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Soft Tissue Stretches

Evolution to the

Breaking Point



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SOFT TISSUE STRETCHES EVOLUTION TO THE BREAKING POINT

Dinosaurs. Fossils. What comes to mind when we think of these words? Prehistoric and millions of years is what comes to most people's minds. Is that what the evidence about these beasts and their fossils reveals? Recently, evidence has been discovered which contradicts the assumed "facts" about dinosaurs, fossils, and their supposed age. It is called soft tissue. Soft tissue in dinosaur fossils proves that dinosaurs cannot be as old as the evolutionary timescale suggests. This paper will discuss the discovery of soft tissue in fossils and how it points to a young earth.

Soft Tissue in Dinosaur Bones

In 2005, bone cells, collagen fragments, proteins, and soft tissues were found in the femur of a *Tyrannosaurus rex*.¹ The soft tissue was still pliable and stretchable. Researchers were able to detect a portion of the amino acid sequence of the *T. rex* from the proteins found.²

This was not the first discovery of soft tissue in fossils. For decades, scientists have been detecting amino acids, microscopic observations of dinosaur cells, and maybe even proteins.³ Since the 2005 *T. rex* soft tissue discovery, scores of other discoveries of soft tissue in a wide range of fossils have been reported. In the rib of a *Triceratops* and in the femur of a hadrosaur, soft and pliable tissue has been found containing cells and collagen.⁴ Soft tissue has been found in the rib of a supposedly 195-million-year-old *Lufengosaurus*, a long-necked, plant-eating dinosaur.⁵ Chitin (the main component of arthropod and crustacean exoskeletons) has been

1 Mary H. Schweitzer, Jennifer L. Wittmeyer, John R. Horner, & Jan K. Toporski, "Soft-Tissue Vessels and Cellular Preservation in *Tyrannosaurus rex*," *Science* 307(5717) (March 25, 2005):1952-1955.

2 Kevin Anderson, *Echoes of the Jurassic*, 2nd edition, 2017, Creation Research Society, pp. 3-7.

3 *Ibid.*, p. 4.

4 *Ibid.*, p. 16.

5 "Dino rib yields evidence of oldest soft tissue remains," <https://phys.org/print405089461.html> (Accessed March 10, 2019).

detected in a sea scorpion dated at 417 million years old, in a sponge dated at 505 million years, and in beard worms dated at 551 million years old. Amide groups (nitrogen and carbonyl containing derivatives of proteins) have been detected in microfossils (microscopic fossils) dated at 1.88 billion years old.⁶ In a mosasaur dated at 80 million years old, soft tissue (possibly from the retina) has been found.⁷ These are only a few of the many soft tissue discoveries that have been reported by scientists.⁸

These discoveries have been a surprise to the scientific world. If fossils are truly millions of years old, no remaining soft tissue should be found in them.

The Evolutionists' "Explanation"

Evolutionists believe dinosaur bones are millions of years old; however, soft tissue has been discovered in these fossils. How could this be, since "the maximum longevity of original proteinaceous matter in vertebrate hard tissues has been estimated at 3.8 million years, although molecular remnants have been reported from older rocks"⁹? If soft tissue can only persist for a maximum of 3.8 million years, then why is soft tissue being found in dinosaur fossils supposedly 68 million years old and even older?

Evolutionary scientists are scrambling to find some explanation for this challenge to their timescale. As one scientist puts it, "Deep time is the lynchpin of evolution. If you don't have deep time, you don't have evolution. The whole discussion of evolution ends if you show that the earth is young."¹⁰

Evolutionary scientists have proposed several hypotheses for how soft tissue could have been preserved for millions of years, but each has failed to hold up under scientific scrutiny. Two of the most commonly known

6 Ibid., p. 24.

7 Johan Lindgren, Michael W. Caldwell, Takuya Konishi, & Luis M. Chiappe, "Convergent Evolution in Aquatic Tetrapods: Insights from an Exceptional Fossil Mosasaur," *PLoS One* 5(8):e11998.

8 Brian Thomas, "Does the Toast Model Explain Fossil Protein Persistence?," [https://www.icr.org/article/11137%22%3EDoes%20the%20toast%20model%20explain%20fossil%20protein%20persistence%20Acts%20&%20Facts%20\(Impact\),%2048\(3\)%20March%202019](https://www.icr.org/article/11137%22%3EDoes%20the%20toast%20model%20explain%20fossil%20protein%20persistence%20Acts%20&%20Facts%20(Impact),%2048(3)%20March%202019) (Accessed March 10, 2019).

