

PROFESSOR GOLDSCHMIDT'S THEORY OF MACRO-MUTATIONS

During the years between 1920 and 1960 a highly respected geneticist, Dr. Richard Goldschmidt, Professor of Zoology at the University of California, submitted the Neo-Darwinian view to a very extensive and careful examination and concluded that it has no basis in fact. Goldschmidt declared that natural selection among small mutations may be of importance in the formation of subspecies or varieties, but insisted that no new species, to say nothing of a genus, a family, an order, a class, or a phylum, is ever formed in this way.

Unwilling to consider the possibility of supernatural agency in the origin of the various types of life, Goldschmidt offered a substitute theory that is very similar to the saltation theory of De Vries and of others before him. He called it a theory of systemic mutations. He maintained that once in a million years or so a macro-mutation might occur, affecting not merely an individual gene but an entire chromosome, and thus bringing into existence at one step an entirely new type of life. Since such changes would be extremely rare, it would not be expected that any human being would ever observe one. Goldschmidt wrote a long series of articles and books advocating this view and attacking the more generally accepted view held by the Neo-Darwinists.

It is easy to see that Goldschmidt's view requires far more faith than acceptance of the Biblical view that God brought into existence such kinds of life as He chose. Small mutations can sometimes be produced experimentally, and many spontaneous ones have been observed by study of a certain species of fruit fly that has so short a life span that many generations can be produced in a very brief time, but no one has ever observed a macro-mutation. It is amazing what assumptions or guesses intelligent men will sometimes make in order to avoid accepting the simple Biblical statement that God created the various kinds of life.