PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

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- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

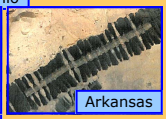
Inside

Inventor, ship designer and builder (e.g., *Novara* high-latitude research vessel), and researcher in archaeology, **Thomas Walli-Knofler**, steps back from the long-presumed stone hammer and chisel construction of the famous multi-sided and multi-ton **Incan fitted stones** toward possible chemistry. See **Walli-Knofler p.2**.

Longtime Chilean researcher in archaeoastronomy, **Patricio Bustamante Díaz**, along with professional architect and 3D photogrammetry expert, **Carlos Verdugo Rotella**, examine conflicts and errors in the recent pushback against the accepted antiquity of **Monte Verde**. As with other paradigm-challenging sites, evidence questioning the 'Clovis First' model is again facing mainstream resistance. See **Díaz and Rotella p.10**.

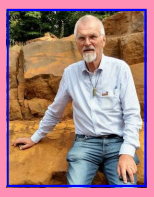
Objectivity through living and extinct forms contrasting scientific unaccountability

Part 9: Echinodermata. No meaningful change after 500 million years—*echinoderms are still echinoderms*. Most people are unaware the oldest grapnel anchor was not manmade. It first appears fully functional in the Devonian crinoid *Ancyrocrinus*.

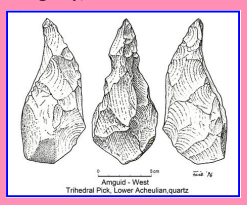


The **example at left** was recovered by the author direct from the Hungry Hollow Formation, ON. Most fossils in the 21-part series were recovered by the author direct. The series addresses problematic beliefs in paleontology, biology and anthropology exposing uncritical acceptance of Darwin's hopeful fantasy the fossil record would prove a record "poorly kept." Objective researchers describe it as "excellent, unbroken." See **Feliks p.17**.

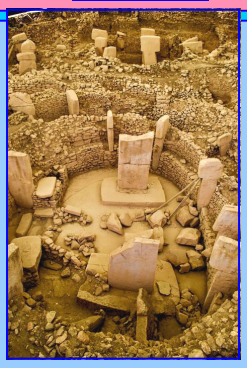
— Welcome to *PCN* #102 —

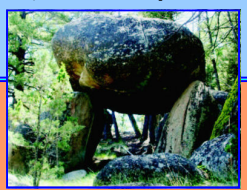


Retired pediatrician, **Christian Humburg** (MD) is a long-published researcher in archaeology. Here, he puts into scientific context two different kinds of evidence in the controversial topic of what has come to be known by such names as **figure stones**. Pleistocene Coalition co-founder and writer, **Dr. Virginia Steen McIntyre** (geologist), before her two strokes took that community under her wings to help transcend the problem of collectors picking up interesting stones but recording no contexts and, in most cases, showing no signs of human workmanship. Dr. Humburg, with support from colleague, former State Archaeologist of Hesse, Germany (and *PCN* author), Prof. Dr. Lutz Fiedler (discoverer of what is called the Tan Tan figurine), looks objectively at the human tendency to see animal resemblances in oddly-shaped stones. The crucial scientific support is the confirmation of human workmanship as the examples are worked stone tools. See **Humburg p.6**.



Originally discovered and *misidentified* by university anthropologists in 1963 the remarkable Pleistocene-age site of **Gobekli Tepe** was ignored by the mainstream until 1994. **Tom Baldwin** points out that for decades, this same 'science' community aggressively taught that humans came down from the trees to become progressively smarter, first hunting and gathering, then farming, and finally building settlements—all as their brains enlarged, while suppressing evidence of earlier high intelligence. The Pleistocene Coalition was formed in 2009 in response to similar treatment of evidence for early humans in the Americas and intelligent early people (e.g., Calico, Valsequillo, Bilzingsleben). In this misguided field, **advanced qualities "out of sequence" are suppressed**. See **Baldwin p.8**.



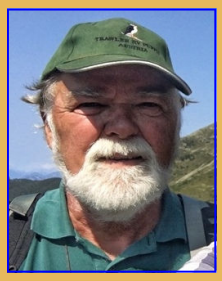


The Boy Who Cried Wolf (an ancient Greek cautionary tale) applies well to the modern mainstream science community's increasingly recognized lack of trustability. Covid fiasco aside, one problem is the community's ongoing suppression and denigration of artifacts related to early people in the Americas and the intelligence of early people worldwide. **Rick Dullum** points out that the mainstream has no qualms about defining **true dolmens** as not natural formations. However, their confidence that massive stone structures in Montana are all natural should be questioned as it echoes their bias toward well-proven artifacts at Calico as "not manmade." See **Dullum p.14**.

The softstones from long-gone cultures Some possible chemistry and experimental archaeology* — By Thomas Walli-Knofler

Fig. 1. Sacsayhuaman, near the major city of Cusco, Peru. Wikimedia Commons; **Left Inset**: Size context. **Right Inset**: Mixing bowl.

"This raised the question for me:



Could our ancestors have used an acidic plant-based tincture here, as in South America, to easily scrape out the cups?"

*This is an abridged version of a longer article.

On the trail of an enigma

Every visitor to the ancient Inca sites at Machu Picchu or Cusco wonders how they did it. The massive blocks fit together seamlessly with not even a gap for a fine blade (e.g., **Fig. 1** and **Fig. 2**).

What has interested me the most recently is a current popular topic on various blogs and forums which is still an unresolved puzzle in Andean archaeology. That is, how were the unpredictably-shaped multi-ton—often multi-sided—rocks fitted together so perfectly like pieces of a complex puzzle?

One aspect of the puzzle getting some extra attention is the story of Jorge A. Lira (1908–1984), a Catholic priest. In a 1983 television interview a year before he passed, he noted that he had 'rediscovered' the old method of softening stone. It is important to note that aside from his calling as a priest, Lira was also an internationally famous expert on ancient Andean culture and folklore.

Most of the sites discussing Father Lira give pretty much the same information. Here are a few more details I paraphrase from David Pratt's webpage: Lost civilizations of the Andes (http://davidpratt.info/andes2.htm).

"Lira related that a pre-Columbian legend spoke of two gifts given to the Indians by the gods that would enable them to build colossal structures such as we know today as Sacsayhuaman and Machu Picchu that are famous the world over. The gifts were two plants with amazing properties. One was the coca plant, whose leaves enabled the workers to endure the enormous effort required. The other was a plant that, when mixed with other ingredients, turned hard stone into a malleable paste.

Fig. 2. Sample wall in Cuzco (Hatunrumiyoc Street) in the Andes Mountains of southeastern Peru. It is only one of many examples of the bafflingly precise famous 'polygonal' stonework. Pinterest.

Padre Lira said that he studied the legend for 14 years and finally managed to identify the plant in question, which he called 'Jotcha.' He conducted several experiments, and although he succeeded in softening solid rock, he was unable to re-solidify it, so he considered his attempts a failure.

Aukanaw, an Argentine anthropologist of Mapuche origin who died in 1994, recounted a tradition about a species of woodpecker known locally by names such as pitiwe, pite and pitio; its scientific name is probably *Colaptes pitius* (Chilean woodpecker), found in Chile and Argentina, or Colaptes rupicola (Andean woodpecker), found in southern Ecuador, Peru, western Bolivia and northern Argentina and Chile. When someone blocks the entrance to its nest with a piece of stone or iron, it picks up a rare plant known as pito or pitu and rubs it against the obstacle, causing it to weaken or disintegrate. In Peru, above 4500 m, there is said to be a plant called kechuca, which turns stone into jelly and which the Jakkacllopito bird uses to build its nest."

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The softstones from long-gone cultures (cont.)

"As Professor Tributsch was able to establish in his analyses, similar results are also possible through chemical processes."

(A nearby site called the healing springs of Tambo Machay near Cusco features round niches in perfect design.)

Fig. 3. Similar, though not as precise as the stonework at Cuzco, is that of Edo Castle in Tokyo, Japan. It shows what may yet be the mysterious phenomenon of stone softening technique. Wikimedia Commons.

Cosmopolitan quality

There appears to be the mysterious phenomenon of stone softening technique worldwide, such as seen at Edo Castle in Tokyo/Japan (**Fig. 3**). Monumental buildings using what appear to be the same technique can also be found in the Mediterranean such as in Crete and in Delphi, Greece (**Fig. 4**).

Fig. 4. Temple of Apollo, Delphi, Greece. Monumental buildings possibly using techniques similar to Incan can also be found in the Mediterranean as in Greece and on the island of Crete. Wikimedia Commons.

There are very different theories about the vitrified stone surfaces in different cultures, including the theory that this is only possible through high heat.

But as Professor Tributsch was able to establish in his analyses, similar results are also possible through chemical processes, as you can read in the next section.

Vitrification

In the Dec. 14, 2011 article, "Evidence of Vitrified Stonework in the Inca Vestiges of Peru," *Shan Newspaper* (*Shan Herald Agency for News*), Jan Peter de Jong & Christopher Jordan explain for the general reader:

> "Vitrified stones are simply stones that have been melted to a point where they form a glass or glaze."

One can gain a sense of this effect from their Incan example (**Fig. 5**):

https://www.shan-newspaper.com/web/english-page/372-evidence-of-vitrifiedstonework-in-the-inca-vestiges-of-peru.html

Fig. 5. Vitrified Incan stone surface with unidentified attribution and location.

'Stone softening technique' also on alpine cupstones?

After almost 5 years of joint research work on the Tyrolean cupstones (see *PCN* #91, Sept-Oct 2024), special cups appeared. Normally these cups were drilled using a bow and drill or grinding rod, usually in the same sizes. See also:

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/september-october2024.pdf#page=2

http://www.raetiastone.com/

(Cupstones- Page 303)

But there were also cups which, remarkably, showed no signs of grinding and had an almost glass-like wall.

