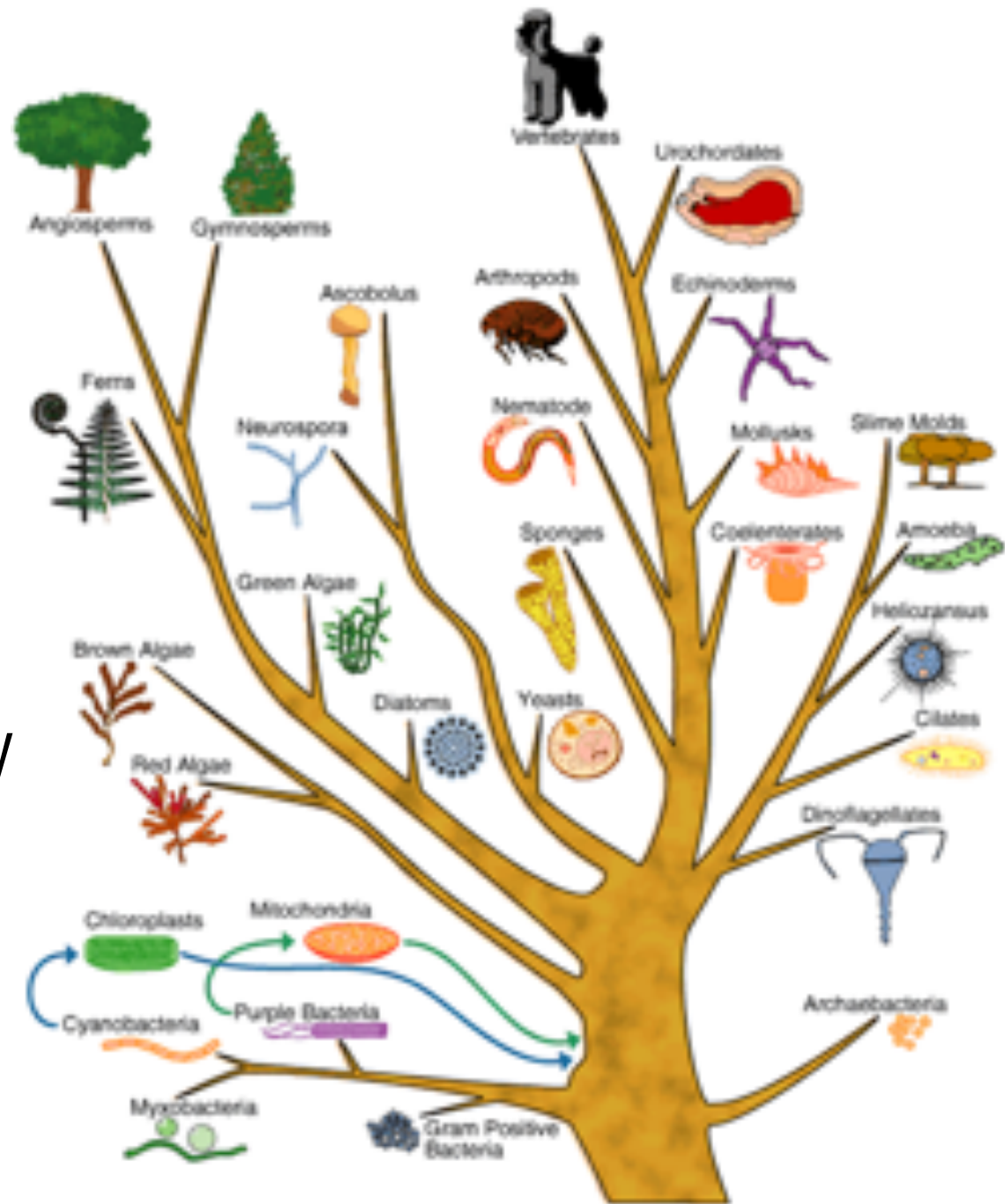


# Why I'm a **creationist**

**Paul Garner**



- Evolution is a **compelling** story about the history of life on earth.



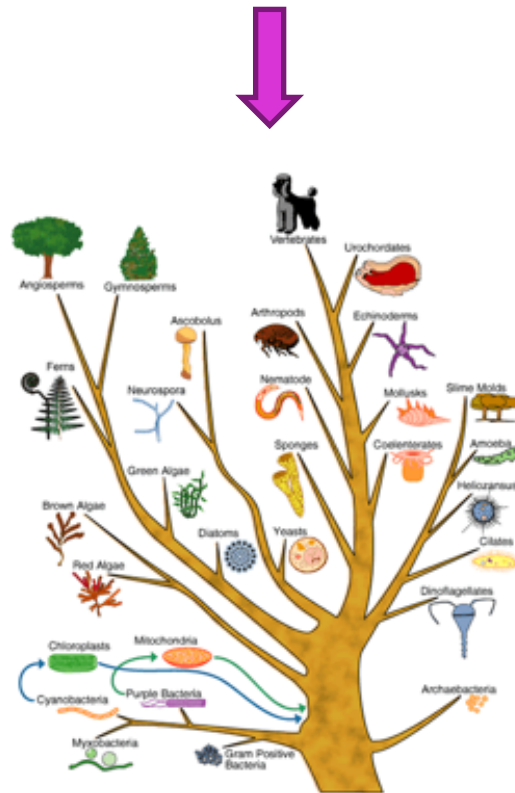
## Mutations and selection

Homology

Biogeography

Intermediate forms

Order of the fossils



Evolution seems to be **supported** by a lot of data

# So ... why am I a creationist?

Four reasons:

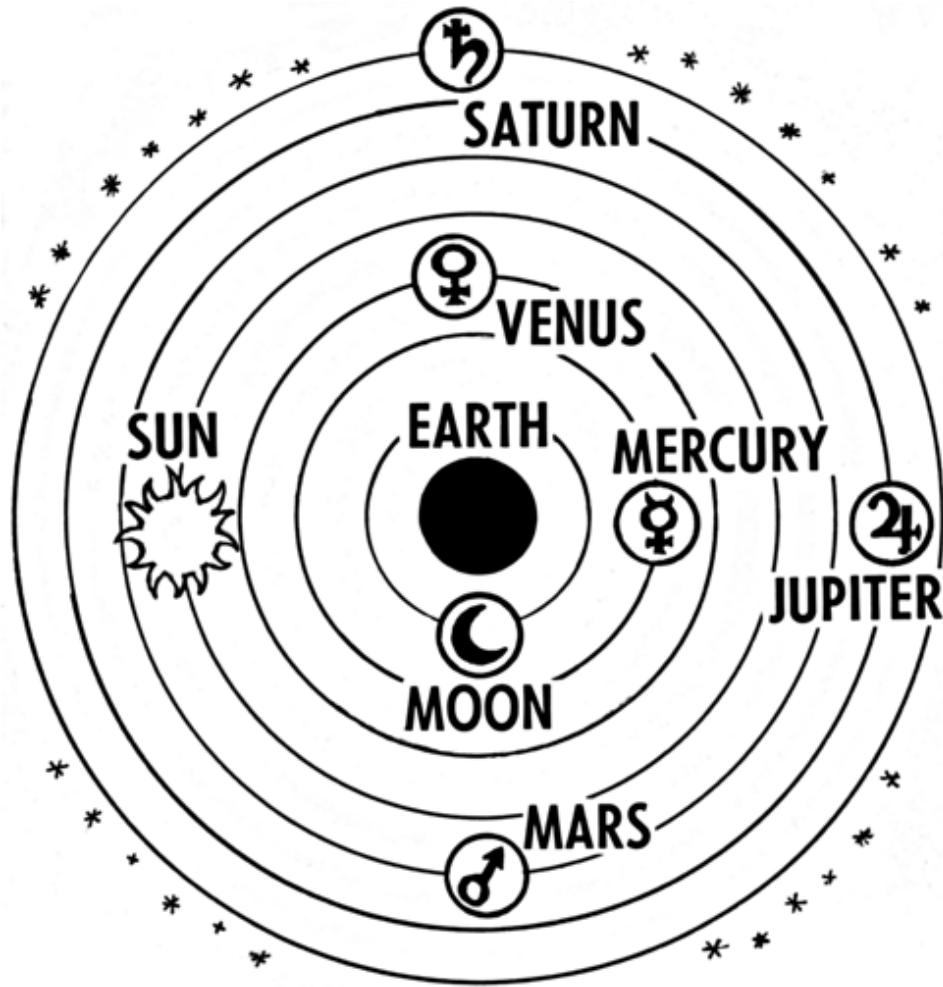
1. Simple, compelling theories often turn out to be wrong.
2. Most (all?) evolutionary evidences have significant problems.
3. Creationism helps us to do good science and come up with even better explanations.
4. Creationism is good theology.



