

Can scientists refute intelligent design?

Does the complexity of everything on earth prove
that there is a designer?

Can intelligent design hold up as a scientific
theory?

**PLEASE TURN YOUR SOUND UP VERY LOUD TO
HEAR MY ORAL COMMENTARY, THANKYOU 😊**

Summary

- Context/ clarification
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 - Credibility
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Context

- Intelligent design: everything on earth was created by God as it is now **no evolution**
- Scientists argue that evolution refutes the intelligent design theory
- Intelligent design theorists aim for a scientifically debate instead of religion versus science
- Refute: can scientists dismiss intelligent design as a scientific theory?

Source 1: Credibility

Marilyn Adamson

- Former atheist
- Used as conversion example

Everystudent.com

- Promotes belief in God
- Life advice, religious
- Anyone free to post on the site
- Marilyn's article = feature

Source 1:

God exists

Assumes the designer is God (perspective)



'The complexity of our planet points to a deliberate Designer who not only created our universe, but sustains it today.'



'Water in plants can therefore flow upward against gravity, bringing... water and nutrients to the top of even the tallest trees.'

Assumes that this 'unique' properties of water points to the existence of a designer.

'Characteristics of water are uniquely suited to life' – (example of complexity)

'Water has a unique surface tension'

(counter) Plants have evolved to harness the properties of water, water was not specifically designed for the use of plants.

Source 1:

Assumes something this astounding and complex can only have come about through design.

The complexity of the eye points to a deliberate Designer who... created our universe

God exists

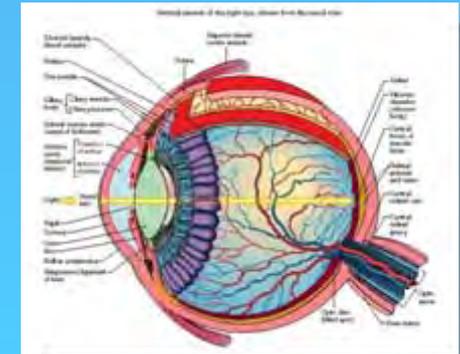
Intelligent design is the correct solution

'[The eye] can distinguish among seven million colors.'

'[The eye] has automatic focusing and handles an astounding 1.5 million messages – simultaneously.'



Main argument for intelligent design - complexity



Source 2: Credibility

New scientist

- Scientific journal
- Highly respected

James Randerson

- Editor of environmentguardian.co.uk
- Formerly guardian.co.uk's science correspondent.

Bob Holmes

- Consultant for new scientist

Source 2: counter argument

William Dembski, 'a mathematician, philosopher and leading intelligent design proponent.'



'The odds against getting complex structures from chance mutations are insurmountable'



'Studies were carried out to find the probability of 'one protein changing by chance to fit perfectly with another' 'the odds were so long as to rule out an explanation based on chance events'

Scientific evidence supporting claim of previous source that things on earth are too complex to have come about by chance.

Source 2:

Different mutation can have the same outcome

'different protein sequences can be functional'

'It is not uncommon for proteins in different species to vary by 80 to 90 per cent, yet still perform the same function.'

Jawless fish accomplish blood clotting with just six proteins instead of the full 10.



'The "improbability" argument... misrepresents natural selection.'

Dembski's arguments against evolution are flawed because he does not properly understand the theory.

Dembski argues that the odds against getting complex structures from chance mutations are insurmountable

'[evolution] is based on small accumulated changes that take place without a final goal.' not a complex structure coming into existence in in one mutation

But

'a set of simultaneous mutations that form a complex protein structure is so unlikely as to be unfeasible'

Source 3: Credibility

Allaboutcreation.org

- Sub-section of allaboutgod.com
- Write websites
- ‘reach out to sceptics, seekers [and] believers... with powerful evidence for God and... Jesus.’
- Content on first few pages of the world’s most popular search engines
- Religious perspective (Christian)
- Non-profitable organisation

Source 3:

The flagellum is a product of intelligent design

Associating something fully when it is very different

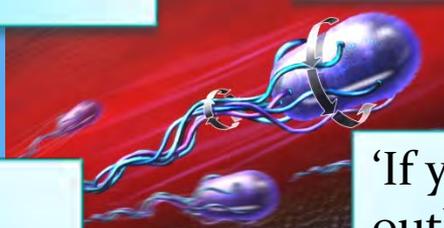
'[The flagellum has] a microscopic outboard motor.'