Plants and chemistry quest

This raised the question for me: Could our ancestors have used an acidic plant-based tincture here, as in South America, to easily scrape out the cups?

The first person I contacted was my friend Prof. Dr. Sigmar Bortenschlager, emeritus director of the Botanical Garden at the University of Innsbruck.

My first question was, are there any alpine plants with a very low pH value?

The answer came promptly with a list of possible plants.

"The majority of plant saps are in the pH 5–6.5 range.

Basically, the pH of the plant sap largely depends on the soil. On alkaline substrates—lime, dolomite, etc.—The plant sap tends to have a higher pH on an acidic substrate—granite, slate, etc.—tends to have a lower pH.

Plants whose cell sap has a pH lower than 4.5–5 would

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The softstones from long-gone cultures (cont.)

"The gifts were two plants with amazing properties. One was the coca plant... The other was a plant ...when mixed with other ingredients, turned hard stone into a malleable paste."

"With vinegar they could increase the proton concentration required for dissolution at least a hundredfold (to pH 2)."

-Professor Helmut Tributsch

"The pitta, a bird known for its vibrant colors, shows how, with a leaf in its beak, it can extract a burrow from rock faces."

therefore be suitable for the "softener" and the spectrum is not wide at this point. Here is a list—not exhaustive.

Plant name

Picea / spruce 4–5
Pinus / Pine 4.5–6
Erica / Erica 4.5–5.5
Drosera / Sundew 4–4.5
Convallaria / Lily of the valley 4.5–6
Molinia / Pipe grass 4–5
Rhododendron—alpine rose 4.5–6
Orchids—various species 4.5–5.5
Quercus—oak 5–5.5
Ajuga—common honeysuckle 4–5.5
Vaccinium—blueberry 4.5–5.5"

The most detailed scientific work to date on the theory of 'stone softeners' involves Prof. Dr. Helmut Tribusch.

https://www.siftdesk.org/articles/pdf/On-the-reddish-glittery-mud-the-Inca-used-forperfecting-their-stone-masonry20171230103200.pdf

https://www.helmut-tributsch.it/de/energie-zeit-und-nature-eine-eternal-challenge/

I contacted Prof. Tribusch, described my discoveries to him, and asked his opinion on the cupstones found with the strikingly smooth cups. His answer didn't take long and gave me a simple solution:

"Dear Mr. Walli-Knofler,

I have often read about cupstones, but the treatise you sent [...] explained the dimensions of this phenomenon to me and also described the great progress in understanding these monuments.

By the way, my compliments on the quality of the works in connection with their interpretation as characters.

This alone has historical relevance because of the age and distribution of these cupstones.

As far as possible juices for drilling and possibly etching the shells are concerned, as you already know, ordinary plant acids are too weak (pH 4–5). But with vinegar they could increase the proton concentration required for dissolution at least a hundredfold (to pH 2).

Plant acids also have an additional stimulating effect. Vinegar is a very old food. Babylonians, Egyptians and Romans already used it. You can also make it from medicinal herbs (Hildegard von Bingen) and some flies provide the necessary vinegar-producing bacteria. They are adept at experimenting. After the grinding process (which you describe in your attached work), add vinegar and oxalate-containing plant residues (e.g. spinach) in a bowl and allow some time to take effect.

Depending on the stone material, you could probably notice chemically induced surface changes to it.

Good job and kind regards,
Helmut Tributsch"

An informative excerpt from Prof. Tributsch's work

"ABSTRACT: Due to its impressive appearance, the Inca masonry, which mostly consists of volcanic, siliceous rock silicate-containing rock material has received a lot of attention. A high level of understanding of the various work steps and applied tools. An exception is the reddish mud, 'llancac alpa' in the Quechua language, and the 'gold' used by early chroniclers as mortar who attached the stones and later disappeared. Such techniques were classified as folklore and not taken seriously. This study attempts to understand them to understand and the question was asked: Did the Incas have access to very acidic mud? They had that, and and used the acidic mud from their mines, which produced sulfuric acid by bacterial oxidation of pyrite sulfuric acid by bacterial oxidation of pyrite (fools' gold). It reaches an acidity of up to up to pH = 0.5, which is 104 times more acidic than humic acid, which is known to be Rock containing silica via silica gel into the clay mineral Kaolin. This acidic mud allowed the rock material to dissolve and superficially form a viscoelastic silica gel. The process was able to go through can be increased tenfold by adding plant sap (containing oxalic acid), an ability from folk tradition. In special cases, moderate heating of crushed pyrite is produced in the spaces between carved stones additionally hot sulfuric acid. Where the stone on stone contact transferred weight, was through pressure dissolution in the acidic environment removes material and the precipitation of silica regenerated material in cracks and pores. Attempts are being made to to reconstruct how the Inca builders made the silica gel Silica gel technology for shaping, polishing and fitting the stones. The appearance of the shiny and glassy Inca stone connections and interfaces through the solidification of in-situ generated or additionally added silica gel. Modern procedures Methods for the conservation of stone monuments against against environmental influences have independent developed a similar technology based on silica gel."

My old, unfortunately deceased friend and state geologist, Dr. Peter Gstrein, has one wrote a very interesting work on the "limmonite leaching from ore veins," which in his opinion makes the crystalline transformation of the radiant Raetia stones possible.

These limmonite ore leaches, mostly yellowish, i.e. sulfidic and very acidic could perhaps have been used by our clever cupstone drillers?

Who knows, I'm not a chemist, but I'll try it anyway. For instance, the pitta, a bird known for its vibrant colors, shows how, with a leaf in its beak, it can extract a burrow from rock faces.

Interesting also is a statement of Padre Lira (David

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The softstones from long-gone cultures (cont.)

Fig. 6. This was my first experimental mixture attempt. It consisted of Hesperide vinegar with 7.5% acid + freshly harvested winter vegetables, namely chard stems + leaves with approximately 0.8% oxalic acid content.

Fig. 7. Next, the bowls (cup-marks) were filled with the solution and checked after about 6 hours. No direct softening of the stone could be detected, although the surface was slightly softened to a depth of about 2mm. The limestone in the area has changed to almost pure white color. The PH value of this mixture was simply too high.

Fig. 8. In Experiment 2, I added 20% nitric acid. Detailed in the text, while some bubbling could be observed there was no sign of a jelly-like consistency to the limestone.

"There was no jelly-like consistency noticed."

Pratt article above) that the stones could be softened but not re-hardened.

Pratt also noted it was later proven that adding guano, i.e. seabird droppings, hardened the stones again. Guano contains on average 25–30% phosphoric acid.

In addition, guano also typically contains 7-8%, rarely up to 60% nitrates as potassium nitrate (potassium saltpeter) or sodium nitrate (Chile saltpeter)" See Potassium nitrate, Wikipedia.

So this mixture was supposed to make the stones hard again?

It is also interesting that these huge stone blocks are shaped like bones using copper clamps were secured. It was clearly established here that these brackets were still pressed into the jelly-like stone and that the surface appeared to have been vitrified under high heat of at least 1200° C. However, without any trace of soot, so probably with a sophisticated sun-mirror technique, as some local locals allegedly claim, or using a reddish acidic paste, as Prof. Tributsch discovered, which seems much more logical.

The experiments

So, off to the workshop to prepare the Stone Age drill set and some chemicals such as wine vinegar, and plant sap from spinach and spruce. And don't forget to get a guano fertilizer from the Raika gardening store.

Fig. 6 shows the start of my **Attempt #1**. It began with a mixture of Hesperide vinegar with 7.5% acid + freshly harvested winter vegetables, namely chard stems + leaves with approx. 0.8% oxalic acid content, mixed in.

Next, as seen in **Fig. 7**, the bowls (cup-marks) were filled with the tincture and then checked after about 6 hours. Results: No direct softening of the stone could be detected, although the surface was slightly softened to a depth of approx. 2mm. The limestone in the area has changed to almost pure white color. The PH value of this mixture was simply too high.

Experiment 2 involved addition of 20% nitric acid (**Figs. 8–9**): The middle bowl was filled again with vinegar and chard juice and a little 20% nitric acid was added. Results: It started to bubble immediately and after about 4 hours of exposure a slightly deeper, approx. 3mm solution on the surface could be detected, but nothing with any kind of a jelly-like consistency of the limestone.

Planned next steps

I would like to carry out further experiments with mine water containing a lot of sulphide with a pH of approx. 0.2-0.5 in the spring after the snow melts, but to do this I first have to get mine water from the relevant tunnels. In addition, a very precise PH meter was purchased in order to have precise measurement data for the next experiments.

Fig. 9. As noted in Fig. 8, Experiment 2 involved adding 20% nitric acid to the mix. Aside from the main observation, slight change of liquid depth, in the limestone there was no jelly-like consistency noticed.

THOMAS WALLI-KNOFLER was born in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1950. Since 1972 he has been an inventor (incl. ship designer and boat builder), entrepreneur and independent businessman. He was founder of the first nonfood C&C Market in Austria with the first Datapoint Computer system for C&C markets, a wholesale gardener and greenhouse builder as well as mushroom grower with his own patents; in 1985 he constructed the largest greenhouse project worldwide in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, with just shy of 100 acres; 1989 largest mushroom factory of *Pleurotus ag* in Weiden, DE, covering nearly three acres. Experiences that have contributed to Walli-Knofler's passionate amateur archaeology work involve things relatable to early human history such as trade routes, orientation aids and astronomical abilities. These include numerous expeditions, e.g., to the pygmies of Ituri rain forest, Congo, 1970, Afghanistan-Whakan, 1972, and twice crossing the Sahara. Among his seafaring-related projects, in 1997, he was involved in construction of the renowned research sailing ship, NOVARA—a state-of-the-art 18m 2-mast schooner—participating in its 1998 four-year circumnavigation of the North Atlantic to the ice border 82° North and down to South America. Aside from his cupstone research, Walli-Knofler has also developed the more unconventional hobby of dowsing—learned from his grandfather—having confidence in human intuitions regardless of their status in modern science.

