

# Y chromosome shock

by David Catchpoole



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Researchers were unprepared for what they would find when they recently completed sequencing of the chimpanzee Y chromosome, and compared it to the human Y chromosome.

“The Y is full of surprises,” said David Page of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He and his team had just found that the Y chromosomes of chimps and humans are “horrendously different from each other”<sup>1,2</sup>

Why did Dr Page use the word “horrendously”? Because he believes evolution—that chimps are our *closest* evolutionary relatives. But Page’s team found that the chimp Y chromosome has only two-thirds as many distinct genes or gene families as the human Y chromosome and only 47% as many protein-coding elements as humans. Also, more than 30% of the chimp Y chromosome lacks an alignable counterpart on the human Y chromosome and vice versa.

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*‘The relationship between the human and chimp Y chromosomes has been blown to pieces.’—David Page, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA*  
 ”

Upon seeing these and other stark differences between the respective Y chromosomes, Page now says “the relationship between the human and chimp Y chromosomes has been blown to pieces”.

However, that doesn’t mean that Page and his research colleagues doubt evolution. Indeed, the cleverly spin-laden announcement in *Nature* journal heralded that “Rapid evolution distances chimp Y chromosome from human equivalent”.<sup>3</sup> But Page’s language tellingly invokes creator-like powers to explain the chimp/human genomic origins: “It looks like there’s been a dramatic renovation or reinvention of the Y chromosome in the chimpanzee and human lineages.”

It surely makes much more sense that the “extraordinary divergence”<sup>2</sup> of the human and chimp Y chromosomes has nothing to do with supposed evolutionary ancestry but everything to do with having been designed that way. Design explains not just Y chromosomes, but why (there can be) chromosomes. They certainly didn’t happen by accident ([Genesis 1:26–27](#), [Romans 1:20](#)).

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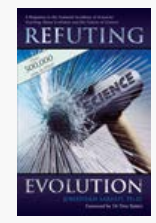


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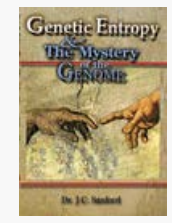
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## Further Reading

- ▶ [Y-Chromosome Adam?](#)
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## References and notes

1. Buchen, L., The fickle Y chromosome, *Nature* **463**(7278):149, 14 January 2010. (Unless otherwise indicated, quotes from David Page sourced from here.) [Return to text.](#)
2. Hughes, J., and 16 others (including David Page), Chimpanzee and human Y chromosomes are remarkably divergent in structure and gene content, *Nature* **463**(7280):536–539, 28 January 2010. [Return to text.](#)
3. Ref. 1 contents page, i.e. p. 129. [Return to text.](#)

(Also available in [Indonesian](#))

Derek C. wrote: "This is an awesome website. As a Christian who's finally just turning my life over to God (for good), I needed somewhere to look for answers when I had no one to ask." Help keep the 'awesome' going! [Support this site](#)

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## Readers' comments

**AI M.**, United States, 13 August 2012

How can they admit such things, and still believe evolution is plausible?

→ **David Catchpoole responds**

Indeed! You have to wonder. But then again ... ([2 Thessalonians 2:10-11](#))

**Errol B.**, Australia, 13 August 2012

It's not surprising that ardent evolutionists aren't phased by contradictory data in their own fields of expertise, considering everything they've been exposed to in all fields relating to origins (cosmology, paleontology, archaeology, biology, geology and genetics) is already filtered via 'Peer Review' which has become a 'Naturalistic Filter' where all intelligent design hypotheses are prohibited from competing. Dr Humphreys' evolutionist colleague who was a geophysicist, turned to Gould, a paleontologist when challenged with data from his own field of geophysics, while paleontologist Feduccia turned to biology (corn changing into corn) when challenged for evidence for evolution. Do these obviously intelligent scientists ever talk to each other about the data that is filtered out of publication?

**Jack C.**, Australia, 13 August 2012

Atheistic scientists are becoming more and more like politicians. They will do anything to avoid admitting they got it wrong, including spin, lies and cover-ups.

