FOSSILS FORMED FAST

There are numerous evidences that fossils formed fast, not slowly over millions of years: (1) the catastrophic circumstances of their burial; (2) the immense amount of sediments often involved in burial; (3) the preservation of delicate imprints in mud; (4) the preservation of other delicate things; and (5) the preservation of microscopic details.

Biological materials ordinarily decay rapidly unless they are buried and preserved quickly. For a specimen to be preserved, the speed of burial and fossilization must have exceeded the rate of decay. For certain specimens below, as a guide to the speed of preservation, the approximate time for decay to commence is indicated in minutes, hours, days, or months.

Finally, a few examples of post-Flood fossilization are discussed. It is shown that post-Flood fossilization has happened under catastrophic circumstances. This confirms that **during the Flood fossilization must also have been catastrophic.**

The fossils described below are not exceptional or rare, and this compilation of evidences is only a sample. It could be expanded many times over. Most of the cited sources have photographs of these fossils.

Evidence #1: *The Catastrophic Circumstances*

Fossil formation requires unusual conditions unlike those commonly existing today. This is shown by the fact that fossils rarely form today. Under the catastrophic circumstances of fossilization, huge tracts of millions of bones called "fossil graveyards" blanketed sometimes hundreds of square miles, testimony to the power of the Flood catastrophe.

1. There is a fossil graveyard in Agate Springs, Nebraska, with about 9000 complete animals of all kinds are in one hill; the entire deposit covers a wide area (Nelson, 99).

Another fossil graveyard includes rhinos, horses, and camels buried in volcanic ash. The ash covers several hundred square mi. and is 10 feet deep in places. The eruption was 100 times larger than that of Mt. St. Helens. It happened during or possibly soon after the Flood (Michael R. Voorhies, "Ancient Ashfall Creates a Pompeii of Prehistoric Animals," *National Geographic*, Vol. 159 no. 1, January 1981, 71).

2. In the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe was unearthed the "Lady of Guadeloupe," an articulated skeleton found around 1812 in "Miocene" limestone. This person was overtaken in a sudden catastrophe. **The person is in a reclining position as she were felled and swept along by raging currents of water and sediment** (Taylor, 1987a, 218).

There are also "polystrate trees" (sometimes called "polystratic trees") showing the extremely catastrophic circumstances of most fossil formation. **Polystrate trees are fossil trees piercing through many rock layers (strata).** In many cases, evolutionism claims that millions of years would be required to deposit the strata surrounding the upright tree! **But how could a tree keep standing for millions of years while the strata were building slowly and gradually up around it?** What really happened is that many layers of sediment were catastrophically and suddenly deposited around such a tree, encasing it and quickly fossilizing it.

3. A 12-foot tall polystrate tree was discovered in a coal bed in Tennessee. **The decay time of the tree was only *months*, so the many strata around it formed in less time than this.** (James P. Blair, "Will Coal Be Tomorrow's 'Black Gold'?," *National Geographic*, Vol. 148 no. 8, August 1975, 245).

Polystrate fossil trees are not rare. They are commonly present in coal deposits which evolutionists claim required millions of years to form. Some examples: (1) polystrate trees up to 12 feet tall in "Carboniferous" strata, Joggins, Nova Scotia (Wysong, 367). (2) polystrate trees several feet tall in the Warrior Creek coal field, Birmingham, Alabama (John MacKay, "Research Discoveries," *Creation Ex Nihilo*, Vol. 8, June 1986, 23).

Evidence #2: *Burial under Immense Weights of Sediment*

4. Many fossils have broken bones in otherwise intact skeletons, a sign of catastrophic burial under a crushing weight of sediment. Here are some examples: (1) an *ichthyosaur* in West Germany with broken bones (Simpson, 89). (2) an articulated but crushed fish skeleton in the Green River Formation ("Eocene"), Wyoming (Simpson, 429). (3) a peccary, *Platygonus compressus* (a variety of swine), with crushed appearance, from Ice Age deposits (possibly post-flood) on a Mississippi River bluff (Levin, 1983, 80).

5. Another evidence of the immense weights of sediment dropped on animals during most fossilization is the huge number of fossil bivalves with closed shells. Normally after death the halves of a bivalve open up due to muscle tension; but fossil bivalves are often found with their shells closed. **This indicates they were suddenly buried alive under great constricting weights of sediments** (Coffin, 36).

Sufficiently massive weights of overburden can turn biological tissues to black coal very quickly. Cases of catastrophic coalification in the fossil record are common.

