Instinct deals a **deadly blow** to evolution

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How Does Instinct Evolve? The question evolution cannot answer.

Brother Wilfred Alleyne, 2010.

pdf e-book publication available for download from his website, www.howdoesinstinctevolve.com.

Price: £4.95.

THIS E-BOOK, which uses instinct as a major argument against evolution, has been a great pleasure to review. There are many well-known examples of instinctive behaviour, such as bird migration and the building of honey combs by bees, but Brother Wilfred Alleyne extends the idea of instinct into the basic processes of living things such as their respiration, reproduction, excretion, nutrition and movement.

The book is written in a lively and exuberant way, and is well referenced to other articles and books. Because it is accessible online at the author's website, many of the references are accessible via links that can be clicked on during the reading of the book. I found this both fascinating and helpful, with coloured diagrams, photographs and short animation sequences being comprehended much more quickly than several pages of text.

The law of asynctropy

The author commences by stating, quite rightly, that living organisms defy the law of entropy, one of the fundamental principles of thermodynamics governing all physical and chemical processes. He introduces the 'law of asynctropy,' which was new to the reviewer, and whose origin is not declared in the book. In brief, the law states that a "powering instinct is required for all the functions of life to take place, and that even though all the necessary organs are in place, without the powering instinct, the functions of life will not occur." The powering instincts, the author reckons, are present in the genetic material, and are not subject to evolutionary processes, since the instincts must be perfect and in place at the beginning of the organism's life.

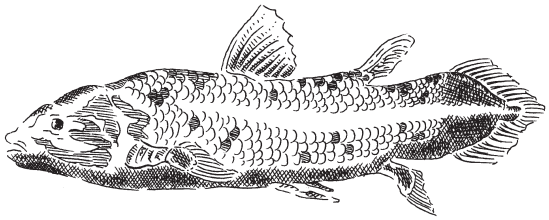
This is all set out at the book's beginning. Brother Alleyne then shows, with one or two examples in each case, that the seven requirements for life—respiration, nutrition, growth, responsiveness, movement, excretion and reproduction—all need empowering instincts. Thus the first bird needed not only a perfectly formed pair of wings but also instinctive knowledge of how to fly. Otherwise it would not move and would perish.

From movement, the author considers nutrition, and so on through the seven requirements. His arguments about reproduction, where the wonderful processes of mitosis and meiosis are discussed (also further discussed in chapter 7), are very impressive: "Did [the creature] know that one of its own cells was going to join up with another cell from another organism? Could it foresee that a new individual would have to have the original number of chromosomes, and that its own contribution therefore had to be half that number? Can a cell count?" (p. 21).

Some fishy tales

In the chapter on the non-evolution of tetrapods (four-limbed animals), Brother Alleyne has some fun ridiculing the ideas of evolutionists on how fish, with their two pectoral fins and two pelvic fins, evolved into tetrapod amphibians like frogs. *Tikaalik* is a fossil fish which is supposed to be a transition stage from water to land creatures. It is imagined to "spend brief periods of time out of water." Scientists allege that it probably had lungs as well as gills, although of course it is impossible to tell that from fossils, as usually only the hard parts of organisms are preserved.

The lesson of the coelacanth is used to show that such theories can prove to be nonsense. Before living coelacanths were discovered in 1938, evolutionists maintained that the bony structures in its fins were feet that helped it walk across the sea floor. They claimed that it also had "primitive lungs." But living coelacanths debunked these "evolutionary fantasies": they never walk on the seabed, but live at depths of 180 metres, and the structure previously thought to be a lung was in fact a fat-filled swim-bladder, common in many fish, and nothing to do with respiration.



Coelacanth
Picture: James Willey

The wonder of flight and life cycles

Another evolutionary idea is that scales on reptiles evolved into the feathers of birds, so that eventually wings could be produced. Also, at the same time, ectothermic reptiles evolved into endothermic birds. These two huge changes have little or no proof, as Brother Alleyne shows in his chapter, "More problems with respiratory organs." He shows that, whilst reptiles have lungs similar to those of humans, allowing incoming and outgoing air to be mixed, birds have lungs that allow one-way flow of air only. The birds' system maximises exchange of oxygen with the blood in a counter-current exchange system, explaining (for example) how geese can migrate over the Himalayas at an altitude where oxygen concentration is so low that humans die without an oxygen cylinder.

The remaining chapters give many examples of instinctive behaviour that pose problems for evolutionary biologists. The amazing bell spider, unlike all other spiders, lives under water, breathing air from a bubble that it creates on its nest made of silk and plant sticks. Brother Alleyne comments on page 45: "There is no way that this creature, with a brain the size of a pinhead, if that, could have worked out: 1. How to make its silk. 2. How to construct its underwater platform. 3. How to trap air in its hairs. 4. How to scrape it [the air bubble] off underwater. 5 That its prey would come swimming or floating by. 6. How to catch it under water." Examples of amber-entombed spiders and their webs with trapped prey, supposedly from 100 million years ago, show that these spiders were the same then as they are today. "They did not evolve, they could not evolve and they have not evolved."

