

Re: The HP Way

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- *From:* David Brown <david@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 11 Sep 2006 10:04:26 +0200
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Frithiof Andreas Jensen wrote:

"Homer J Simpson" <nobody@xxxxxxxxxxx> skrev i en meddelelse
[news:pR%Lg.59\\$bf5.18@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:pR%Lg.59$bf5.18@xxxxxxxxxxx)

"John Larkin" <jjlarkin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
message news:0p01g253fckek9qkpb9dhkqfunorigqenf@xxxxxxxxxxx

Of course they do. And they evolve better and faster than
random
mutation and natural selection could support.

On which planet(s)?

Everywhere!

Random mutation and natural selection is not the whole story: Whole genes are frequently swapped too between cells are transferred on virii. This increases the rate of "learning".

Perhaps you (and John) misunderstand what is meant by "random mutation". A "mutation" means simply that the next generation's DNA is not the same as its parent's, and "random" means "by chance". There are a number of mechanisms for producing these random mutations – for asexual organisms, the most common one is through random errors while copying the DNA as a cell splits, while for sexual organisms, the most important one is mixing up the genes from two parents (copy errors occur too, but play a smaller role). Other mechanisms, such as viral transfers, are minor effects (except for viruses) – but they too are "random mutations".