

Bible, requires no serious refutation. When we consider Linnæus' clearness and sagacity in other matters, we may doubt whether he believed it himself. As to the simultaneous origin of all individuals of each species from one pair of ancestors respectively (or in the case of the hermaphrodite species, from one original hermaphrodite), it is clearly quite untenable; for, apart from other reasons, in the first days after the creation, the few animals of prey would have sufficed to have utterly demolished all the herbivorous animals, as the herbivorous animals must have destroyed the few individuals of the different species of plants. The existence of such an equilibrium in the economy of nature as obtains at present cannot possibly be conceived, if only one individual of each species, or only one pair, had originally and simultaneously been created.

Moreover, how little importance Linnæus himself attached to this untenable hypothesis of creation is clear, among other things, from the fact that he recognized *Hybridism* (crossing) as a source of the production of new species. He assumed that a great number of independent new species had originated by the interbreeding of two different species. Indeed, such hybrids are not at all rare in nature, and it is now proved that a great number of species, for example, of the genus *Rubus* (bramble), mullen (*Verbascum*), willow (*Salix*), thistle (*Cirsium*), are hybrids of different species of these genera. We also know of hybrids between hares and rabbits (two species of the genus *Lepus*), further of hybrids between different species of dog (genus *Canis*) and deer (*Cervus*), etc., which can be propagated as independent species. Nay, for many important reasons we are justified in assuming that the rearing of bastards is a very pro-