

Brownian Motion - What Brown Really Saw and Described

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In the nineteen thirties working in Oslo, Norway, in exile and under threat of execution from the Nazis, Reich discovered the process of bionous disintegration and the existence of bions, vesicles transitional between non-life and life.¹ His discovery was ridiculed and laughed out of court, though no-one bothered to repeat his experiments. The rubber stamps of dismissal were 'Brownian motion' and contamination. A reading of Brown's 1828 paper on his *Active Molecules* is strangely familiar to someone versed in bion research.² He describes agglomerations of pulsatile forms showing worm-like motion.³ Was he in fact describing the bions, too, without realising what he was describing? Replication of his pollen experiments suggests that he was. Careful replication of Reich's original experiments and Brown's pollen experiments as well as his own control experiments, (remarkably similar to Reich's own control investigations) leaves little doubt.⁴ Originally Brown also connected his discovery with earlier workers in the field of the origin of life, De Buffon and Needham.⁵ A year later he published *Additional Remarks* on his experiments.⁶ This reads like a recantation. His apparent change of mind has been ignored by history and his original discovery forgotten about. His original biological discovery has been purloined by physics as what we now know as Brownian motion and its implications for biology and evolution forgotten. Could his change of heart be connected with the extreme political divisions of the day?

¹ Reich W (1938); *Die Bione*, (1979); the Bion Experiments on the Origin of Life, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York.

² Brown R (1828); *A Brief Account of Microscopic Observations...*

³ *ibid*

⁴ Jones P (2013); *Artificers of Fraud*, Orgonomy UK, Preston, UK

⁵ Brown R; *ibid*.

⁶ Brown R (1829); *Additional Remarks, on Active Molecules*.