

## WHAT CAME FIRST...THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

If the chicken came first, where did it come from?

If the egg came first, what laid it?



This question has baffled mankind for centuries. But British scientists studying the development of eggshell claim they may have found the answer.

Their research has found that a protein called Ovcleidin (OC-17), that is produced in a pregnant female bird's ovaries, is crucial in the eggshell forming process.

This discovery was first thought to confirm that the chicken came before the egg. However, Colin Freeman, a scientist at the University of Sheffield decided this conclusion was far too simplistic. He argues that the concept of an eggshell came about well before birds developed, and that eggshells were a dinosaur thing, or even a pre-dinosaur thing.

The team of scientists from the universities of Sheffield and Warwick used a high-tech computer to look at the molecular structure of eggshell and found that OC-17 acts as a catalyst to kick-start the conversion of calcium carbonate in a hen's body to calcite crystals.

These crystals form the hard shell that houses the yoke and its protective fluids while a chick develops.

OC-17 had previously been identified and linked to egg formation, but closer examination has shown how it controls the process.

The catch in the theory is how the protein-producing hen existed in the first place.

This argument surely begs the question...if no egg, no bird? And of course...if no bird, no egg?

Looks like it may be back to the drawing board on this one. We now know the chicken produced the egg, but what produced the chicken?

R.V.C.

### 2010 METROPOLITAN SEED ORDER DATES

General Meeting Payment Date	Mail Order Payment Date	Pick up Date
14/09/2010	27/09/2010	9/10/2010
9/11/2010	23/11/2010	4/12/2010

Members are advised that the pick up time is 8:30am to 11:00am only, and that these times will be strictly adhered to.