

# Creation Evolution: The Fossil Record



Pastor Michael Walther, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, Illinois 2008

1. The word “fossil” comes from the Latin word *fossus* which literally means “having been dug up.” They are the mineralized remains of plants, insects, and animals.



2. Fossils are formed when an organism dies and is covered with sediment. As the tissues and bones disintegrate, they are replaced by minerals that solidify.

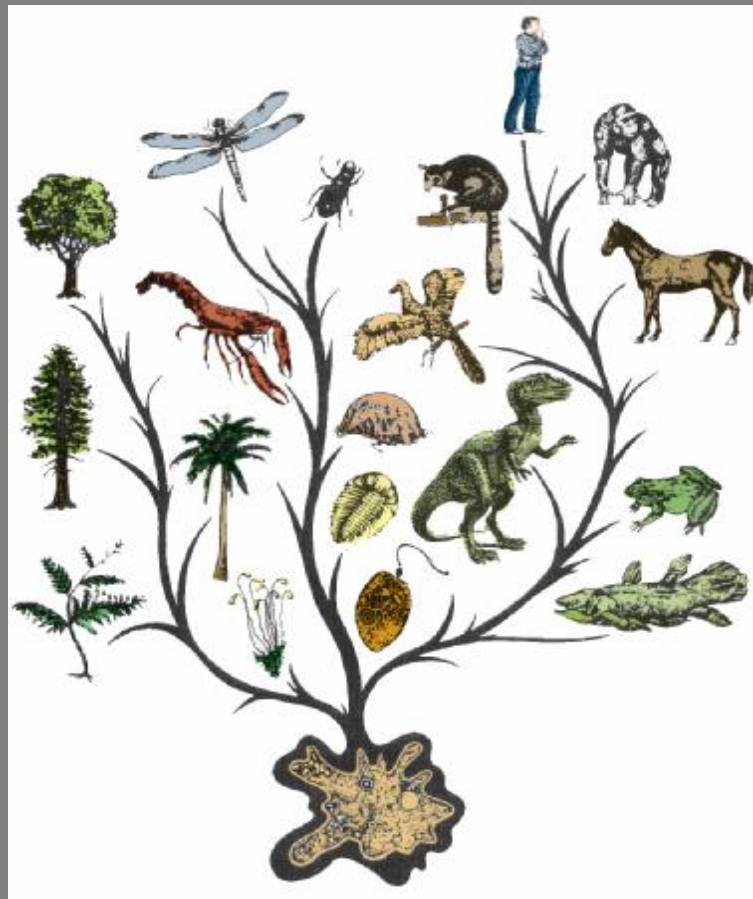


Fossil of a rainforest tree discovered in a coal mine near Danville, Illinois 2007

3. The fossil record tells us that there have been a wide variety of organisms that have become extinct.





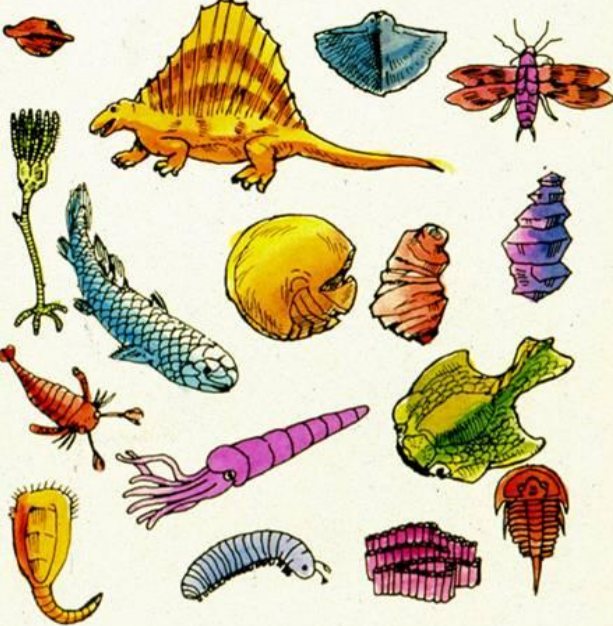
4. Darwin's theory predicted that scientists would find many transitional forms in the fossil record.



