

Re: A question of timing

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.bio.evolution/2005-08/msg00526.html>

- *From:* Michael Nuwer <StopSpam@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 28 Aug 2005 01:02:53 -0400 (EDT)
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whitesickle@xxxxxxx wrote:

> Darwinian evolution in "general" is an extremely long and gradual and
> incremental process which doesn't occur in a generation's lifetime or
> innumerable generations. The changes are imperceptible. It's only
> really been through molecular genetics we've recently been able to draw
> some rough but good speculations and conclusions.

Hi Michael,

In your view is a long and gradual process a necessary property of Darwinian evolution? Or is it just that Darwinian evolution happens to be a long and gradual process in the biological world?

What I'm wishing to understand is whether the principles of Darwinian evolution (variation, inheritance, and selection) can be applied to human culture and institutions. Gould once argued that biological evolution is a bad analogue for cultural change. One of his three reasons is that "cultural evolution can be faster by orders of magnitude than biological change at its maximal Darwinian rate—and questions of timing are of the essence in evolutionary arguments." But he doesn't elaborate on this point.

So I am wondering what it is about Darwinian evolution that requires a long and gradual process.

Michael Nuwer
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- *Follow-Ups:*
 - ◆ ***Re: A question of timing***
 - ◇ *From:* g
 - ◆ ***Re: A question of timing***
 - ◇ *From:* Perplexed in Peoria

Re: A question of timing

- **References:**

- ◆ **A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE**

- ◆ From: g

- ◆ **Re: A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE**

- ◆ From: whitesickle@xxxxxxx

- Prev by Date: **Re: Question: Philosophy of Science – is it Relevant?**

- Next by Date: **PIP in July said**

- Previous by thread: **Re: A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE**

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