

65:2 (“The Overcontrol of Evolution”)

© 2017 Matthew Block

Sources for 65:2

- (1) Ernest William **Barnes**, *Scientific Theory and Religion: The World described by Science and its Spiritual interpretation* (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1933)
- (2) Charles **Schuchert**, *A Text-book of Geology, Part II: Historical Geology, Second, Revised Edition* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1924)

Note: See Appendix for Fig. 2, Genealogical tree of animal life.

Key

- (a) **Green** indicates where a source author first appears, or where he/she reappears.
- (b) **Yellow** highlights most parallelisms.
- (c) **Tan** highlights parallelisms not occurring on the same row.
- (d) An underlined word or words indicates where the source and the UB writer pointedly differ from each other.
- (e) **Blue** indicates original (or “revealed”) information, or UB-specific terminology and concepts. (What to highlight in this regard is debatable; the highlights are tentative.)

Matthew Block
23 April 2017

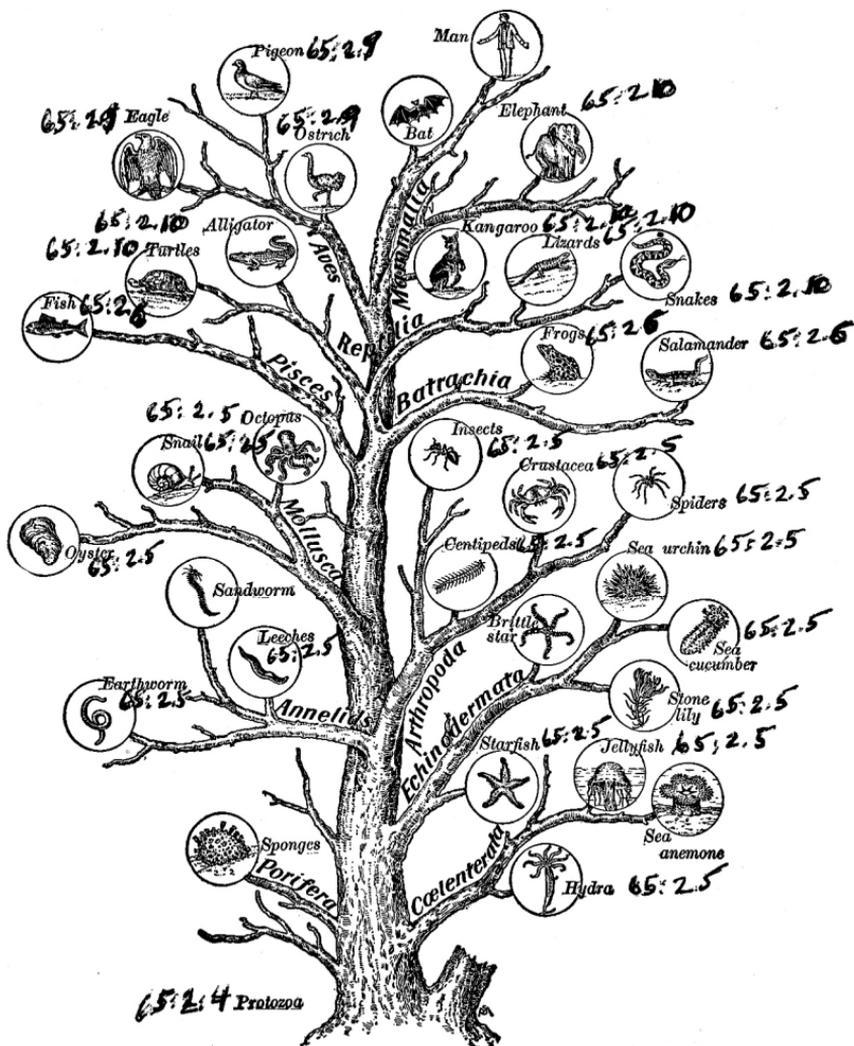


Fig. 2. — Genealogical tree of animal life, showing only the main branches (phyla). The diagram suggests the common origin of all animals in succession, with constant progressive change from the lowest (Protozoa) to more specialized types, and culminating in mammals and birds. The branching of a tree is usually taken to symbolize this interrelationship, but it should not be inferred that the origin of each phylum is in harmony with the branches as shown in this tree. Study this diagram with the one on page 19. From Gruenberg's *Elementary Biology* (Ginn and Company).

