

August 2009

CATASTROPHIC GEOLOGIC EVIDENCES IN ECUADOR: PART 2: PUYANGO PETRIFIED FOREST

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As part of my December 2006 trip to Ecuador, I had the opportunity to visit the extraordinary Petrified Forest of Puyango hidden in a living tropical forest. The forest is located near the Peruvian border in the provinces of Loja and El Oro in Southern Ecuador (Figure 1). The forest is at an altitude between 812 ft. to 2460 ft. above sea level and covers an area of about 6567 acres. I finally found the site after a five-hour trip from Guayaquil, the main port of the country. In addition to petrified wood, all sorts of fossilized creatures could be found, such as ammonites, sea turtles, sea shells, snails, and fish, just to name a few (Figures 3-5).

Petrified Wood

In a recent article I addressed fossil formation from a creationist point of view,¹ so in order to better understand the conditions of fossil formation, one must consider the *polystrate* fossil. These types of unique and complex fossils have left evolutionists puzzled for decades. Polystrate fossils

form under unique conditions in which several layers of strata emerge. Fossilized tree trunks can be found running through several layers of strata, which evolutionists believe to be several thousand to millions of years old (Figure 2). The 30 foot petrified tree shown in Figure 2 is one of hundreds found in the Kettles coal mines near Cookville, Tennessee.² The top and bottom appear in different

Figure 1



Entrance to the Petrified Forest

Figure 2



Polystrate fossil

coal seams dated thousands of years apart. Evolutionists believe that those logs grew there, even though the soil is too weak to support them. If the soil is too weak to support forest growth, why are coal seams always nearly found on layers of clay and rock? The answer is that those logs did not grow there but were uprooted, transported, and buried at another location.

Figure 3 shows me standing beside a log lacking roots taken in the Puyango Petrified Forest. Vigorous currents from floods sweep away vegetation, transporting logs and trunks to different locations. Interestingly enough, my tour guide told me these species of trees are found only in Chile several thousand kilometers away from where we were standing.

¹ Valdivieso J (2008 October) Catastrophic geologic evidences in Ecuador - Part 1: Fossil formations. Triangle Association for the Science of Creation Newsletter <<http://www.tasc-creationscience.org/content/catastrophic-geologic-evidences-ecuador-part-1-fossil-formations>> Accessed 2009 Jun 19

² Rapid formation of layers & coal <<http://www.bible.ca/tracks/rapid-formation-coal.htm>> Accessed 2009 Jun 19