Website:

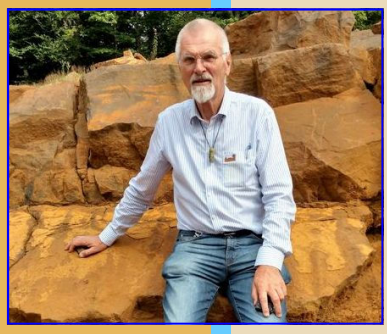
https://www.raetiastone.com

Confirmed Paleolithic tools as potential sculptures

How far back does this tradition go?

By Christian Humburg, MD

"The comparisons



Baldwin made were clear in that they each feature human-made cutting edges and a very apparent near identical outline or contour."

In the prior issue of *PCN*, Tom Baldwin expounded on a multi-use Paleolithic tool he recovered from the Lake Manix site in southern California. He compared it with similar stone tools from the nearby Calico site as well as one from Alberta Province in Canada. All of them were concave side scrapers or spokeshaves. These are a kind of tool that is well known from European sites, dating to the Lower and Middle Paleolithic, and in some way famous from Clacton-on-Sea in southeast England. All these tools would likely have served as hollow push planes for finishing wooden spears or other wooden staffs. See **Fig. 1** and **Fig. 2**. Rather than a conflicting interpretation of these and similar artifacts, I would like to offer one I believe may be simultaneously true.

Animal outlines in humanly-worked stone artifacts

It will not have missed today's observer, nor would it have likely missed Stone Age peoples, that all these special but similar-looking stone tools have as well a certain aspect in which the practically useful shape is also reminiscent of the head, neck and front of the body of animals.

Contrast with figure stones

The comparisons Baldwin makes are clear in that they each feature human-made cutting edges and a very apparent near identical outline or contour. It is the latter similarity for which I am presently most interested, namely, that each of the confirmed artifacts also feature the same quite alike outline. This is important because most objects called by names such as "figure stones" do not show any signs of human workmanship.

Animal images in man-made bone tools

A similarity to this possible Lower to Middle Paleolithic tradition of 'stone tools with animal images' is that of later 'bone tools' from the Upper Paleolithic. Two famous examples are the 'bison licking an insect bite' part of a spear thrower (dated c. 20,000–12,000 BP) and the 'creeping hyena' decorating the butt-end of a spear thrower (dated c. 17,000–12,000 BP). Each artifact is from the Abri de la Madeleine rock shelter near Tursac in Dordogne, France.

Recognizing shapes

[Whether Paleolithic or not] This is the phenomenon of recognition of shapes, which begins with babies recognizing the maternal face and is then further expanded. For example, we can see the outline and shape of a horse even at a distance of several hundred meters, although its visual characteristics are then very small.

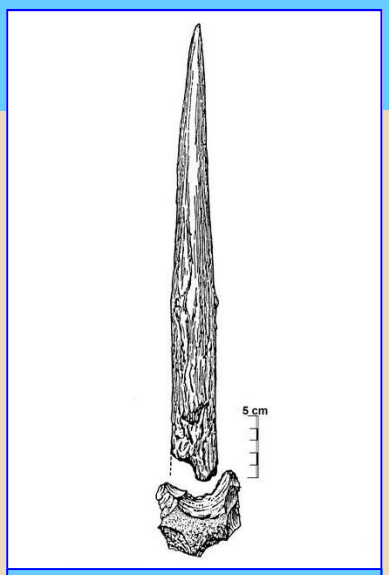


Fig. 1. Top: The Clacton Spear from Clacton-on-Sea (southeast England; after K.P. Oakley) dated c. 400,000 BP. **Bottom**: Flint 'spokeshave' discovered at the site. Some minor details redrawn by the author for clarity.

Fig. 2. Spokeshave. High Lodge Acheulian/Clactonian. Maldenhall, England. Dated c. 450,000 BP. Length 4,5 cm.

I suppose the Calico humans had even partly reinforced this *theriomorphic* aspect (having an animal form) of hollow scrapers by also working the

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Confirmed Paleolithic tools as potential sculptures (cont.)

"Rather than a conflicting interpretation of these and similar artifacts, I would like to offer one I believe may be simultaneously true."

inactive edges of these devices in an animal-head-like way—in several cases carefully.

Another category of tools in which this connection between emphasized usefulness is linked to animal head shape appears in what archaeologists call the 'trihedral picks' of the early hand axe culture. These specially designed instruments belong to the hand axe family, the 'Large Cutting Tools' (LTC), which all may be understood as robust hunting knifes. The special task of these picks was to shred the meat of killed animals even from narrow areas, for example, between the ribs, very similar to what vultures, marabous or ravens do. In fact, the corresponding stone tools also have the shape of the heads of such scavenging birds (**Fig. 3** and **Fig. 4**).

Some modern researchers still believe Paleolithic peoples did not see themselves as artists when they realized such as the hollow scrapers and triangular picks. However, they do consider it conceivable the tool makers did expect a certain 'magical' usefulness that might increase the likelihood of success in the field of application when combining tools with highlighted animal shapes.

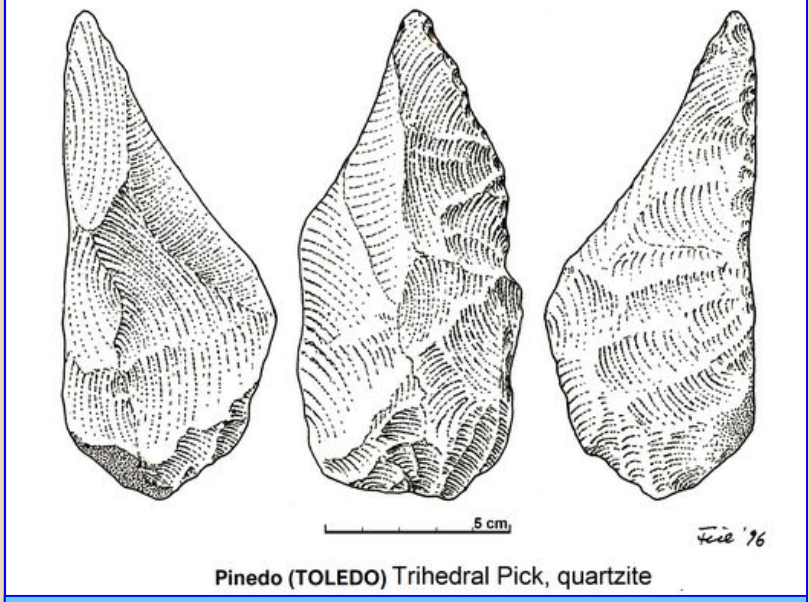

Fig. 3. Trihedral from Pinedo, Spain, Lower Acheulian. Prior unpublished multiview stone tool drawing courtesy of Dr. Lutz Fiedler former State Archaeologist, Hesse, Germany.

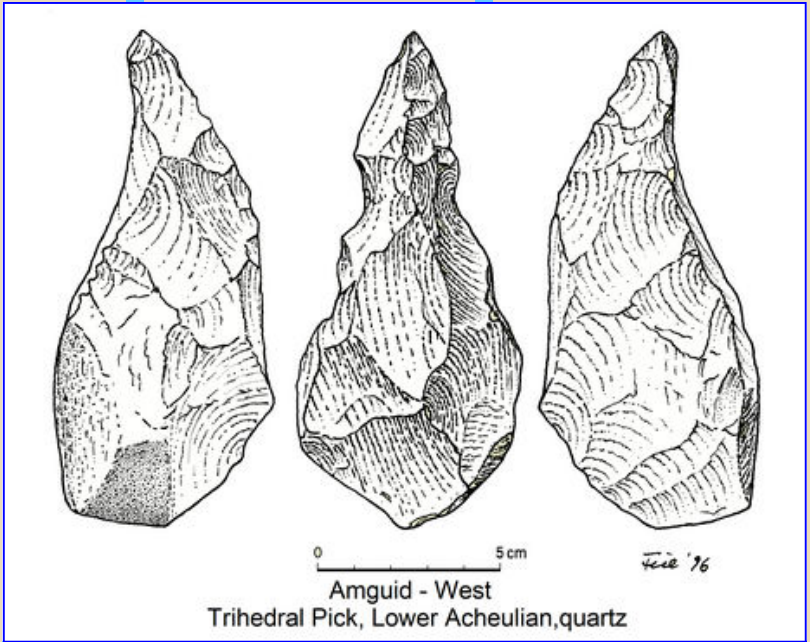

Fig. 4. Trihedral, Central Algeria 'Erg Amguid – West' Lower Acheulian. Prior unpublished multi-view drawing courtesy of archaeologist Dr. Lutz Fiedler.

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Special thanks to Dr. Lutz Fiedler for supplying original line drawings.

CHRISTIAN HUMBURG, MD, is a specialist in pediatric and adolescent medicine in Mainz, Germany, and a long-time published researcher in Paleolithic archaeology.

How a little logical thinking can go a long way

By Tom Baldwin

"It seems that the newest discoveries are making things difficult for the existing nabobs of archaeological science."

There have been some interesting happenings in the world of archaeology. However, it seems that the newest discoveries are making things difficult for the existing nabobs of archaeological science. For eons now they have held to a scheme, an *ordo salutis,* if you will.

"This is the way things were,"

we are told.

"Early man descended from the trees to wander the African savanna, and became hunter-gatherers. After many millennia, they somehow stumbled into a new way of life as farmers. This led to surplus food, resulting in free time, which is a luxury hunter-gatherers didn't have. So the farmers settled down and, with their newfound leisure, invented art, religion, and civilization."

