

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

The Cyanide Defense



And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. (John 12:32)

Wouldn't it be amazing if a creature developed a chemical defense that is deadly to practically every other creature but itself – especially if that defense meant exposing itself and its enemy to deadly cyanide?

Yet there is a species of millipede called *Apheloria* that does just this. *Apheloria* has, on each segment of its body, special glands that produce the chemical needed for defense. When the millipede is attacked by an enemy, it mixes this chemical with a catalyst. The result is a chemical that is a mild irritant plus hydrogen cyanide gas – the same lethal chemical used in the gas chamber. In this defense, the millipede, as well as his enemies, is engulfed in a cloud of deadly cyanide gas. His attacker dies, but the millipede simply walks away unharmed.

This truly amazing defense clearly has a purpose. Even more amazing, if evolution is right, the millipede developed this remarkable defense quite accidentally, and at the same time he became immune to deadly cyanide gas! This defense is completely unlikely to develop without a planner. The millipede's immunity to cyanide makes sense if there was a planner, and it makes no sense at all if there wasn't.

God's fingerprints are all over the creation as He seeks to draw us all to Himself.

Photo: Millipede *Apheloria virginiana*. Courtesy of Bob Walker. (CC BY-SA 3.0 Unported)

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