From: *Young Earth* by  
John Morris



## GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE








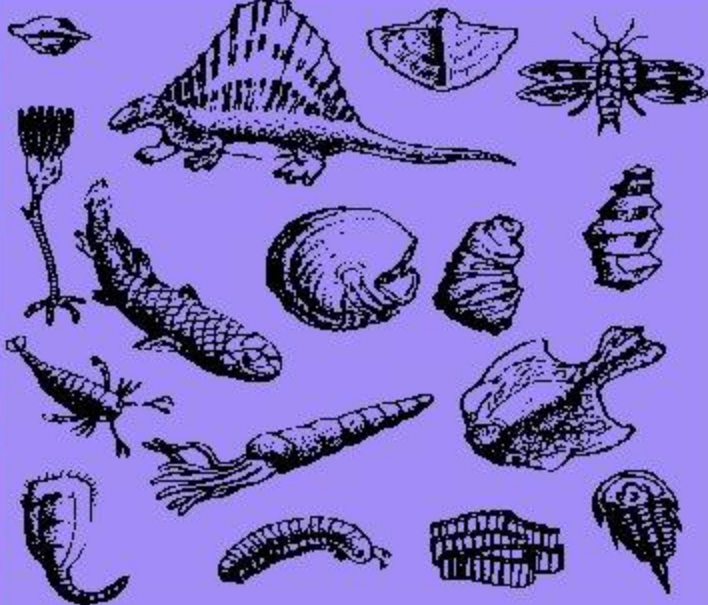




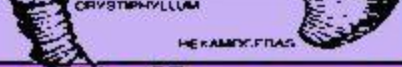


ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	SUCCESION OF LIFE
CENOZOIC <i>recent life</i>	<b>QUATERNARY</b> 0-1 Million Years Rise of Man	Recent Pleistocene	
	<b>TERTIARY</b> 62 Million Years Rise of Mammals	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene	
MESOZOIC <i>middle life</i>	<b>CRETACEOUS</b> 72 Million Years Modern seed bearing plants. Dinosaurs		
	<b>JURASSIC</b> 46 Million Years First birds		
	<b>TRIASSIC</b> 49 Million Years Cycads, first dinosaurs		
PALEOZOIC <i>ancient life</i>	<b>PERMIAN</b> 50 Million Years First reptiles		
	<b>PENNSYLVANIAN</b> 30 Million Years First insects		
	<b>MISSISSIPPIAN</b> 35 Million Years Many crinoids		
	<b>DEVONIAN</b> 60 Million Years First seed plants, cartilage fish		
	<b>SILURIAN</b> 20 Million Years Earliest land animals		
	<b>ORDOVICIAN</b> 75 Million Years Early bony fish		
	<b>CAMBRIAN</b> 100 Million Years Invertebrate animals, Brachiopods, Trilobites		
	<b>PRECAMBRIAN</b> Very few fossils present (bacteria-algae-pollen?)		

# Cambrian Explosion





## GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE

ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	SUCCESION OF LIFE	INDEX FOSSILS
CENOZOIC <i>recent life</i>	<b>QUATERNARY</b> 0-1 Million Years Rise of Man	Recent Pleistocene		Pecten      Meryxina 
	<b>TERTIARY</b> 62 Million Years Rise of Mammals	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene Paleocene		Calyptrogonus      Ymeriacardia 
MESOZOIC <i>middle life</i>	<b>CRETACEOUS</b> 72 Million Years Modern seed bearing plants, Dinosaurs		Scaphites      Inoceramus 	
	<b>JURASSIC</b> 46 Million Years First birds		Nerinea      Perisphinctes 	
	<b>TRIASSIC</b> 49 Million Years Cycads, first dinosaurs		Trochites      Monotis 	
PALEOZOIC <i>ancient life</i>	<b>PERMIAN</b> 50 Million Years First reptiles		Leptodus      Parafusulina 	
	Carboniferous <b>PENNSYLVANIAN</b> 30 Million Years First insects		Lophospirillum Dictyonostus 	
	<b>MISSISSIPPIAN</b> 35 Million Years Many crinoids		Cactocrinus      Prolecanites 	
	<b>DEVONIAN</b> 60 Million Years First seed plants, cartilage fish		Palmatolepis      Microspirella 	
	<b>SILURIAN</b> 20 Million Years Earliest land animals		Crystiphyllum      Hexameria 	
	<b>ORDOVICIAN</b> 75 Million Years Early bony fish		Bathyrhis (Trilobites)      Tetragraptus 	
	<b>CAMBRIAN</b> 100 Million Years Invertebrate animals, Brachiopods, Trilobites		Paradoxides (Trilobites)      Billingsella 	
	<b>PRECAMBRIAN</b> Very few fossils present (bacteria-algae-plant?)			