Organism life cycles are sometimes amazingly complex, particularly so in the case of parasite life cycles, where many stages in different parts of the host can be involved. The sheep liver fluke, where the parasite resides in the bile duct of a sheep and the intestine of a water snail, is an example. Less gruesome is the life cycle of butterflies, where the male butterfly can detect pheromones (the 'scent') from females over a mile away, to ensure mating. A butterfly egg hatches into a caterpillar, which later pupates into a lifeless-looking organism, the chrysalis. Inside this chrysalis a radical restructuring of tissues occurs, so that in suitable conditions a beautiful butterfly emerges equipped with the ability to fly. The whole cycle has to be perfect, with all the stages being completed, for the species not to die out.

Aquatic bell spiders
Picture: *The Popular Science Magazine*, Oct. 1888, via Wikimedia Commons

Plants, creeping things and flight again

In the plant kingdom, the bucket orchid and *Vallisneria* (an aquatic plant often used in fish tanks) both show wonderful lifestyles and methods of pollination and fertilisation that could not possibly have evolved. The Greenland arctic rose is shaped like a radio telescope, gathering and reflecting heat onto its sex organs to attract insects. In the short Greenland summer these insects carry pollen from one plant to another.

Leafcutter ants

Picture: © iStockphoto.com/Michael Silverman

There is much more in this amazing book. Read about the *Eumenes* and *Ammophila* wasps that have perfected the art of anaesthesiology without any training; or the parasol (leaf-cutting) ants who culture fungi on pieces of leaf. These ants and their larvae eat the fungi, and when the queen ant leaves the nest she takes with her a piece of fungus to act as a seed culture for the new nest she will establish. She is a totally untrained microbiologist!

A wonderful chapter follows on movement in amoebae and paramecium, two microscopic animals, and on bird flight. Reporting on bird migration, probably the greatest of the instinct phenomena, Brother Alleyne starts with shearwaters and then goes to whooper swans and bar-headed geese, which fly at altitudes over 27,000 feet, where oxygen is scarce and the temperature can be as low as -51° C. He tells of arctic terns that fly thousands of miles annually in their migration, and of other birds where the young, unaccompanied by their parents, return to the very nests where they were born. Then there are green turtles, European eels, and the wonderful flight of bats using echolocation. The author's comment on the bats is worth citing: "So how come that a bat 'developed,' or 'evolved,' these fantastic designs which fill aeronautical engineers, acoustical engineers, and the military with such awe, that they are even now trying to copy those designs?"

Poisonous snakes and bees

How do poisonous snakes avoid being harmed or killed by their own venom? How could the ingenious mechanisms they use arise by chance? How did the remarkable eyes of these snakes evolve? The way they focus on their prey is different from other members of their group, because they move the lens of the eye in relation to the retina rather than changing the shape of the lens to focus on their enemies.

Perhaps the chapter on the honey bee is the most remarkable in the whole book, which is worth downloading for this alone. Fossil bees preserved in amber appear similar to modern honey bees, and evolutionists have no proof that they have changed over millions of years. The bees' ability to make honeycomb with remarkable mathematical precision is well known. The hexagonal structure of the comb is the most efficient one for storage of honey and pollen, and is also the most efficient use of beeswax, which a bee produces from glands under its abdomen.

Brother Alleyne contrasts honey bee nests with wasp nests, made from paper. Evolutionists claim that bees evolved from wasps, but this is impossible due to the large differences between the two insects. Bees also have the wonderful ability to communicate with other bees, to tell them where they can gather nectar. Their abilities indicate that they were designed by a Designer and programmed by a Programmer, and did not acquire these sophisticated abilities by chance.

The oldest fossils, and conclusions

Cyanobacteria are reckoned to be 3.5 billion years old. Amazingly (for palaeontologists), these bacteria are still around, in great abundance. Far from being 'simple' cells, they have an advanced

Fossilised bee in amber

Picture: Wikimedia Commons/Michael S. Engel

and sophisticated biochemistry. Not only can they divide into two daughter cells, but they 'fix' nitrogen gas (normally an inert molecule) and make it into amino acids and nucleic acid bases. They also carry out photosynthesis, as well as respiring and excreting like all cells.

This book is some 160 pages long, and this review can bring only a sample before you. It is lively; it asks many pertinent questions; it is well documented, with references that can be checked and followed up. It could be put to many uses: use it for preparing talks on creation; students will find resources to argue the case for creation in a reasoned and well-informed way; you could make a presentation for youth groups from the visual material here; you could tell your children or grandchildren to do what they like doing—to go online and read it. Brother Wilfred is to be thanked for putting the book together and making it available to the Brotherhood and to all who wonder about the amazing works of our Maker and our God.