'Motors are the product of intelligent design.'

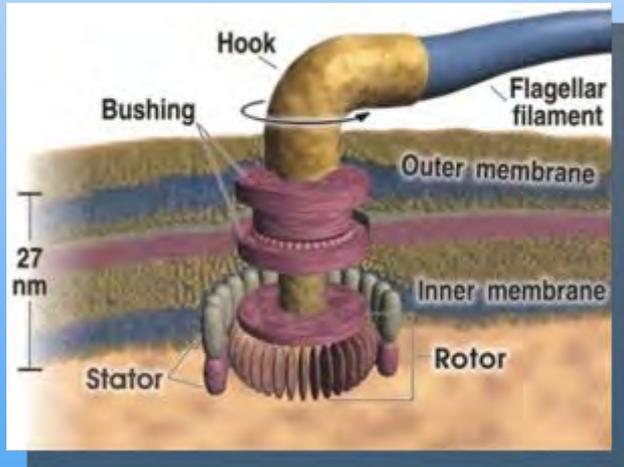
'[the bacterial flagellum] consists of about 40 individual parts including a... rotor, drive shaft... And propeller.'

'If you were to find [the outboard motor parts] in any vehicle, machine... Or model, you would recognise them as the product of an intelligent source.'

Information demonstrating how complex the flagellum's motor is, helping illustrate how impossible it would be for this system to evolve by chance.



Source 2:



Evidence of existing proteins being used for a different purpose.

Example of complexity: 'bacterial flagellum with 40 proteins'

New theory: 'natural selection works by adapting pre-existing systems for new roles.'

'A subset of flagella proteins... form a mechanism... which pathogenic bacteria use to inject toxins into their host's cells.'

Extreme complexity does not disprove natural selection.

natural selection can explain most complex systems

Source 3:



‘The E.coli bacterial flagellum... Could not have evolved gradually over time’

‘There is absolutely no naturalistic, gradual, evolutionary explanation for the bacterial flagellum.’

‘If you remove any one part [of the flagellum], the entire system will fail to function’

‘An “irreducibly complex system is one composed of multiple parts, all of which are necessary for the system to function.’

‘If you remove any one part [of the flagellum], the entire system will fail to function’

‘The bacterial flagellum is an “irreducibly complex” system’

Source 2:

Illusion – says it is not a steadfast argument intelligent design supporters can rely on to prove the theory.

“Irreducible complexity” is an illusion’

The flagellum is not irreducibly complex

The “irreducibly complex” flagellum has 40 proteins’

‘The stomach bacterium *Helicobacter pylori*, has a flagellum with just 33 proteins – “irreducibly” reduced.

Implies in further paragraphs that while science advances, the intelligent design theory does not change, inferring that while they will eventually be able to explain all the stages of natural selection, intelligent design theory does not, ironically, evolve.

Intelligent design cannot be completely disproved, but parts of its argument can be. Intelligent design is a matter of faith, not of science. Science explores new theories.

Conclusion:

- Intelligent design theory relies heavily on complexity
- Evolution can explain what was previously “proof” of intelligent design
- Main arguments of intelligent design countered
- Perspective: people still pursue intelligent design because of their belief in God
- Therefore intelligent design is a matter of religion, and can be refuted by scientists

Further reading:

- ‘Why everything you know about evolution is wrong’

Oliver Burkeman

Writing for the Guardian [online]

Available at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2010/mar/19/evolution-darwin-natural-selection-genes-wrong>

[written 19th March 2010, read in the paper same day]

- Nylon-eating bacteria (pro-evolution)

Ker Than

Writing for LiveScience [online]

Available at:

http://www.livescience.com/strangenews/050923_ID_science.html

[written 23 September 2005, accessed March 2010]

Bibliography:

- **SOURCE 1**

Marilyn Adamson

Writing for everystudent.com [online]

Available at: <http://www.everystudent.com/features/isthere.html>

[Accessed April 2010]

- **SOURCE 2**

James Randerson, editor of environmentguardian.co.uk

Bob Holmes, consultant for new scientist

Writing for New Scientist [online]

Available at: <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg18725073.800-creationism-special-a-sceptics-guide-to-intelligent-design.html?full=true> [accessed April 2010]

- **SOURCE 3**

No specified writer

Available at: <http://www.allaboutcreation.org/proof-of-god.htm>

[Accessed April 2010]