**Daniel R.**, Canada, 14 August 2012

Apparently Darwin forgot to check the Y chromosome, pretty negligent. Seems he spun the lie of evolution straight off the cuff. But there is far greater evidence than the Y chromosome: the Word of God. If that's not the end all, what else possibly is? God took a rib from Adam and made Eve! End of Story!

→ **David Catchpoole responds**

In Darwin's defence, the technology of his day wasn't sufficiently advanced for him to "check the Y chromosome".

Nevertheless, as [Romans 1:20](#) says, Darwin had "no excuse". And as for evolutionary geneticists today, who DO have knowledge of the Y chromosome, they have even less excuse! (If that were mathematically possible.)

**Juergen R.**, Canada, 14 August 2012

Why do so many commentators assume evil intent on the part of researchers? By doing this they only feed into the either/or model for the science-faith relationship. This advances the agenda of the new atheists. They too see only two choices. There are many other ways Christians have in the past and do at present relate their faith to the findings of science. It does not have to be so antagonistic.

→ **David Catchpoole responds**

Does this mean you're saying that a 'moderate' position is possible? Not so, as there is in reality [No fence to sit on](#).

**David H.**, United Kingdom, 14 August 2012

How strange that this didn't seem to get much coverage in the media! Facts are quickly buried by evolutionists aren't they?

**Chandrasekaran M.**, United Kingdom, 14 August 2012

No wonder that [Ivanov's ape-human hybrid project for Stalin's mutant ape army](#) was a horrendous failure!!

The Bible explicitly says that a kind will produce only its kind not another kind.

Given the horrendous failure of ape and human hybrid in producing the missing link, ape and human are not of the same kind.

**Steve W.**, United States, 14 August 2012

When someone denies the truth it does not matter if they do it ignorantly or with hatred and vehemence. It is still denying the truth.

**Juergen R.**, Canada, 14 August 2012

[Ed. note: we print this comment, then repeat it below with [Dr Jonathan Sarfati's](#) responses [intercalated](#) point-by-point.]

Yes there are many alternatives to the antagonistic approach you seem to favour. Have you looked at [biologos.com](#)? Or the Faraday Institute at Cambridge University? Or Hugh Ross at [reasons.org](#)? Or the Discovery Institute at [discovery.org](#)? All are committed to Scripture as the Word of God and treat science less hostilely than I see in many comments on these pages. It is possible to have peace with evolution and hold to God as Creator, using evolution as his means of creation. Before you delete me as deluded, I have spent five years in transition from a YEC position to an embrace of evolution and it has deepened my sense of awe at God's marvellous working in and through his creation. The theological issues we rightly have are being addressed. There are deep articles by great theologians and scientists at [biologos.org](#) and the Faraday Institute. Read and become aware that there is a diversity possible amongst believers. May love bind us together as we differ in our imperfect understandings!

**Juergen R.:** Yes there are many alternatives

**Dr Jonathan Sarfati replies:** Yes, we know, hence our page on Creation compromises. One rule for feedbacks, as stated on the site where you entered the comment, is checking out our site. It will be shown that you have disobeyed this rule.

**Juergen R.:** to the antagonistic approach you seem to favour.

**JS:** Well, no more antagonistic than our opponents, objectively speaking, but then there is [apparently one rule for creationists and another for our detractors](#). See also ['But it's divisive!'](#).

**Juergen R.:** Have you looked at [biologos.com](#)?

**JS:** If you had performed a rudimentary search, you would easily have found:

- ▶ [Evolutionary syncretism: a critique of \*Biologos\*](#)
- ▶ [The Non-Mythical Adam and Eve! Refuting errors by Francis Collins and \*BioLogos\*](#)
- ▶ [review of \*The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief\* by Francis S. Collins \[President of \*BioLogos\*\]](#)
- ▶ [Is the Bible one book or 66? \[refuting Karl Giberson, former Vice President of \*BioLogos\*\]](#)

**Juergen R.:** Or the Faraday Institute at Cambridge University?

**JS:** This is led by Denis Alexander, whose ideas we have effectively countered in:

- ▶ [Review of \*Creation or evolution—do we have to choose?\* by Denis Alexander](#)
- ▶ [Scrambling Scripture: Denis Alexander and original sin](#)

**Juergen R.:** Or Hugh Ross at reasons.org?

**JS:** Heh heh, I wrote a whole book in effect demolishing his claims, called [Refuting Compromise](#). It seems that [Dr Ross won't \(can't\) reply](#).

