Jet-Propelled Squid

The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! – Psalm 8:8-9

You've heard of flying squirrels and flying fish, but did you know there's also a squid that can fly? Even more surprising is that it accomplishes this amazing feat using jet-propulsion! Yes, though they were once only rumors, we now know that a certain kind of squid can emerge from the water and streak through the air at speeds up to 25 miles per hour. A team of Japanese marine biologists have actually photographed Japanese flying squid doing just that in groups.

Jun Yamamoto at Japan's Hokkaido University describes how they take flight. The squid normally swims backwards through the water using its fins. But after taking in a large quantity of water, the squid forcefully ejects the water through a nozzle near its head and becomes airborne.

"Once they finish shooting out the water," he said, "they glide by spreading out their fins and arms. The fins and the web between the arms create aerodynamic lift and keep the squid stable on its flight arc. As they land back in the water," he said, "the fins are all folded back into place to minimize the impact."

Of course, it didn't take long for evolutionists to claim that these squid evolved all the parts necessary to fly so that they could escape from sea-going predators. But as it turns out, Japanese flying squid face even more formidable predators in flight – like the albatross. So once again we see that the evolutionary explanation just doesn't fly.


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