**Simple, compelling theories often turn out to be wrong.**



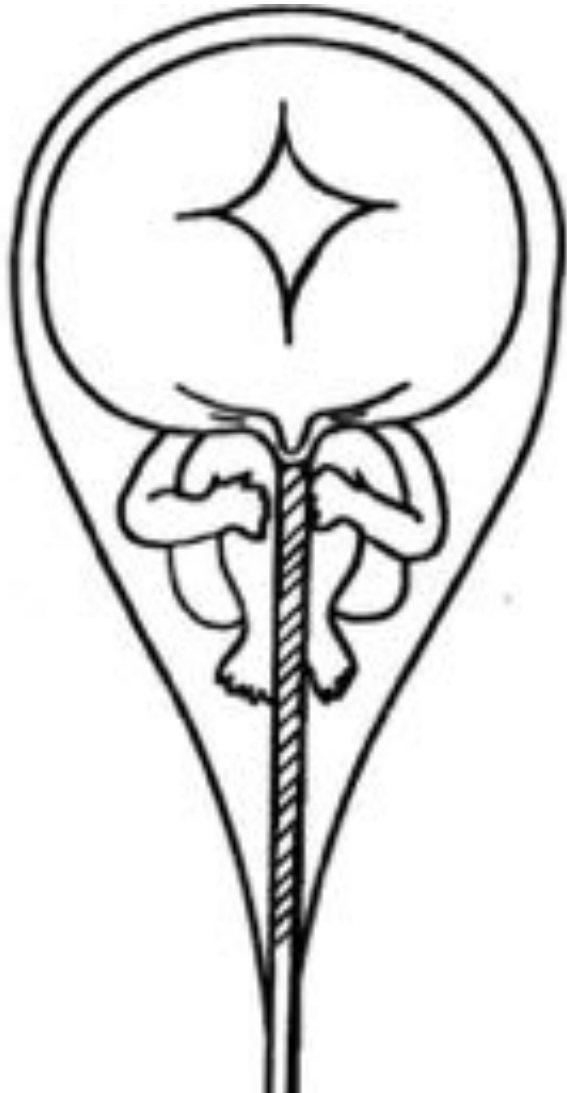
# Simple, compelling ... and wrong



- **Geocentrism**

- The idea that the Earth is at the centre of the solar system.

# Simple, compelling ... and wrong



- **Preformism**

- The idea that the embryo was a 'mini adult' that unfolded during gestation.



- **So could evolution also be wrong?**
- **Perhaps it depends on how we look at the data?**

