

## Evolutionary fossil-time ranges continue to expand

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The scientific literature continues to expand the time ranges of fossil organisms by either pushing back their first occurrences or finding them in “younger” strata. Sometimes, they are found alive today and are dubbed living fossils. I have reported on such occurrences many times.<sup>1-10</sup> I am sure these are only the tip of the iceberg, since I do not go out of my way looking for such occurrences. Besides, other creationists have reported on fossil range extensions, such as new “living fossils”.<sup>11</sup>

Another reason why there should be even more fossil-range extensions is because many fossils are locked into a certain age by evolutionary assumptions. So, in these cases evolutionists can employ several dodges, such as redating the layer to the “correct” age of the fossil, or giving the fossil a different name while emphasizing its differences, if any. One example of this rigidity is the demise of the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous of the uniformitarian timescale. This is almost an absolute belief among evolutionists, which is partly based on circular reasoning, since one definition of the end of the Cretaceous is the extinction of the dinosaurs. Jepsen admitted:

“Geologists themselves must take much of the responsibility for the dissemination of this concept [that the dinosaurs went extinct in a few days or a few thousand years] because they have often defined the end of the Age of Reptiles or Mesozoic Era [about 65 million years ago] as the exact time that dinosaurs became extinct. Ergo, reasoning in a tight circle, dinosaurs became extinct at the end of Mesozoic time.”<sup>12</sup>

I have discovered a few instances in which dinosaur fossils found in what were considered Early



Photo from <www.wikipedia.com>

**Figure 1.** Skull of an extinct armored fish, *Dunkleosteus*, considered ancient (from the early to mid Paleozoic) by uniformitarian scientists.

Cenozoic layers were either redated or ignored.<sup>13-15</sup>

But at least one of these “glass ceilings” is being weakened. The Cenozoic had been considered the “age of the mammals”. Mammals were considered rare or ignored in the Mesozoic, but are now being found there more and more. For instance a recent treasure trove of mammals has been found in the Middle Jurassic of Argentina.<sup>16</sup>

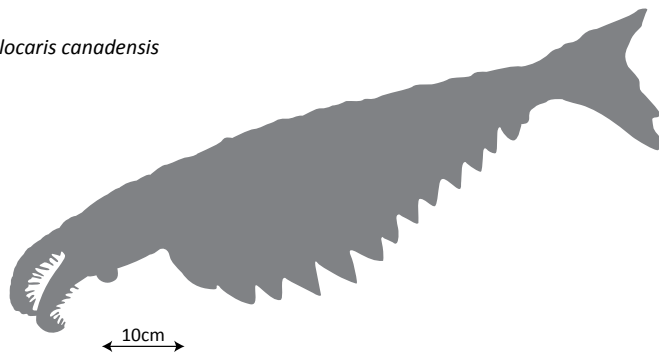
### Internal fertilization likely in the “oldest” vertebrates

Several more organisms or features of organisms that extend the fossil ranges have recently been published. One of the most interesting is the discovery that certain armored fish, the first fish and the first vertebrates in the evolutionary paradigm, gave birth to live young after internal fertilization.<sup>17-19</sup> Embryos and a fossilized umbilical cord were preserved within the skeleton of one of these extinct fish, dated as 380 Ma old. The discovery was made in Western Australia and hailed by some as “one of the most important discoveries in Australia”.<sup>20</sup>

What is so important about this discovery? As it turns out, the discovery is important, because in evolutionary thought, internal fertilization by mating was thought to have evolved relatively late in the first vertebrates, derived from external fertilization of eggs hatched in water (spawning), as observed in many fish today. So, we have the “most primitive” fish with the “most advanced” reproductive system, pushing back mating and internal fertilization in supposed evolutionary history by 30 Ma.<sup>20</sup> This result would not surprise creationists, and in fact the creationists paradigm would have predicted it.

Moreover, since armored fish go back to 430 Ma in the evolutionary timescale, mating and internal fertilization could easily be extend back 50 Ma or more to the very beginning of vertebrates within their paradigm.

Then there is the evolutionary problem that mating and internal fertilization arose *many* times in different organisms. The evolution of such a reproductive system would be difficult just once, but many times? The evolutionists brush off the difficulty

*Anomalocaris canadensis*

**Figure 2.** The outline of 1-meter-long *Anomalocaris* from the Burgess Shale, British Columbia, Canada, showing the front appendages. This was allegedly the apex predator of the Cambrian.

by simply attributing such multiple evolution of the same reproductive system as due to convergent evolution,<sup>18</sup> an *ad hoc* and unprovable evolutionary assumption. And of course, evolutionists have been forced to say that once internal fertilization evolved, evolution should surely not run it backwards to spawning again. But this is now touted to have happened!:

“Once viviparity [bearing live young] develops, the complex physiological requirements that accompany live-bearing generally prohibit reversal back to external spawning, although there are rare cases of reversal from live bearing to egg-laying in squamate reptiles.”<sup>21</sup>

Evolution is so plastic as to be nonfalsifiable.

### Two more range extensions

A second range extension is the 100-Ma extension forward in evolutionary time of a great-appendage arthropod from the Cambrian into the Lower Devonian.<sup>22</sup> The great appendage consists of a prominent limb in front of the head, and is characteristic of a Cambrian creature named *Anomalocaris*, first found in the Burgess Shale of southeast British Columbia.<sup>23</sup> The pictures of the two arthropods shows they are quite similar.

A third range extension is the likelihood that man may have used art and thought “symbolically” further back in evolutionary time

than previously thought.<sup>24</sup> Based on crosshatched marks engraved on red ochre and dated at about 100,000 years, man’s mind supposedly was sharper earlier in evolution than expected. In fact, one researcher thought such symbolic behavior may go back to the supposed origin of our species 160,000 to 200,000 years ago. Another researcher said that he almost fell out of his chair when he first saw the latest ochre etchings. Although some evolutionists dispute the findings, creationists are not surprised.

### Creationist implications

Fossil range extensions are more and more showing that organisms were complex from the beginning. Larger fossil ranges also show less supposed evolution with time. The trend should continue, which would more and more support creation and go against evolution. It is consistent with the original creation of each kind but with a certain inbuilt variety, just as stated in Genesis 1.

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