

# Polystrate Fossil Trees

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The term "polystrate" (*pah-lee-strat-ah*) consists of two words, *poly* meaning 'many', and *stratum* meaning layer. So a polystrate fossil is a fossil that runs through multiple layers of rock. I have never met anyone that denies that polystrate fossils exist, but the debate claws come out when discussing how polystrate fossils can exist when the earth's rock layers are religiously claimed to be millions of years in age.

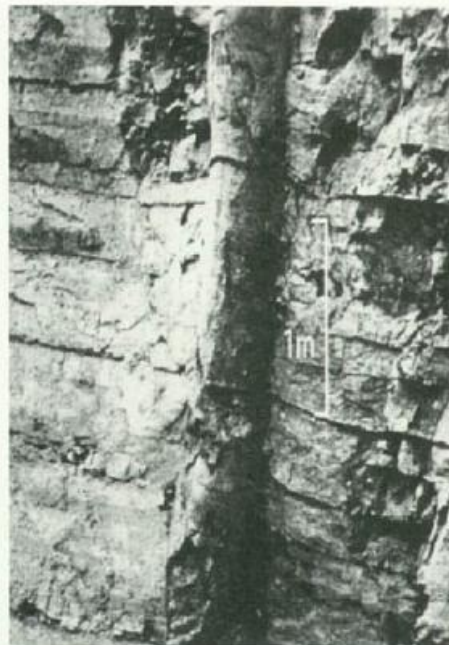
(See "Lies of Evolution: Old Rock Layers" here at [creationliberty.com](http://www.creationliberty.com) for more details)

In this article, we will explain how tree fossils are found to be standing vertically up through multiple rock layers. As you can see, this tree is in a coal seam at the bottom, runs through multiple rock layers in the middle, and ends up in a separate coal seam at the top.

Though unexplainable by the religion of evolution, let's look at some simple examples in nature of how these trees like this one end up buried.

In Germany, France, the British Isles, Nova Scotia, California, and several eastern states, fossils that extend through several layers of sedimentary rock have been found. These are called **polystrate\*** (PAHL ee STRATE) fossils. They are usually tree trunks in an upright or somewhat slanted position. Polystrate fossils furnish clear-cut evidence that sediment was deposited rapidly, as in a flood. If the rock layers surrounding the fossils had formed at the slow rate that evolutionists assumed as they constructed the geologic time scale, the trees would have decayed or fallen rather than fossilized.

One type of polystrate fossil in California is especially interesting. Near Santa Barbara, fish fossils extend through several layers of algae fossils. Evolutionists calculate that each algae layer took hundreds or thousands of years to form. That would mean that the head and tail of the same fish were buried several thousands of years apart! Clearly the beds must have formed rapidly around the fish, not slowly. The most remarkable find was a polystrate whale fossil extending through many layers and many thousand



15B-17 Polystrate tree trunk near Essen-Kupferdreh, Germany; the overall height of the tree trunk is approximately 7.6 m.

"For example, the cliffs at Joggins in Nova Scotia reveal abundant polystrate tree fossils, as does the hillside at Specimen Ridge in the Yellowstone National Park in the USA. The Joggins site in particular attracted the attention of early geologists such as C. Lyell and J.W. Dawson, who reported **fossilized animal remains within some of the preserved upright trees**. Recent investigations of this site have revealed fossilized tree trunks up to 16 feet (5m) tall and 30 inches (75 cm) in diameter and over 100 individual specimens of 11 different types of vertebrates, including amphibians and reptiles, as well as snails, millipedes, worms, and a mayfly."

-Dr. John F. Ashton, *Evolution Impossible:*

*12 Reasons Why Evolution Cannot Explain the Origin of Life on Earth*, New Leaf Publishing Group, 2012, p. 105, ISBN: 9780890516812



It is important to note that these polystrate trees are petrified (i.e. turned to stone). Surprisingly, it is still a common belief by evolutionists today that petrification takes millions of years to occur.

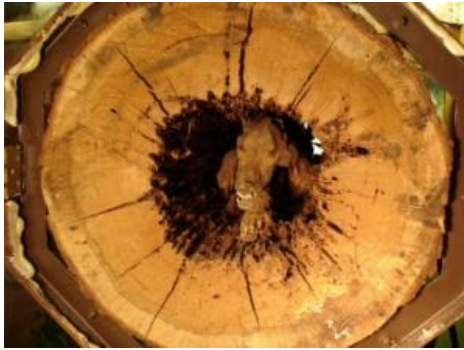
The following quotation is from a book with an interview with an evolutionist and scientist named Carl:

*"Let me get this right. This area was at one time fertile enough to support forests of trees. At another time, it was the bed of some ancient sea. The sea disappears, the sea bed dries up, and presto, you've got petrified wood." Carl laughed. 'Well, that's basically it, but I wouldn't use the word presto. It probably takes millions of years.'"*