Discoveries in the last decade or so, however, have thrown a monkey wrench (pun intended) into their works.

Take brain size as an example. For as long as I can remember, I have been taught that brain size is indicative of intellectual level. The bigger the brain of a species, the smarter the average member of it would be. Of course, we mustn't let out the dirty little secret that Neanderthals' brains averaged about 1500 cc while those of *Homo sapiens* average 1350–1400 cc. That is about a 9% advantage Neanderthals had over us. (Oh, no. You don't think this is going to mess up my Mensa application, do you?)

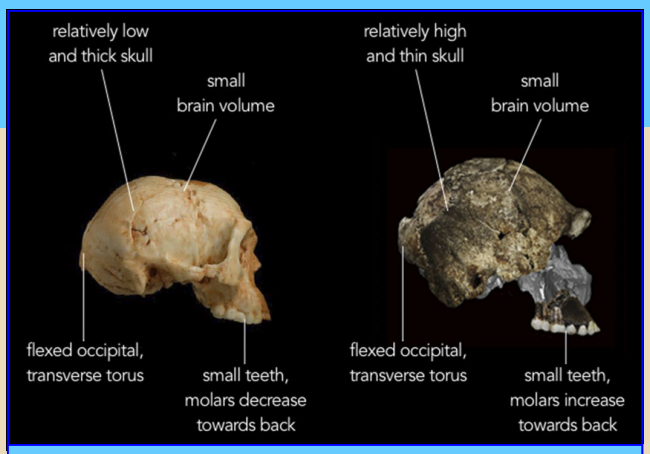

Fig. 1. Comparison between two "small-brained" humans—**Left:** *Homo floresiensis* (i.e. "Hobbit") and **Right:** *Homo naledi* —that shouldn't influence anyone on their intelligence. Detail of Wikimedia Commons chart that includes *H. habilis* and *H. erectus*.

On this same subject, there is *Homo naledi*, another discovery. Over 20 female skeletons were found in a South African cave. They are a small version of mankind that had, purportedly, just come down from the trees. They were living on the ground some 300,000 years ago. The adults were about five feet tall. Despite their diminutive brain size these people appear to have been the first to bury their dead, something we *Homo sapiens* didn't do for another few hundred thousand years. See **Fig. 1**. They also may have decorated the graves of their tribal members with geometric impressions on the walls of the cave. In the brain size contest the *naledi* brain was only about a third the size (465–610 cc) of the one in our heads. Yet the *naledi* grave has a stone tool buried right next to the hand of the person in the grave. Why take a perfectly good stone tool and bury it with a dead person unless you felt that the dead one might have some use for it? But that's life after death; that's religion; and that's symbolic thinking that wasn't supposed to come along for hundreds of thousands more years. That grave seems to predate most hunter-gatherers and all farmers. It definitely tells us to circle file that progression hooey we were taught.

There is one other crucial item that needs explaining. Those who don't want to give up the neat and orderly progression from the trees to the ground to the farm don't want to admit that small-brained people 300,000 years ago were burying their dead. So, they have made up some explanations. They say maybe the bones fell into the grave, or perhaps some other natural cause pushed them in. Maybe

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How a little logical thinking can go a long way (cont.)

"In the brain size contest the* naledi *brain was only about a third the size (465–610 cc) of the one in our heads. Yet the* naledi *grave has a stone tool buried right next to the hand of the person in the grave. Why take a perfectly good stone tool and bury it with a dead person unless you felt that the dead one might have some use for it?"

predators dragged their bodies into the cave. Or maybe a flood washed the bodies into the cave. I could go on, but there is one thing those natural causes fail to take into consideration: So far, in the cave, they have found only female bones. None of the natural causes they propose can explain only finding female bones. Leopards don't sort the meat they eat by sex. A flooding cave won't wash away the male bones and leave the female ones for archaeologists to find. None of their explanations can account for just female bones. The segregation of bones by sex can only be the work of a person or persons.

Another hole in the dogma that tells us we evolved from hunter-gatherer to farmer, and finally to civilized beings, is the archaeological site of Gobekli Tepe. It was discovered in Turkey in 1963 but misidentified and essentially ignored until 1994 (**Fig. 2**). It is a remarkable Pleistocene age temple complex that was built before men were farming—about 12,000 years ago. There are no farms or farming villages for miles and miles around. Nor are there wheels yet. Just the brute strength of these early men moved huge T-shaped stones weighing up to 20 tons into a rough circle, stood them up and carved all sorts of animals—and in low and high relief—on the pillars and even fully 3D free-standing sculptures. It had to take years to construct, and if modern hunter-gatherers are any indication, they are not going to be building temples, at least not at this level of sophistication.

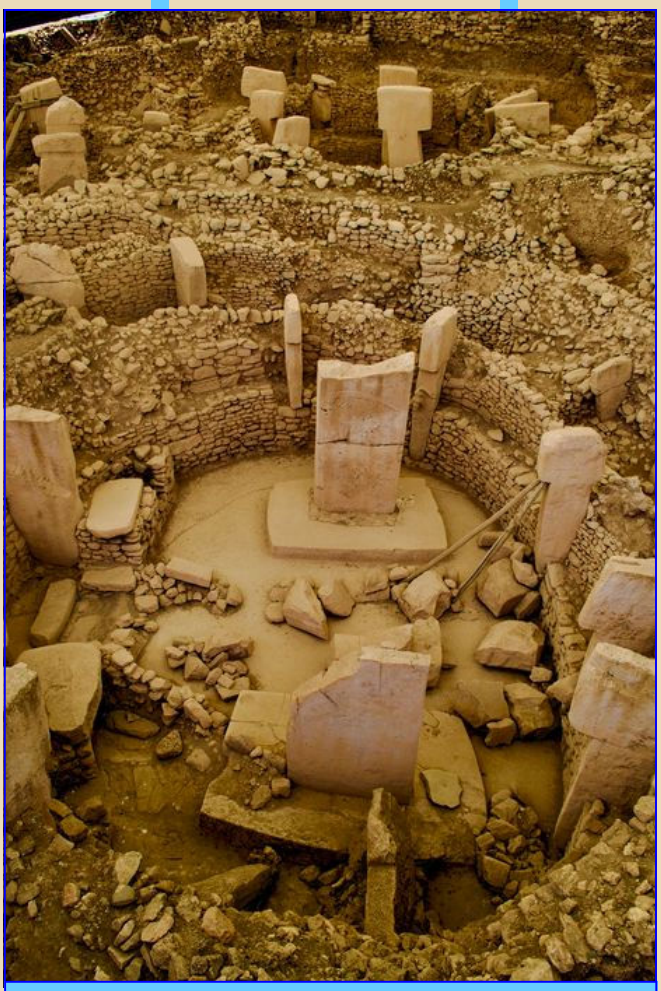


Fig. 2. The archaeological site of Gobekli Tepe discovered in Turkey. It is a remarkable Pleistocene age temple complex built before farming—about 12,000 years ago. It includes many animal images carved in relief and as fully-3D statues. Image; pexels.com.

It is too bad the nabobs are so ossified they can't come down from their thrones and wander out into the sun and get some dirt under their nails. I bet they started out in the dirt, and they might surprise themselves and have some fun if they just picked up a brush and a trowel and got back into doing some dirt digging. With all that is going on in archaeology they might find something new that excites them again.

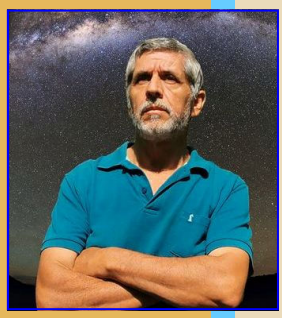
TOM BALDWIN, an award-winning author, educator, and amateur archaeologist living in Utah, also worked as a successful newspaper columnist. He has been a central writer and copy editor for *PCN* since 2010. He was actively involved with the Friends of Calico (maintaining the controversial Early Man Site in Barstow, CA) since the early days when famed anthropologist Louis Leakey was the site's excavation Director (Calico is the only Western Hemisphere site excavated by Leakey). Baldwin's book, *The Evening and the Morning*, is a very well received and entertaining fictional story based on Calico. Apart from being one of the core editors of *PCN,* Baldwin has published over 70 prior *PCN* articles focusing on the intelligence of early humans, including *Homo erectus*, as well as early man in the Americas. Links to all of Baldwin's articles can be found at:

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom_baldwin

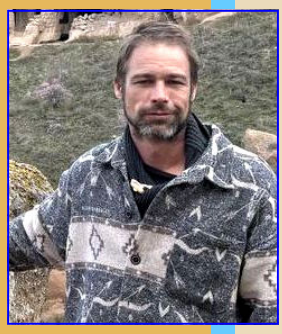
50 years later—Monte Verde under fire again

Patricio Bustamante Díaz (Archaeoastronomy; Fundación Altura Patrimonio)
Carlos Verdugo Rotella (Architecture)

"For decades, there has been a hypothesis



known as 'Clovis First,'



according to which the first Americans entered through the Bering Strait and then spread rapidly southward. Any site older than Clovis was examined with extreme harshness."

Fig. 1. Proposed pre-Clovis village (AI); Map shows general Clovis and Monte Verde.

The question of the peopling of the Americas is, and will remain for a long while, a deeply debated issue.

Howard (1935) presented the archaeological and geological evidence from New Mexico, including remains associated with extinct fauna in the Blackwater Draw area, linked to human artifacts, near the town of Clovis. That publication helped establish a Pleistocene human presence in North America and paved the way for this Clovis culture to be regarded for decades as the oldest accepted human group on the continent. Clovis has no clearly identified "villages" or permanent dwellings. What we can recognize, instead, are hunting sites.

