

SUPPOSED OVERTHRUST IN FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS, EL PASO, TEXAS

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This brief note is in regard to a supposed overthrust in an area on the southwestern slope of the Franklin Mountains known as West Crazy Cat Canyon. West Crazy Cat Canyon has the striking structural feature of massive Upper Ordovician limestone immediately overlying the Upper Cretaceous on the west side of the canyon,

The west side of the canyon has an elevation of 4368 feet, and the highest elevation on the east side is approximately 4200 feet. Crazy Cat Mountain is the high point joining the two sides of the canyon at its north end.

Alluvial deposits are abundant in Crazy Cat Canyon, and the presence of these deposits makes collection of geological information difficult since they conceal many of the structural features of the area. However, the Ordovician, Silurian, Permian and Cretaceous are well exposed in the Canyon.

The Ordovician is capped in the northwest corner of the Canyon by a section of Fusselman limestone of Silurian classification. On the east side of the Canyon, across a creek bed running in a north-south direction, lower Cretaceous beds are exposed which rest conformably on Permian beds.

The outcrops on the west side of the canyon are mainly Cretaceous overlain by Ordovician as shown in Figure 1.

The west face of the canyon is considerably eroded but the outcrops are very distinct. Figure 2 is a photograph taken looking northward along

the boundary between outcrop of Cretaceous rock of very light grey color and the Ordovician of a dark grey color running to the top of the

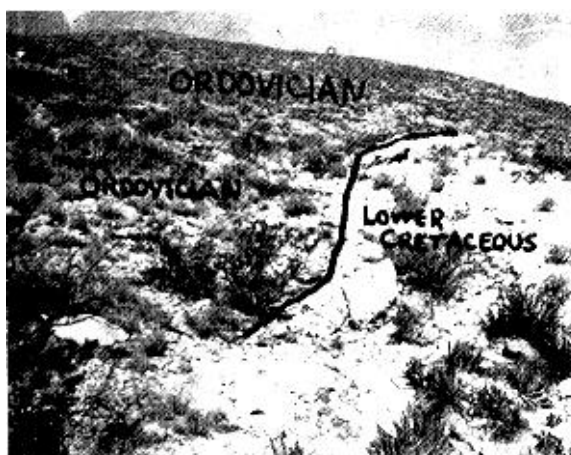


Figure 2

canyon. The other Figures are photographs of the west face of the canyon taken from the east side.

I asked the geologist who accompanied me on the initial trip to study the area if there was actual physical evidence of the block of Ordovician being thrust from the upper slopes of Mt. Franklin down onto the Cretaceous. He replied that there was no actual physical evidence discovered but that since fossils were completely out of order an overthrust was assumed. A more complete investigation is planned for the near future.



Figure 1

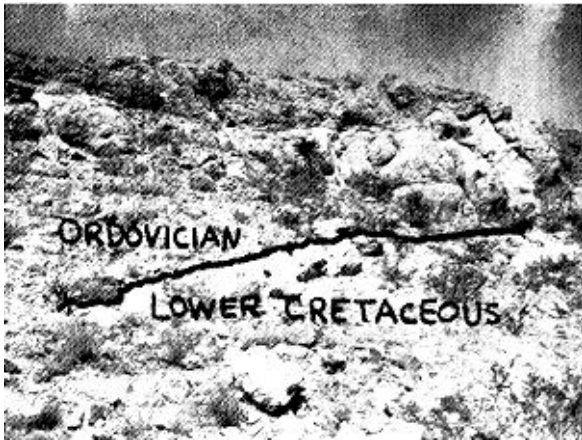


Figure 3



Figure 4

NEW PUBLICATION

Why Scientists Accept Evolution by Robert T. Clark and James D. Bales. Baker Book House, 1019 Wealthy Street, S. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506 (Telephone 456-1489, Area Code 616). Hardcover, \$2.50, paperback \$1.50.

The aim of this book is not to delve into arguments pro and con for the hypothesis of evolution. It is to deal with the real reason why it was accepted in the nineteenth century and then passed on to the twentieth century.

This is a valuable book for the open-minded evolutionist to trace the development of his hypothesis. It is valuable for the non-evolutionist to assure himself that he need not castigate himself as being unscientific.

James D. Bales is Professor of Bible and Robert T. Clark is Vice President in charge of Research at Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas.