

Stasis and Limited Change

All living species show variation, but this variation is limited. Fossil species also show limited variation, even when the fossils are distributed over sediments claimed to represent millions of years. The stability of form observed in fossils is called stasis.

Stasis and the Creation Forest

Stasis fits well with creationist theory. It appears each kind of living organism was created with a stable body structure combined with numerous traits that are variable. Normal genetic variation permits adaptation to local habitats, but does not produce new body parts or change the basic body structure. Variation within a kind can produce a group of similar species that may be represented by a single “tree” in the Creation Forest.

Stasis and Deep Time

Stasis over short intervals is expected, but its persistence across long periods runs counter to evolutionary theory. That framework assumes continual morphological variation, with small changes accumulating into new organs and body plans.

Such large-scale transformations have never been observed in living populations. Instead, organisms exhibit only rapid but minor changes in response to environmental pressures. The fossil record’s stasis may therefore indicate deposition over a short timespan rather than gradual accumulation across millions of years.

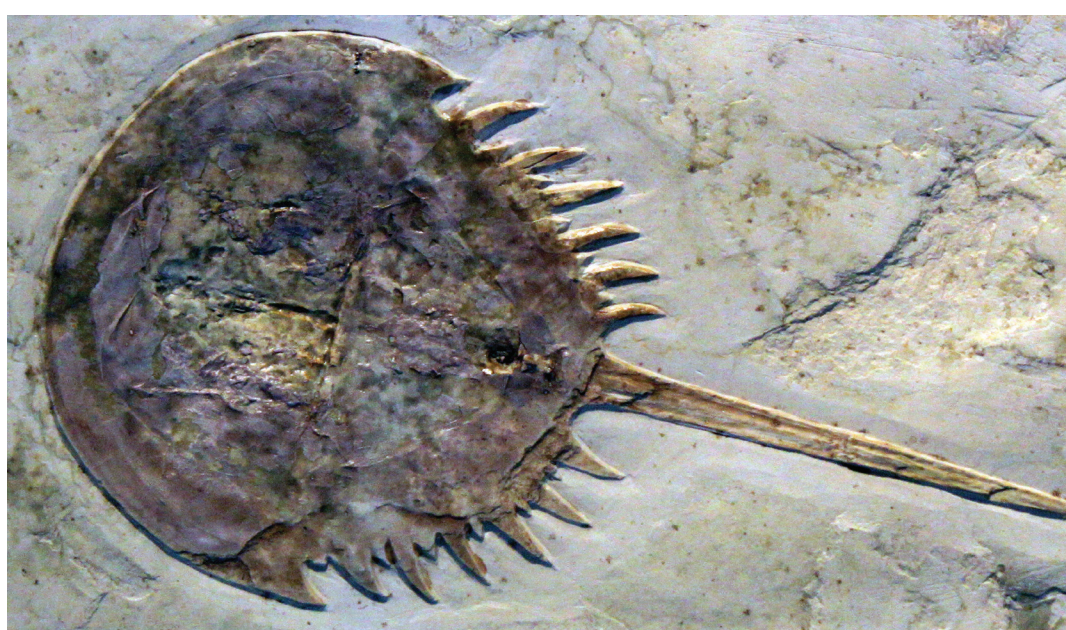
Limited Variation in Horseshoe Crabs



Mangrove horseshoe crab, *Carcinoscorpius*
Image: Bernard DUPONT, CC by SA 2.0



An Indo-Pacific Horseshoe Crab, *Tachypleus*
Image: ShubhamChatterjee, CC by SA 3.0



Fossil horseshoe crab from Germany, *Mesolimnus*
Image: Anagoria, CC by SA 3.0



An Atlantic Horseshoe Crab, *Limulus*
Image: Plant Image Library, CC by SA 2.0

Limited Variation in Nautiloids



A Bellybutton Nautilus, *Nautilus macromphalus*
Image: Pujolle, CC by SA 3.0



A Palau Nautilus, *Nautilus belauensis*
Image: Kai Squires, CC by 4.0



A fossil nautilus, *Eutrephoceras*.
Distribution is widespread.
Image: Ghedoghedo, CC by SA 4.0



A fossil nautilus, *Cymatoceras*
Image: GRI

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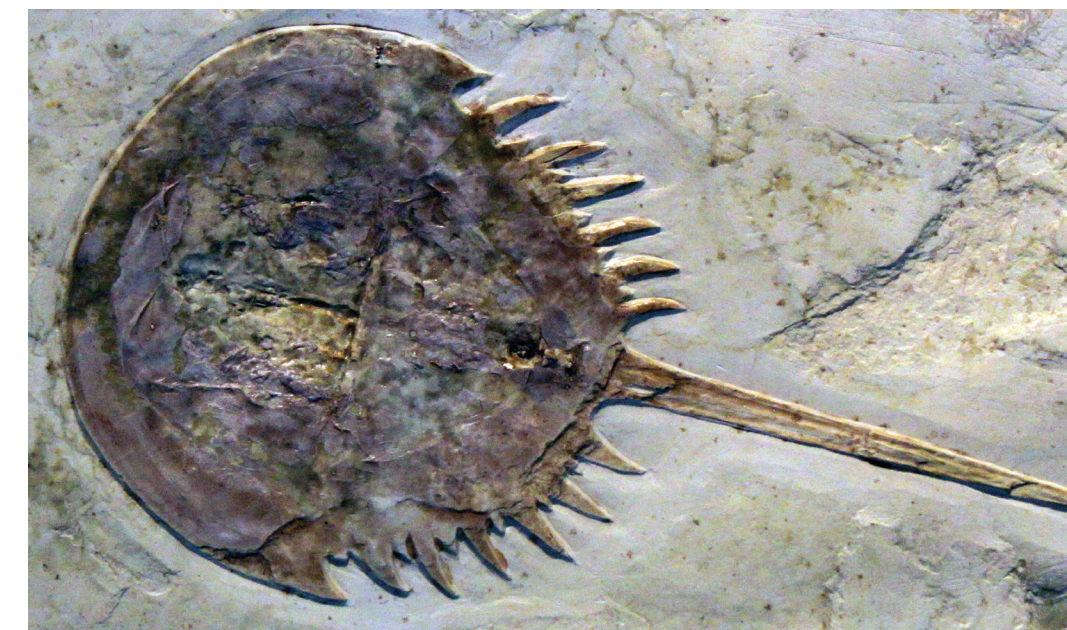
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