

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Stone-Making Plants



To the end that [my] glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever. – Psalm 30:12

Have you ever wondered how you could get cut by a blade of grass or the edge of a palm leaf? Plants have a nasty secret. They absorb silica, the same stuff of which glass is made, and store it in their cells.

Some plants, like corn, store large mounts of silica on their leaves, making the edges of the leaves sharp and strong enough to give you a nasty slash. And yes, they do this largely to protect themselves. Insects that like to eat plant leaves find that when they chew on plants with lots of silica, their mouth parts wear out faster. Plants also store silica between their cells, giving them a strong, stony skeleton.

These silica particles made by plants are called phytoliths, which literally means "plant stones." Chemically they are colorless and transparent opals. They can range in size from a thousandth of a millimeter to a millimeter. Each plant forms phytoliths that are unique in shape, and some plants make up to a dozen different types.

God's creation is filled with wonderful surprises. And every one of them glorifies Him!

Ref: Ivars Peterson. 1983. "Plant Stones." *Science News*, Vol. 124. Aug. 6, pp. 88-94. Photo: Image of a phytolith (bulliform). Courtesy of Henri Georges. Licensed under the GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2.

© 2015, Creation Moments. Churches and parents may freely copy these bulletin inserts.

CREATION MOMENTS, INC.

P. O. Box 839 • Foley, MN 56329 • 800-422-4253

If these bulletin inserts are a blessing to you, please consider making a donation of any amount so we can continue to provide this free resource: www.creationmoments.com/donate.

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Stone-Making Plants



To the end that [my] glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever. – Psalm 30:12

Have you ever wondered how you could get cut by a blade of grass or the edge of a palm leaf? Plants have a nasty secret. They absorb silica, the same stuff of which glass is made, and store it in their cells.

Some plants, like corn, store large mounts of silica on their leaves, making the edges of the leaves sharp and strong enough to give you a nasty slash. And yes, they do this largely to protect themselves. Insects that like to eat plant leaves find that when they chew on plants with lots of silica, their mouth parts wear out faster. Plants also store silica between their cells, giving them a strong, stony skeleton.

These silica particles made by plants are called phytoliths, which literally means "plant stones." Chemically they are colorless and transparent opals. They can range in size from a thousandth of a millimeter to a millimeter. Each plant forms phytoliths that are unique in shape, and some plants make up to a dozen different types.

God's creation is filled with wonderful surprises. And every one of them glorifies Him!

Ref: Ivars Peterson. 1983. "Plant Stones." *Science News*, Vol. 124. Aug. 6, pp. 88-94. Photo: Image of a phytolith (bulliform). Courtesy of Henri Georges. Licensed under the GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2.

© 2015, Creation Moments. Churches and parents may freely copy these bulletin inserts.

CREATION MOMENTS, INC.

P. O. Box 839 • Foley, MN 56329 • 800-422-4253

If these bulletin inserts are a blessing to you, please consider making a donation of any amount so we can continue to provide this free resource: www.creationmoments.com/donate.