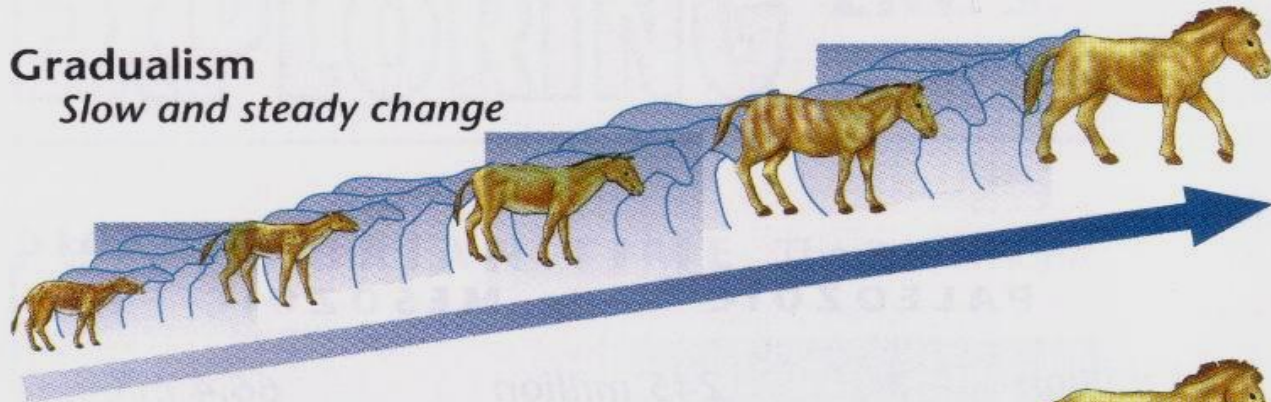


Why is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely-graduated organic chain; and this is the most obvious and serious objection which can be urged against the theory. (Origin of Species, p. 413)

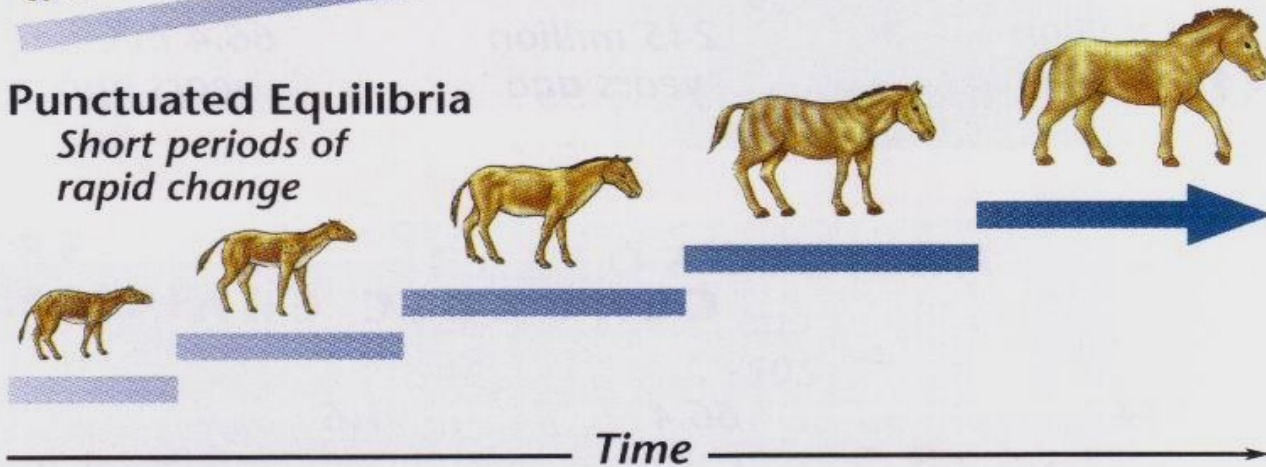
5. There are very few transitional forms.  
All are debatable.



