



*Pandas, 1993, p. 85*

Does speciation fit with the theory that species were originally designed? If the intelligent design explanation is true, there may be species on the face of the earth that have undergone no substantial change since their beginning. On the other hand, the idea of intelligent design does not preclude the possibility that variation within species occurs, or that new species are formed from existing populations (as illustrated by the previous discussion of squirrels). The theory of intelligent design does suggest that there are limits to the amount of variation that natural selection and random change mechanisms can produce. Design proponents are interested

*SO, according to “intelligent design,”*

- **natural selection only decreases variation**
- **some species have not changed “since their beginning”**
- **speciation can occur, but it does not involve new innovations**
- **known natural mechanisms are too limited to account for important biological change and adaptive diversity**