It’s Halloween, and evolutionists have found some scary (to them) bones.

The only thing an evolutionist can be certain of is that he can never be certain of anything. Three different recent fossil discoveries should give evolutionists nightmares. They are some gorilla-like teeth, “hobbit” wrist bones, and newly described Homo bones from Soviet Georgia.

**Grandfather Gorilla**

A new species, supposedly the ancestor of the modern gorilla, has been discovered. Here is what it looks like:

![Image of gorilla teeth](image)

The large-bodied ape is represented by a canine and eight partial molars from at least three, and perhaps six or more, individuals (Fig. 1, and Supplementary Information). These teeth are collectively *indistinguishable from modern gorilla* subspecies in dental size and represented proportions (Supplementary Information). This modest sample nevertheless exhibits substantial size variation, with molars at both the largest and smallest end of the modern gorilla ranges of variation.  

These teeth are “indistinguishable from modern gorilla” teeth, but they can’t be gorilla teeth because gorillas had not yet evolved. Therefore, they must be “a new species of great ape, *Chororapithecus abyssinicus*, from the 10–10.5-Myr-old deposits of the Chorora Formation at the southern margin of the Afar rift.”

It’s that 10 to 10.5 million-year-old part that messes up the traditional evolutionary timeline. You have probably heard evolutionists state authoritatively when the various kinds of apes and humans evolved. They seemed so certain. But, now that they want to change their story, they admit that they really didn’t have much evidence for their previous fable.

However, because of the dearth of fossil hominoid remains in sub-Saharan Africa spanning the period 12–7 Myr ago, nothing is known of the actual timing and mode of divergence of the African ape and hominid lineages. Most genomic-based studies suggest a late divergence date—5–6 Myr ago and 6–8 Myr ago for the human–chimp and human–gorilla splits, respectively—and some palaeontological and molecular analyses hypothesize a Eurasian origin of the African ape and hominid clade.

Acceptance of *Chororapithecus* as a basal member of the gorilla clade would push back the gorilla species split to >10.5 Myr ago. Because this is a minimum date established from a meagre fossil record, the actual divergence would have predated this by an unknown time gap. From the currently available evidence, we consider that a species split of ~20 Myr ago for *Pongo*, 12 Myr ago for *Gorilla*, and 9 Myr ago for *Pan* are all probable.

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2 ibid.

3 ibid.
estimates (see Supplementary Information).  

Gorilla or not, several experts agree that an ape of this antiquity in Africa strikes a blow at a hypothesis that the common ancestor of African apes arose in Eurasia and migrated to Africa. "These are very important fossils," says Alan Walker, a paleoanthropologist at Pennsylvania State University in State College. "They show that apes have always been in Africa—that they didn't come from Europe and Asia."  

Just nine broken teeth can strike a serious blow at an evolutionary hypothesis. 

If Chororapithecus is indeed an early gorilla, that would push back the origins of the gorilla lineage to at least 10 million years ago and perhaps further, says Suwa. That in turn could force researchers to recalibrate their estimates of rates of genetic change, which could change the timing of many events on the ape family tree. For example, the orangutan lineage may have split off around 20 million years ago, rather than 13 million years ago as previously thought, says Suwa. 

A Bad Hobbit to Break

Three years ago we told you why the discovery of Homo floresiensis is so troubling to evolutionists. It still troubles them. 

… in 2003, the skull and skeleton of a meter-tall adult woman were unearthed. Ever since, experts have sparred over the "hobbit": Is it an astonishingly primitive species with a tiny head, dubbed Homo floresiensis, or a diseased member of our species, H. sapiens? 

The stakes are high. A new species shakes the core ideas about the defining role of big brains in our genus and about relations among hominids. The hobbit bones are dated to as recently as 12,000 years ago, so the diminutive hominid must have lingered on Flores for thousands of years while modern humans colonized nearby islands. The tiny human suggests that big brains aren't required for making tools—and, according to a theory proposed by the hobbit's discoverers, may imply that the first hominid migrated out of Africa far earlier than anyone had thought. "Flores is the thorn in the flesh. [It implies] that we have to rethink everything," says anthropologist Marcia Ponce de León of the University of Zurich in Switzerland. 

