



# Harvest

It is that time again, as you are walking along the paths and pavements around the country you begin to notice something strange happening. Strawn along the paths and pavements are nuts and berries, you especially notice them if you have sore feet and you step on one (e.g. Horse-chestnuts and acorns). You look around the trees and bushes and you notice the fruits and berries have changed colour. What's going on? It seems as though there is a purpose to all this. For Christians, we believe there is a purpose to all this. It is at this time when we thank God for what He has provided. This is the key, God wants us to thank Him. By this we acknowledge His goodness and provision. Thanking God for what He has provided is fundamental. It is so important that we do not take these things for granted. But what do you do when you don't believe in God? How can you thank someone you don't believe in? How can you feel a sense of thankfulness for what you have if you don't believe it has been provided for you? So the inevitable question arises. Where do they think it has come from?

Let us look at the problem that those who don't believe in God face when dealing with what we experience in nature. Have you ever wondered why trees, plants and crops produce food for us? Why did trees, plants and crops start producing food for us? Remember, there must have been a time when trees, plants and crops did not produce food for us. Picture a time when no humans, animals, birds and insects existed and ask "Why and when did trees, plants and crops start to produce food for us?" The most successful plants are those that don't highly specialize, that is, they don't rely on complex symbiotic relationships with insects, birds and animals. We call them weeds and we treat them as pests, but in natural terms they are highly successful, although even some weeds have relationships with insects and animals. Some plants have gone to extreme lengths to not only attract insects, animals and birds but in some extreme cases they have gone to the ridiculous length of attracting only a specific creature. Some have developed defense mechanisms while others will even devour the little creatures that they are attracting. For what reason they are said to have evolved doesn't make sense when you consider the Darwinian mechanism, where only the most successful are said to be selected and you take in mind that the so-called "more primitive" types are very successful and cope very well without over specializing. Consider this, surely a highly successful, "less specialized" and "more primitive" type is more likely to be selected by nature than a partially developed "highly specialized" type that requires a complex symbiotic relationship with another creature. How and why these complex mechanisms exist is surely beyond credulity. Remember, one time, no human, animal, bird or insect existed. According to evolution, they had not evolved.

Why do plants need to attract insects anyway when some plants do well without them? The answer is, because insects help to transport pollen from the male part of one plant to the female part of another plant of the same species. This helps to prevent a plant from fertilizing itself. But why is this important? Firstly, it helps to keep the plant and the species healthy. Variation helps a plant to adapt to different conditions, thus maintaining the survival of the species. If a plant fertilizes itself then it produces clones of itself, that is, an exact copy of itself. By fertilizing another plant it is able to produce variation within the offspring, this is called "sexual reproduction". Why is this important for evolution? Variation is important for evolution because it provides the material with which change can occur and in which natural selection can act. But this raises a question. How did these complex mechanisms evolve that makes sexual reproduction possible before sexual reproduction existed to provide the variation needed to create change? It sounds like circular reasoning, but it really is a chicken and egg scenario. Once we have our mechanism of sexual reproduction we are faced with our first question. Why do plants produce food for us? The evolutionary answer is that plants produce fruit so that animals (and humans) will come along and eat the fruit and disperse the seeds far and wide. Firstly, do plants "know" that by producing fruit they will attract other organisms to take their seeds far and wide? Surely, evolutionists don't mean this, but it is difficult to avoid a purpose behind the process. Evolutionists must believe that all this has occurred by chance (by accident). Each and every fruit, berry, nut and seed must have developed by chance and not for our benefit and not because the plant needed some way to disperse their seeds far and wide. But how and why does this occur? Consider this, some plants get on very well without producing fruit, berries and nuts, they still exist and they still thrive, so there is no selective advantage to producing fruit, berries and nuts. Think about it, birds eat seeds and can disperse them far and wide without them becoming fruit, berries and nuts, more than any other animal, even though it isn't necessary for them to do so. Seeds that are simply dropped to the ground can be washed to far places when it rains. Darwin did experiments to show how seeds can be transported over the oceans. Some plants just use the wind to carry their seeds and survive very well (e.g. Sycamore and Dandelion, although this raises the question of how these complex structures evolved by chance. Questions and more questions).

Surely then, we have every right to say that evolution by natural selection does everything but, explain why plants produce food for us. They can't even say that plants produce food so that their seeds will be dispersed because plants don't know and evolution doesn't know that they are doing this, therefore the process must have occurred by chance many times over. This mechanism requires that over many generations, other creatures continually visited a particular plant as the seed was becoming a fruit, berry or nut (although why they should do this before it became so is inexplicable) but this doesn't explain the mechanism of how the seed changed, since this involves the separate process of insect fertilization and the mechanism that supposedly built this as well. Surely this is stretching the imagination way too far to believe that this is so. Why not accept that this is evidence of God's provision for His many creatures and give thanks accordingly.

Prayer:- Most Gracious God, we thank you for your constant provision for all your creatures and for us, your children. We pray for those in our world who are in want and pray that those of us with plenty will share with those who have nothing, so that no one will be in need. Help us never to take these things for granted and to care for the world that you have made for us, and help us to give thanks always for your love and care. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

By Philip Catherall