6. **A shark was compressed and carbonized into coal in Ohio. It was squeezed to 1/4" thickness, testimony to the pressing weight of the sediments in which it was buried** (Nelson, 44). Other examples: (1) carbonized partial flower and other vegetation from China (Simpson, 15). (2) carbonized plants from south Australia (Richard Monastersky, "Dinosaurs in the Dark," *Science News*, Vol. 133, March 19, 1988, 186). **(3) a hammer found in "Ordovician" sandstone, in June, 1934, in the Paluxy River area near Ft. Worth, Texas; the handle was partially "carbonized" -- i.e., in the early stage of coal formation** -- due to the weight of overlying sediments (Anonymous, "Ordovician Hammer Report," *Ex Nihilo*, Vol. 6, February 1984, 16).

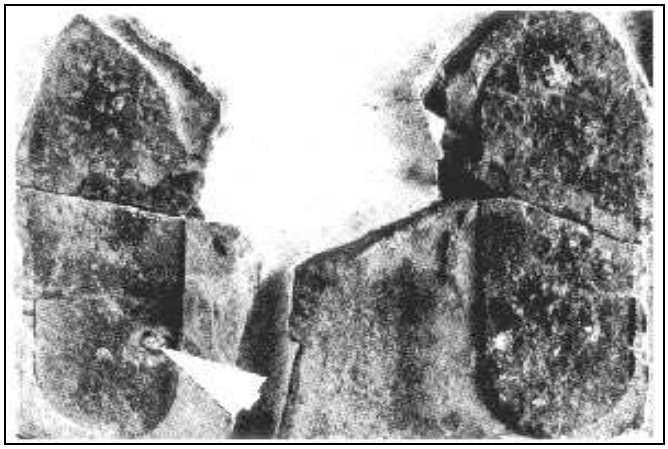
When it was clear that this "out-of-place" artifact showed the coexistence of humans with so-called "primitive" Ordovician life, evolutionists attempted to

reclassify the rock layer as more modern than "Ordovician" to remove the implication of coexistence. (4) Radioactive halos of polonium-210 are visible in coal when magnified 250 times; they were squeezed and flattened during coal formation; Po-218 has a half-life of 138 days, but for the halos to be flattened, the formation time for the coal must have been even shorter (Gentry, 55; Henry, 6-7).

Evidence #3: ***Preservation of Imprints in Mud***

Any pattern preserved in mud must be preserved rapidly since mud itself is soft and is easily swept away in the rain storms which form it. Thus any mud imprint has a short decay time with an even shorter time required for preservation. The presence of ripple marks and raindrops in mud shows that preservation times were on the order of seconds

7. Many footprints in mud exist in the fossil record. There are fossil footprints in the Paluxy River channel in Texas. **In wet mud, the decay time is minutes** (Simpson, 13). Other examples of fossil footprints: giant human footprints, Paluxy River bed; a decay time of minutes (Wysong, 376); (2) sabre-tooth tiger footprint, Paluxy River bed, found c. 1937; such mud prints can be sectioned to prove they are genuine and not carvings: a carving would not show the curvature of the layers caused by weight pressing down on the material while still soft (Clifford L. Burdick, "Footprints in the Stones of Time," *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Vol. 11, December 1974, 165); (3) footprints (possibly post-Flood), Laetoli, Tanzania, near Olduvai Gorge, site of massive ancient eruptions; **these footprints showed that modern humans were contemporaneous with the so-called ape-men (actually apes), so they were covered with concrete after being publicized -- a literal cover-up of evidence contrary to evolution** (Mary D. Leakey, "Footprints in the Ashes of Time," *National Geographic* , Vol. 155 no. 4, April 1979, 457); (4) human footprints in limestone near St. Louis reported in 1822 in the *American Journal of Science* (Taylor, 1987a, 109); (5) a collection of "Triassic" dinosaur footprints from the Connecticut River valley (Colbert, Pl. 9).



Fossil Shoeprint with Embedded Trilobite (arrow).

8. **A fossil shoe print was found in "Cambrian" strata which had within itself two imbedded trilobites, one on the heel portion, and one in the front portion, eliminating 600 million years of geologic time;** the decay time was minutes (Wysong, 379); an enlarged image of the two trilobites is shown in William J. Meister, "Discovery of Trilobite Fossils in Shod Footprint of Human in `Trilobite Beds' - A Cambrian Formation, Antelope Springs, Utah," *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Vol. 5, December 1968, 99).

9. Fossilized ripple marks are in the Dakota Sandstone ("Cretaceous"), Jefferson County, Colorado. These are common in sandstone formations. **The decay time is seconds** (Levin, 1986, 116). Other examples: (1) ripple marks in the Potsdam Formation ("Cambrian"), Ausable Chasm, New York (*Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Vol. 24, December 1987, cover); (2) ripple marks in the Red Deer River bed, Alberta (Wysong, 360); (3) fossilized worm tracks also exist in "Cambrian" sandstone; in this case, the worm tracks were superimposed on ripple marks (Simpson, 12).