Many evolutionists have tried very hard to show that Homo floresiensis is just a very small, diseased, modern human because it really messes up the theory of evolution if it isn't. Evidence that it really is a different species is not good news for them. This new report in Science was really bad news for them. 

Analysis of three wrist bones from the holotype specimen (LB1) shows that it retains wrist morphology that is primitive for the African ape-human clade. In contrast, Neandertals and modern humans share derived wrist morphology that forms during embryogenesis, which diminishes the probability that pathology could result in the normal primitive state. This evidence indicates that LB1 is not a modern human with an undiagnosed pathology or growth defect; rather, it represents a species descended from a hominin ancestor that branched off before the origin of the clade that includes modern humans, Neandertals, and their last common ancestor. 

Our diverse modern human sample includes a pituitary dwarf (USNM 314306) and a pituitary giant (USNM 227508) (tables S1 and S2). Both show normal modern human carpal shapes and articular configurations despite their abnormal sizes, demonstrating that LB1's wrist morphology is not the result of allometric scaling, errors in metabolism, or a skeletal growth disorder. 

More Bones to Pick

There really aren't that many fossils of our supposed ape-like ancestors. What fossils do exist tend to be broken fragments. 

"We've got Lucy's body and then Nariokotome, and this gap in the middle with a lot of scrappy stuff in between," says paleoanthropologist Susan Antón of New York University. The earliest of those in-between fossils have been called H. habilis, which is something of a grab bag species for specimens too small or primitive to be considered H. sapiens.

 Disclosure, November 2004, “Homo floresiensis”

4 ibid. 
7 Disclosure, November 2004, “Homo floresiensis”
... the postcranial morphology of earliest Homo (cf. H. habilis) is known from only a few fragmentary specimens (for example, OH35, OH62, KNM-ER3735 (refs 32–35)) dated between 1.75- and 1.9-Myr ago, such that inferences regarding the evolution of stature and limb proportions in this genus are a matter of ongoing debate. The first well-documented evidence for the postcranium of genus Homo comes from the KNM-WT15000 specimen, dated to approximately 1.55 Myr ago, the body proportions and stature of which are modern in almost every aspect. Information about the transition from australopith-like to modern-human-like postcranial morphologies is thus rather limited, and the Dmanisi postcranial material fills significant gaps in our knowledge about this critical period of hominin evolution.

The Dmanisi postcranial material they found is this:

You can clearly see what these creatures looked like from these bones! ☺

Now the discovery of incredibly rare trunk and limb bones of early H. erectus shows that the species wasn't always so tall and brainy--and, according to some interpretations, suggests that it may have emerged in Asia, not Africa. 13

But not everyone agrees. The bones are so primitive that a few researchers aren't even sure they are members of Homo. "They are truly transitional forms that are neither archaic hominins nor unambiguous members of our own genus," says paleoanthropologist Bernard Wood of George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Lordkipanidze thinks the fossils were either very early H. erectus or "the best candidates to be the ancestors of H. erectus." He suggests that they arose in Asia from an early Homo that was part of a very early radiation out of Africa. Some of the Dmanisi fossils' descendents returned to Africa while others spread out later into Asia as full-fledged H. erectus. Paleoanthropologist Alan Walker of Pennsylvania State University in State College doesn't buy that scenario. He and Antón prefer a model in which the species arose in Africa and continued to evolve separately on different continents--including at Dmanisi--giving rise to variation as it adapted to different habitats. 14

The debate reflects how little is known about the murky period at the dawn of our genus, partly because there are so few fossils of postcranial bones. 15

Despite this, you better believe the evolutionists’ latest story! ☺

Evolution in the News

Oxygen is one of those nasty bits of reality that insists on inserting itself into the fantasy world of the evolutionists.

Eventually, we are going to tell you about a recent news story concerning an evolutionary fable about the rise of oxygen in the Earth’s atmosphere. But first, we need to give you some background so you will understand why the story is important.