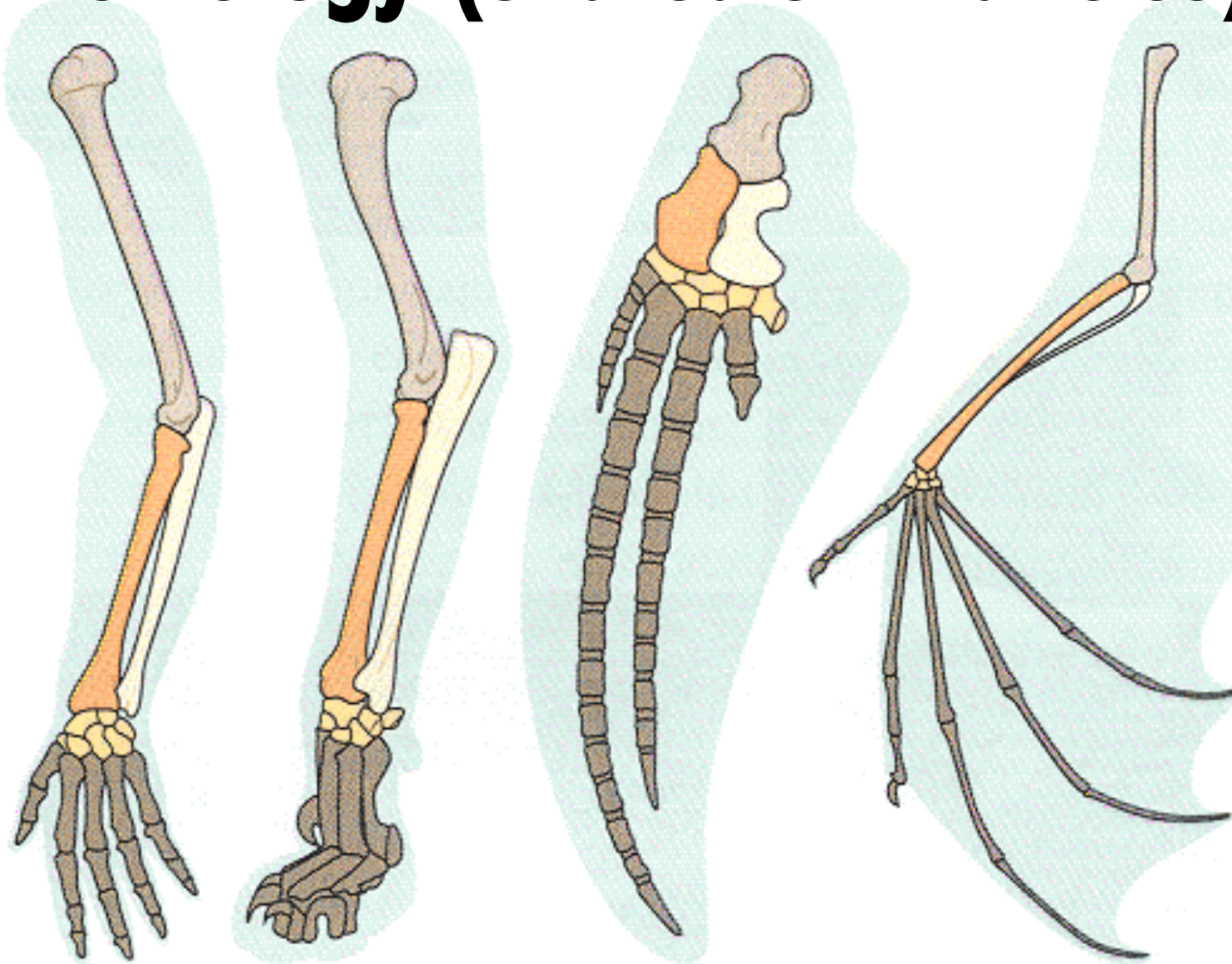




**Most (all?)  
evolutionary  
evidences have  
significant  
problems.**



# Homology (shared similarities)



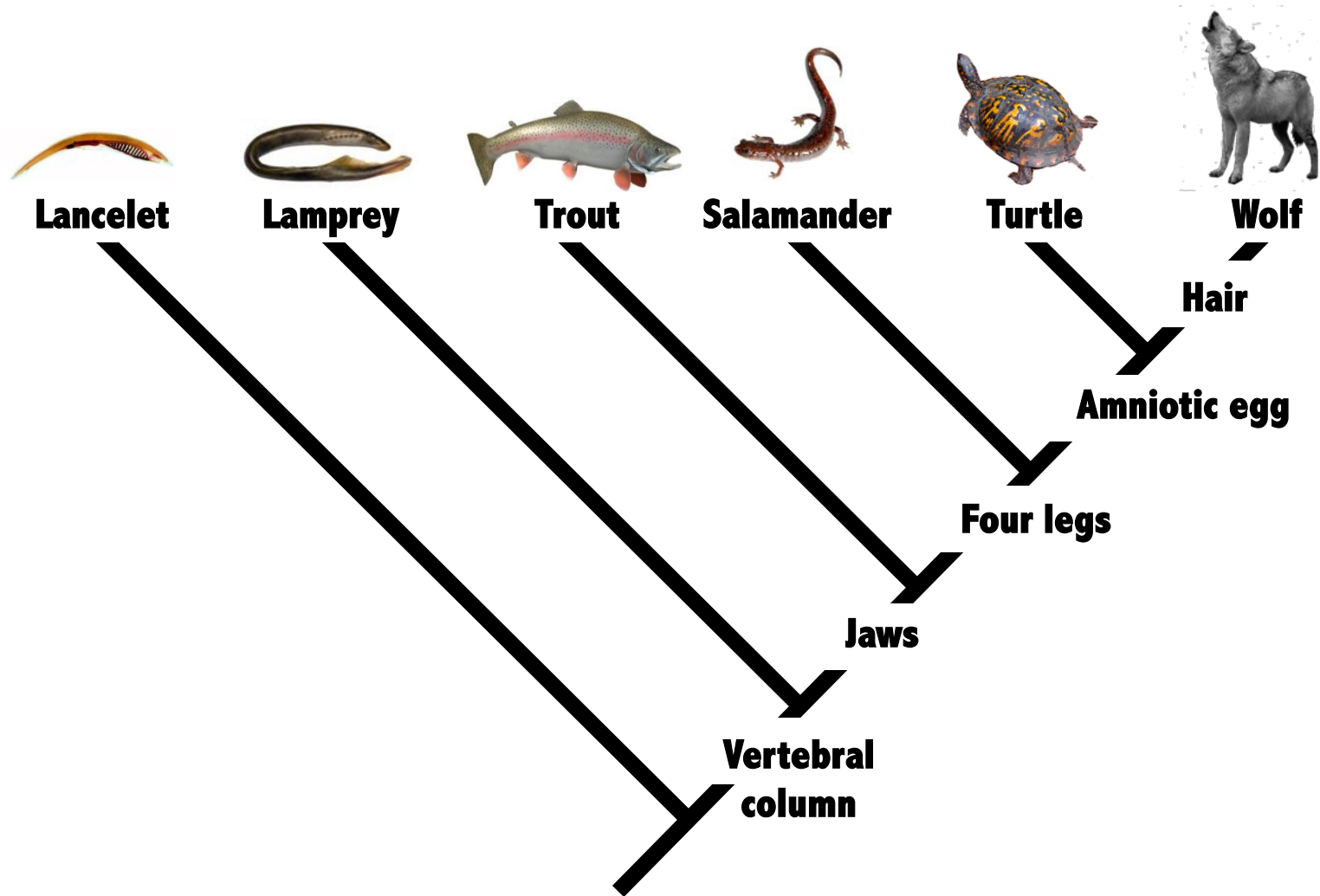
**Human**

**Cat**

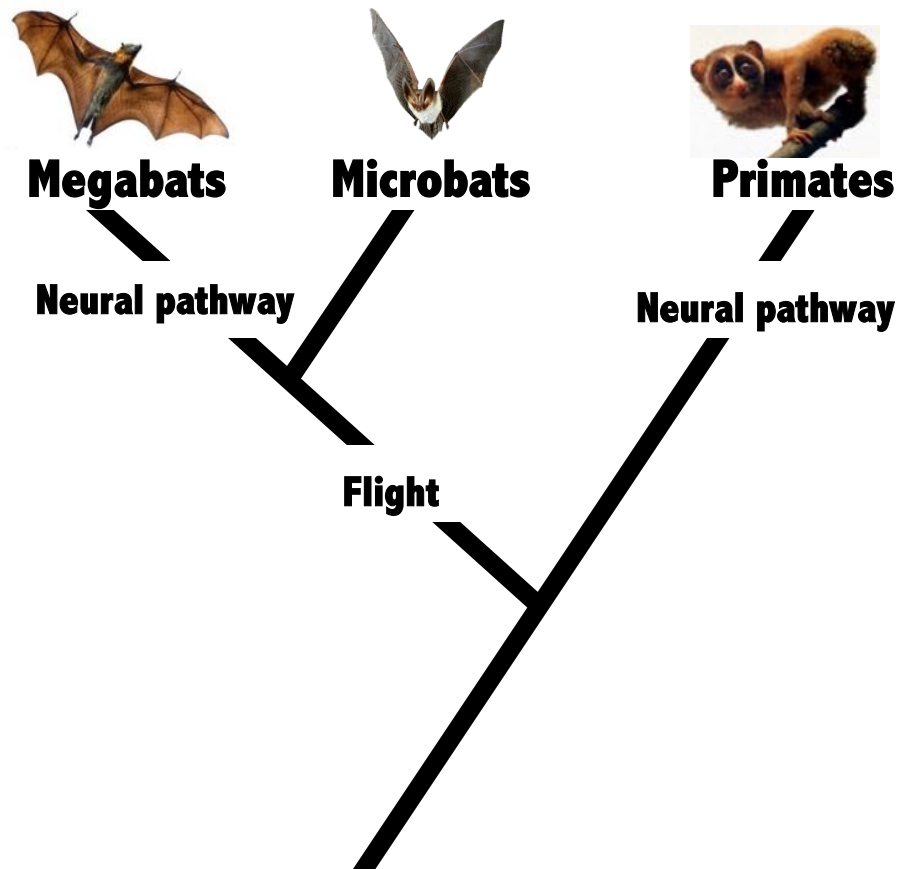
**Whale**

**Bat**

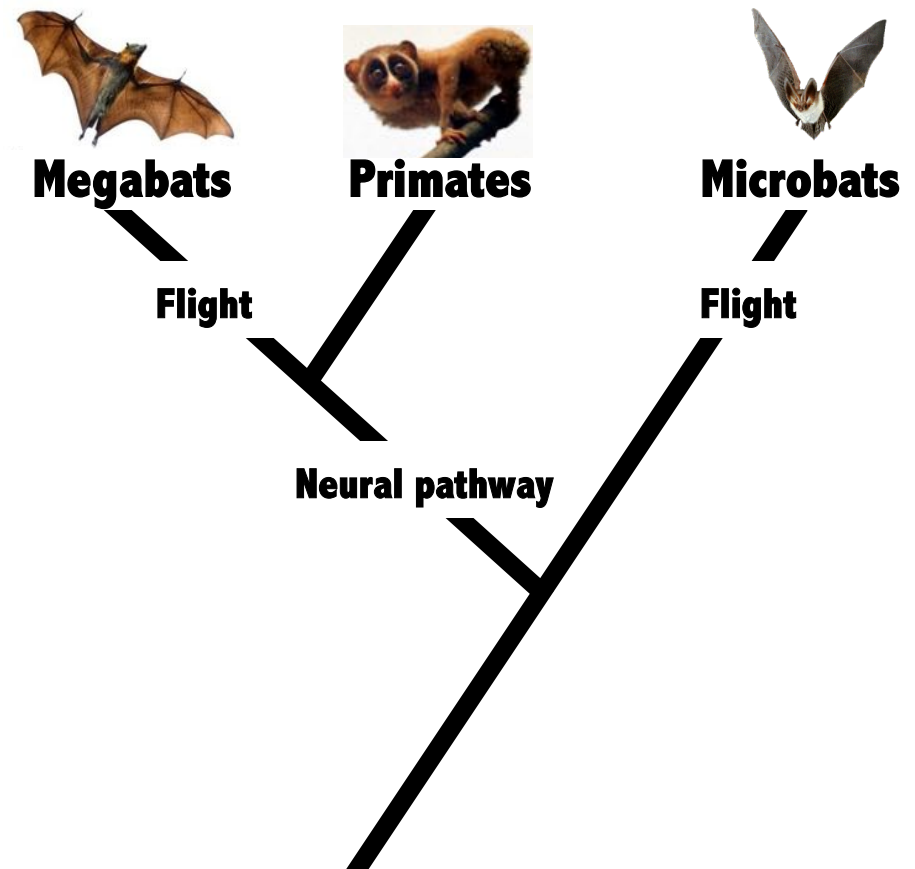
**... used to construct evolutionary trees**



... ***but*** there are many tree-contradicting similarities



Megabats and microbats  
most closely related



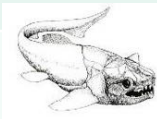
Megabats and primates  
most closely related

# Order of the fossil record

Geological system	Fossil group						
Quaternary						Birds	Humans
Tertiary					Mammals		
Cretaceous							
Jurassic							
Triassic							
Permian							
Carboniferous							
Devonian							
Silurian							
Ordovician							
Cambrian							



Jawless fishes



Jawed fishes



Amphibians



Reptiles



Mammals



Birds



Humans



Kurt Wise, PhD (Invertebrate Palaeontology)