The so-called Clovis culture, made up of hunters specialized in local megafauna, lived in North America c. 13,100–12,800 calendar years BP. According to the hypothesis, they were the first inhabitants of the Americas, from whom all the peoples of the continent would descend.

Dillehay et al. (1982) reported the initial radiocarbon dates from Monte Verde (Chile) and argued that the site was close to 12,500 radiocarbon years BP, equivalent to roughly 14,500–14,800 calibrated years BP, and therefore older than the Clovis horizon. That article was followed by other publications that confirmed the findings.

If the dating of Monte Verde was done properly, then the human arrival to the continent had to be pushed back significantly. This implies people who reached the Puerto Montt area at the southern end of the continent must have entered through the northern areas of the Americas (about 10,000 kms away in a straight line through the continent), at least between 20,000 and 25,000 years ago.

For decades, there has been a hypothesis known as "Clovis First," according to which the first Americans entered through the Bering Strait and then spread rapidly southward. Any site older than Clovis was examined with extreme harshness.

The people who shared this critical attitude came to be known, ironically, as the "Clovis police" or the "Clovis mafia": an informal group of specialists and defenders of the Clovis First paradigm who demanded extraordinary proof from any pre-dated site in America and tended to dismiss evidence that did not fit the dominant model.

Monte Verde was especially uncomfortable for this convention because it was an exceptionally well-preserved settlement in the southern hemisphere (**Fig. 1**). It contained organic remains, wood, habitation struc-

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50 years later—Monte Verde under fire again (cont.)

"Known, ironically, as the 'Clovis police' or the 'Clovis mafia': an informal group of specialists and defenders of the Clovis First paradigm... demanded extraordinary proof from any predated site in America and tended to dismiss evidence that did not fit the dominant model."

"Other sites in the Americas... were simply disqualified because their antiquity did not fit the conventional chronology...The 'Clovis police' used any means to defend their hypothesis."

tures, hearths, plants, food remains, human footprints, and other materials rarely found in classic Paleoindian sites, including dozens of medicinal herbs (still known today) concentrated within a single stratigraphic layer inside the remains of a wooden structure. That richness of evidence generated doubts: some critics questioned the stratigraphy, the radiocarbon dates, the association between artifacts and dates, and the cultural interpretation of certain materials.

During the years that followed, Dillehay, Pino, and other researchers continued to structure a defense for the site through new publications, interdisciplinary analyses, and increasingly detailed documentation. The books edited by Dillehay in 1989 and 1997 brought together evidence on stratigraphy, paleoenvironment, dating, cultural remains, and archaeological context. The issue was no longer simply to show that ancient objects existed, but to demonstrate that those objects were in their primary context, associated with human activity and correctly dated.

The decisive moment came in January of 1997 (Meltzer et al. 1997), when a group of specialists visited Monte Verde, reviewed the collections, and evaluated the evidence at the site.

In the abstract of the American Antiquity article "On the Pleistocene Antiquity of Monte Verde, Southern Chile" (Meltzer et al. 1997), the authors state:

> "The potential importance of the Monte Verde site for the peopling of the New World prompted a detailed examination of the collections from that locality, as well as a site visit in January 1997 by a group of Paleoindian specialists. It is the consensus of that group that the MV-II occupation at the site is both archaeological and 12,500 years old, as T. Dillehay has argued. The status of the potentially even older material at the site (MV-1, ~33,000B.P.) remains unresolved."

It also notes that this team included "staunch skeptics among them," including prominent figures such as C. Vance Haynes, who was associated with Clovis First circles.

The article, "Monte Verde Under Fire" (Rose 1999) shows that after 1997—although it had been accepted—it continued to be the target of critical attacks. Tejeda (2018) writes:

> "9.- Power-knowledge. In the United States of America, the researchers who had spent their entire lives trying to demonstrate that the first Americans were represented by the Clovis culture, from whom all the cultures of the Americas would descend, had reached high scientific positions, giving rise to a paradigm, the Clovis Paradigm....

Tejeda further explains:

> "Dozens of investigations at other sites in the Americas, including, for example, Quereo in Chile, were simply disqualified because their antiquity did not fit the conventional chronology or because they were not classically Clovis. The 'Clovis police' used any means to defend their hypothesis."

In short, Monte Verde moved from being an uncomfortable anomaly for Clovis First to becoming a central piece in the new model of the early peopling of the Americas. Its history shows how an archaeological site can face not only technical problems of dating or interpretation, but also the resistance of a dominant scientific paradigm. The so-called "Clovis police" symbolizes precisely that kind of intellectual vigilance, exercised to discredit any evidence that might threaten the idea that Clovis marked the beginning of human history in the Americas.

Monte Verde is under fire again

Monte Verde returned to the center of the international scientific debate, with the publication of an article in *Science* journal (Surovell et al. 2026). Once again, the antiquity of the Monte Verde site was questioned with arguments similar to those used in the past.

In the abstract, they state:

> "Our understanding of the timing of the human colonization of South America has been anchored by the Monte Verde II site in Chile, reported to date to ~14,500 years before the present (B.P.) and regarded as one of the most secure pre-Clovis archeological sites. We report the first independent investigation of Monte Verde in the nearly 50 years since initial excavations. We argue that radiocarbon and luminescence dates from alluvial exposures, in combination with the identification of a tephra dated to 11,000 years B.P. stratigraphically underlying the archaeo-

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50 years later—Monte Verde under fire again (cont.)

"The article, 'Monte Verde Under Fire' (Rose 1999) shows that after 1997—although it had been accepted—it continued to be the target of critical attacks."

> logical component, suggest that Monte Verde cannot be older than the Middle Holocene (8200 to 4200 years B.P.). With colonization no longer anchored by Monte Verde, our revised chronology supports a more recent date of human arrival to South America."

In brief, the central claim is that Monte Verde II may indeed be an archaeological site, but the authors deny that a human occupation at 14,500 years BP can been demonstrated. In their view, the older dates come from redeposited organic materials, while the sedimentary context containing the archaeological component would be much younger, probably from the Middle Holocene

After this, three reply eLetters were published on the Science website. Waters et al. (2026) maintain that the evidence presented by Surovell et al. does not justify rejecting the late Pleistocene age of Monte Verde II; specifically, they question the stratigraphic correlation, the supposed Lepué tephra beneath MV-II, and the redeposition hypothesis of the study.

Dillehay et al. (2026) state that the three main conclusions of Surovell et al.—the Lepué tephra beneath MV-II, the erosional hiatus, and the fluvial redeposition of materials—are "unsupported," meaning that is not demonstrated by the study, explaining in depth why it doesn't disprove the original interpretation of MV-II as a human occupation dating to ca. 14,500 years ago.

Meltzer et al. (2026) and their team argue that current genetic data, independently support a pre-Clovis human presence in the Americas, even if Monte Verde were to be disputed, placing that earlier colonization at roughly between 14,000 and 21,000 years ago.

The following document compiles the eLetters: https://liberalarts.tamu.edu/csfa/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2026/05/Three-Critiques.pdf

These three teams present solid and detailed arguments, the result of 50 years of interdisciplinary research. As they explain in their replies, the team of Surovell et al. appears to have worked in the area only for a limited period, drawing a significant part of its conclusions on exposures outside the original site, whose direct correlation with Monte Verde II is critically disputed by the authors.

According to this letter, Surovell et al. did not excavate within the original site, did not directly analyze the site's full stratigraphy, and based much of their argument on observations made in exposures located between 50 and 4,000 meters from Monte Verde II. These correspond to heterogeneous sedimentary contexts, layers formed by the accumulation of materials but also modified by processes of erosion, transport, or removal, whose direct correlation with the archaeological site was not empirically demonstrated.

Monte Verde is once again under fire, but it is not returning to the starting point. Unlike the early decades of this debate, there is now half a century of research, excavations, interdisciplinary analyses, and critical evaluations that have consolidated its importance in the discussion of the peopling of the Americas.

The new challenge raised by Surovell et al. unquestionably requires continued scientific argument and renewed explanations of data, methods, and stratigraphic correlations; however, the recent replies show that the Pleistocene interpretation of Monte Verde II, still rests on solid arguments.

This new controversy confirms that Monte Verde remains a key site: not only because of what it tells us about the early arrival of human beings in the Americas and their lifeways, but also because it reveals how science advances through evidence, resistance, paradigms, and new questions.

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> Cont. on page 13

Member news and other info

Quick links to articles in *PCN* #101:

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PATRICIO BUSTAMANTE DÍAZ (Sociedad Chilena de Historia y Geografía, Fundación Altura Patrimonio, Chilean Society of History and Geography, and Altura Heritage Foundation) is a longtime Chilean researcher in archaeoastronomy.

All of Patricio's article in *Pleistocene Coalition News* can be found at the following link:

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/#patricio_bustamante_diaz

CARLOS VERDUGO ROTELLA, Chilean Society of History and Geography (SCHHG)—Archaeology Section—is a professional architect and photographer working with virtual 3D environments creating digital spaces and immersive experiences that are navigable by way of Virtual Reality. A few recent work examples include: Project Architect RWKM 2013–Present (13 years), 7Dstudio, Sep 2020–Present (6 years), and 3D photogrammetry for Chile Comprehensive architectural solutions for commercial and industrial projects with position roles in project assessment, architectural design, video rendering, municipal permitting, construction planning, and legal certification.