The oxygen paradox appears and reappears rather regularly in the scientific literature, but doesn’t get a lot of play in the public media. That may be partly because it gets a little bit complicated in places, but mostly because it

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14 ibid.
15 ibid.
raises questions evolutionists don’t want to address. We won’t bore you with all the technical details. We will just give you enough information so you can appreciate why the evolutionists have such a problem. Oxygen in the atmosphere causes problems for the evolutionists on a general level as well as a specific level.

Generally speaking, evolutionists believe, “The present is the key to the past.” That’s their mantra. They believe that the physical forces and natural laws observable today have always operated in the same way, and at the same rates, as in the past.

Their general problem is that they can’t explain the amount of oxygen in the atmosphere today using natural processes that can be observed today, preferably at rates observed today.

Their specific problem is that they have to invent some sort of plausible explanation for the amount of oxygen in the air using natural processes that aren’t happening today. Consequently they have to turn to tall tales that are whoppers, even by evolutionary standards.

**Where Did O₂ Come From?**

In summary, here is the evolutionists’ problem: They believe the Big Bang created an awful lot of hot hydrogen atoms disbursed rather uniformly throughout the universe. As the universe expanded and cooled, clouds of hydrogen gas condensed into stars. (They aren’t really sure why, because gravity won’t do the job at such a high temperature and low pressure, but it must have happened somehow.) After a while, some of the stars exploded, and the explosion forced the hydrogen atoms into each other, creating all the other elements. There were all these heavier atoms floating around in space, and those atoms in our neighborhood formed the Earth and the other planets in our solar system. Details about how that happened are sketchy, but it must have happened somehow.

We’ve glossed over a lot of details, but so do the evolutionists. They gloss over the details because they run into contradictions with physical laws when they try. We gloss over them because we don’t want to lose you before we even begin to talk about the oxygen paradox.

We choose to begin at the point in the evolutionary fable where all these heavier elements have somehow bumped into each other, stuck together, and formed the Earth. The Earth, at this point, consists of water, rocks, and air. So, let’s ask ourselves, “What was the composition of the water back then?” Since the present is the key to the past, and since water is now H₂O, we believe that water has always been H₂O. That seems to be a pretty good scientific assumption. Every molecule of water consists of two hydrogen atoms, and one oxygen atom. Therefore, water has always been made of oxygen.

What about the rocks? Today many rocks are made up of granite, limestone, and marble.

Granite is an interesting rock. It is speckled because it is made up of quartz, feldspar, and mica, in various amounts. The chemical formula for quartz is SiO₂. That means every molecule of quartz contains two oxygen atoms (and a silicon atom). There are three kinds of feldspar. Their chemical formulae are KAlSi₃O₈, CaAl₂Si₂O₈, and NaAl₃Si₂O₈. All three kinds of feldspar contain eight oxygen atoms (plus two silicon atoms, one or two aluminum atoms, and one potassium, calcium, or sodium atom). There are lots of different kinds of mica. Their chemical formulae all end in O₁₀(OH)₂. That means every mica molecule contains 12 oxygen atoms.

Marble is basically cooked limestone. Limestone is made up of Calcite (CaCO₃) and Dolomite (CaMg(CO₃)₂). So, limestone and marble contain one or two carbonate groups, which means there are either three or six oxygen atoms in every molecule of limestone or marble.

Chemical analysis tells us that common rocks today contain lots of oxygen atoms. Since the present is the key to the past, it is only reasonable to assume that rocks on Earth have always contained lots of oxygen atoms.

We said the Earth consists of water, rocks, and air. Water today is made up of oxygen atoms. Rocks today are made up of oxygen atoms. What about the air?

According to a NASA web site,

**Composition of the Atmosphere**

The atmosphere is primarily composed of Nitrogen (N₂, 78%), Oxygen (O₂, 21%), and Argon (Ar, 1%). A myriad of other very influential components are also present which include the water (H₂O, 0 - 7%), "greenhouse" gases or Ozone (O, 0 - 0.01%), Carbon Dioxide (CO₂, 0.01-0.1%).