-David Bloom, *Labyrinth: Libyan Odyssey*, iUniverse, 2005, p. 50, ISBN: 9780595363698

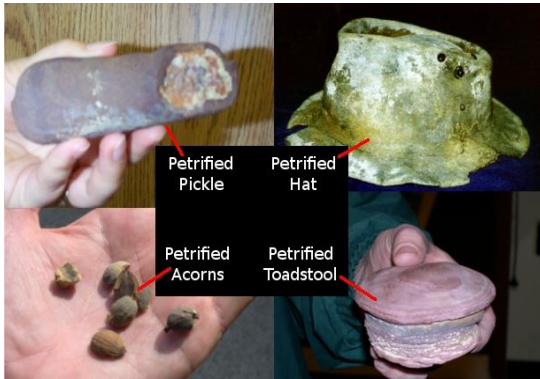
Due to the lies of the evolutionary religion, this is still a common teaching today, even in "informative" travel guides: "Petrified Forest: This is a national park. It is in Arizona. It has beautiful rocks and hills. Many rocks were once pieces of wood. But they became petrified. That means they turned to stone. This takes millions of years."

-Sean Price, *Route 66: America's Road*, Heinemann-Raintree Library, 2007, p. 8, ISBN: 9781410926975



This is "Stuckey," the dog that was petrified inside of a tree trunk. He is now on display at the Southern Forest World Museum in Waycross, Georgia. Did this dog sit in this tree trunk for millions of years waiting to turn to stone so he could be perfectly preserved? After seeing this, anyone with half a brain can understand that decay would prevent preservation of bio-material in petrification. Turning to stone must occur rapidly, or nothing recognizable would be preserved.

1. Take your trees and bury them in sediment (A nice layer of sediment with volcanic ash will help slow down the natural decomposition process by cutting off the amount of oxygen that reaches them)
2. Pour large amounts of water onto the sediment (Water dissolves silica from the volcanic ash - The solution of silica in water slowly replaces the wood's original tissues)



It's obvious that petrification, as we observe it today, is not a common result for dead plant and animal tissues, so if millions of years is not the special ingredient, then what causes petrification? The following book on national parks actually gives a recipe for petrified wood:

-Michael J. Oswald, *Your Guide to the National Parks: The Complete Guide to All 58 National Parks*, Michael Oswald, 2012, p. 306, ISBN: 9781621280002

Petrification can take months, years, or centuries, depending on the geological conditions, amount of oxygen, and of course, the amount of water. So what event in history would we relate to having dumped a huge amount of water over so many plants and animals that we have discovered petrified all over the world?



Let's get back to the petrified trees, and talk about an interesting phenomena that occurred after Mount St. Helens erupted in 1980. The image here shows a small sample of the millions of trees that were blown down as a result of the volcanic eruption.

An estimated 1 million trees were blown into the nearby Spirit Lake. Locals were able to walk across the lake on floating tree mats.



For the next couple of decades, scientists observed the trees to see what would happen to them, and they noticed the trees would roll around back and forth, losing their bark and slowly getting water logged. (i.e. filled up with water) Just like a boat getting filled with water, eventually it will sink, so too the trees filled with water, and they would sink, typically with the heavier end going down first, shifting the tree into a vertical position.





As the tree gets more water logged in the vertical position, the weight causes it to sink to the bottom where it touches the mud and peat (decayed tree bark). The tree then slowly sinks into the mud while slowly begins to turn to stone in the water. Though in some cases polystrate fossil trees are found upside-down, typically, the root side of the tree is heavier and will sink into the mud first, and after it gets stuck, it actually looks like the tree grew there, but it was delivered to that location via catastrophe, and altered by the large amount of water surrounding it.

Let's assume the religious evolutionary position once again: Did those trees stand there for millions of years resisting decomposition while the layers of rock slowly formed around it? Did those trees grow up through hundreds of feet of rock hoping to one day find sunlight? These questions are absurd, I know, but what other explanation could there be for the evolution model? It is much easier and more logical to avoid the mental gymnastics and just stick with the observation that the trees were deposited rapidly with a lot of water involved.



Some of you may question why the evolutionist can't accept this observation, but that's because many people do not understand that evolution is a religious presupposition, not science. When finding polystrate fossils, running through multiple rock layers, in high altitude areas of places like



Yellowstone National Park for example, it indicates that a lot of water had to be covering very high places. The problem with this explanation is that it's most easily and logically explained by a global flood, which matches far too closely with the Bible for their comfort, and so for the evolutionist, they are required to religiously reject the concept, keeping their thought-processes confined to the evolutionary box.