Work-in-progress Version 23 April 2017
 © 2017 Matthew Block

PAPER 65 — THE OVERCONTROL OF EVOLUTION

2. THE EVOLUTIONARY PANORAMA

65:2.1 The story of man's ascent from seaweed to the lordship of earthly creation is indeed a romance of biologic struggle and mind survival. Man's primordial ancestors were literally the slime and ooze of the ocean bed in the sluggish and warm-water bays and lagoons of the vast shore lines of the ancient inland seas, those very waters in which the Life Carriers established the three independent life implantations on Urantia.

65:2.2 Very few species of the early types of marine vegetation that participated in those epochal changes which resulted in the animallike borderland organisms are in existence today. The sponges are the survivors of one of these early midway types, those organisms through which the *gradual* transition from the vegetable to the animal took place.

These early transition forms, while not identical with modern sponges, were much like them; they were true borderline organisms—neither vegetable nor animal—but they eventually led to the development of the true animal forms of life.¹

[!]

[Compare 58:6.1, where slime molds are given as examples of transition organisms rather than sponges.]

[Fossils of this era yield algae, corallike plants, primitive Protozoa, and spongelike transition organisms (58:7.2).]

[!]

65:2.3 The bacteria, simple vegetable organisms of a very primitive nature, are very little changed from the early dawn of life; they even exhibit a degree of retrogression in their parasitic behavior.

XIII: THE EVOLUTION OF PLANTS AND SEX (Barnes 434)

§332. *The most primitive plants.* (Barnes 435)

It is probable that the *fungi* developed from the algae and subsequently lost the power of making chlorophyll.

They do not need chlorophyll as they are either parasitic on living organisms or saprophytic on their dead products or remains. Probably several groups of algae thus developed into fungi (B 435).

[contd] *Bacteria* are microscopic plants, devoid of chlorophyll, which reproduce by cell-division. They depend for their nutrition upon organic matter. They are rightly classed as minute *fungi*, though they may have arisen either from the *viruses* described in §310 or by some parallel process. Most of our infectious diseases are caused by *bacteria* (B 435).

Many of the *fungi* also represent a retrograde movement in evolution, being plants

which have lost their chlorophyll-making ability

and have become more or less parasitic.

The majority of disease-causing *bacteria* and their auxiliary *virus* bodies really belong to this group of renegade parasitic *fungi*.

During the intervening ages all of the vast kingdom of plant life has evolved from ancestors from which the bacteria have also descended.

II: ORGANISMS, THEIR COMPOSITION, STRUCTURE, AND CLASSIFICATION (Schuchert 5)

CLASSIFICATION OF ORGANISMS (Schuchert 12)

Fig. 2.—Genealogical tree of animal life, showing only the main branches (phyla). (Schuchert 13) [*Note:* See Appendix for Fig. 2.]

Protozoa (S 13)

Extinction of Species and Races. (Schuchert 11)

[A] great many stocks have died out ... Other stocks ... are gone as such but have been transmuted into different and still living ones ... Finally, some stocks appear never to die out, as the “immortal protozoans,” best seen in the amoeba (page 9) ... (S 12).

[**Fig. 1.**— Cells and cell structure. ... B, a single-celled animal, *Amoeba*; (S 9)]

65:2.4 The higher protozoan type of animal life soon appeared, and appeared *suddenly*.

And from these far-distant times

the ameba, the typical single-celled animal organism, has come on down but little modified.

He disports himself today much as he did when he was the last and greatest achievement in life evolution.

This minute creature and his protozoan cousins are to the animal creation what bacteria are to the plant kingdom; they represent the survival of the first early evolutionary steps in life differentiation together with *failure of subsequent development*.