Since the present is the key to the past, and since the air is now about 21% oxygen, it must always have been about one fifth oxygen, right? But evolutionists believe there was a time when there was no oxygen in the air. Why do they believe that? If all these oxygen atoms just bumped into each other to make the Earth, how could all of them have wound up in the water and rocks? Why wouldn’t any of them make up the

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16 [http://liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/academy/space/atmosphere.html](http://liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/academy/space/atmosphere.html)
atmosphere?

It is time to let the evolutionists start telling their tale.

In the beginning, Earth was devoid of oxygen, and then life arose from nonlife. As that first life evolved over a billion years, it began to produce oxygen, but not enough for the life-energizing gas to appear in the atmosphere. Was green scum all there was to life, all there ever would be? Apparently, yes, unless life and nonlife could somehow work together to oxygenate the planet from the atmosphere to the deep sea. 17

Historians of oxygen have always agreed on one thing: Earth started out with no free oxygen—that is, diatomic oxygen, or $O_2$. It was all tied up in rock and water. For half a century, researchers have vacillated over whether the gases that were there favored the formation of life's starting materials (see sidebar, p. 1732). Without free oxygen, in any case, the first life that did appear by perhaps 3.5 billion years ago had to "breathe" elements such as iron, processing them to gain a mere pittance of energy.

For decades, scientists have argued about just how long the planet remained anoxic, and thus home to nothing but tiny, simple, slow-living microorganisms. 18

Life could not have originated spontaneously in the presence of oxygen. Every good scientist knows that! If there was free oxygen in the air, some of that would have been dissolved in the water, too, which would have prevented life from originating in the water. Therefore, there could not have been any oxygen in the air when life began.

The spontaneous origin of life from inanimate material is the foundation of the theory of evolution. Therefore, it cannot be questioned. The fact that life evolved is proof that there was no oxygen in the atmosphere to begin with. ☺

But there is lots of oxygen in the air now. If there wasn't any to begin with, where did it come from? Do water molecules spontaneously break apart into $H_2$ and $O$? No. It just takes a little spark to make $H_2$ and $O$ join together and release energy. Do quartz crystals turn into silicon and release oxygen spontaneously? No, that doesn't happen, either. Are there big clouds of oxygen in space that get sucked into our atmosphere as the Earth moves through them? Not as far as we know.

So, where did the oxygen in today's atmosphere come from if it didn't come from water, rocks, or space? That's the problem evolutionists are trying to solve.

### Not From Plants

The obvious, but clearly incorrect, answer is, "Plants converted carbon dioxide into free oxygen."

Remember that the NASA web site said that nitrogen, oxygen, and argon add up to 78% + 21% + 1% = 100%. NASA says that the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today might be as little as 0.01%, and certainly not more than 0.1%.

If you go to the U.S. Government Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center's website, you will find a large table of greenhouse gas concentrations. A small part of that table looks like this: 19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gas</th>
<th>Pre-1750 concentration</th>
<th>Current tropospheric concentration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carbon dioxide ($CO_2$)</td>
<td>280 ppm</td>
<td>337.3 ppm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Converting parts-per-million to percentages, we see that before 1750 the amount of carbon dioxide in the air was 0.028%. It is now up to 0.03373%, an increase of 0.00573%, which some people consider to be alarming.

### One For One

Plants need one $CO_2$ molecule to produce one carbon atom and one $O_2$ gas molecule. For plants to have converted carbon dioxide into all the oxygen in the atmosphere today, there would have had to have been a time when the atmosphere was 21% carbon dioxide. Imagine the global warming that would have caused if a 0.00573% increase is significant!

Furthermore, despite the fact that man has cut down part of the Amazon rain forest, there are still a lot of green plants left on the Earth today. Those remaining plants are apparently unable to consume the extra 0.00573% of carbon dioxide that has accumulated in the air since 1750. Just imagine how many green plants there would have to be to consume nearly all of the carbon dioxide in an atmosphere that was more than one fifth carbon dioxide to begin with!

It is unreasonable to think that there were that many plants on Earth (including those in the sea), and that there was that much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to begin with.

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18 *ibid.*

**Send in the Clowns**

Therefore, the present isn't the key to the past. Something else had to have been going on in the distant past. The fertile imaginations of evolutionists have come up with lots of ideas.

