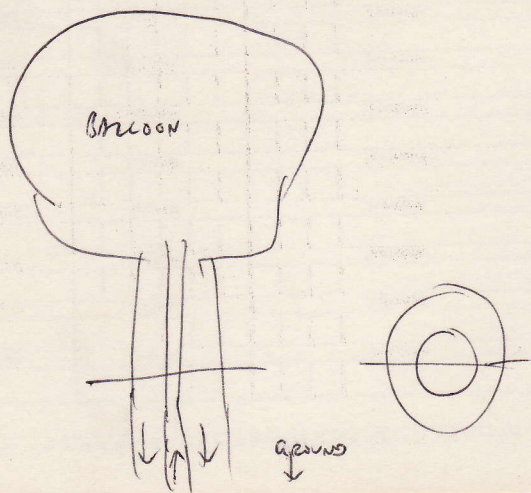


HOT-AIR BALLOON

230

1979-4-5



It might be efficient to maintain a hot-air balloon by actually sucking up hot air (through a coaxial tube, forcing cooler air back to ground). The alternative of sucking power up to heat the balloon air in situ is OK, but loses the automatic weight compensation of the supplied hot-air approach.

1976-7-9

The Earth has expanded under the continents. In previous epochs the Earth's atmosphere was quite different to now. It stored markedly at two periods of heavy carbon deposition, i.e. the Carboniferous (coal) and the Cretaceous (Co carbonates), with a smaller-diameter Earth (perhaps due to a lower value of gravitational constant - which itself may be some sort of integration of masses over [expanding] interstellar distances). Sea would cover a much greater proportion of Earth's area, but in Carboniferous times, may have been much higher proportion in atmosphere, giving impenetrable clouds leading to quasi-uniform climate over whole Earth surface. Hence similarity of flora/fauna over whole Earth.

Discoveries die out because of change in atmosphere No. 2.

TAXONOMY

1977-1-12

All the problems and questions of taxonomy, species differentiation, etc. will one day be decided quite permanently on the basis of gene counts. When gene analysis can be done quickly and automatically, then taxonomic arguments will shrink to ones of whether standard difference levels are appropriate or not - a species will be quite inarguably defined in terms of a genetic symbol.