

# Review of: "[Research Note] The Random Somatic Mutation is not Quite Random"

Richard Walker

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare

I disagree that random mutations are not “random”. The author overlooks the process of “selection” (or negative/non selection) of novel mutations/traits that are heritable and appropriate for successful competition/survival in changing environments, and occurring in populations over the course of generations.

In the case of the cormorant example, the author implies purposeful change eg, wings atrophy and breastbone atrophied because there is “no need to fly”, while neck got longer, legs stronger and feet webbed “in order to catch fish”. Similarly, retention of ancestral habits implies purposeful retention of useful traits, not their continuing competitive adaptive value. Purposeful is not the basis for the origin of adaptive traits.

The example of astronaut loss of bone density is a reversible phenomenon experienced by individuals due to reduced gravity and is not heritable. Thus, it doesn't represent an evolutionary phenomenon.