**First appearances of higher taxa: a preliminary study of order in the fossil record**

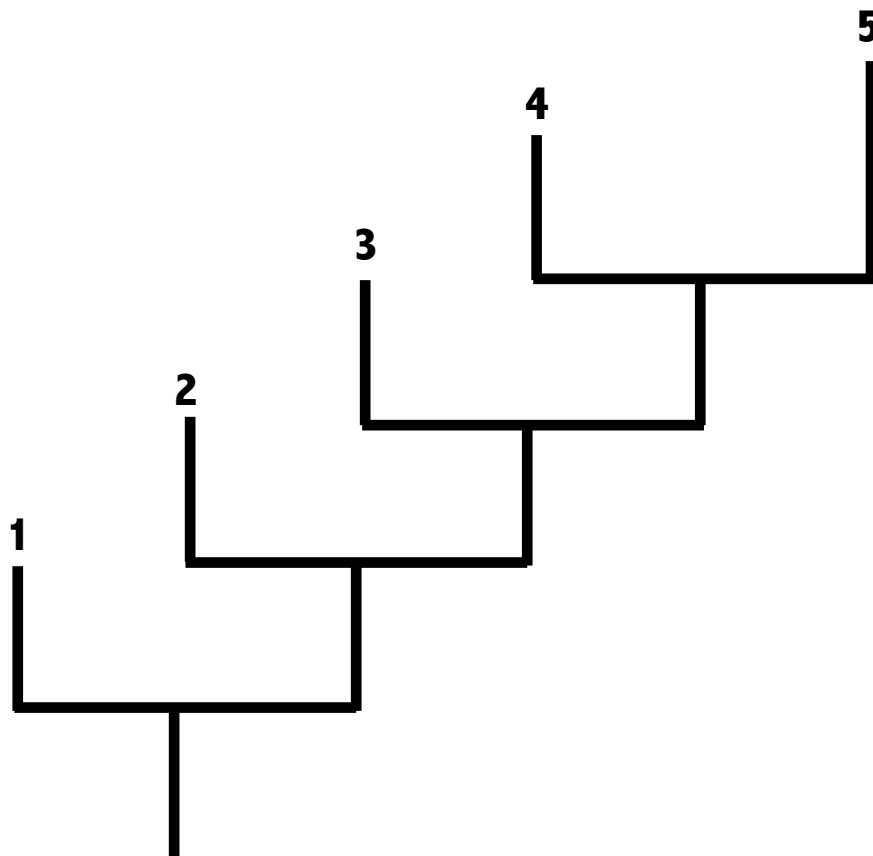
*Data:* Used a classification scheme modified from Margulis and Schwartz (1988). Included 7 kingdoms, 101 phyla, 266 classes.

*Methods:* Constructed basic cladograms for the kingdoms, phyla and classes. From the cladograms 144 predicted evolutionary series were derived: 3 series of kingdoms, 1 series of divisions, 62 series of phyla, 6 series of subphyla and 72 series of classes.

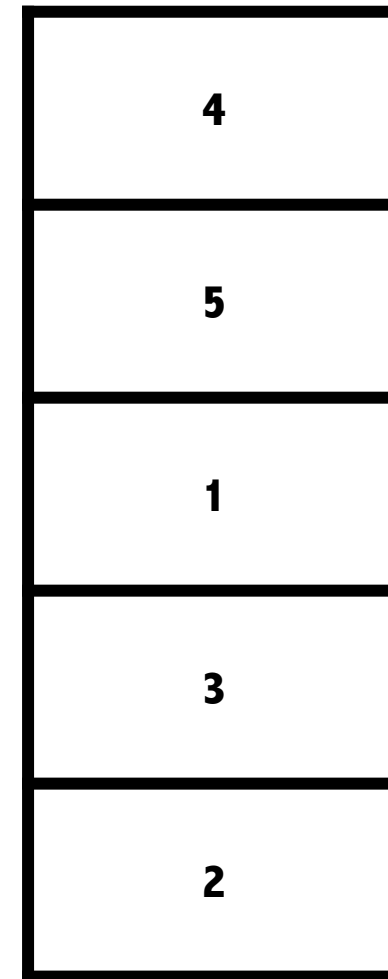
*Analysis:* Spearman's Rank Correlation was used to compare the order of first appearances in the fossil record with the order of first appearances in the cladograms for all 144 series.



**Only 5 out of the 144 series** showed a significant correlation at the 95% confidence level between the predicted and observed order of first appearances. The remainder were basically **random** with respect to the predicted evolutionary order.



**(a) Predicted**



**(b) Observed**



# Intermediate forms



## ***Archaeopteryx***

*Bird-like:* asymmetrical flight feathers

*Dinosaur-like:* teeth, wing claws, long bony tail

## ***Acanthostega***

*Tetrapod-like:* hands and feet with digits

*Fish-like:* gills, fin rays on tail



## ... **but** mosaic forms are actually quite common



**Gnetophytes** share features with both gymnosperms and angiosperms



**Pronghorn** shares traits with both deer and antelopes

**Red panda** shares traits with both raccoons and bears



**Blind skinks** share traits with both snakes and worm lizards



**Hoatzin** shares traits with several different orders of birds



**Platypus** shares traits with both mammals and reptiles



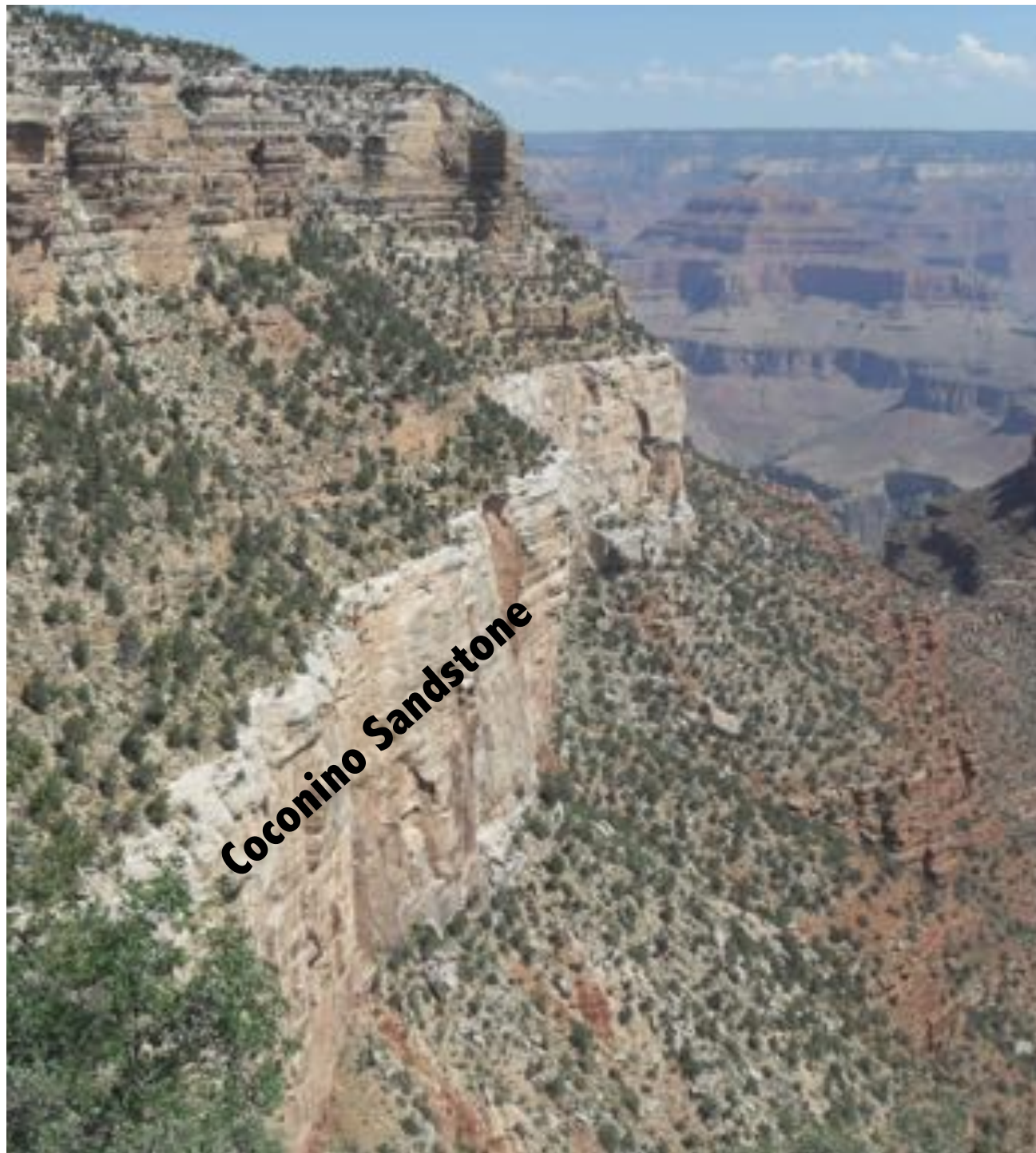
**Dinoflagellates** share traits with both plants and animals