9 Jasmina Wiemann, Matteo Fabbri, Tzu-Ruei Yang, Koen Stein, P. Martin Sander, Mark A. Norrell, and Derek E. G. Briggs, "Fossilization transforms vertebrate hard tissue proteins into N-heterocyclic polymers," *Nature Communications* 2018 9:4741, p. 2.

10 Chad Dou, "University settles lawsuit with scientist fired after he found soft tissue in dinosaur bones," <http://blog.godreports.com/2017/08/university-settles-lawsuit-with-scientist-fired-after-he-found-soft-tissue-in-dinosaur-bones/> (Accessed March 10, 2019).

are the modern bacterial contamination argument, in which it is claimed that bacterial biofilms were mistaken for soft tissue; and the iron preservation model, in which iron in the dinosaur's blood catalyzed a crosslinking reaction which preserved the proteins.^{11, 12} A new and recent solution has been proposed, which we will now examine.

Polymer Protection

While studying dinosaur and other fossil bones, a team of scientists noticed “dark coloration in or near soft tissues.” After experimenting with toasting modern bone and eggshell on a hot plate, they found darkened proteins similar to those in fossilized bone.¹³ This is the basis on which they worked to produce the following hypothesis.

During fossilization, certain proteins oxidized, causing them to crosslink and form a polymer “cage.” This polymer “cage” then preserved the soft tissue. This “cage” is said to be waterproof and resistant to bacterial decay, thus protecting the soft tissue under it from water and bacteria for millions of years.¹⁴

Yet even this proposal does not stand under further examination. For several reasons, this explanation is not satisfactory.¹⁵

1. Not all fossils containing soft tissue have the dark coloration.
2. No evidence has been found that the polymer cage could protect the soft tissue from hydrolysis (when water molecules cause a chemical breakdown in proteins) or oxygen.

11 Brian Thomas, “Does the Toast Model Explain Fossil Protein Persistence?,” [https://www.icr.org/article/11137%22%3EDoes%20the%20toast%20model%20explain%20fossil%20protein%20persistence%20Acts%20&%20Facts%20\(Impact\),%2048\(3\)%20March%202019](https://www.icr.org/article/11137%22%3EDoes%20the%20toast%20model%20explain%20fossil%20protein%20persistence%20Acts%20&%20Facts%20(Impact),%2048(3)%20March%202019) (Accessed March 10, 2019).

12 Kevin Anderson, *Echoes of the Jurassic*, 2nd edition, 2017, Creation Research Society.

13 Brian Thomas, “Does the Toast Model Explain Fossil Protein Persistence?,” [https://www.icr.org/article/11137%22%3EDoes%20the%20toast%20model%20explain%20fossil%20protein%20persistence%20Acts%20&%20Facts%20\(Impact\),%2048\(3\)%20March%202019](https://www.icr.org/article/11137%22%3EDoes%20the%20toast%20model%20explain%20fossil%20protein%20persistence%20Acts%20&%20Facts%20(Impact),%2048(3)%20March%202019) (Accessed March 10, 2019).

14 Ibid.

15 Ibid.

3. No evidence has been found to show that the polymers themselves can last for millions of years. As one scientist says, “The researchers’ reason that molecular shields preserve nearby proteins for millions of years because [*sic*] the protein-bearing fossils are millions of years old. That’s circular reasoning, not good science.”¹⁶ They have not proven these polymers will indeed remain intact for millions of years or remain strong enough to protect the soft tissue for those millions of years; it is just assumed.
4. This hypothesis only tries to explain hard, crusty proteins protecting protein remnants.¹⁷ It does not explain stretchable, flexible, pliable pieces of soft tissue.

Where does the evidence point?

What does soft tissue found in fossilized dinosaur bones show? It does not support an evolutionary timescale of millions of years, but it does fit into a young-earth and Biblical creationist view in several ways. First, soft tissue in dinosaur bones is evidence that dinosaurs are not as old as previously thought, and could easily have lived very recently, only thousands of years ago. Second, if the above is true, then the rock layers containing dinosaur fossils must have been laid down recently and quickly, as in the Biblical worldwide Flood. This is contrary to the evolutionary hypothesis that rock layers were laid down slowly over millions of years. Third, if both observations above are true, that means the crash of the evolutionary timescale and geologic column, leaving recent creation as the only reasonable explanation for our world.

Conclusion

The presence of soft tissue in dinosaur fossils proves they are young. Evolutionists have tried multiple times to explain away the evidence—they have tried excusing the soft tissue as “contamination” and have tried

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

to explain how soft tissue can last 68+ million years—but these potential solutions are not realistic answers. Soft tissue points to young dinosaur fossils, a worldwide flood, a young earth, and a recent creation.

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened” (Romans 1:20-21).

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