

However, if this argument is rejected, then what alternative explanation can be given for the existence of structural similarity? One could, of course, deny structural similarity. But that would be flying in the face of universally verifiable facts? But if we admit the facts, what explanation can we as Christians give for them?

6. Taxonomy and Special Creation

a. Linnaeus and special creation

Linnaeus, the father of taxonomy, was an ardent advocate of the special creation view. He is famous for the statement, "There are just so many species as in the beginning the infinite Being created." He held that all of the true species were created as they are known today, except that new combinations may have arisen through hybridization or through degeneration. Later in life, he felt that the "kinds" which God had created were not species, but genera.

Linnaeus explained structural similarity (on the basis of which he constructed his classification) by the theory of archetypes. This theory assumes that the Creator created according to a series of mental plans or blueprints. Thus the hierarchy of taxonomic levels corresponds to a hierarchy of archetypes.

This consideration should point up the fact that evolution is not a necessary adjunct of the classification. Linnaeus developed the basis of the classification, and he was a special creationist!

b. Structural similarity and special creation

(1) Statement of the Problem

If the evolutionary concept of genetic relationship be rejected as the explanation of structural similarity, then what other explanation can be offered by the Christian to explain this fact?

The special creationist must attempt to determine:

- (a) whether structural similarity exists purely by virtue of God's *ex nihilo* Creation (with structural similarity) of all extinct and extant species; or
- (b) whether structural similarity exists purely by virtue of God's immediate creation (with structural similarity) of all extinct and extant species; or
- (c) whether structural similarity exists partly by virtue of God's immediate creation (with structural similarity) of some species and partly by virtue of God's mediate creation (with variation) of other species; or
- (d) whether structural similarity exists partly by virtue of God's immediate creation (with structural similarity) of a number of basic kinds and partly by virtue of God's mediate creation (with a considerable amount of variation) of the descendants of the basic kinds (all the extinct and extant species which have descended from the original basic kinds).