Link to *PCN* #101

Link to *PCN* #100

Link to *PCN* #99

Dolmens

By Richard Dullum
B.A. (Biology)

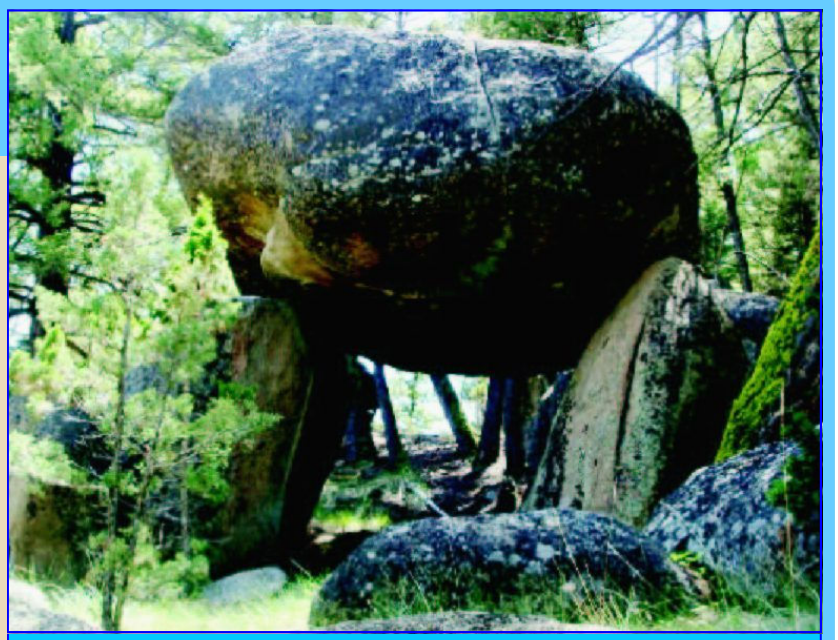
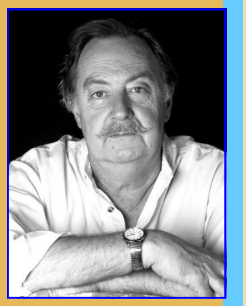


Fig. 1. 'Boulder Dolmen' (Montana), name and photograph by discoverer, Julie Ryder.

This is the follow-up to my prior article focusing on Sage Wall (Montana) and several of its most enigmatic features. Here, I overview the story of Julie Ryder and her discovery of dolmen-like structures in the same region.

"The Boulder Batholith area



also shows no signs of surface glacial presence... an absence of moraines, scours, drumlins or glacial erratics."

Imagine yourself on a hike alone through the woods near a mountain-ringed valley picking your way around boulders lying amongst the tall Douglas fir and lodgepole pine. You're breathing in the fresh and clean mountain air as you clear your thoughts of everyday stresses into the wild setting of the rocks and trees. It's almost meditative as I found for myself when I was 18 hiking up to Lake Solitude in the Wyoming Tetons. The forest seemed to me like a natural cathedral. It seemed to me that the walking of a trail was a zen experience, a calming and uncomplicated task where you could empty your mind.

Fig. 2. Blackfoot Medicine Wheel (First Nations) south of Bassano, Alberta, Canada. Photo courtesy of redice.tv.

The initial discoveries

This type of experience was what Julie Ryder was seeking, as she set out into the Helena Lewis and Clark National Forest, for a short hike on a day off her job as a mental health pediatric specialty nurse in Helena, Montana, in 2012. What she discovered, however, would initiate a 14-year, team effort with like-minded individuals in the exploration of the SW Montana area, including the Boulder Batholith area and surroundings.

While hiking near Boulder, Montana, Julie was stopped by two multi-ton, 10–12 ft. tall granite orthostats, capped by a larger table stone, assembled into a *classic dolmen* before her (**Fig. 1**). This is something never before seen on this continent, a hallmark of megalithic building. If discovered on any other continent, it would be placed to around the time frame of the Neolithic, the most recent research placing it to around 6–7,000 BCE (Aviva and White. 1998. "Mysterious Megaliths: The Standing Stones of Carnac, Brittany, France." In *The World and I*. Volume 13, October 1998).

Regional indigenous people

Mainstream archeology views the Americas as basically stone-age, until the age of Columbus. So, where did the idea to build a dolmen come from? The oldest human bloodline established in this area is Blackfoot Native American, which can be traced back to 10,500 BCE ("This man's DNA is the oldest in North America," *Live Science*, May 8, 2019 [livescience.com/65437-oldest-dna-north-america.html]). From that time to this, these Americans never made dolmens although some small standing stones have been found associated with circular stone placements like the Blackfoot Medicine Wheel located south of Bassano, Alberta, shown in **Fig. 2**. It is thought to have served a calendrical and/or religious function.

Having always been interested in Native American traditions and ancient world

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Dolmens (cont.)

"If discovered on any other [Boulder Dolmen] continent would be placed to around the time frame of the Neolithic."

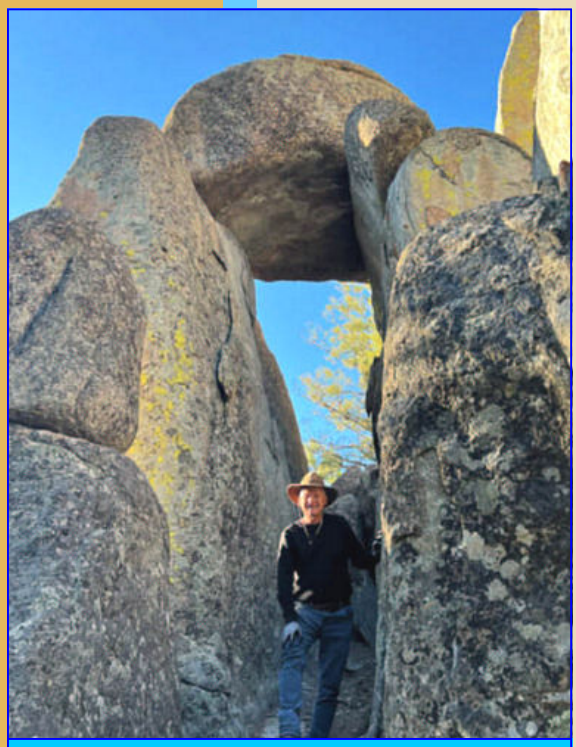

Fig. 3. 'Evergreen Dolmen,' the tallest of the group at 84 ft. Named and photographed by its discoverer, Julie Ryder. The person between the stones is Dr. Semir ("Sam") Osmanagic (PhD). Photo 2022.

Fig. 4. Tunnel Dolmen name and photo by Julie Ryder; Andrew Barker of Merlin-Burrows Aerospatiale Survey, 2017 at left.

history, and knowing that dolmens were found everywhere *but* North America, Julie felt confident then, that the Eurocentric view of dolmens was incorrect. An interesting result from a Microsoft Copilot AI search query appears to provide some support. At the very least it provides some perspective on why, just like with other 'problematic' sites in the Americas, there is almost complete mainstream resistance:

> "The presence of dolmen-like structures in the Americas challenges the Eurocentric view of megalithism. They show that: Similar architectural forms can emerge independently in different continents. Pre-Columbian societies had advanced stoneworking skills and complex symbolic systems. Cultural exchange or shared knowledge may have occurred across vast distances."

With various teams assembled at various times across the years following the discovery of Boulder Dolmen, many more dolmens were located and documented. 'Tizer Dolmen' was located in 2014 (see my article, Montana megaliths, Part 1, in *PCN* #83, May-June 2023), 'Giant's Playground' in 2015, along with a number of dolmens, including that named 'Evergreen Dolmen,' the tallest there, at 84 ft. (**Fig. 3**).

True dolmens are not natural formations. They are man-made megalithic structures built by prehistoric people thousands of years ago. This is why I believe the predisposition to disprove their authenticity is so important to the mainstream.

Dolmens in Montana, discovered over a 10-year period by Julie Ryder and company, are extremely diagnostic of a megalithic culture's presence in North America. Glaciers do not 'make' dolmens.

Qualifier and objectivity

Some of the scores of dolmens Julie found in Montana's Boulder Batholith country may indeed be attributed to chance rockfalls as the batholith continues to erode through the surrounding landscape and spires continue to erode and break up into smaller fragments. However, those seen in the photos below, don't have rockfalls lying above them to account for this. See Julie's website, "Montana Megaliths" for many photos of the Boulder Batholith formations as well as her two books detailing her team's explorations.

Evidence of glaciers

The Boulder Batholith area also shows no signs of surface glacial presence. In geological terms that means an absence of moraines, scours, drumlins or glacial erratics in the area, indicating that ice from the LGM (Last Glacial Maximum) did not overlie or penetrate this part of Montana, which lies east of the continental divide. There is no evidence of glacial breakout floods overtopping the batholith elevation, averaging 5–6,000 feet above sea level.

The predisposition problem

All dolmens documented around the world thus far are reputed to be the work of ancient builders and not the result of stone eroding out of the earth.

Only on the Boulder Batholith is it the case that geologists have explained the dolmens there are a result of weathering out of the ground. How convenient! This is how geologists have described the Tizer Dolmen, even though its orthostats have a convex base set into a multi-stone concave base, which cannot be explained by natural processes. See also **Fig. 4**.

Stunning context discovery

The discovery of keystone-cut squared granite

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Dolmens (cont.)

"Only on the Boulder Batholith is it the case that geologists have explained the dolmens there are a result of weathering out of the ground. How convenient!"

blocks—a technology for locking stones together—in the wide area named Giant's Playground only further upholds the thesis of megalithic culture being present in North America, as these features are only found at known megalithic sites around the world.

In Fig. 1, we saw Boulder Dolmen, which was the first, discovered outside Helena, Montana, sparking Julie's extensive exploration of the Batholith, where Tunnel Dolmen (again, Fig. 4), and Flintstone Dolmen (**Fig. 5**) were located.

If these were found anywhere else outside of N. America, they would undoubtedly be viewed as authentic dolmens.

There is also Julie Ryder's photo of the checkerboard quarry site in Thompson Park, included two issues ago, Issue #100, also on the Boulder Batholith.

