

should then give rise to other new types or phyla and so on.

There is no fossil record of an ancestor for any one of the invertebrate phyla. Further, there is no fossil record of transitional forms between the types or phyla. The standard college textbook on the subject, *Evolution* by Dobzhansky, Ayala, Stebbins, and Valentine, states, "The origins and earliest evolution of the metazoan phyla cannot be documented from fossil evidence."<sup>1</sup> All the phyla simply appear in the fossil record, fully formed and without ancestors. Where did they come from?

This answer is very simple: we don't know because there are no fossils, no records, no clues of any kind.

Our knowledge of the present ecology of the marine animals tells us that several key conditions had to have been present before they could exist in the waters of the Earth. These conditions are: food source (plants such as algae and other organisms); a supply of oxygen for metabolism; and an ozone screen in the upper atmosphere to screen out the Sun's lethal ultraviolet rays. Scientists believe that these requisite ecologic conditions were in place several hundred million years prior to the Cambrian era, although the percentage of oxygen in the oceans may not yet have reached some critical factor.

Scientists also believe that biological developments such as the nucleated cell (eukaryotes) and sexual reproduction had also been accomplished over one billion years ago. Yet the evidence shows thousands of feet of sedimentary strata underlying Cambrian rock that is identical to the Cambrian strata above it. What then marks the boundary between the Precambrian and Cambrian rocks? The abundant presence of fossils of fully formed marine animals in the Cambrian strata. Where did they come from?

One hundred years ago, the explanation for the gaps or missing links was simple: the transitional forms are there, but have not been discovered. Today this explanation has a hollow ring for we have discovered and examined extensive Precambrian strata throughout the world. What has been found? A few rare traces of possible burrows of worms and impressions of jellyfish. These worms and jellyfish were not transitional forms. The fossil impressions indicate fully formed multicellular animals. The transitional forms have not been found. Do they exist?

If, as Darwin envisioned, life evolved in a slow and gradual way, we should expect that somewhere in the 300 million years of extensive Precambrian sedimentary deposits there should be at least one transitional form leading to the invertebrate animals (*Metazoa*). But