The Amazing Archer Fish Disproves Evolution!

Ambassador College Production
HOW AMBASSADOR COLLEGE
"SHOT" THE ARCHER FISH!

by Jerry Gentry, Photographic Technician

Realizing the importance of the archer fish as a living witness to the creative handiwork of God, our Photographic Research Laboratory began the attempt to photograph the archer fish in action.

We acquired several specimens from local tropical fish stores. (The archer is actually found in waters from India to the northeastern tip of Australia.)

The one particular fish we wanted to photograph, had never to our knowledge "spit." His owners had always thrown food into the water. However, we had purchased another, smaller, but extremely vivacious young archer. He shot at any object. It wasn't long before the big archer took the cue and came rumbling from his rock hideaway to take a shot at the insect decoy hanging in the fish tank.

We perfected a mechanism so sensitive that it recorded the extremely fast action of the archer's "squirt." (The mechanism consisted of a needle hanging next to a contact point.) As soon as the water splattered the insect suspended on the end of it, the needle touched the contact — and set the electronic flash off. The camera shutter was opened in the darkened room by hand — just a second before the archer began to shoot.

After many exasperating sittings before the fish tank, our photographer was finally able to snap a color photograph of the stream of water. (As other investigators have found, the archer sends out a single jet of water. It travels a few inches and breaks up into a fine spray plus a few larger but fast-moving droplets. This barrage of droplets batters the insect.)

The Ambassador College photograph on the cover was the final result.

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The Amazing

ARCHER FISH DISPROVES EVOLUTION!

The BIGGEST false doctrine today is EVOLUTION. Evolution is a FAITH — an almost religious-like BELIEF IN SOMETHING NOT SEEN — not proved! IS there a God? Did that God CREATE? Can you PROVE it? Evolutionists say no, and offer the theory of evolution as the only possible substitute for belief in God. But how accurate, how logical, how SOUND is their theory? Read, in this article, only a few of the reasons why evolution is UTTERLY impossible!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

“AT THE MOMENT, we have to confess that our ignorance of the actual creation is more or less complete.”

Shocking words?

The astronomers were being interviewed over BBC. Under discussion were current theories of the origin of the universe. The astronomers showed how one more of the theories had been recently found inadequate — that of the “steady-state,” or “continuous creation” theory which had caused so much discussion.

Evolutionists Disagree

But does the average layman know astronomers, geneticists, physicists, biologists, chemists, or paleontologists and geologists oftentimes disagree among themselves over the various hypotheses advanced in support of evolution?

Probably not. Evolutionists, of course, view such disagreement as a healthy sign of progress. Admittedly progress in an uncertain direction — but progress, nevertheless.

For example, a blue-ribbon meeting of scientists recently gathered for a two-day symposium in Philadelphia. By agreement at the beginning, there was no discussion of God or any form of Supreme Being!

Here is one account of the meeting: “Some 35 of the world’s most renowned scientists argued to the point that they shed coats and loosened ties.

“When they had finished, Darwin’s theory had been badly battered, but the scientists failed to come up with a better one.

“By agreement at the beginning, there was no discussion of the influence of God or any form of Supreme Being!” (Philadelphia Bulletin, April 17, 1966.)

How about that? They had agreed in advance not to “clutter up” the arguments with any possible idea of a Supreme Being!

The results of the meeting?

They attacked Darwinism; showed how the theory of evolution, as it presently stands, is incomplete.” But just what was missing? They didn’t say.

But let laymen attack Darwinism? Evolutionists would lift up hands of horror and disbelief. For one who is not “qualified” to give an opinion — for one who has not agreed in advance to keep all ideas of a Divine Being out of the discussion to challenge evolutionary thought is not “fair”; it’s not abiding by the tacit “rules” of scientific thinking.

But is such an approach truly objective?

Is it truth they seek? What about you? Do you ever sincerely wonder about life?