So what are typical answers to this by evolutionist documentation? Though it is not the most reliable source, Talk Origins Archive (a very religiously zealous evolutionary website) posted an article on this subject, and after many long-winded paragraphs, we read the following:

*"[John William] Dawson (1868) considered and rejected anything but an in situ formation for these fossils... Given that an 'in place' occurrence was convincingly determined by observations made in the 19th century for this and many other 'fossil forest' localities, it is surprising that these conclusions have not been recognized by modern "young Earth global flood" [YEGF] creationists as clear evidence of non-global-flood deposition for much of the geologic record."*

-Andrew MacRae, "Polystrate Tree Fossils," *Talk Origins*, retrieved Dec 29, 2012, [http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/polystrate/trees.html]

All he said was that a man in the 19th century simply said that those trees just grew there. (i.e. *in situ*, as I mentioned earlier in the article) The article does not even begin to answer the problem, and mostly just ridicules anyone who disagrees with an evolutionary explanation for it. To be more direct, it is an elitist article that denies us any reasonable explanation that can begin to compare to the scientific observation I just demonstrated in this article.

Certainly, there will be some stumps buried, and certainly there are fossils that are only in one layer of rock, but that does not give us any explanation for the polystrate fossils. Saying they grew there in place (*in situ*) is to simply say, "I haven't got an answer."

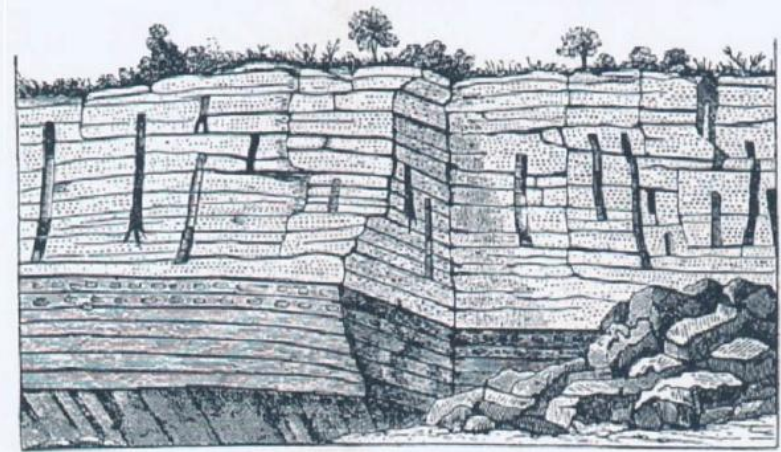


Fig. 442. — Vertical trees in the Coal Measures sandstone, St.-Étienne, France. From Credner's *Elemente der Geologie*.

It gets worse when the same website talks about the Yellowstone National Park examples I showed earlier, because their entire response to it is ten sentences that simply restates that they are mostly grew in place. Just looking at the images for this, it is not possible that the trees I've shown could have grown in place, nor would they survive long periods of time to be buried, backed up by the living animals and preserved insects also aforementioned.

(See "Yellowstone National Park (U.S.) Fossil Forests," *Talk Origins*, retrieved Dec 29, 2012, [http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/polystrate/yellowstone.html])

Evolutionist Don Lindsay tries a different approach, attempting to explain the fossils by citing examples of sand dunes near Lake Michigan covering trees ten

meters high in just a few years. He knows this doesn't explain places like Yellowstone, so he puts those into a volcanic burial category. However, **neither of these can be true because it does not explain the petrification--turning to stone requires large amounts of water!** (See Don Lindsay, "Polystrate Fossils," *Don Lindsay Archive*, Jan 3, 2009, retrieved Dec 29, 2012, [http://www.don-lindsay-archive.org/creation/polystrate.html])

Though many of these men who believe in evolution are very intelligent, there are a number of cases where think, "If I speak, therefore, I answered the problem." In this case, the evolutionists are ignoring the tough problems of this one because there is not an answer coming out of their religious organizations. Even if the church of evolution comes up with an answer, it will still be one that takes extraordinary amounts of imagination, not one that can be demonstrated like the examples of Mount St. Helens.

The problem with polystrate fossils, and the reason religious zealots defending evolution will look over them, is that they are powerful support of what God told us happened in the days of Noah. The Bible even tells us very clearly that men would come in the last days, scoffing at God's Word, purposefully looking over the obvious so they can continue to walk in their own lusts:

*Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts... For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*  
*-2 Peter 3:3-6*

As a Christian, remember that the Bible tells us this is not a head issue, meaning, the evolutionist will not convert from his position based on what you have read in this article. Though it may make clear sense to you, and you wonder why someone would openly reject what makes perfect sense, that sense has only been given to you by our Lord Jesus Christ to see the truth and acknowledge it. It's not a head issue for mankind, it's a heart issue of men being lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, and they are very smart men, ever learning, but because of the rejection of the True Living God, they will never be able to acknowledge the truth.

*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away... Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

*-2 Timothy 3:1-7*