All the discoveries mentioned in this article were obviously not made by this author, but are the result of my reporting on finds such as are made by several others who physically explored and documented on film the megalithic structures I feature above; explorers who, in many cases do this at great personal and financial risk, finding a calling to participate in the real story of our prehistory. Such a calling hit home with a local explorer, who, upon seeing the photos in Figs. 4 and 9, issue #95, is planning a confirmatory visit to keystone-cut blocks site, with the discoverer, late this summer and will include other sites, such as the checkerboard quarry site featured in issue #100. Measurements and GPS coordinates of these sites will then be available to interested parties to explore for themselves.

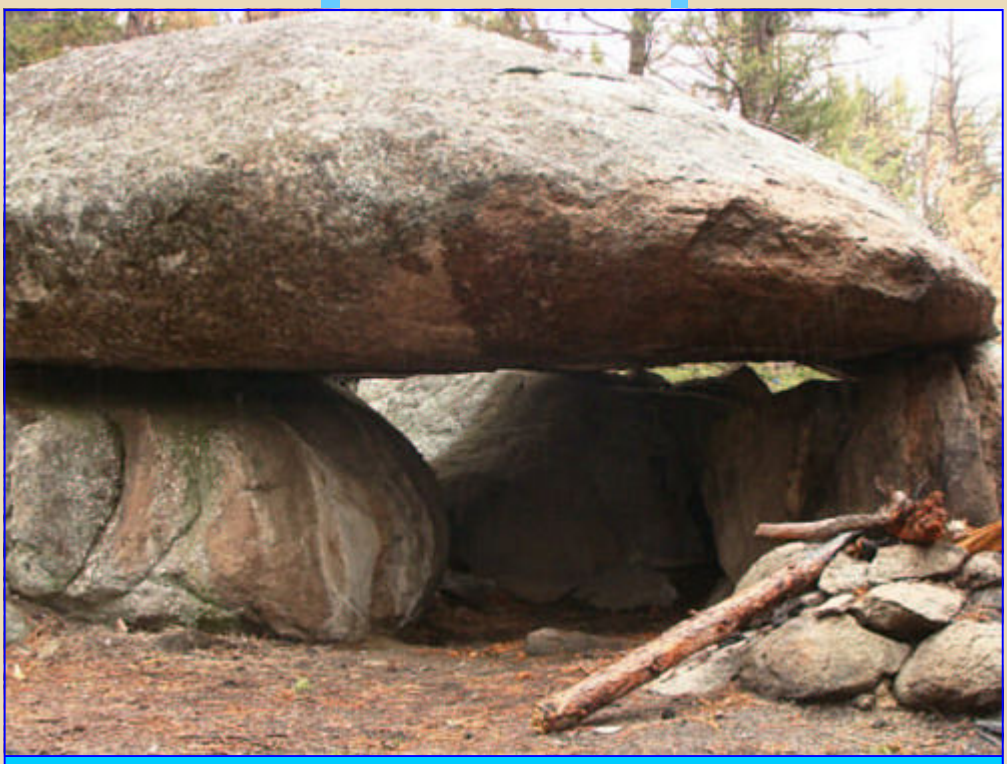


Fig 5. This structure was named 'Flintstone Dolmen' by it discoverer and photographer Julie Ryder.

RICHARD DULLUM, retired as a surgical R.N. working in a large O.R. for the past 30 years, is a researcher in early human prehistory and culture. He is also a Vietnam veteran with a B.A. in Biology. Dullum has written or co-written over 60 articles for *PCN* since 2009 and is also one of *PCN*'s copy editors. All of Dullum's articles in *PCN* can be found at the following link:

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#Dullum_and_Lynch

Debunking evolutionary propaganda, Part 9

The inconvenient facts of living fossils: Echinodermata

A lifelong reader of textbooks in every field exposes "thousands" of examples of *false statements of fact and other propaganda techniques* easily spotted in anthropology, biology, and paleontology textbooks

By John Feliks

Reprint from *PCN* #31, Sept-Oct 2014. This is Part 9 of 21 *in reverse* to give readers the facts of the fossil record first.

Fig. 1. 1–3: crinoid and two sea urchin fossils collected and modified by *Homo erectus*, 4: crinoid collected by Neanderthals, 5: Neolithic drawing resembling crinoid. Each were redrawn by the author for The Impact of Fossils on the Development of Visual Representation, *Rock Art Research*, 1998; and Musings on the Palaeolithic Fan Motif, *Exploring the Mind of Ancient Man*, 2006. The former paper—which demonstrated continuity of human mental ability through time—was *blocked* by mainstream science while now-debunked neurological *fad* papers catering to the Darwinian presumption that early humans were less intelligent than us received *instant* publication. Similarly, public awareness of the abundance of living fossils is blocked in biology and paleontology as it does not support physical Darwinism.

The date ranges in this article are from *Fossilworks: Gateway to the Paleobiology Database,* Macquarie Univ. Dept. of Biological Sciences, Sydney, Australia—assembled by hundreds of paleontologists internationally; and *Fossilid.info,* Baltic University, Paleobiodiversity in Baltoscandia.

Use the *html link* at right to access the archived U-M website on the Wayback Machine and explore zoomable fossil images.

"The apparent first appearance of a crinoid occurs in the Lower Ordovician of England. ... It was not an intermediate form. It was not a primitive link with older ... ancestors. The lack of a sequence of transitional types leading back to the ancestral stock is, of course, the chief reason for the uncertainty about origin of the class."

–Paul Tasch, geologist, *Paleobiology of the Invertebrates*, 1980 Edition: 759 & 761.

Question. According to the physical facts of the fossil record (not imaginary family trees, extrapolations from genetics, or other tricks of the Darwinism trade), what are the ancestors of the echinoderms—crinoids, starfish, and sea urchins?

Proposed answer. Crinoids, starfish and sea urchins.

Echinoderms (**Figs. 1-7**) appeared hundreds of millions of years ago and survive today. And like with all invertebrates, the fossil record and origin of these creatures is a frustration to scientists incongruously teaching evolution as fact. Tasch's description implying that the 'intermediate' ancestors of other animals are less uncertain than those of crinoids is misleading (see Part 2, Fictions taught as fact in college textbooks, 1st half, *PCN* #23, May-June 2013; or in html) because *not one* has been established.

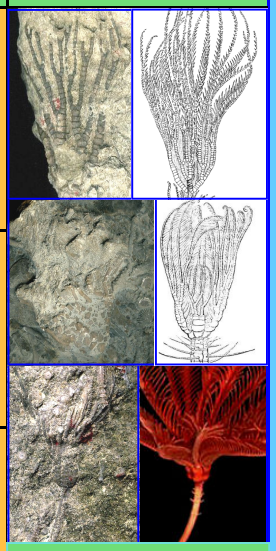
Genus, etc.	Current *living fossils*	Range	Fossils recovered *in situ* by the author
Echinodermata Phylum including crinoids, blastoids, starfish, sea urchins, etc. **No evolutionary links**	**Unchanged 542 *million* years** Cambrian–Recent; 542.0 MYA–Present	Worldwide	
Echinozoa Subphylum including sea urchins, sand dollars, and sea cucumbers. **No evolutionary links**	**Unchanged 542 *million* years** Cambrian–Recent; 542.0 MYA–Present	Worldwide	
Crinozoa Subphylum including the crinoids. **No evolutionary links**	**Unchanged 488 *million* years** Ordovician–Recent; 488.3 MYA–Present	Worldwide	
Asterozoa Subphylum including starfish and brittle-stars. **No evolutionary links**	**Unchanged 488 *million* years** Ordovician–Recent; 488.3 MYA–Present	Worldwide	Three 450 *million*-year old Ordovician crinoids **(left)** collected from the Cincinnatian of southern Ohio and northern Kentucky compared with three modern-day crinoids **(right)**. Top-down: *Iocrinus*/*Metacrinus*; UI pinnulate/*Cenocrinus* pinnulate (public domain), *Reteocrinus/Proisocrinus*.

Fig. 2. A few examples of *thousands* of classes, orders, families, genera (presently crinoids) showing *no evolution* hundreds of millions of years—facts hidden from public.

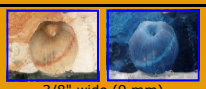
Genus, etc.	Former *living fossils*	Range	Fossils recovered *in situ* by the author
Blastozoa Subphylum including the blastoids and eocrinoids. **No evolutionary links**	**Unchanged 237 *million* years** Cambrian–Triassic; 542.0–205.1 MYA	Worldwide	 5/8" tall (1.5 cm) *Pentremites* in matrix; Mississippian; Sulphur, Indiana
Blastoidea Class, blastoids. **No evolutionary links**	**Unchanged 197 *million* years** Ordovician–Permian; 449.5–252.3 MYA	Worldwide	 3/8" wide (9 mm) *Schizoblastus*; **L.** ext.mold (hole), **R.** neg. image to give 3D sense; Mississippian; Iuka, Mississippi
Fissiculata Order of blastoids. **No evolutionary links**	**Unchanged 156 *million* years** Silurian–Permian; 428.2–272.5 MYA	Worldwide	 1/4"w (7 cm) Rare blastoid *Heteroschisma* (*Codaster*); Devonian; Arkona, Ontario, Canada

Fig. 3. Former living fossils. Once in the fossil record they remained as they were until they went extinct. Examples rec/author formations across U.S./Canada 30-yr. span.

> Cont. on page 18

*Links to the prior parts in this *reverse* reprint series: Part 10, Part 11, Part 12, Part 13, Part 14, Part 15, Part 16, Part 17, Part 18, Part 19, Part 20, Part 21.*

The inconvenient facts of living fossils: *Echinodermata* (cont.)

