

Have Design Proponents “Invented” Terms about “Darwinism”?

Incredibly, some critics have accused intelligent design proponents of inventing terms such as “Darwinism,” “Darwinist,” or even “Neo-Darwinism” (and similar variations).¹ The reality is that these terms are commonly used by mainstream scientists in the scientific literature—often to describe evolutionists when combating a pejoratively used term which they nearly exclusively use: “anti-evolutionism.” Below are results of searches of leading journals revealing the common usage of these terms in the mainstream scientific literature:²

<p><u>Darwinism:</u></p> <p><i>Nature:</i> 376 hits <i>Science:</i> 44 hits <i>PubMed:</i> 193 hits</p> <p>“Two other sites previously reviewed in NetWatch brim with helpful information. In a section on obstacles to teaching Darwinism, this primer from the University of California, Berkeley, profiles different strains of anti-evolutionism.” (“Standing Up for Darwin,” <i>Science</i>, 308:1847, 6/24/2005, emphasis added)</p>	<p><u>Neo-Darwinism:</u></p> <p><i>Nature:</i> 64 hits <i>Science:</i> 5 hits <i>PubMed:</i> 22 hits</p> <p>“The clamour to revise neo-darwinism is becoming so loud that hopefully most practicing evolutionary biologists will begin to pay attention. It has been said that science often makes progress not because people change their minds, but because the old ones die off and the new generation is more open to novel ideas.” (“Expanding evolution,” by Massimo Pigliucci, <i>Nature</i>, 435:566 6/02/2005, emphasis added)</p>
<p><u>Darwinian:</u></p> <p><i>Nature:</i> 889 hits <i>Science:</i> 153 hits <i>PubMed:</i> 817 hits</p> <p>“Dawkins has generated controversy within the ranks of evolutionary theorists for his strict adherence to Darwinian natural selection (“random mutation plus nonrandom cumulative selection” in his succinct description) as the only mechanism of evolutionary change worth bothering about—Gould called him a ‘Darwinian fundamentalist’...” (“The Blind Godmaker,” by Michael Shermer, <i>Science</i>, 308:205, 4/08/2005, emphasis added)</p>	<p><u>Neo-Darwinian:</u></p> <p><i>Nature:</i> 86 hits <i>Science:</i> 11 hits <i>PubMed:</i> 65 hits</p> <p>“According to the neo-Darwinian account of evolution, such changes are brought about by the interaction of various evolutionary causes, among them selection, drift, mutation, and inbreeding.” (“The Evolutionary Indeterminism Thesis,” by T. Shanahan, <i>BioScience</i>, 53(2):164, 2/2003, emphasis added)</p>
<p><u>Darwinist:</u></p> <p><i>Nature:</i> 39 hits <i>Science:</i> 12 hits <i>PubMed:</i> 14 hits</p> <p>“[Eugenie] Scott, who is perhaps the nation’s most high-profile Darwinist, is frustrated by the scientific community’s inability to grapple with the issue.” (“Who has designs on your students’ minds?,” by Geoff Brumfiel, <i>Nature</i> 434:1062, 4/28/2005, emphasis added)</p>	<p><u>Neo-Darwinist:</u></p> <p><i>Nature:</i> 8 hits <i>Science:</i> 1 hit <i>PubMed:</i> 1 hit</p> <p>“[T]his concept [of developmental constraint] has almost never had an influence on the main stream of research that was done by neo-Darwinists’.” (“The Interaction between developmental bias and natural selection: from centipede segments to a general hypothesis,” by W. Arthyr, <i>Heredity</i>, 89:239–246, 2002, emphasis added)</p>

¹ For example, see allegations by E.O. Wilson in “Charles Darwin: Evolution of a Scientist,” by Jerry Adler, *Newsweek*, Nov. 28, 2005, pg. 53.

² “Hits” indicate the number of articles said to contain that term during a search using that search engine. All searches conducted on September 14, 2005. The following online science journal search engines were used: (a) **Nature** (Search engine for the Journal *Nature*; dates back to 1980): search.nature.com/search/?sp_a=sp1001702d&sp_t=advanced&sp_x_1=ujournal&sp-p=all&sp (b) **PubMed**: ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?DB=pubmed PubMed is “a service of the National Library of Medicine that includes over 15 million citations from MEDLINE and other life science journals for biomedical articles back to the 1950s. PubMed includes links to full text articles and other related resources.” (c) **Science** (Search engine for the Journal *Science*; dates back to 1995): http://www.sciencemag.org/search.dtl