

IDCers prefer the explanation of special creation over descent:

reasoning. Stated differently, the harmony of Darwinian evolution and a homologous interpretation for these structures is certainly worth our notice. But in the light of a second set of similarities, such as those shared by placental and marsupial wolves, placental and marsupial moles, etc., the existence of these pouches and bones in Australian mammals merely poses a riddle. They are not actually evidence that macroevolution did occur; for it is an ancient and valid principle of logic that one cannot assume, for argument's sake, the truth of a proposition as a means of proving it.

The Intelligent Design Alternative

Is there any alternative explanation for the marsupial bones and pouches other than that they are homologous and therefore evidence for common ancestry? Yes, another theory is that marsupials were all designed with these reproductive struc-

tures. But, the question might be asked, Why were not the North American placentals given the same bones? Would an intelligent designer withhold these structures from placentals if they were superior to the placental system? At present we do not know; however, we all recognize that an engineer can choose any of several different engineering solutions to overcome a single design problem. An intelligent designer might reasonably be expected to use a variety (if a limited variety) of design approaches to produce a single engineering solution, also. Even if it is assumed that an intelligent designer did indeed have a good reason for every decision that was made, and for including every trait in each organism, it does not follow that such reasons will be obvious to us. These questions can, nevertheless, generate research in areas we might never investigate if we believe no answers exist, as we might if we are convinced that undirected or loosely directed chance

(Pandas, p. 125)