XI: THE ARCHEOZOIC ERA
(Schuchert 143)

Evidence of Life in the Archeozoic (Schuchert 152)

Probable Life of Archeozoic Time.
(Schuchert 156)

By easy stages the **single-celled** plants (Protophyta) and **animals** (Protozoa) passed into the more and more complex ones, the many-celled Metaphyta and Metazoa.

The development of living metazoan animals is variably rapid from the fertilized cells into a small **community** of cells ... (S 157).

Such aggregates, developing no higher, are alive to-day (e.g., *Volvox*, a colonial protozoan ...) (S 157).

II: ORGANISMS, THEIR COMPOSITION, STRUCTURE, AND CLASSIFICATION (Schuchert 5)

CLASSIFICATION OF ORGANISMS (Schuchert 12)

Fig. 2.—Genealogical tree of animal life, showing only the main branches (phyla). (Schuchert 13)

Cœlenterata (S 13)

Echinodermata (S 13)

Arthropoda (S 13)

Annelids (S 13)

Mollusca (S 13)

65:2.5 Before long the early **single-celled animal** types associated themselves in **communities**,

first on the plan of the *Volvox*

and presently along the lines of the *Hydra* and **jellyfish**.

Still later there evolved the **starfish**, **stone lilies**, **sea urchins**, **sea cucumbers**,

centipedes, **insects**, **spiders**, **crustaceans**,

and the closely related groups of **earthworms** and **leeches**,

soon followed by the **mollusks**—the **oyster**, **octopus**, and **snail**.

Hundreds upon hundreds of species intervened and perished; mention is made only of those which survived the long, long struggle. Such nonprogressive specimens, together with the later appearing fish family, today represent the stationary types of early and lower animals, branches of the tree of life which failed to progress.

Pisces (S 13)

65:2.6 The stage was thus set for the appearance of the first backboned animals, the **fishes**.

From this fish family

Batrachia (S 13)

there sprang two unique modifications, the **frog** and the **salamander**.

And it was the frog which began that series of progressive differentiations in animal life that finally culminated in man himself.

65:2.7 The frog is one of the earliest of surviving human-race ancestors, but it also failed to progress, persisting today much as in those remote times.

[The surviving members of the early reptilian families are turtles, snakes, and crocodiles, together with the venerable frog, the only remaining group representative of man's earlier ancestors (61:2.9).]

The frog is the only species ancestor of the early dawn races now living on the face of the earth.

The human race has no surviving ancestry between the frog and the Eskimo.

Reptilia (S 13)

65:2.8 The frogs gave rise to the **Reptilia**,

a great animal family which is virtually extinct, but which, before passing out of existence, gave origin to

Aves (S 13)

the whole bird family

Mammalia (S 13)

and the numerous orders of mammals.

XII: THE ORIGIN OF LIFE AND THE GEOLOGIC RECORD (Barnes 411)

§323. *The origin of the birds.* (Barnes 427)

[contd] The most surprising development of the whole Mesozoic era was, without doubt, the change by which a reptile became a bird (B 427).

65:2.9 Probably the greatest single leap of all prehuman evolution was executed when the reptile became a bird.

II: ORGANISMS, THEIR COMPOSITION, STRUCTURE, AND CLASSIFICATION (Schuchert 5)

CLASSIFICATION OF ORGANISMS (Schuchert 12)

Fig. 2.—Genealogical tree of animal life, showing only the main branches (phyla). (Schuchert 13)

Aves (S 13)

The bird types of today—

eagles, ducks, pigeons, and ostriches—

all descended from the enormous reptiles of long, long ago.

65:2.10 The kingdom of reptiles, descended from the frog family, is today represented by four surviving divisions:

Reptilia (S 13)

two nonprogressive, snakes and lizards, together with their cousins, alligators and turtles;

one partially progressive, the bird family, and the fourth, the ancestors of mammals and the direct line of descent of the human species.