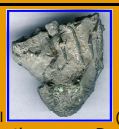
Genus, etc.	Current *living fossils*	Range	Fossils recovered *in situ* by the author
Crinoidea Class, the crinoids; stem section showing internal structure	**Unchanged 488 *million* years** Ordovician–Recent; 488.3 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 1 7/8" (4.5 cm) Portion of very tall crinoid stem showing internal structure, Mississippian; War Eagle River; War Eagle, Arkansas
Crinoidea Encrinal limestone	**Unchanged 488 *million* years** Ordovician–Recent; 488.3 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 View c. 2 3/8" (6 cm) *Encrinal limestone*; author; Ordovician; Middletown, Ohio
Crinoidea Orange-colored columnals in sandstone	**Unchanged 488 *million* years** Ordovician–Recent; 488.3 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 View c. 2 1/2" (6.3 cm) *Orange crinoid columnals*; Mississippian; Jackson, Michigan
Crinoidea *Eucalyptocrinites* crinoid, Camerata subclass	**Unchanged 488 *million* years** Ordovician–Recent; 488.3 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 2" tall(4.8 cm) **L.** *Eucalyptocrinites* crown, **R.** holdfast root system; Silurian; Waldron Quarry, IN
Crinoidea *Arthrocantha* crinoid, Camerata subclass	**Unchanged 488 *million* years** Ordovician–Recent; 488.3 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 1 1/2" tall (3.8 cm) *Arthrocantha* crown; Devonian; Medusa Quarry, Sylvania, Ohio
Crinoidea Crinoid calyx and spines	**Unchanged 488 *million* years** Ordovician–Recent; 488.3 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 Calyx 11/16" (1.8 cm) **Left**. Well-preserved UI crinoid calyx (body). **Middle and Right**. Two crinoid spines; Pennsylvanian; St. Aloysius Quarry; Paris, Illinois
Crinoidea *Ectenocrinus* crinoid, Disparida subclass; and 'logjam-style' preservation of crinoid stems	**Unchanged 488 *million* years** Ordovician–Recent; 488.3 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 2 1/2" (3.8cm) **L.** *Ectenocrinus* crown; **R.** *Ectenocrinus* stems (c. 3") preserved in 'logjam style'; Ordovician; Big Bone Lick, Kentucky

Fig. 4. Examples of the class Crinoidea. It appeared in the Ordovician seas c. 488 *MYA*, survived the Permian extinction, and lives today. The three genera named were living fossils up to 50 *million* years (*Eucalyptocrinites*) until they went extinct. All from formation.

The authority of sciences that teach as fact the exact opposite of what the cumulative, abundant, and *better than photographic* physical evidence of the fossil record actually says needs to be questioned. It doesn't matter how many adherents there are. Three sciences are now caught up in the concealment of evidence for the sake of promoting a mythological view of origins as science—biology, paleontology, and anthropology. These fields are grouped together because they each push the same ideas through the use of propaganda and suppression, which are not traits of science.

Note that traits like the above are not a part of chemistry, physics, astronomy, geology, psychology, or mathematics. But the course of science as a collective discipline made a big mistake when it absorbed Darwinism despite the fossil record.

Fig. 5. Two completely different crinoid types which remained the same throughout their tenure in the fossil record and which, like all other animals, did not mutate or morph into anything other than what they were originally (both collected from formation by the author). **Top:** *Periechocrinites* (Subclass Camerata); Mississippian; Table Rock, Missouri; 1 3/4" tall (4.3 cm), **Bottom:** *Phanocrinus* (Subclass Cladida); Mississippian; Sulphur, Indiana; Crown is 2" tall (3.7 cm). During the Permian extinction 252 million years ago—when all life nearly came to an end—98% of crinoid families were lost. That means that all crinoids living today are the descendents of the remaining 2%. If you are looking for a scientific "Noah's Ark," there you have one. The point is that they were crinoids when they first appeared in the fossil record 488 million years ago and they are crinoids today.

Beginning with Darwin, scientists actually started belittling the fossil record as a "record poorly kept." Then, when the evidence did not support evolution, instead of being honest with the public, they increased their commitment to the error—the largest in science—and started teaching it as "fact." Recently, they have begun to deride the world's multicultural religions and their beliefs as a form of intimidation—a standard propaganda technique.

One sign of a catch-22 in science is the range of contradictions in how experts describe the fossil record. If the reader recalls, in Part 7, *Living Fossils: Mollusca*, the late Dr. Ralph Buchsbaum,

> Cont. on page 19

The inconvenient facts of living fossils: *Echinodermata* (cont.)

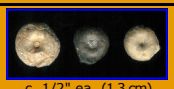
Genus, etc.	Current-Former *living fossils*	Range	Fossils recovered *in situ* by the author
Crinoidea Several variations on crinoid stems from a single locality	**Unchanged 488 *million* years** Ordovician–Recent; 488.3 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 View c. 3 1/2" (9 cm) *Variable crinoid stem sections;* Pennsylvanian; Paris, Illinois
What were the ancestors of starfish? **Starfish** What Darwin should have gleaned from his pigeon breeding is *only* the wide range of variation possible within an animal type. However, he chose to push an untenable extrapolation that not only species, but genera, families, orders, classes, *and even phyla*, morphed into one another by an imaginary force he called *natural selection* resulting in the most profound engineering marvels known.	**Unchanged 450 *million* years** Ordovician–Recent; 450.0 MYA–Present "The basic body plan of the asteroids has remained the same since the Ordovician." -KE Knott, asteroidea specialist, Univ. of Jyväskylä, Dept. of Biological and Environmental Science	Worldwide	 9/16" (1.4 cm) **Left:** *Unidentified fossil used here only as a quick placeholder*. Being rare or unknown at all of the formations visited, even over thirty years time, the author has no confirmed starfish or sea urchins in his collection. This fossil may well be something like the bryozoan *Evactinopora* which is often confused with starfish. The fossil is in slight relief above the surface. Each ray has what resembles an ambulacral groove extending from the center hole to the tip of the ray. Mississippian; War Eagle, Arkansas. **Right:** A modern-day starfish (public domain).
Crinoids and trilobites lived together for 200 *million* years	**Unchanged 200 *million* years** Ordovician–Permian; c. 450.0–252.3 MYA	Worldwide	 Trilobite 1 3/4" tall (4.5 cm) *Schizocrinus* crinoid stem underneath a *Pseudogygites* trilobite; Ordovician; rec. from strata by the author; shores of Georgian Bay, Ontario
Platycrinitidae crinoid family; Class Camerata	**Unchanged 157 *million* years** Ordovician–Permian; 416.0–259.0	Worldwide	 11/16" ea. (1.8 cm) *Platycrinites,* elliptical columnals from the unique twisted-stem crinoid; Pennsylvanian; Paris, Illinois
Erisocrinoidea Crinoid superfamily	**Unchanged 122 *million* years** Devonian–Permian; 376.1–254 MYA	Worldwide	 c. 1/2" ea. (1.3 cm) *Delocrinus* crinoid cups; Pennsylvanian, Paris Illinois
Ancyrocrinus Crinoid genus with grapnel-style anchor; Subclass Cladida	**Unchanged 33 *million* years** Devonian; 416.0–383.7 MYA	Worldwide	 7/8" (2.1cm) *Ancyrocrinus* 'grapnel-style' anchor; Devonian; Arkona, Ontario. Another fossil example that many things humans think they invented have been around for hundreds of millions of years.

Fig. 6. One reason biology, paleontology, and anthropology have been able to spread evolutionism without standard scientific rigor is a public unfamiliar with the fossil record. Change that and the "evolution is a fact" story will gradually start to be questioned.

zoologist, invertebrate biologist, and author of one of the best textbooks on invertebrates was quoted as saying that the brachiopods and molluscs had an "excellent, unbroken fossil record," with most classes living today "already present in the Cambrian." – Buchsbaum, R., *et al. Animals Without Backbones*, 1987, 3rd Ed., p. 520.

A virtually identical observation is made by another zoologist and invertebrate biologist, Dr. Rich Mooi, Curator of Invertebrate Zoology and Geology at the California Academy of Sciences, regarding the fossil record of the echinoderms:

"The fossil record of the Echinodermata is relatively complete… represented by specimens retaining an abundance of features comparable to that found in extant forms." – Mooi, R. 2001. Not all written in stone: Interdisciplinary syntheses in echinoderm paleontology. *Canadian Journal Of Zoology*. 79 (7): 1209-31.

"Excellent." "Unbroken." "Relatively complete." These descriptions do not at all match what the public has been told about the fossil record, that it is "a record poorly kept." This is a very relevant contradiction which anyone with a scientific mind needs to ponder. If a record is "excellent" and "unbroken" one can surely conclude that any transitional forms—if they ever existed—would be as abundant as any other fossils. Instead, genera, families, orders, classes, and phyla are all very distinct.

One way I have proposed to bring biology, paleontology, and anthropology closer to the open-minded goals of science is the *Objective International 3D Stratigraphic Column* project. It involves trillions of chronological layers with fossils accessible in road cuts, railroad cuts, quarries, mountainsides, stream cuts, and geological cores across tens of thousands of miles (those interested can be involved in many different ways which I hope to describe later). *The Column* is an interactive spherical graph literally the size of the earth because it *is* the earth. Sequences of fossils can be followed in three or four dimensions in the field, in books, or on the Internet. The fossils in the invertebrate record are excellently laid out and preserved with no need to imagine invisible or unknown creatures, something which has implications that must be addressed. So far, the facts (not evolutionary theory) confirm that the oldest of every creature is 'already' that creature. To look at this picture objectively, that's what science is all about.

JOHN FELIKS has specialized in the study of early human cognition for twenty years demonstrating that human cognition does not evolve. Earlier, his focus was on the invertebrate fossil record studying fossils in the field across the U.S. and parts of Canada. With increasing attempts to force evolution on U.S. children as fact while blocking opposing evidence, Feliks encourages students to insist that science teachers present all evidence objectively—as is it done in all normal sciences.

The Pleistocene Coalition

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