## ... and most **cannot** be interpreted as evolutionary intermediates

**Creationism helps  
us to do good  
science and come  
up with even  
better  
explanations.**



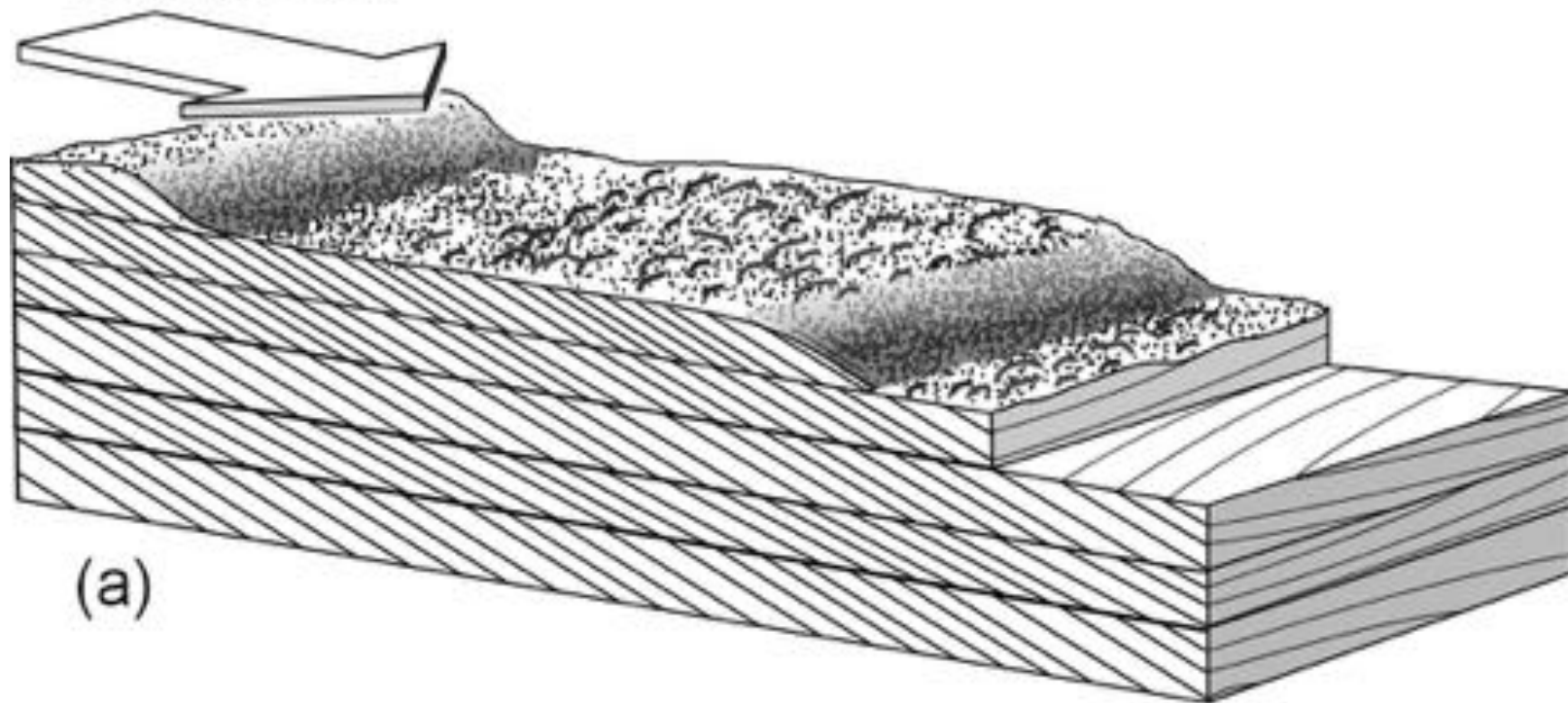




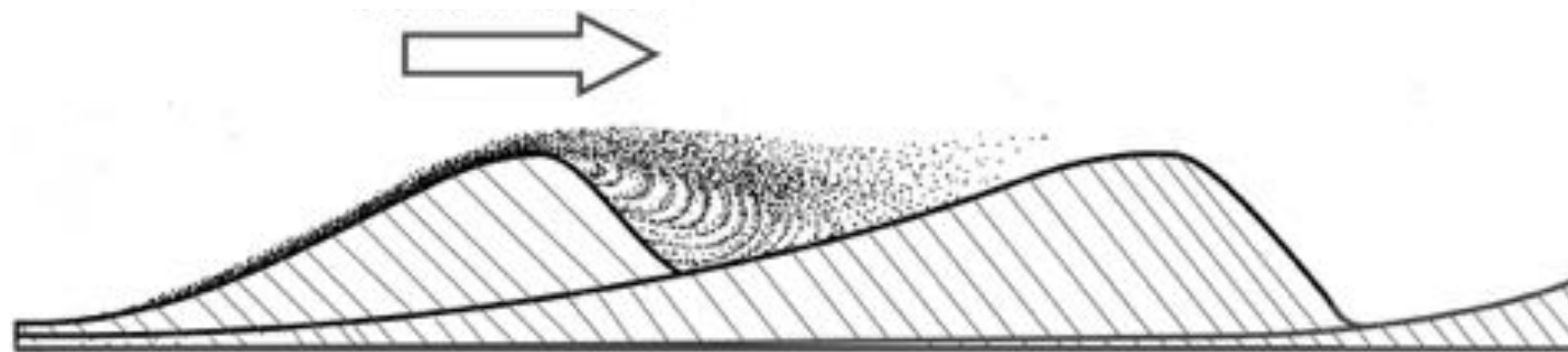




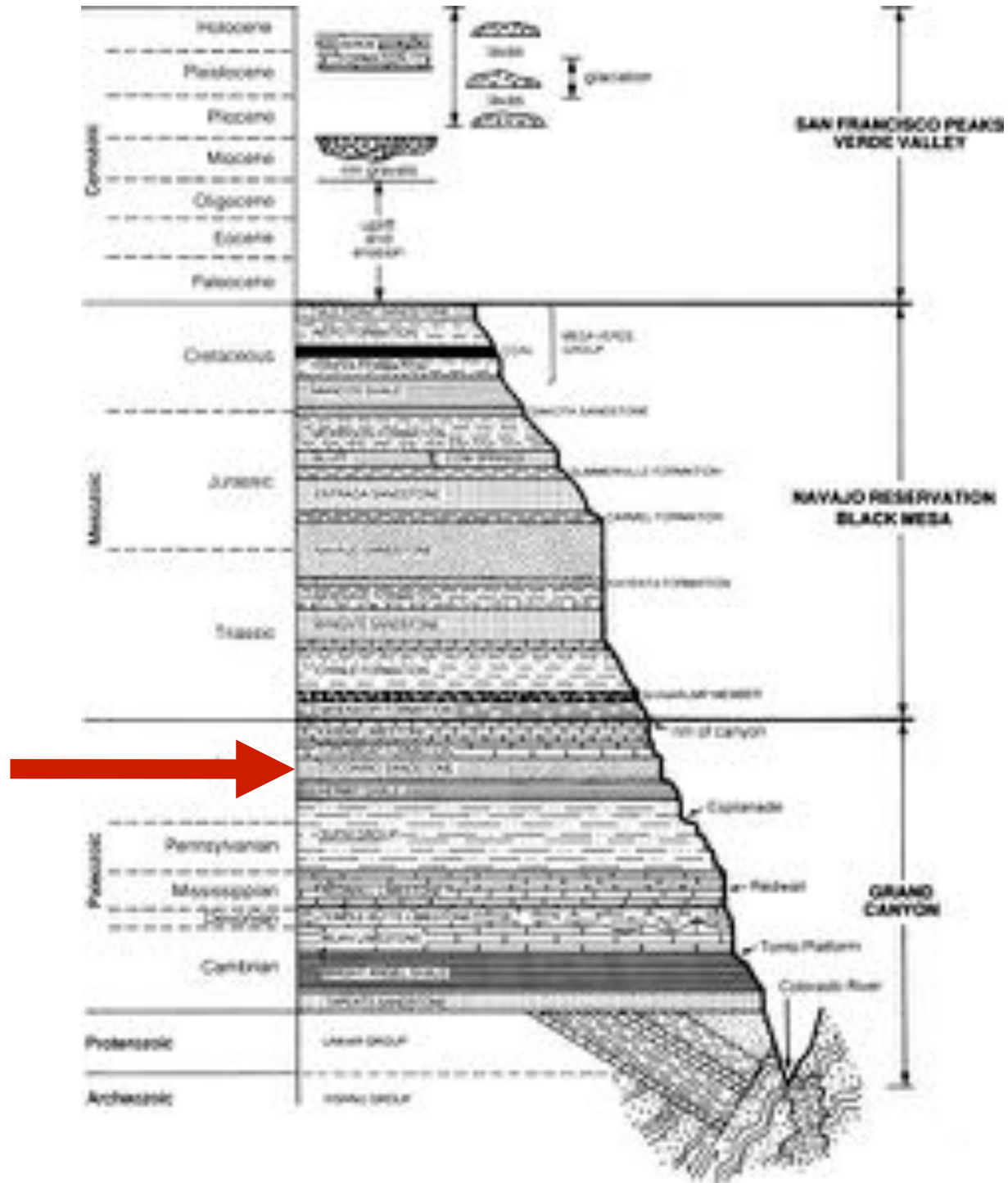
**Cross-bedding in the Coconino Sandstone**