10. **Raindrop fossils have been found in the Netherlands. The decay time is seconds** (Lammerts, 166). A "splash print" is also on record from Belgium (Lammerts, 171).

Evidence #4: ***Preservation of Other Delicate Things***

The items preserved as described below would decay very quickly unless fossilized even faster.

11. A fossilized rodent burrow was found in Sioux County, Neb. Decay time = weeks (Mears, 223).

12. Given how quickly eggs rot, **fossilized dinosaur eggs imply quick preservation.** The first fossil eggs were found in the Gobi Desert. Such eggs sometimes contain unborn babies. Decay time = hours or days (Taylor, 1987b, 10).

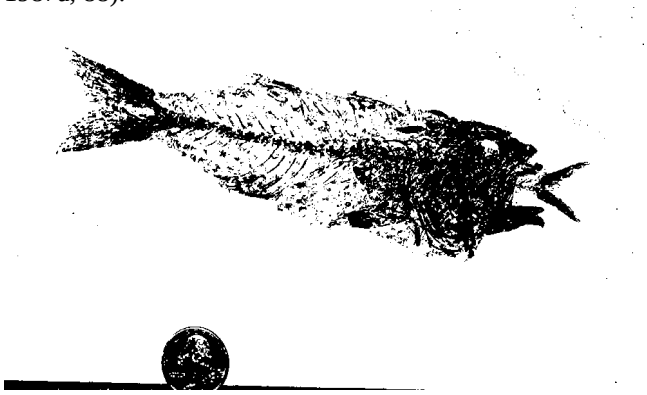
13. Fossilized dung (coprolite) would decay quickly if not rapidly preserved. Dinosaur coprolite is fairly common. Decay time = hours (Simpson, 13).

14. Intricate details are preserved in specimens like the following: (1) insect fossils, including roaches, as well as spiders and centipedes, have been found preserving intricate details of appearance; decay time = hours (Wysong, 290); (2) a fossil leaf of brazilwood (Simpson, 15); (3) a fossil horsetail in the Green River Formation, Wyoming (Simpson, 15).

15. Many other delicate items have been preserved in the fossil record: (1) fossilized dinosaur skin, with ligaments; decay time = hours (Good et al., 9); (2) fossil flower blossom, *Scandianthius costatus*, from Sweden ("Cretaceous"); decay time = hours (Simpson, 83); (3) another flower blossom, *Hypogynorus*, "Cretaceous," from Sweden (Simpson, 83); (4) fossil trilobite eye; decay time = hours (Sinclair, 9).

16. **Fossil "snapshots" of rapidly occurring events have been found: (1) fossil fish eating another fossil fish**

("Eocene" perch *Mioplossus* eating herring *Knightia*), in the Green River Formation, Wyoming; **burial and preservation were virtually instantaneous** (Simpson, 17); (2) another nearly instantaneous burial, of *Ichthyosaur* and babies preserved in the act of feeding or perhaps being born (Taylor, 1987a, 88).



Fossil Snapshot: Green River Formation, Wyoming

Evidence #5: Preservation of Microscopic Details and Micro-organisms

Nearly all the following types of "microfossils," i.e., fossils with detail so small as to require a microscope for viewing, had preservation times on the order of seconds or minutes.

17. Micro-organisms: (1) fossil micro-organism (Snow, 437); (2) another micro-organism from the "Precambrian" in South Africa (Payne/Falls, 440).

18. Pollen: (1) fossil sagebrush pollen requiring a magnification of 5800 times to be seen; found in the nest of a "Pleistocene" rodent (Simpson, 14); (2) a kapok pollen grain magnified 900 times (Simpson, 14).

Microscipic Thin Section of Fossilized Cyprus Wood Cells from South Dakota

19. Individual cells: (1) wood cells in petrified wood; polished cross-section of fossil wood "reveals intricate cellular detail . . . requires rapid infiltration" (Simpson, 21); (2) fossil wood cells from Alaska's North Slope; cellular structure and growth rings are visible (Richard Monastersky, op. cit., 186).

Dinosaur Blood Cells in Mosquito BloodVessel in Amber

20. **Cell division showing all the stages of mitosis, in microfossils from South Africa** (Levin, 1986, 184).

Insects in amber are not true fossils, since they preserve the actual insects. Nevertheless, they illustrate the rapidity of processes leading to preservation.

21. **Insects in amber occur in the Baltic region; for example, there are gnats, with muscle, membranes, and cellular chromosomes preserved;** decay time = hours (James Gorman, "The 40-Million-Year-Old Bug," *Discover*, Vol. 3, no. 5, May 1982, 36-37). Other examples: (1) a phorid fly, the most common insect in Baltic amber (Fritz Goro, "Golden Oldies," *Discover*, Vol. 3 no. 5, May 1982, 42); (2) wasp and smaller insect or spider in Baltic amber (ibid., 41).

Plaster Cast of a Victim at Pompeii Trying to Rise and Flee from the Lethal Fumes of Mt. Vesuvius

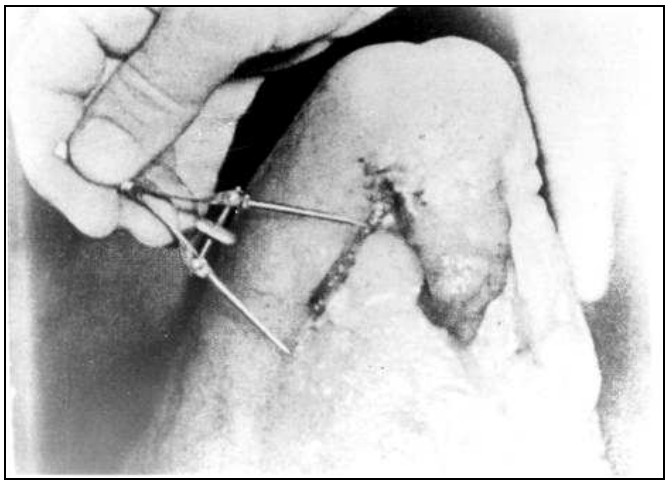
Evidence #6: *Post Flood Fossils Show Catastrophic and Rapid Formation*

22. There are shocking fossil casts of the victims of the AD 79 eruption of Vesuvius at Pompeii. One cast is of a man with a (money?) bag slung over his shoulder as he tried to flee. **As in**

the Pompeian specimens, most post-Flood fossilization is due to burial by volcanic dust, mud, or lava (Amedeo Maiuri, "Last Moments of the Pompeians," *National Geographic*, Vol. 120 no. 11, November 1961, 654). Another victim at Pompeii was a merchant who died before he could regain his feet (ibid., 658).

23. In another case of fossilization by volcanic burial, a fossilized bowler hat found c. 1900 in the village of Te Wairoa, New Zealand, was buried on June 10, 1886, in a volcanic eruption. It fossilized in less than 20 years (John Mackay, op. cit., 11).

Fossil formations sometimes occur in caves. Though not a catastrophic environment, caves provide the right combination of water and minerals for fossilization, so cave fossils form today. All caves, by the way, post-date the Flood, so all cave fossils and formations are therefore post-Flood.



Bat Encsed in a Stalactite, Carlsbad Caverns

24. A bat was encased in a stalactite in Carlsbad Caverns. It was rapidly fossilized (Wysong, 173). In another example, **a felt hat fossilized in a cave in Tasmania, Australia; it was left in a mine there, and converted to a limestone fossil in about 50 years** (John MacKay, "Fossil Bolts and Fossil Hats," *Creation Ex Nihilo*, Vol. 8, June 1986, 10).

Cave formations are significant because evolutionists claim they form slowly. Stalactites, stalagmites, and dripstone are not true fossils (they are not in the shape of a dead thing), but they do form rapidly as all fossils do, thus confounding the evolutionary plea for slow geological processes. Dripstone also forms rapidly from the Portland cement used in construction.

25. **Dripstone is a common limestone formation in caves, but also in tunnels.** In one case, 2-foot stalactites had grown in an abandoned London underground tunnel, built in 1890 but last used as an air raid shelter 1941-45 (John Amer, "More Recent Stalactites," *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Vol. 15, June 1978, 9). In another example, sizeable stalactites grew in 5 years in the inspection tunnel of the old Wilson Dam, Muscle Shoals, Tennessee River; the largest is nearly 10 inches long, for a growth rate of 2 inches per yr, vastly exceeding evolutionary growth rate expectations (Johnston, 347).

Conclusions

It is difficult to understand how evolutionism can maintain the belief in slow and gradual fossil formation in the face of overwhelming contrary evidence. Nevertheless, it is done constantly. The way it is done is an interesting lesson in the human ability to rationalize what one wishes to believe.

The rationalization process involves (1) an acknowledgement that virtually all *known* fossils must have formed rapidly, together with (2) the belief that all known fossils are exceptions to the evolutionary rule, and that there are hypothetical fossils yet to be found which will vindicate the evolutionary belief that fossils really form slowly. To paraphrase Alexander Pope, thus (evolutionary) hope springs eternal in the human breast.

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