**Juergen R.:** Or the Discovery Institute at discovery.org?

**JS:** See [CMI's views on the Intelligent Design Movement](#).

**Juergen R.:** All are committed to Scripture as the Word of God

**JS:** Oh really? Such as [this comment on the BioLogos site](#):

If Jesus as a finite human being erred from time to time, there is no reason at all to suppose that Moses, Paul, John wrote Scripture without error. Rather, we are wise to assume that the biblical authors expressed themselves as human beings writing from the perspectives of their own finite, broken horizons.

**Juergen R.:** and treat science less hostilely than I see in many comments on these pages.

**JS:** Really? They seem to be committed to uniformitarianism and evolutionism more than real science (note that the article author and I have earned Ph.D.s in real science).

**Juergen R.:** It is possible to have peace with evolution and hold to God as Creator, using evolution as his means of creation. Before you delete me as deluded, I have spent five years in transition from a YEC position to an embrace of evolution and it has deepened my sense of awe at God's marvellous working in and through his creation.

**JS:** The issue is not whether I think you are deluded. Your fellow evolutionist Richard Dawkins said this:

I think the evangelical Christians have really sort of got it right in a way, in seeing evolution as the enemy. Whereas the more, what shall we say, sophisticated theologians are quite happy to live with evolution, I think they are deluded. I think the evangelicals have got it right, in that there really is a deep incompatibility between evolution and Christianity, and I think I realised that at the age of about sixteen.

Another fellow evolutionist Jacques Monod thought similarly, when he said:

Namely, selection is the blindest, and most cruel way of evolving new species, and more and more complex and refined organisms. ... The more *cruel* because it is a process of *elimination*, of *destruction*. The struggle for life and elimination of the weakest is a *horrible process*, against which our whole modern ethics revolts. An ideal society is a non-selective society, is one where the weak is protected; which is exactly the reverse of the so-called natural law. *I am surprised that a Christian would defend the idea that this is the process which God more or less set up in order to have evolution* (emphasis added; more evolutionary quotes at [Response to the evolution appeasers](#)).

Also, what counts is *quality* not quantity of research.

**Juergen R.:** The theological issues we rightly have are being addressed.

**JS:** Hmm ... How about some of the above?

**Juergen R.:** There are deep articles by great theologians and scientists at biologos.org and the Faraday Institute. Read and become aware that there is a diversity possible amongst believers.

**JS:** As amply shown above, we have read the leading experts you recommend. You, like they, have not done the same in reverse, despite your boast of five years of researching the issues.

**Juergen R.:** May love bind us together as we differ in our imperfect understandings!

**JS:** That would be a nice sentiment, but apparently your idea of love is a brutal struggle for survival. After all, your belief is that Darwin's "war of nature, from famine and death" is what God called "very good" in [Genesis 1:31](#), although He called death "the last enemy" in [1 Corinthians 15:26](#).

You know, it's funny to me that so many scientists will waste so much trying to prove the unprovable, when the real answer is right in front of them. They will waste money and time chasing something that the very evidence they study shows is wrong, all because they cannot accept that there is something greater than themselves.

And then they try to claim that it's religion that holds back the advance of science? Right. ...

**Jon P.**, United Kingdom, 28 August 2012

J Sarfati is a superb debater. He makes light work of his counterparts.

**Andrew W.**, Canada, 6 September 2012

In fairness to Juergen, his question was "Why do so many commentators assume evil intent on the part of researchers?" And unless I'm mistaken, CMI's answer to this is that they do not assume malicious intent. It is granted to evolutionary researchers that they genuinely believe what they preach. And beyond that, their hearts are darkened by an enemy who genuinely does have evil intent. It is not that creationists believe that there is a grand conspiracy by the scientific community to attack Christianity. If anything, it is that there is a grand conspiracy by immaterial powers to deceive the scientific community to accept a materialism as axiomatic. They are the best sort of pawns: ones who don't know they're pawns and believe that they are orchestrating a grand conspiracy to maintain the truth in the face of ignorance, when actually they are maintaining a lie in the face of truth.

Comments closed



The Bible declares: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

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