Mammalia (S 13)

Mammalia (S 13)

Grouping of Organisms. (Schuchert 14)

Only about **fourteen** times in the history of life upon the earth have new animal **phyla** appeared.

No new phylum has been evolved since the appearance of the **fishes** in the Champlainian,

and **no new classes** since the mammals and the **birds** of the Triassic (S 15).

[Early in this period and in North America the placental type of mammals *suddenly* appeared ... The father of the placental mammals was a small, highly active, carnivorous, springing type of dinosaur (61:1.2).]

[And on Urantia you still have a group of diminutive mammals (the **bat family**) that are **air navigators**, and your **seals and whales**, of **marine** habitat, are also of the mammalian order (49:2.17).]

But though long departed, the massiveness of the passing Reptilia found echo in

the **elephant** and mastodon,

while their peculiar forms were perpetuated in

the leaping **kangaroos**.

65:2.11 Only **fourteen** **phyla** have appeared on Urantia,

the **fishes** being the last,

and **no new classes** have developed since **birds and mammals**.

65:2.12 It was from an agile little reptilian dinosaur of carnivorous habits but having a comparatively large brain that the placental mammals *suddenly* sprang.

These mammals developed rapidly and in many different ways, not only giving rise to the common modern varieties

but also evolving into **marine** types, such as **whales and seals**, and into **air navigators** like the **bat family**.

65:2.13 Man thus evolved from the higher mammals derived principally from the *western implantation* of life in the ancient east-west sheltered seas. The *eastern* and *central groups* of living organisms were early progressing favorably toward the attainment of prehuman levels of animal existence. But as the ages passed, the eastern focus of life emplacement failed to attain a satisfactory level of intelligent prehuman status, having suffered such repeated and irretrievable losses of its highest types of germ plasm that it was forever shorn of the power to rehabilitate human potentialities.

65:2.14 Since the quality of the mind capacity for development in this eastern group was so definitely inferior to that of the other two groups, the Life Carriers, with the consent of their superiors, so manipulated the environment as further to circumscribe these inferior prehuman strains of evolving life. To all outward appearances the elimination of these inferior groups of creatures was accidental, but in reality it was altogether purposeful.

65:2.15 Later in the evolutionary unfolding of intelligence, the lemur ancestors of the human species were far more advanced in North America than in other regions; and they were therefore *led* to

[Several million years ago the North American type lemurs had migrated westward over the Bering land bridge and had slowly made their way southwestward along the Asiatic coast (62:1.2).]

migrate from the arena of western life implantation over the Bering land bridge and down the coast to southwestern Asia,

where they continued to evolve

[But before establishing the direct line of human ancestry, this strain was reinforced by contributions from the central life implantation evolved in Africa (62:0.1).]

and to benefit by the addition of certain strains of the central life group.

Man thus evolved out of certain western and central life strains but in the central to near- eastern regions.

65:2.16 In this way the life that was planted on Urantia evolved until the ice age, when man himself first appeared and began his eventful planetary career. **And this appearance of primitive man on earth during the ice age was not just an accident; it was by design.** The rigors and climatic severity of the glacial era were in every way adapted to the purpose of fostering the production of a hardy type of human being with tremendous survival endowment.

1. Zoologists were once unsure as to whether sponges were animals. One zoologist wrote in 1883:

The position of the Sponges has been much disputed. At first they were thought to be on the border-line between animals and plants, and were assigned by some to the animals and by others to the vegetables. Later, and up to very recent years, they were assigned to the Protozoa. The discovery of their mode of reproduction and development has determined that they belong to the Metazoa (James Orton, M.A., Ph.D., *Comparative Zoology* [1883], p. 251).

Schuchert, in Fig. 2 [see Appendix], lists Porifera, the phylum which includes the sponges, as a branch of the genealogical tree of animal life. The author of Paper 65 skips Porifera in his summary of the evolution of animal life. The UB's denial that sponges (at least the primitive ones) are or were unambiguously animal, runs counter to the zoological consensus of the 20th and 21st centuries.