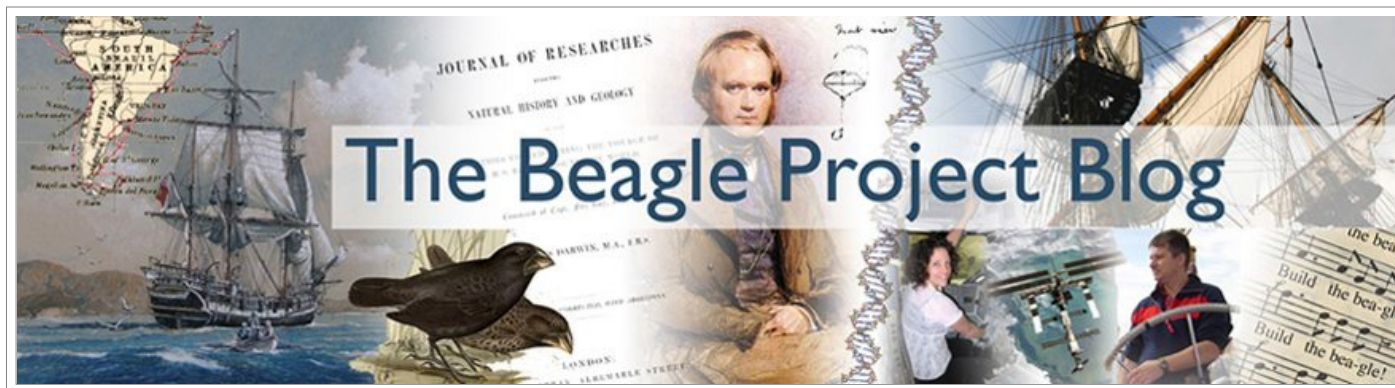




14 MAY 2008

Tangled Bank #105

Welcome, readers, to this tag-teamed edition of the [Tangled Bank](#) blog carnival.

In the left-justified corner, all the way from the north Yorkshire coast, not far from where Darwin 'took the waters' in Ilkley, it's Peter McGrath.

And in the right-justified corner, coming to you from London, just a few miles away from [Downe Bank](#), Darwin's inspiration for the tangled bank where "endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved", it's Karen James.



Well, you glorious swine. Speaking for myself, my blogreading life was full enough without discovering some of the new delights carnivalled here. The long evening reading all these posts has been a 'mental riot' (Darwin's description of the intellectual ferment when he was incubating *The Origin*), for which many thanks and the RSS has a slew of new entries. A tangled bank is not a monoculture, and I think we can offer something for all here.

I would never call our dear readers much less our prolific bank-tanglers 'swine', however glorious, but I certainly do share Peter's admiration for this fortnight's entries.

In the beginning was not the word, it was [the soup](#). This is a biochemistry-heavy post from Prof. Larry Moran at [Sandwalk](#). What's the problem with the primordial? None.

Speaking of biochemistry, [Giovanna Di Sauro](#) gives us [Who's afraid of Bisphenol A?](#), the first in a two-part series on toxicology and cancer biology (and I will remind our readers that cancer biology is very appropriate here at Tangled Bank considering that [cancer is itself an evolutionary process](#)).

Who can resist a [Friday Parasite](#) especially at [Science Made Cool](#)? Not I, having studied parasites in all their (slightly icky) glory. The ways parasites evade their host immune systems and spend all their time, well, eating and reproducing is my idea of good fun and great evolution.

And now to take the phrase "great evolution" as my cue, I give you the posts you've no doubt all been waiting for (drum roll): let's hear it for the platypus genome, correctly interpreted! Yes, everybody and their eutherian companion animal has been blogging this week about the





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MINI-BLOG

[Antimatter and antipasta at the anti-conference](#) by John Gilby in Times Higher Education. *-kj*

Wallace's Rottweiler on the new [Wallace and Darwin exhibition](#) at the NHM at Tring. *-kj*

[Top 27 denizens of the deep](#) - Deep Sea News brings us a new beauty or beast every day in October. *-kj*

[Ben Goldacre's SciBlogCon Keynote video](#) now available at McDawg's house! *-ki*

