



# Beetle explodes evolution!

We are continually being told we have all evolved. However, the story of the bombardier beetle is a very simple example of how ridiculous this generally accepted theory of evolution is.

Everyone knows what a beetle is. They are usually black, with long legs and shiny backs, and spend the day hiding underneath stones or in crevices. The natural enemies of beetles are birds, bats, lizards, snakes, frogs and some large insects. But anything approaching a bombardier beetle, in the hope of a tasty mouthful, is in for a nasty surprise.

## Armed Defence

The beetle is equipped with two tail guns. If it gets too near, an enemy will be startled by an explosion, blinded by a cloud of smoke and discouraged from trying to eat it by a very nasty smelling vapour that stings the eyes. The beetle then has time to escape.

Scientists have worked out how the bombardier beetle manages its performance.

It has two glands for producing explosive liquid, two storage tanks, two combustion chambers and two tubes - like gun barrels - for aiming at the enemy. The liquid produced by the glands contains hydrogen peroxide and hydroquinone. These two chemicals would instantly react with one another and explode without an inhibitor in the liquid. (An inhibitor is a chemical which prevents the reaction.)

At a moment's notice, the beetle can squirt the stored liquid into its combustion chambers. An anti-inhibitor is mixed in and *very quickly* the liquid is fired at the enemy, exploding as it leaves the twin aiming tubes.

Now we come to the question which must be faced by all those who believe in evolution: How could all this come about by

chance? The theory of evolution teaches that all creatures have become what they are by means of thousands of very small changes, over millions of years. If a change does not "benefit" the creature, it will die out. This is called "survival of the fittest".

Let's consider the small changes that would need to have happened to turn a normal beetle, gradually, into a bombardier beetle.

### STEP 1: Developing the glands to produce the explosive chemicals.

This is very unlikely to happen just by chance, but if it did, the first time it produced this liquid it would blow itself up! This new type of beetle would not survive. But let us imagine, for the sake of argument that it does. (*Thousands of years pass*)

### STEP 2: The beetle develops another gland which produces an inhibitor.

The beetle is no longer in danger of blowing himself up. But it has no way of using the explosives and so they are useless and merely 'sit around' corroding the beetle's innards. As the change is not "beneficial", the creature would die out. (*Thousands of years pass*)

### STEP 3: By chance a storage chamber is produced.

All the beetle can now do is safely manufacture and store the explosive mixture. The extra glands and chamber are a useless handicap and in the tough battle for survival the new beetle will quickly die out. (*Thousands of years pass*)

### STEP 4: An anti-inhibitor is produced inside the beetle to allow explosions to take place.

Do we now have a fully evolved bombardier beetle?

No, for when the anti-inhibitor is added to the liquid, the beetle blows itself up again. It would die out! (*Thousands of years pass*)

### STEP 5: The beetle must develop combustion chambers and aiming tubes.

Both of these changes would take hundreds of thousands of generations and all the time the beetle would be living under the handicap of having several useless organs, competing with normal healthy beetles for a limited food supply and continually blowing itself up by accident. Since it cannot co-ordinate the mixing of its chemicals it would die out.

*If a change does not benefit...it will die out*

*(Thousands of years pass)*

**STEP 6: Take aim and... fire!**

Firing the beetle's gun needs a lot of careful synchronisation and it has got to be right *first* time! A control system is needed so that it can recognise an enemy, know when it is being threatened and time the mixing of its chemical explosives perfectly.

The bombardier beetle must have all its component parts (such as glands, storage chamber, chemicals, nervous control, etc) together at once. Individually they are useless or even dangerous to it. Clearly the principle of the "survival of the fittest" works against the beetle's evolution, not for it.

But was this beetle's precision weapon a product of chance or was it designed? There can only be one answer if the evidence is examined. Everything about the beetle points to the genius of a mighty Creator. The bombardier beetle is just one example of creation. Thousands of others (such as the giraffe, sperm whale, monarch butterfly and a bacterial flagellum) could be given.

From the tiniest microbes to the vast galaxies we see the hand of God.

But why is man so unwilling to believe that he is made by God? Why will he clutch at anything that gives an alternative explanation? The reason is that man knows that if God has created him then he has a responsibility to

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serve Him, and must one day stand before Him. Because we are by nature rebels against God, we find this distasteful. But instead of running

away from the facts, we should consider what a wonderful Creator we have and want to know what His will is for our lives.

Those who know the Creator recognise not only His power, but His love through the Lord Jesus Christ.