(a)



(b)



**Flood rocks**



# Evidence of a desert origin

1. Steep cross-bed dips at angle of repose of dry sand
2. Well-rounded and well-sorted sand
3. Mud cracks at base of formation (evidence for arid environment)
4. Rain drop prints
5. Grains well-frosted via mechanical means
6. Vertebrate footprints made on dry sand

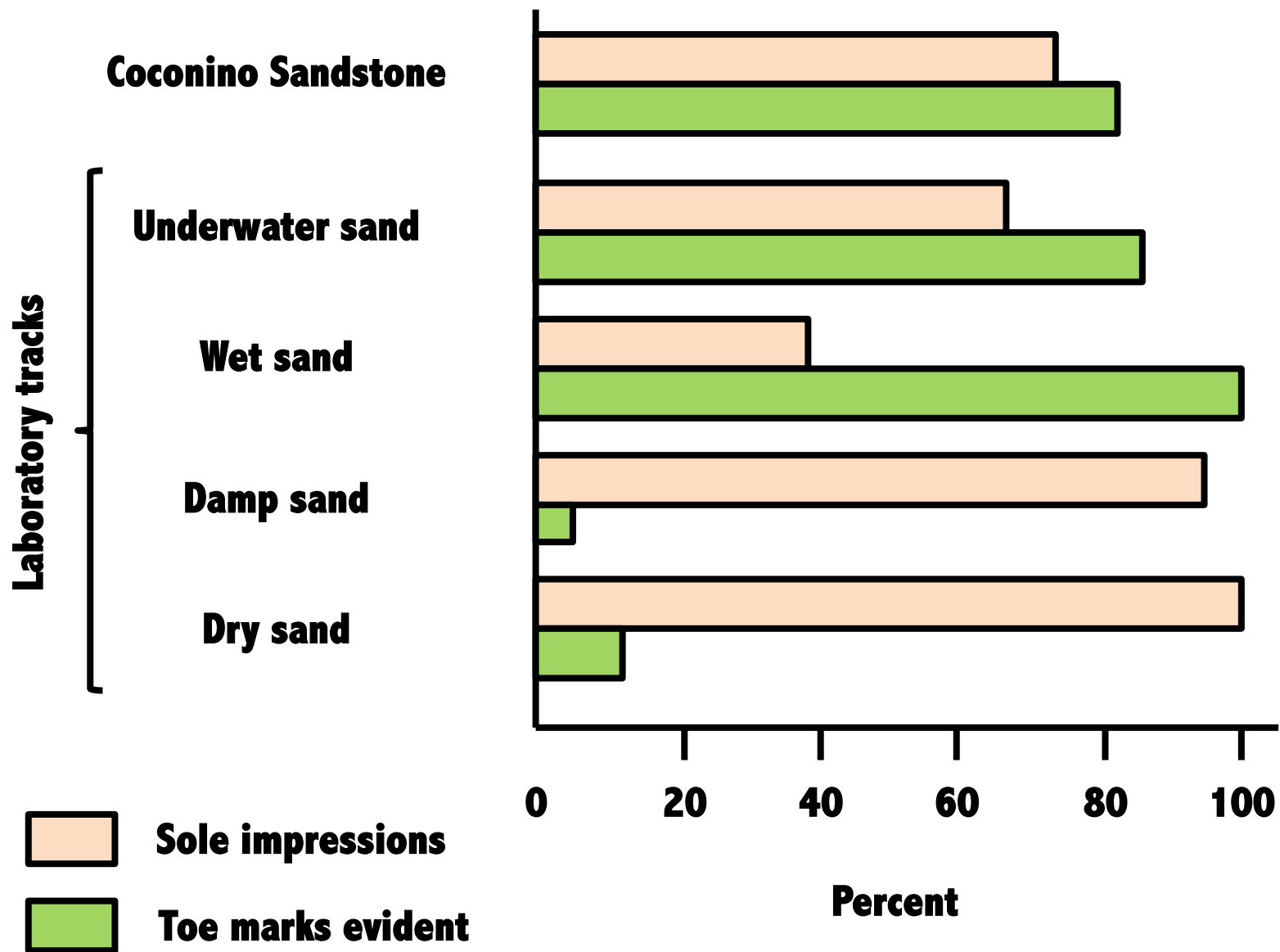


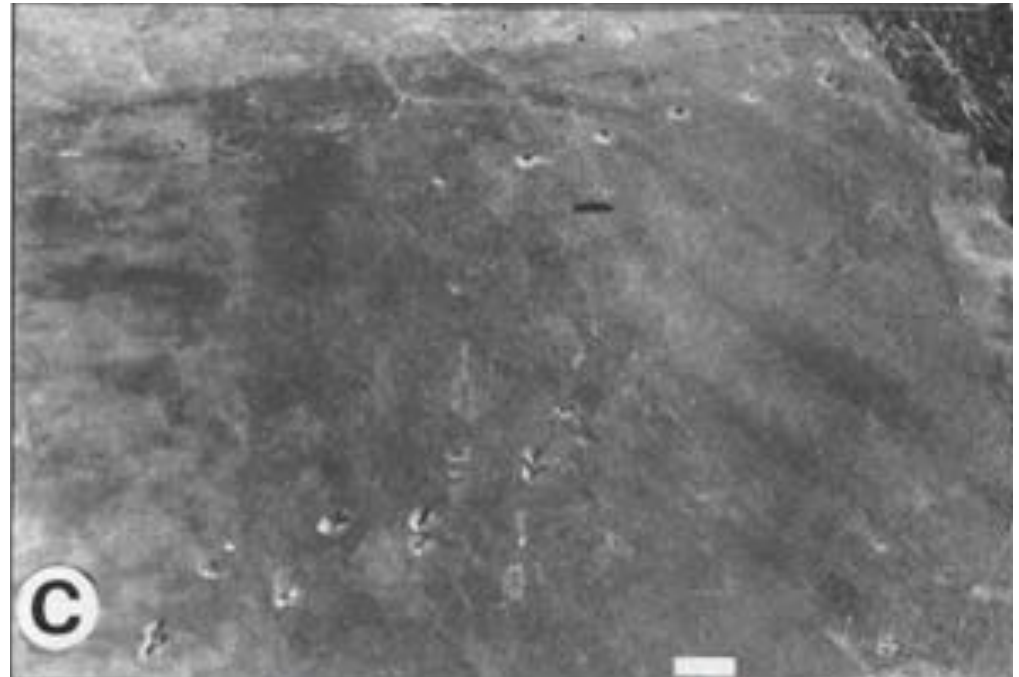
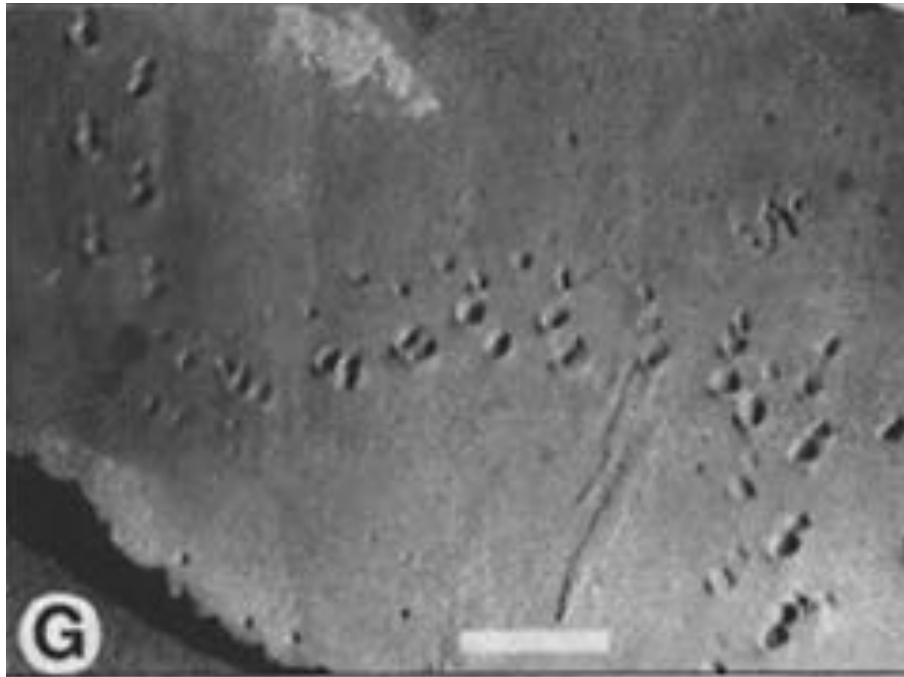




