The Laetoli Footprints

In 1978, a 75-foot trail of footprints were found in a layer of volcanic ash, which was dated at 3.75 million years old. The prints, discovered by the now deceased Mary Leakey, are "indistinguishable from those of modern humans" (Anderson, New Scientist 98:373, 1983). Of course, if these footprints were made by a human, this would disprove the theory of evolution because no human was supposed to have existed that long ago.

After extensive research the following conclusion was made: "(If the) footprints were not known to be so old, we would readily conclude that they were made by a member of our genus" (Tuttle, Natural History, March 1990).

This makes us wonder—does the evidence determine the theory, or does the theory determine the evidence? This is a case where evidence was dismissed because it contradicted the theory of evolution.