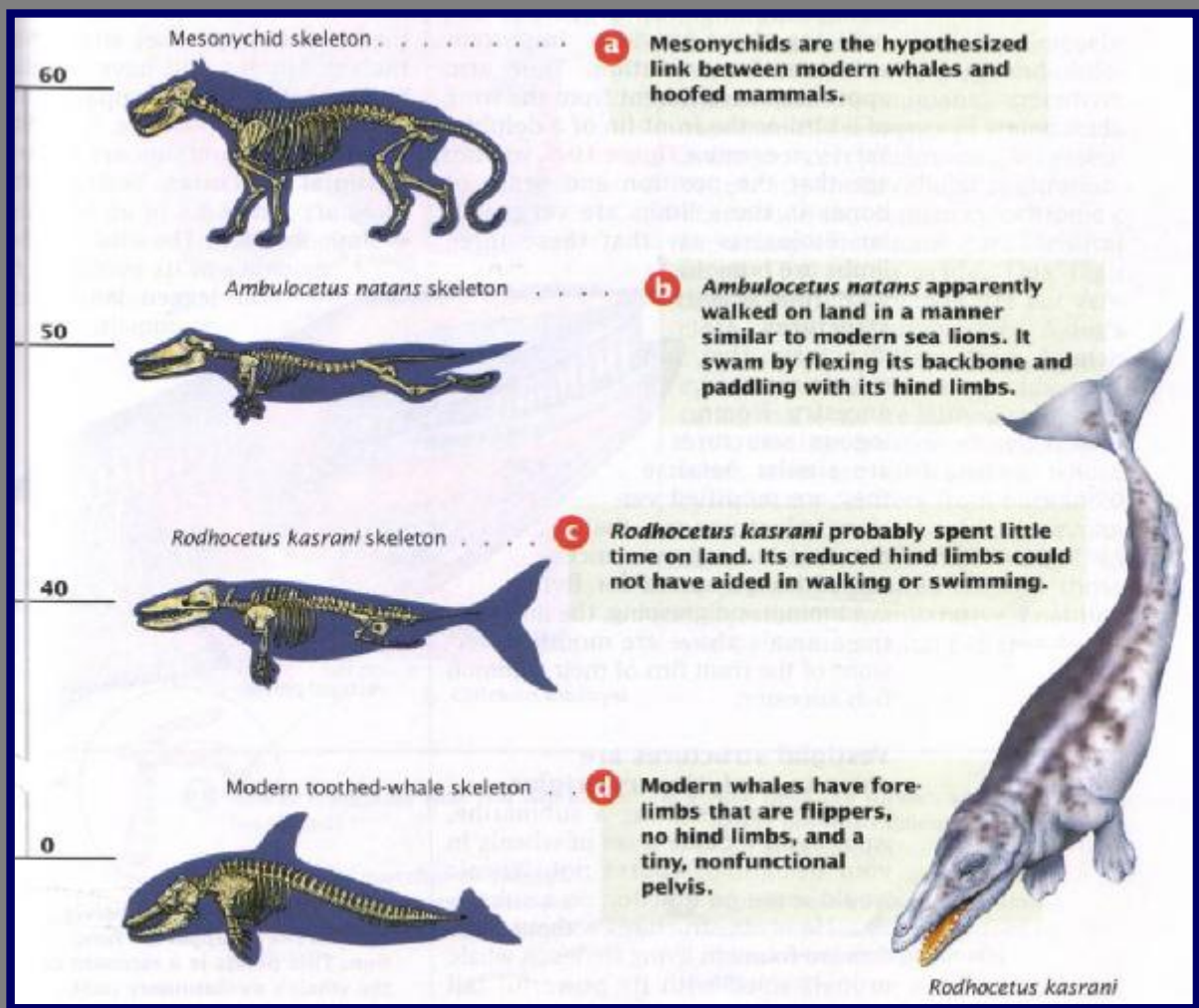
**Gradualism**  
*Slow and steady change*



