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Evolution Exam Study Guide 2020

Study Questions

1. What is the Miller-Urey experiment? What reactants and products were involved?
The experiment used methane (CH_4), ammonia (NH_3) and hydrogen (H_2). The chemicals were all sealed inside airtight glass flasks connected together in a ring, with one flask half-filled with liquid water and another flask containing a pair of electrodes. The liquid water was heated to induce evaporative sprays were forced through the atmosphere and water vapor for electrical lightning, and then the atmosphere was cooled again so that the water could condense and trickle back into the first flask in a continuous cycle.
At the end of one week of continuous operation, Urey and Miller observed that amino acids (21-55% of the amino acids within the system was now in the form of amino acid compounds). Two percent of the carbonized forms of the amino acids which are used to make protein were living cells.
While there is much argument around the components of the early atmosphere and the origin of life, it seems to be fairly agreed upon that the early atmosphere did have oxygen. For one, spontaneous oxygenic compounds had been shown to be inhibited by the presence of oxygen.
2. What is and provide an example of:
 - Homologous structures - structures with common form and function (examples include the bone structures in the forelimbs of a cat, monkey, & whale, and the arm of a human, my model and knowledge)
 - Vestigial structures - residual structure with reduced form and use (tailbone in humans, my model and knowledge)
 - Coevolution - evolution by two organisms and in response to one another (e.g. relation of flowers and pollinators, evolution of predator and prey)
 - Convergent evolution - evolution of common features in unrelated organisms due to common environments (e.g. sharks and dolphins both have bodies for swimming even though one is a fish and one is a mammal)
 - Adaptive radiation - the formation of many species descending from a common ancestor (fishes on the Galapagos Islands probably descended from one ancestral species existing on the South American mainland and then becoming adaptably distinct once on the islands)
3. What is and provide an example of:
 - **Prezygotic isolation** - **prevents** barrier to matings & formation of zygote
 - i. **Sexual strategy** mating call or dance (behavioral isolation)
 - ii. **Seasonal** fertility (temporal isolation)
 - iii. **Reproductive** gametes or incompatible sexual organs ("reproductive like parts" so the sexes will still not mate that different species gametes will fertilize one another)
 - iv. **mechanical** and **genetic** isolation
 - v. **Ecology** different habitats (water vs. land partner needed) - ecological habitat isolation
 - **Postzygotic isolation** - **prezygotic** - barrier to producing offspring capable of producing their own fertile, viable offspring
 - i. **Hybrid** sterility (mismatch)
 - ii. **Reduced** hybrid fertility - offspring cannot reproduce (sterile)
 - iii. **Hybrid** breakdown - viable, fertile offspring produced, future generations from the hybrid organisms are not strong
 - **Hybrid vigor** - the possible case where a true hybrid organism (one coming from a combination of not normally reproducing organisms) is stronger than the parents (rare, though it happens in plants as well)

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