Do you ever look at the breathtaking marvels all around you — the limitless sky — the vastness of incomprehensible space — the myriad life forms — do you ever look, and wonder?
Evolutionists Keep God Out of Their Discussions

Evolutionists have generally agreed among themselves not to open up to question the whole framework of evolution. Notice an outstanding example: “How did it all begin?” asks a geologist in an article directed toward oil drillers. “Several theories as to the origin of the raw material from which the earth was formed do exist and are quite reasonable,” he explained. Then came the decision to avoid issues and questions. Notice it: “as we must use something as a starting point and as we want to avoid stepping into the realm of theology and philosophy, we shall use as our beginning, the time in the history of the earth when it may have consisted only of a gigantic turbulent cloud of gas…” (The Johnson Drillers Journal, May-June, 1966). (Emphasis ours.)

Is it significant that the most popular idea for the origin of the earth is described as a huge cloud of gas?

But why not step into the realm of theology and philosophy?

Why not be willing to question a theory which is not proved? Why not look at the marvels of “nature” and ask specific, positive, practical questions about how evolution could have taken place?

Evolutionists seek to avoid such practical questions. They agree, before beginning discussions about evolutionary thought, to keep God out of the picture!

On the other hand, religion tells you: “You can’t prove — scientifically — that God exists, you have to accept it on faith.”

One theologian said:

“It’s a very interesting thing that the Bible never once tries to prove the existence of God. All the writers of the Scriptures assume that God exists” (U.S. News & World Report, April 25, 1966).

Of course, that was just one well-known evangelist’s idea. The Bible does prove that God exists.

Another minister claimed:

“You can’t prove God’s existence because this is something beyond man’s reasoning power. Belief comes through faith.” (The Sun, Vancouver, B.C., November 21, 1966).

Again, this is about the same as agreeing to keep God out of the discussion. Evolution claims you can prove God doesn’t exist. Religion tells us you can’t prove God does exist.

Prophecy Fulfilled

What a remarkable fulfillment of what Paul was inspired to write. “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind…” (Rom. 1:28). And these ancient philosophers of whom Paul wrote were among the very earliest “evolutionists”! They either claimed God didn’t exist or was “unknown.” But it’s about time you threw out of your mind all prejudice against God, and against His knowledge!

Take a look at some of the marvelous creatures in this earthly environment of yours, and ask yourself some logical, simple, rational, scientific questions about them! How can evolution be true? How did these life forms develop? How did these creatures survive? How could all present life forms have “gradually evolved” from brown seaweed, or from trees, or from amoeba, or from flatworms? Can we prove — scientifically — that God does exist?

The Amazing Archer Fish

Look carefully at our beautiful color illustration (on the cover) of one of the breathtaking marvels of “nature.”

The archer fish is only one example out of the more than one million, three hundred thousand catalogued species on this earth. And in every one of those 1,300,000 cases, there is a special, interesting, life story. In every case there are special methods of nest building, of protection through camouflage, of coloration, of mating and breeding, of migrating, or of food-getting techniques. Every creature has different methods for “survival” which evolution cannot explain!

The little archer fish is given his name because of his phenomenal ability to shoot down his meals from overhanging branches above the water!

Strange anatomical and behavioral characteristics make this beautiful little fish one of the most perplexing problems to evolutionists.

There are five species of archer fish. The best known T. jaculatrix (for “ejaculator fish”), of the genus Toxotes, is nature’s version of the Polaris submarine. The fish lives in coastal salt water, brackish waters of swamps, or fresh water of estuaries, rivers and streams. It is native to Indian and Southeast Asian waters, and found even in Northeastern Australia. A small fish, it attains a maximum size of only about 7 inches.

From the moment of birth, the archer distinguishes himself as one of the most unusual of all creatures. Babies are gregarious, and, since they live in oftentimes murky, brackish waters, they shine with bright, luminous spots, resembling tiny, greenish fluorescent lamps. Researchers surmise the luminosity helps the tiny fish keep contact with one another in the dark and muddy waters.
Archer Fish Eyes

The archer stares wide-eyed because his eyes are so remarkably more complex than those of most fish. He is equipped with "binocular" vision—just like humans. While his eyes are on the sides of his head, he can swivel them sufficiently to see one image in front, or above. Archers with one eye gone, because of parasite or injury, continually shoot their jet of water too far to one side (depending on which eye is lost), and are even unsuccessful in jumping clear of the water to reach food.

The retina of the archer's eye is much more complex than that of most fish, having a very large number of cones and rods.

But even in this, the archer is still more complex. The cones (the tiny tissues of the retina of the eye which act as microscopic focusing devices) number only 8 or 9, since they're for daytime vision. But the rods (for vision in muddy or dark water!) number 217!

It has been proved that the archer fish can extinguish cigarettes in total darkness with their instinctive jet of water!

As the little fish develop, they begin "spitting" at numerous targets above the water in their natural habitat. At first, the tiny fish succeed in squirting their jet only two or three inches. Later, as adults, they will spurt a stream of water as far as fifteen feet! Normally, the adult archer shoots down his prey at a range of only 3 to 4 feet, however, and the jet of water carries its flat trajectory only about twenty-two inches.

What makes this fish "shoot down" his prey?

Ichthyologists have discovered a tiny groove in the roof of the archer fish's mouth. When the tongue, which is hard and bony, is compressed against the roof of the mouth and water forced through the mouth by a sudden snapping shut of the gill covers, the water squirts out the gun-barrel-like groove, usually striking its target the first time, at distances up to 2 or 3 feet!

Did "Shooting" Evolve?

Today, the commonly accepted theory (although there is an admitted silent body of scien-

If the archer fish gradually developed his remarkable "polaris" ability, are we to assume he did so because it was necessary for his survival?

If that could possibly be true, then how did all the other fish who swim side-by-side with the archer, and who always feed on the bottom, in the water, or at the surface, survive? Are we to assume the archer was the only survivor?

Or did multitudes of mutant genes preadapt the "pre-archer" to become an archer fish?

But such theories are only idle guesswork, and, pardon the expression, don't hold water!

What really baffles evolutionists about the archer fish is that spouting is not its primary food-getting method!

It doesn't need to spout!

The archer fish feeds on the surface, jumps clear of the surface to take insects on the wing, or feeds on objects which sink a few inches into the water.

No vague theory of "natural selection" can possibly account for the unique ability of this marvelous little fish!

And no imaginings of supposed sudden "mutations" could possibly account for it! It simply isn't possible that all the factors involving the archer fish's eyes, grooved tongue and ability to correlate its findings should suddenly develop together.

Many vain thinkers allow themselves to indulge in careless, idle speculation! They daydream, in their own minds, various fictitious ways in which this special food-getting apparatus could have evolved.

One might theorize that one day, long ago, a group of little "archer fishes" made their very first attempts at "spitting." But they succeeded (since this special apparatus had not yet "de-
developed” fully) only in gurgling a tiny few drops above the surface. Then what did they do? Keep trying, and trying, and trying, until they finally succeeded?

**Spouting Not Necessary**

But the archer fish, remember, doesn’t need to obtain his food by spouting his well-aimed jet of water. Further, an archer does grow tired after several spouts — and will rest before trying again, or leave his spouting efforts until later.

This is one of the stumbling blocks of the evolutionary theory. Even Darwin had to admit various creatures possess characteristics and behavior patterns which seem unnecessary for survival.

Yet, those characteristics and behavior patterns exist!

Why?

Evolution claims the development of highly specialized food-getting apparatus could come only through the buildup of a genetic pool of beginning mutations, and gradual development over interminable years of time — as natural selection forced the use of those mutant genes to develop a new creature. Given enough time, they reason, anything could have happened.

But the archer didn’t need his special vision, if he weren’t spouting jets of water high above the water. He couldn’t spout streams of water accurately until he had the vision. He couldn’t solve the problem of parallax until his trajectory and distance of spouting had been established; but that trajectory and distance could not have been established until his whole spouting mechanism had been perfectly formed. But his spouting mechanism could not have been perfectly formed, including his hard, bony tongue, his little groove in the roof of his mouth, his specially built, large, forward-focusing eyes, with their unusual numbers of cones and rods for vision in and above brackish waters, until he really needed it formed to survive! But the archer does not need to spout to survive!

No — no amount of guesswork, idle speculation, hazy notions, and daydreams are going to “explain away” this little marvel of what people call “nature.”

Not by a long shot. Of water, that is!

**Sidestepping the Problem**

But look at the methods used in avoiding the whole issue!

Here is a direct quote from one of the most thorough and comprehensive reports on the archer fish available, written by an ichthyologist who devoted himself to extensive research, anatomical study through dissection, and experimentation with archer fish.

He says, “This [the fact the archer does not need to depend on spouting for his food] raises an interesting question for evolutionary theory: Spouting, if it is so unimportant, can hardly have been a significant factor in the survival of the species or in selection and differentiation within the species.”

The next statement in the article about this marvelous creature’s spouting ability? “LEAVING THIS QUESTION ASIDE, it is true the archer fish does spout and knock down insects” (“The Archer Fish,” K. H. Lüling, *Scientific American*, July, 1963).

**But why leave it aside?**

Simply because it cannot be answered!

Notice — spouting is admitted to be of no real importance in either the survival of the species, or the “selection and differentiation within the species.”

That means no evolutionist can try to explain away the archer fish by claiming that ancient “pre-archer fish” populations developed this spouting ability through mutations.

Neither can they say that the food supply in and on the water became scarce. Therefore, natural selection — selected out those that had mutant genes in their makeup for food getting above the water.

The noted ichthyologists who have studied the fish make no such claims. Why? Simply because this goes beyond the known and positive laws regulating mutations. By such vague reasoning, humans with long noses could ultimately rival elephants!

Yes, the archer fish does spout — even though he doesn’t need to.

But the spouting is more complex than just squirting a jet of water!

**Solving Problems**

First, the little fish must solve the problem of refraction. Refraction is the bending of the light rays as they enter the water, causing objects to appear where they are not. Any boy who has throw rocks into a clear stream has seen refraction.

But the archer fish solves the problem each time — with remarkable accuracy. Tests have shown the little fellow even pinpoints his spout with such care he blasts insects away from a perch to which they could cling. For instance, when an insect is crouching on the side of a tank, the fish would aim the jet of water directly beneath the insect, thus dislodging it from the glass, rather
than hitting it on the back, and only succeeding in getting it wet!

Somehow, the archer fish is "smart" enough to eliminate much of the problem. One researcher noted: "The fish swims until it is almost directly below its prey. The reason is important. The refraction of a ray of light decreases as the angle of incidence increases:

"When the archer fish is directly below its prey or nearly so, there is no refraction, or extremely little" ("Archer Fish," K. H. Lilling, Scientific American, July, 1963).

Rather intelligent!

But — the archer fish can easily be tricked into shooting at non-edible objects.

Here's the paradox for evolution. Intelligent behavior in a fish that doesn't exhibit ability to learn. There's only one explanation for this.

A highly Intelligent Being had to infuse that fish with the intelligence it has. Proof, again, that God exists!

Solving Parallax

Not only does the archer solve the refraction problem, but he also solves immediately the parallax problem. Parallax is the difference between the location of the fish's eyes in relation to the target and the location of his mouth. Again, the little spouter performs with hardly a miss!

This led one ichthyologist to suggest the fish must have a "truly remarkable trigonometric range finder in its brain."

What a dilemma to the evolutionist!

The archer does spout! But he didn't need to spout — and therefore did not "gradually develop" this remarkable anatomy, these fantastic eyes, that tiny groove in his mouth, and his hard, bony tongue, IN ORDER TO SURVIVE!

No, the archer didn't "develop" anything! He was CREATED! He was given INSTINCT, by the All-wise Divine Creator Being who gives you every breath of air you breathe!

The archer is not just an automatic "squirt gun." He's a little living creature, who makes mistakes, and grows tired. He's been known to shoot at almost ANYTHING within reach of his deadly accurate stream of water — and even shot one researcher right in the eye, when the batting of the man's eyelids attracted the little fish.

Such a highly complex, living testimony to the wondrous handiwork of your Creator ought to be admired, and enjoyed — and we should come to see more of the love, warmth, and even HUMOR of our God in these little creatures — not the idiocy of "no god" theories!

The unanswerable ability of the archer fish says the theory of evolution is "all wet" — shot down, by a tiny creature made by the great God of the Universe!

The ANABLEPS

Think about another of the most amazing creatures on earth — little “four eyes,” or Anableps tetrophthalmus, as scientists call him. It merely means “looking up four eyes.” Anableps belongs to the numerous groups of fish commonly called minnows.

This little fish literally HAS FOUR EYES. You've heard of “four-eyed” professors, in the joking banter of college students; but had you heard about Anableps?