All animals need oxygen, but they haven't always had enough of it to reach their full potential. Earth developed a trace of oxygen—at least in the atmosphere—more than 2 billion years ago. That was just before the appearance of sophisticated cells called eukaryotes in the fossil record. Eukaryotes went on to give rise to animals, but not until about 575 million years ago. Why the wait? For half a century, paleontologists have speculated that only then did oxygen levels rise high enough to support large, active creatures. The evidence for such a jump in oxygen, however, has been sparse and indirect. 20

We think it would be more accurate to say, "The evidence for such a jump in oxygen is purely imaginary."

There's still no single, thoroughly unambiguous "paleobarometer" for ancient oxygen, says geochemist Louis Derry of Cornell University. An odd shift in the mix of sulfur isotopes marked the first appearance of even a trace of oxygen 2.4 billion years ago (Science, 17 June 2005, p. 1730). And the isotopes of trace metals such as molybdenum have been used to infer that the little oxygen in the atmosphere between 2.4 billion and 0.58 billion years ago had not penetrated below surface ocean waters. 21

That's right; they try to infer oxygen levels in water from the levels of isotopes of other elements. We aren't making this up! Evolutionists realize the inconsistencies in their fables and ask such questions as,

Why did oxygen not appear in Earth's atmosphere until hundreds of millions of years after photosynthesizing organisms first produced it? 22

Still, they state most authoritatively,

The oxygen in Earth's atmosphere is almost exclusively a product of photosynthesis. The transition from an early, virtually oxygen-free world to an irreversibly oxygenated one is linked to the first appearance and proliferation of photosynthesizing cyanobacteria. But whereas the first notable trace of persistent atmospheric oxygen has been dated to around 2.4 billion years ago, the fingerprints of cyanobacteria seem to stretch back as much as 2.7 billion years, if not further.

To explain this time lag, Kump and Barley (page 1033) argue that reactions between oxygen and reduced volcanic gases initially kept oxygen levels low. 23

Here's the ironic thing. The fictional models they invented to explain how an Earth without oxygen in its atmosphere turned into an Earth with oxygen in its atmosphere actually predict TOO MUCH oxygen. Therefore, they have to come up with other models to get rid of it!

Most models of the early atmosphere predict appreciable, relatively constant oxygen production during the roughly 300 million years before atmospheric oxygenation. They therefore rely on vast and efficient sinks that consumed oxygen as fast as it was produced. A shift to a more oxidizing atmosphere would require a loss in the biosphere's ability to prevent the accumulation of oxygen.

One possible mechanism is a spurt of biomass burial at sea. During the short-term cycling of carbon in the biosphere, the decay of organic remains consumes much of the oxygen released during photosynthesis. Long-term burial of this organic matter as it settles to the sea floor steals food from carbon-respiring microbes, and so shifts the balance away from their oxygen-consuming metabolisms. 24

But when animals appeared, the atmosphere needed more oxygen. Therefore, they say,

But at the end of the Gaskiers glaciation, deep-sea oxygen appeared, reaching levels that would have required an atmospheric abundance roughly 15% of today's. That's about how much oxygen the first large animals—the odd disks, fronds, and spindles of the Ediacaran fauna—would have needed once they evolved from their presumably near-microscopic, wormy ancestors. And in Newfoundland, the first Ediacara appear 5 million years after the Gaskiers and the rise in oxygen. 25

Paleontologist Andrew Knoll of Harvard University agrees. The papers "advance the argument that Earth and life are closely related

21 ibid.
23 ibid.
24 ibid.
through time," he says. The cause of higher oxygen levels remains unclear. It may go back to the invasion of land by rock-weathering fungi and lichens, or a burst of mountain building. Cracking that one will take a lot more information. 26

Now, here is the current new report that makes this “Evolution in the News”.

But the strange case of the delayed rise of atmospheric oxygen isn’t closed. The 2.7-billion-year-old biomarker record, although widely favoured, is not beyond challenge, with some researchers placing the onset of cyanobacterial production later, closer in time to the initial atmospheric oxygenation, and thus eliminating the problem highlighted by Kump and Barley. Others dispute the assumptions of high and consistent carbon burial during the Archaean. Still others posit that oxygenic photosynthesis began more than 3.7 billion years ago, basing this on carbon-isotope data that could point to oxygen production and inferences about early cycling of uranium in the ocean.