- Surveyed 82 trackways along the Hermit Trail, Grand Canyon.
- Studied 236 experimental trackways made by living amphibians and reptiles:
  - On dry sand.
  - On moist sand.
  - On wet sand.
  - On underwater sand.
- Observed underwater behaviour of salamanders in the laboratory and in their natural habitat.



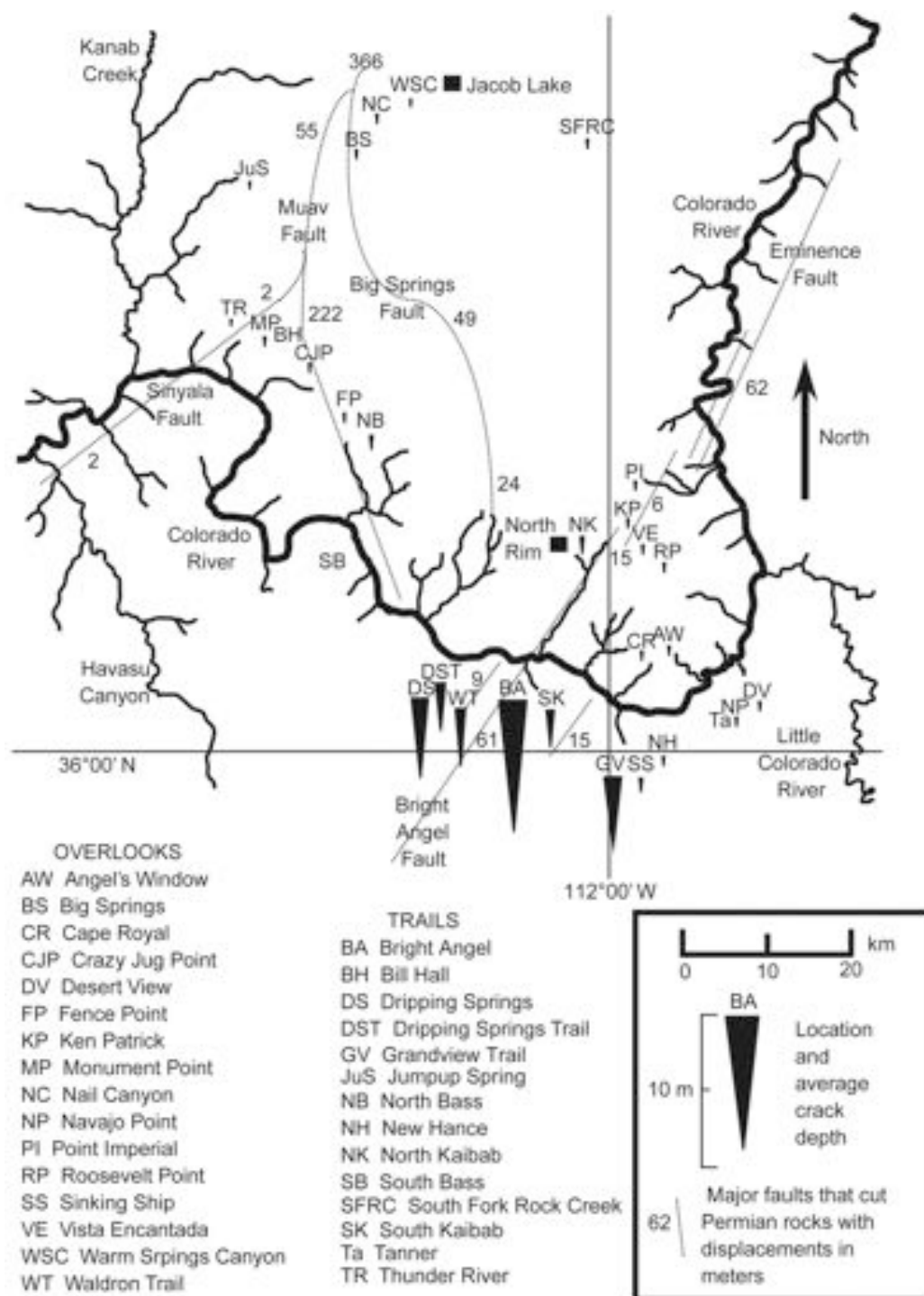




Photographs from: Leonard R. Brand and T. Tang. 1991. Fossil vertebrate footprints in the Coconino Sandstone (Permian) of northern Arizona: evidence for underwater origin. *Geology* 19:1201-1204.









## **OLD MYTHS**

(SUPPOSEDLY PROVING A DESERT)

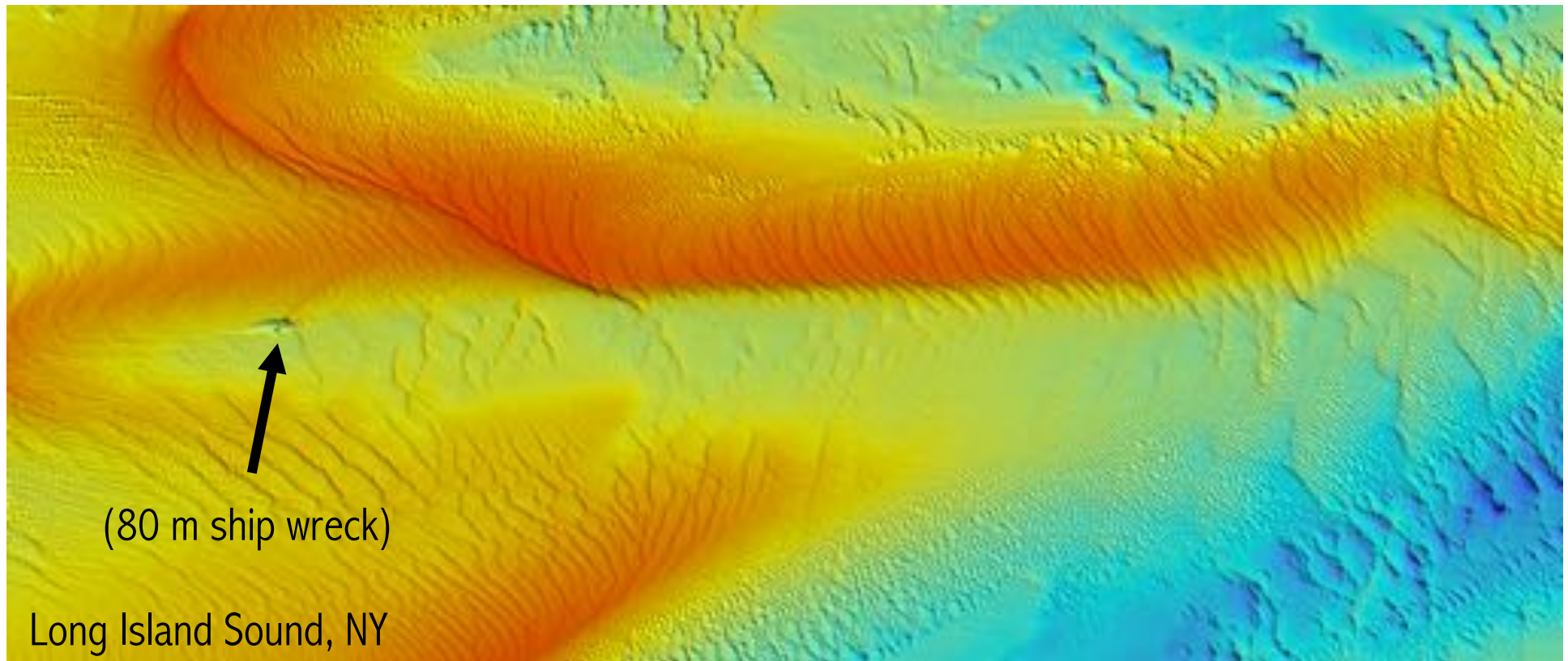
1. Steep cross-bed dips at angle of repose of dry sand
2. Well-rounded and well-sorted sand
3. Mud cracks at base of formation (evidence for arid environment)
4. Rain drop prints
5. Grains well-frosted via mechanical means
6. Vertebrate footprints made on dry sand