The fish lives in tropical fresh water in Central and South America, and reaches a maximum size of about 12 inches, though the average is around 8 inches. He spends most of his life swimming along the surface of the water, with two of his eyes above the surface, and two below.

Anableps is designed so each set of eyes can see under entirely different conditions!

Amazing ANABLEPS Eye

Not only does he have two separate corneas, but even separate retinas in the backs of the eyes. Any object seen out of the water is viewed through his special air viewing eyes, flattened much like the human eye lens, and transmitted to his lower retina. But objects he sees under the water are viewed through an oval shaped eye, like fish have, and is seen through the under cornea and brought into focus on the upper retina.

The eyes of Anableps are comparable to modern bifocal spectacles — divided into an upper and lower portion. Each is adapted for a different sort of vision.

Would anyone claim bifocals "evolved"? Of course not, they were developed by intelligent human beings and the Anableps was created by the Great Creator God!

Study the picture of our Anableps (on the next page) taken in the Ambassador Photographic Research Laboratory. Notice the two distinctly different eyes — one just barely above the waterline, the other just below.

Ichthyologists first wondered whether Anableps' extra set of eyes were for capturing food. But extensive observation has indicated they are purely for defense — for spotting predators, and escaping a potential enemy.

Anableps has fantastic jumping ability. When
his below-the-waterline-eyes spot an approaching predator, he leaps clear out of the water like a missile leaving the launching pad. Man has learned to use the little fellow's extra set of eyes in capturing the fish for aquarium owners. Shining a bright light on the streams the little fish inhabit, the fishermen can see dozens of brightly shining eyes — the reflection from Anableps' top pair. Thus dazzled by the brilliance from above, and unable to adjust between the brightness above and the inky darkness from below, Anableps is captured, and sent on his way to another aquarium.

But how did Anableps develop those four eyes?

Empty Speculations

What hypotheses must evolutionists use to explain the amazing little fish?

Let's go back in history — millions and millions of years, perhaps a billion — since evolutionists seem to assume that, given enough time, practically anything can happen. Here is our first little school of would-be Anableps. Only they're not Anableps, because they don't have four eyes, only two.

But which two?

Do they have their underwater eyes? Or their above-the-water eyes?

In either case, let's assume (and this is a make-believe “assumption!”) they had one or the other. They are surviving just fine — obtaining their food just like any other fish, swimming along under the water, looking up through it with their fish eyes — feeding at the surface.

But they can't spot ospreys, fish hawks, snakes, kingfishers, herons or cranes! Since they feed right at the surface — they are easy prey.

Anableps, the "four-eyed" fish — has eyes comparable to modern bifocal spectacles. The eyes are divided into upper and lower sets. Each suited for different type of vision. Note diagram showing the division of the Anableps' eye.
for the whole host of predators. No would-be Anableps survive. All are eaten.

Why reason this way?

Simple. If the pre-Anableps were forced by natural selection to develop their extra set of eyes (which would have taken, admittedly, an innumerable number of years) in order to survive — then they couldn't have survived without them. And if they didn't survive until they developed them — then they don't exist.

But if they needed to develop two other eyes to survive — weren't they taking the long way around? Why stay at the surface where they are so vulnerable to fish from below, and to predators from above? Why not swim down for the mud on the bottom, and hide in the caverns under the rocks, like any self-respecting, frightened fish? Why not begin feeding down deeper in the water? Why not, for that matter, develop into a bird, and just fly away from all his troubles?

Could They Survive?

But let's assume (being facetious, of course) that somehow, one school of little would-be Anableps (who weren't really completely developed Anableps yet) finally — after hundreds of thousands of years — acquired an extra set of eyes — through mutation, reproduction and natural selection.

Fine, they have the eyes. But their tiny nervous system hasn't kept pace.

Can you imagine it? Their brains recoil in mute shock! Dizzily, they swim about in two directions at once. One set of eyes communicates danger from above, while the other set tells them there is danger from below. Transfixed by the quadrupled vision of approaching horror, their mixed-up brains dizzily try to leap free of the water, dive to the bottom, and swim along the surface, all at the same time.

This results in complete paralysis — and the very first successful school of pre-Anableps is eaten alive.