If these wrinkles in the story were not enough, the sulphur isotopes tell us only that the ‘great oxidation event’ 2.4 billion years ago demanded an increase in atmospheric oxygen content from less than 0.001% to slightly more than 0.001% of the present level, although greater change is possible. 27

Even more puzzling than the 300-million-year run-up to the Great Oxidation Event is what came next. The advent of oxygen ushered in geology’s red beds and life’s eukaryotes. Then, for a good billion years, the newcomer eukaryotic algae went nowhere evolutionarily, frozen in time as an advanced sort of green scum. And there is growing geochemical evidence that the Great Oxidation Event wasn’t actually all that great. 28

Two years ago, an evolutionist made this observation:

These are tumultuous times in the study of the origin of life. The early ocean may have been even less hospitable for prebiotic chemistry than previously thought, and claimed evidence for the earliest signatures of life on Earth is being strongly challenged. Now a 30-year, albeit shaky, consensus on the nature of the early atmosphere may have to be reexamined, and the geochemical implications of an H2-rich early atmosphere will need to be scrutinized. This turmoil makes it a great time for young scientists to enter the field, but it also reminds us that some humility regarding our favorite models is in order. 29

We suggest instead that young scientists should not waste their time entering this field. They won’t be able to figure out how it happened because it never happened.

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**Email**

**Marcelo Muses**

**About Mice**

*Why would rodents evolve into primates since rodents are better adapted for survival than primates?*

Marcelo’s email begins,

My Name is Marcelo and I’m from Brazil. Two months ago, I created a thread in a forum about origins titled: “Natural Selection Contradicts Evolution Of Primates, The evolution of a mouse-like creature to primates is Impossible”. But, it seems that the evos of the forum are not interested to find flawed points in my line of reasoning.

The email he sent us contained far too may pages of technical argument to put in our “six page” newsletter (which we could only hold down to eight pages this month).

Marcelo’s main point is that mice reproduce rapidly. They have large litters, and have them often. Primates, on the other hand, tend to have long gestation periods, and only produce one or two babies at a time. Therefore, Marcelo reasons, natural selection should favor rodents over primates because evolution is all about getting the largest number of offspring to reproductive maturity. There is no survival advantage in evolving from a rodent to a primate. It is a very good point. That’s why evolutionists would rather not address it.

We are confident that a smart evolutionist somewhere will come up with a fantastic fable to explain it. We can’t wait to see what tall tale they will tell.

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26 ibid.
Web Site of the Month – October 2007

by Lothar Janetzko

CREATION VS. EVOLUTION: 
WHAT OUR CHILDREN NEED TO KNOW


“How Parents Can Teach Them”

This month’s web site review discusses an article from The Pearcey Report. At the bottom of the article the reader learns that “Nancy Pearcey is editor-at-large of The Pearcey Report and the Francis A. Schaeffer scholar at the World Journalism Institute. This article is adapted from the study guide edition of her book Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity and first appeared in Home School Enrichment”. By following the link to Home School Enrichment you learn that Nancy is a home-schooling mother and has published two award-winning books on Christian worldview.

The article begins by pointing out that home-schooling families have been ahead of the curve in teaching their children about the debate over Darwin. She believes that naturalistic evolution as taught in science textbooks leads students to accept a naturalistic worldview. She also believes in thoroughly grounding her students with scientific data. Her approach in dealing with the evolution controversy is to focus on the issue of the origin of life.

After the introduction, the article has the following titled subsections: 1) Little Green Men; 2) Who Wrote the Genetic Code? 3) The Marks of Design; 4) The Medium Not the Message; and 5) Philosophy, Not Facts. All of the sections are quite interesting and point out that science really has been redefined as applied naturalistic philosophy.

It is unfortunate that only home-schooling parents and private schools have the opportunity to present the compelling evidence that exists to counter the claims of evolution to their students.

Disclosure

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