**Punctuated Equilibria**  
*Short periods of rapid change*



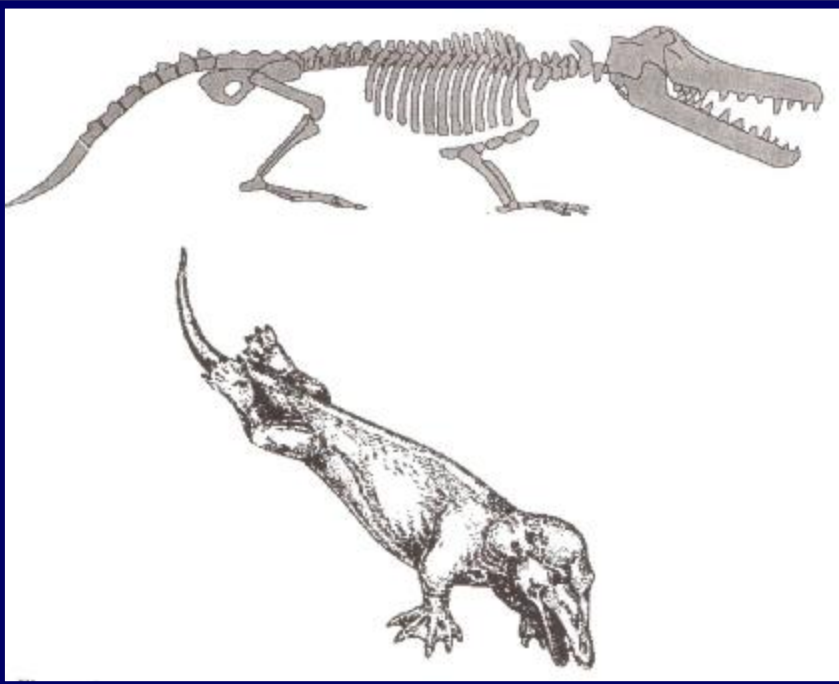
# 6. Example: Evolution of the whale





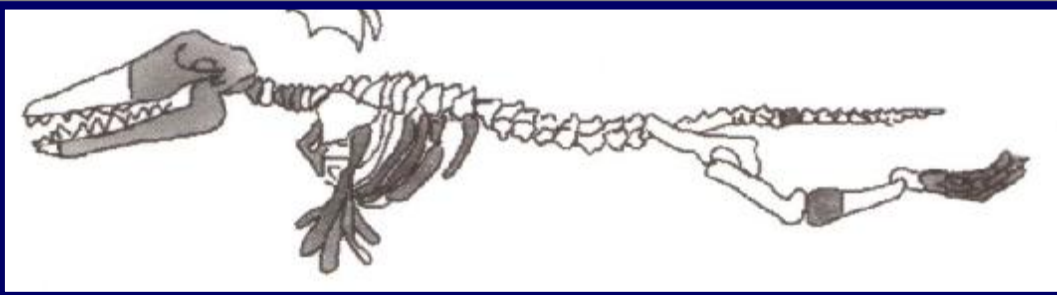
# Stretching the Facts

Kenneth Miller, *Finding Darwin's God*, 1999, p. 265.



