, Barney's evolution comes to an abrupt and untimely end! R.I.P.

Nevertheless, after a few million more years, despite all previous proto-bats dying of starvation or themselves being eaten, Barney (version 1,225,314) comes along. By a series of unbelievable miracles (evolutionists have *great faith* in miracles, as long as it's not a Divine Being that's performing them!) this version of Barney has acquired fully working bat wings — complete with tendons, muscles, nerve endings and circulation system! Hooray. Bats have at long last arrived.

Somewhat to his surprise, Barney discovers that his digestive system has also changed, and he now has to eat insects, such as moths and mosquitoes, to survive. And because he doesn't like daylight, Barney can only hunt for them in the dark. Hmm. That's tricky. He can't see very well in the dark, and these insects he wants to catch are sooooo small! And they tend to dart about so quickly, too!

Nevertheless, Barney launches himself into the blackness of the night, and goes bug-hunting. One hour later, Barney has collected one mosquito to eat (the mosquito bumped into him as he was resting on a branch, and knocked itself senseless). Unfortunately, Barney needs to eat about 600 to 1,200 mosquitoes *every hour* to survive. So, regrettably, this flying version of Barney joins all of his millions of predecessors who also never survived. R.I.P.

Some time later, perhaps a few more million years, another non-surviving descendant of various earlier non-surviving ancestors comes along and, having carefully watched some videos of Operation Desert Storm, is quite impressed when he sees American *stealth fighters* in action. These aircraft fly quietly through the night, unseen, as they stalk their targets. Barney (version 3,201,159) realises that all he needs is a perfectly functioning radar-system and then he, too, will become as good as a stealth fighter.

He *immediately* sets off to evolve a sophisticated sonar or echo-location system.

He has to hurry because he knows it may take four of five million years to develop, and he's already feeling a bit hungry.

However, as he trawls the world-wide-web investigating the requirements for such a system, he realises it is all beyond him. He needs to develop a very *specialised larynx* in order to produce high-frequency pulses, he has to develop bigger external ears in order to collect returning echoes, he needs to acquire a very sensitive *internal hearing mechanism*, he has to develop the ability to open and close his middle-ear muscles up to 200 times a second. And if that's not enough, he has to completely re-wire the electronics of *his brain*, so that he can co-ordinate his sound-emitting and echo-receiving signals! And he needs the system to be so precise and sophisticated that he won't be confused by the echoes of hundreds or thousands of other bats flying around him. Barney realises it is *mission impossible*.

And now, while browsing a web-site about interesting and unusual creatures, he discovers that bats also have to evolve the ability to live upside-down! He learns that bats will live upside-down, eat upside-down, mate upside-down, even give birth *upside-down*!

"No other creature has to live upside down", wails Barney, "why should I?" In despair, Barney goes off, gets hopelessly drunk on apple cider, and is never seen again.

And so, in a drunken stupor, the imaginary evolution of the bat family comes to an end.

Conclusion

Like so many creatures, the bat is a testament to an incredibly INTELLIGENT DESIGNER. The bat is UNIQUE — the product of a BRILLIANT MIND.

Here is a creature with no known *ancestors*, no *transitional forms*, the only mammal that *can fly*, unique in its ability to live *upside-down*, and possessing *better radar* than a jet-fighter — and yet some would have us believe it just evolved "somehow", all by accident.

Is that common sense — or the conclusion of someone who has perhaps been educated *beyond their intelligence*?

No, the bat, like all the other marvelous and intricately designed creatures on this earth, is a LIVING TESTAMENT to a GREAT CREATOR GOD!