But others keep acquiring another set of eyes — and can be seen slithering and twitching wildly about — some swimming up on shore, others leaping wildly in all directions, and some just lying there and staring, with a wondering look — in all four eyes. Confused, paralyzed, none survive — so they don't exist!

How many millions of years did it take their little retinas to follow their little corneas? How many millions more years (while none survived!) did it take for their brains to sort out the double images?

How would you enjoy discovering two more eyes growing in the top of your head?

But some evolutionists would claim the entire characteristics developed together. But is this really logical or possible. Could glass come together to form bifocal lens — by itself?

Of course not!

Notice, how evolutionists reason.

The Insurmountable Odds

They know it sounds very unreasonable to think that order, say an eye, could come from disorder — multitudes of mutating genes. Very cleverly they present the impossible — and that's what it is — as quite commonplace.
Notice it from a quote by Julian Huxley. He asks:

"How can a blind and automatic sifting process like selection, operating on a blind and undirected process like mutation, produce organs like the eye" — of the archer fish or Anableps for example — "or the brain, with their almost incredible complexity and delicacy of adjustment.

"How can chance produce elaborate design? In a word, are you not asking us to believe too much?

"The answer is no: all this is not too much to believe, once one has grasped the way the process operates."

But now comes the incredible impossibility of any such thing occurring. Julian Huxley continues showing the odds against a higher animal evolving:

"A little calculation demonstrates how incredibly improbable the results of natural selection can be when enough time is available.

"A proportion of favorable mutations of one in a thousand does not sound much, but is probably generous, since so many mutations are lethal, preventing the organism living at all, and the great majority of the rest throw the machinery slightly out of gear.

"And a total of a million mutational steps sounds a great deal, but is probably an underestimate — after all, that only means one step every two thousand years during biological time as a whole.

"However, let us take these figures as being reasonable estimates. With this proportion, but without any selection, we should clearly have to breed a thousand strains to get one with one favorable mutation; a million strains (a thousand squared) to get one containing two favorable mutations; and so on, up to a thousand to the millionth power to get one containing a million.

"Of course, this could not really happen, but it is a useful way of visualizing the fantastic odds against getting a number of favorable mutations in one strain through pure chance alone.

"A thousand to the millionth power, when written out, becomes the figure 1 with three million noughts after it: and that would take three large volumes of about five hundred pages each, just to print!

"No one would bet on anything so improbable happening; and yet it has happened. It has happened, thanks to the workings of natural selection and the properties of living substance which make natural selection inevitable" (Evolution In Action, Julian Huxley, pages 44-46).

Is this really evolution in action — or is it just wishful thinking in action?

Any mind which is really rational, really thinking, and really open knows this is a hoax. An utter impossibility! The only possible explanation is that GOD CREATED the archer fish and Anableps.

So let’s take a four-eyed look at evolution with the Anableps.

Study and Think

Look up information about eyes. Study the fantastic complexity of the eyes of fish. Look at the numbers of cones and rods, the shape of the different fish’s eyes, the oils, lids and films used to cover them.

Anything “simple” about an eye?

Modern man, with all his fantastic cameras — cannot begin to accomplish with a camera lens what is automatically accomplished in the eyes of thousands of creatures instantaneously.

Anableps is no exception. His eyes are perfectly formed. They function perfectly for specific and set purposes!

Is it a convenient accident that the tiny fish has such a complex and wonderfully intricate defense system? Or was it designed?

Either Anableps began seeing out of all four eyes the instant he began swimming along the surface — or he didn’t survive. And remember, evolutionists don’t claim millions of Anableps suddenly grew four eyes all at once!

The commonly accepted synthetic theory of evolution claims all things evolve gradually over long periods of time.

No, Anableps is just one more of the amazing marvels of the creation around you — inspiring testimony to the love, warmth and humor of your Creator, who gives you every breath of air you breathe!

Anableps fixes evolutionists with a baleful, doleful, four-eyed stare — and challenges them: Prove where I came from with your notions about “natural selection.”

Where did the Anableps and archer fish come from? Did they evolve? Were they created? The answer is found in Psalm 104:24-25.

"O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom have you made them all: the earth is full of your riches.

"So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts."

Yes, God created the Anableps and archer fish!