Ambulocetus skeleton, as drawn in Miller's book

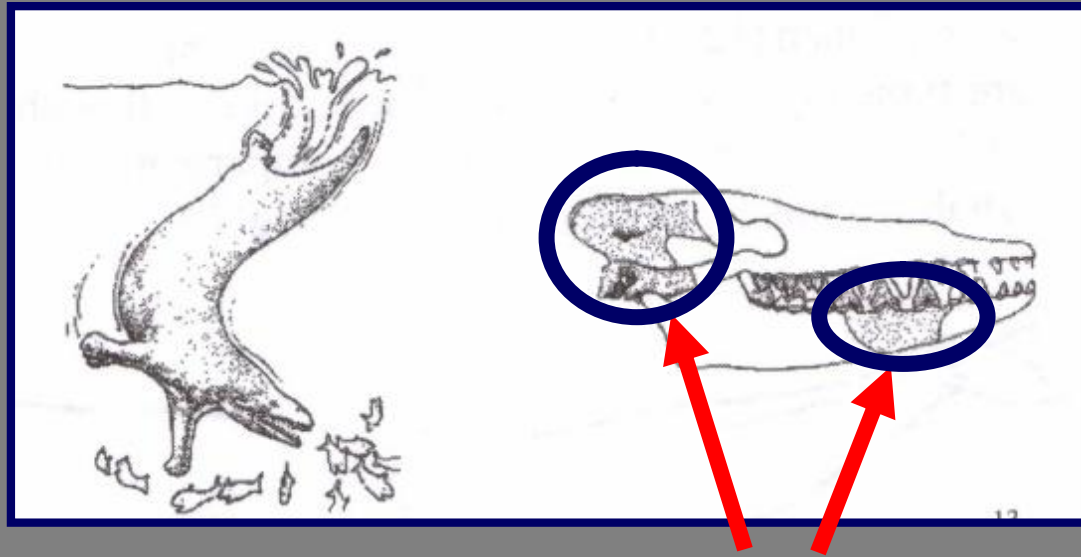
Ambulocetus reconstruction, as drawn in Miller's book



Actual bones found (shaded portion)

# Stretching the Facts

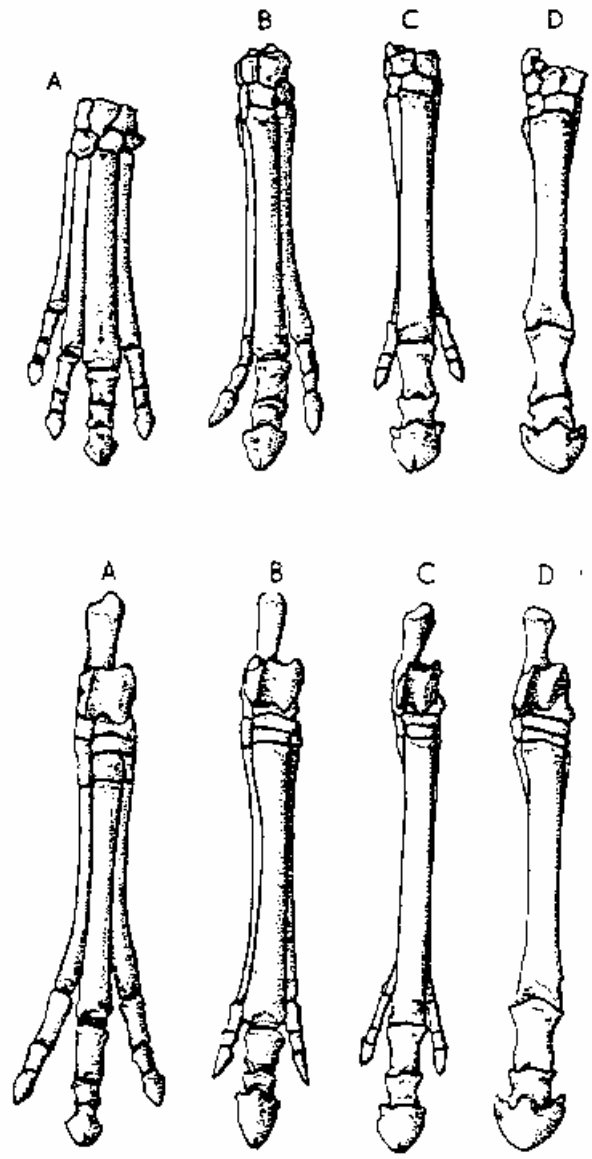
## Pakicetus: another candidate for whale evolution



Artist  
reconstruction

Only the shaded  
portions of the skull  
were found

# 7. Evolution of the Horse



**Dr Niles Eldredge, curator of the  
American Museum of Natural  
History, has said:**



*'I admit that an awful lot of that [imaginary stories] has gotten into the textbooks as though it were true. For instance, the most famous example still on exhibit downstairs [in the American Museum] is the exhibit on horse evolution prepared perhaps 50 years ago. That has been presented as literal truth in textbook after textbook. Now I think that that is lamentable ... '.*