## **NEW DISCOVERIES**

(SUPPORTING UNDERWATER DEPOSITION)

1. Dolomite is persistent throughout the formation
2. Muscovite mica is persistent throughout the formation
3. Parabolic recumbent folds are present
4. “Current” or “parting” lineation is present
5. The formation interfingers with marine units
6. Sand avalanches within the formation are tabular, not tongue-shaped





A sand wave model for the Coconino can explain:

- 20° cross-bed dips.
- rounding and sorting patterns.
- presence of dolomite and mica.
- origin of water-saturated sand for sand injectites.
- burrows or water escape structures misinterpreted as “rain drop prints”.
- unusual trackway characteristics.
- parabolic recumbent folds along with a number of other features that indicate water deposition.

**Creationism is  
good theology.**



# Central message of Christianity

For God so loved the world, that he  
gave his only begotten Son, that  
whosoever believeth in him should not  
perish, but have everlasting life.

*(John 3:16)*



# Why did Christ die on the cross?

- **To pay the penalty for sin:**

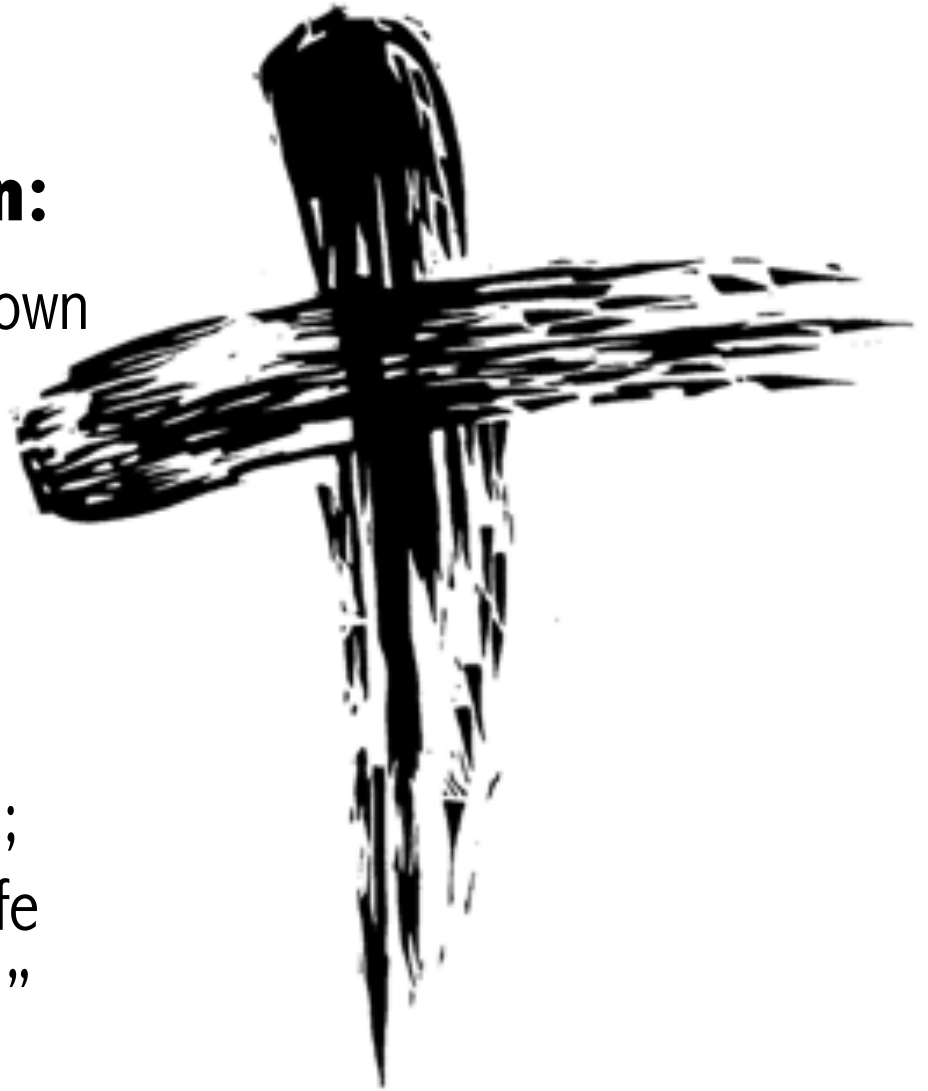
- “Who ... bare our sins in his own body on the tree”

- ( 1 Peter 2:24)*

- **The penalty for sin is death:**

- “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- (Romans 6:23)*



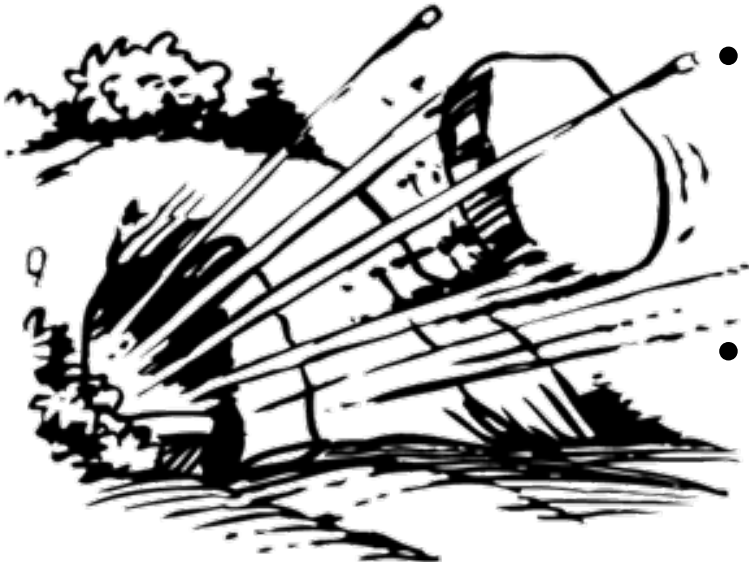
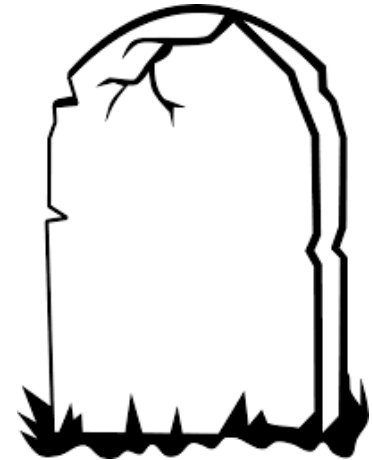
# The biblical story of death

- **Death came into the world because of sin:**

- “by one man [*Adam*] sin entered into the world, and death through sin” (*Romans 5:12*)

- **Death is an enemy:**

- “The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.” (*1 Corinthians 15:26*)



- **Christ has conquered death:**

- “Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.” (*Acts 2:24*)

- **One day death will be abolished:**

- “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death” (*Revelation 21:4*)



# But in the evolutionary story ...

- **Death is as old as life itself**
- **Death is natural**
- **Death is an integral part of the evolutionary process:**
  - “Thus, from the war of nature, from famine and death ... the production of the higher animals, directly follows.” Charles Darwin, *Origin of Species* (1859)



Only creationism is compatible with traditional Christian theology – which offers hope in the face of suffering and death.



# The bottom line ...

- Creationism provides better scientific explanations than evolution and is consistent with traditional Christian theology.
- Creationism points us to the Creator who made us, loves us and came to rescue us in the person of Jesus Christ.






# Biblical Creation Trust

P.O. Box 325, Ely, CB7 5YH

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