

Field Observations

There are many examples of field observations of biological activities that falsify Darwinian evolution, and that point to Intelligent Design.

For example, Darwin commented in his book “Origin of the Species”:

If it could be proved that any part of the structure of any one species had been formed for the exclusive good of another species, it would annihilate my theory for such could not have been produced through natural selection.

Since the writing of that book, there have been thousands of observations of complex structures in some species that operate for the exclusive benefit of other species, which by Darwin’s own admission thoroughly “annihilate” his theory. One example of these observations is [plant galls](#).

Another example is discussed by Michael Behe in his book “[The Edge of Evolution](#)”. The malarial cell has been evolving and infecting humans for millennia. Since widespread drug treatments first appeared about fifty years ago, hundreds of billions of billions of malarial cells have been born in infested regions. These cells have all been involved in a warlike competition with these drugs for survival of the fittest. In all that time, no new useful cellular protein-protein interaction has been observed to have evolved within the malarial cell.

Another example from Behe’s book is the HIV virus, which mutates about ten thousand times faster than the malarial cell. In fact, about 10,000 to 100,000 mutations occur each day in a single HIV-infected individual. These mutations have enabled HIV to remain resistant to the human immune system and to drug treatments. But this resistance is an existing capability within the current design of HIV cells. None of these mutations have taken even the first step in developing any new biological capability for the HIV virus.

Another example is given by Behe in his book “[Darwin Devolves](#)”. For centuries, humans have observed and been involved in the evolution of domestic dog breeds from wolves and foxes. Behe describes how recent genetic research reveals that all dog breeds use existing genetic information from existing wolves and foxes. No new genetic information is ever created from the breeding programs. In fact, any new characteristics exhibited by dog breeds are produced by breaking existing wolf or fox genes, thus changing the appearances and behaviors of the dog breeds. And once the genes are broken, they are never re-established through continued breeding or mutations. So a dog breed will never

“evolve” back into a wolf or fox. Thus dog species have “devolved” from wolves and foxes through broken genes. As Behe puts it, dogs are “broken wolves”.

In the same book, Behe gives another example of this kind of devolution in the [historical development of polar bears](#) from other bear species.

The same observations can be made for all forms of domesticated plant and animal breeding. In all cases, the genetic information for all of the domesticated breeds already pre-exists in the original wild populations. In some cases, the domesticated breeds are formed by exploiting natural variations that are allowed in the existing genome of the plant or animal. In other cases, some of the wild genes are [blunted or broken](#) to produce the domesticated traits and characteristics. But in all cases, no novel genetic information is ever created.

Behe has generalized these observations into his [First Rule of Adaptive Evolution](#): “Break or blunt any functional coded element whose loss would yield a net fitness gain.” Behe’s insight has been to recognize that the vast majority of mutations, which are negative, will always overwhelm any “one-in-a-billion” potential beneficial mutation before it ever has a chance to be fixed within a population. This is analogous to a tidal wave that devastates a coastal town. The vast majority of the tidal wave’s effects are destructive. During the devastation, every once in a while, the wave’s water activity might move one isolated brick on top of another brick. But this brick-on-brick “structure” will soon be overwhelmed and destroyed long before the water activity could produce any semblance of a building, let alone a skyscraper. The same is true of the effects of random mutations on any complex biological structure.

Behe’s First Rule of Adaptive Evolution has been confirmed in all documented observations of biological adaptive changes in the field. In fact, all of the arguments for Darwinian “[Icons of Evolution](#)” from field observations have been debunked by careful and systematic analysis. Examples of debunked icons include [Darwin’s Finches](#), [peppered moths](#), [Haeckels’s embryos](#), [whale evolution](#), [crippled fruit flies](#), [eye evolution](#), [vestigial organs and structures](#), [cichlid fish](#), and [many others](#).