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GAIANIZING DARWIN  
NATURAL SELECTION IMPAIRS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DAISYWORLD TEMPERATURE SELF-  
REGULATION

Carlos de Castro<sup>1</sup> and Sergio Rubin<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Research Group on Energy, Economy and System Dynamics, Escuela de Arquitectura, University of Valladolid,  
Av Salamanca, 18, 47014, Valladolid, Spain*

**ccastro@termo.uva.es**

<sup>2</sup>*Georges Lemaître Centre for Earth and Climate Research, Earth and Life Institute, Université catholique de  
Louvain, Louvain, Belgium*

**sergio.rubin@uclouvain.be**

50 Abstract

51  
 52 **Many neo-Darwinists have rejected the Gaia hypothesis, arguing that organisms cannot**  
 53 **reach a common good by natural selection and that natural selection cannot act on the**  
 54 **whole planet. In response, Watson and Lovelock put forward a model they called**  
 55 **Daisyworld (Dw), a hypothetical planet which can regulate its temperature over a wide**  
 56 **range of solar luminosities. This is accomplished by ordinary physical processes rather**  
 57 **than by natural selection. As Daisyworld refuted the objections, the critics have**  
 58 **responded by developing Darwinian Daisyworlds (DDw) involving natural selection in**  
 59 **terms of adaptation, competition, cheating and selfishness. Here we show that the more**  
 60 **Darwinian characteristics are added to Dw, the less planetary temperature regulation is**  
 61 **attained. Rather, to explain the generation of habitable dynamics on Earth, we propose to**  
 62 **Gaianize Darwin by: i) showing that symbiotic coordination of daisies is at stake in the**  
 63 **planetary temperature regulation, ii) introducing more effectively self-regulation Worlds**  
 64 **without natural selection, such as Butterflyworld (Bw) and Pandoworld (Pw), iii)**  
 65 **introducing a simple altruistic-like Gaia constraint on daisies that results in a much more**  
 66 **effective temperature regulation than the original Dw.**

67  
 68 **Keywords:** *Gaia hypothesis, Daisyworld, temperature self-regulation, natural selection,*  
 69 *symbiotic coordination, Gaia constraint.*

70

71 1. Introduction

72  
 73 The Gaia hypothesis (Lovelock and Margulis 1974) was originally dismissed by neo-  
 74 Darwinists for two chief reasons: its apparent teleology (Doolittle 1981) and the argument that  
 75 organismic traits can only arise through natural selection and natural selection cannot have  
 76 operated on Gaia because there has only ever been one Earth (Dawkins 1982). In response,  
 77 Watson and Lovelock (1983) developed what they called the Daisyworld (Dw), a mathematical  
 78 structure of a hypothetical planet which regulates its own temperature, despite a steady  
 79 increase in solar radiation. It does this by varying the numbers of black and white daisies and  
 80 so altering its albedo, and it accomplishes this by ordinary physical processes. Even though it is  
 81 a simplified representation of a Gaian planet, Watson and Lovelock took care to use realistic  
 82 mechanisms and parameters of the Earth system.

83  
 84 After the Doolittle (1981) and Dawkins (1982) arguments were shown to be wrong, Darwinists  
 85 raised a third objection. In the evolutionary synthesis, there is the assumption that, in the  
 86 evolution of populations the entrance of organisms with selfish behaviours (e.g. cheaters)  
 87 cannot be avoided. These organisms will not work for a global common good and hence could  
 88 destroy the stability and regulatory properties of the system. Thus, the question was how  
 89 planetary self-regulation can emerge from a community with selfish organisms (Maynard-  
 90 Smith, 1988). This has been said to be the “*central theoretical problem of Dw*” (Saunders  
 91 1994).

92  
 93 In response, Darwinists have developed Darwinian Daisyworld (DDw) simulations with such  
 94 characteristics as adaptation to the optimum temperature of growth (Robertson & Robinson  
 95 1998, Lenton & Lovelock 2000), the entrance of cheaters (Lenton and Lovelock 2001,  
 96 Williams 2006, Nicholson et al. 2017), inter-specific competitive exclusion between daisies

97 (Cohen and Rich 2000, Pujol et al. 2005) and/or including albedo variation (e.g., Stöcker  
98 1995).

99  
100 Here we show that the Dw temperature self-regulation is weakened by Darwinian mechanisms  
101 of natural selection. The more Darwinian characteristics are added, the less planetary  
102 temperature self-regulation is attained. In Section 2, we set up and explain the equations of the  
103 original Dw. In Section 3, we compare the original Dw with the DDw. In Section 4, we show  
104 how the symbiotic coordination of black and white daisies is at stake in the planetary  
105 temperature self-regulation and we introduce self-regulatory worlds without natural selection:  
106 the Butterflyworld (Bw), Pandoworld (Pw) and active Pandoworld (aPw). In Section 5, we  
107 propose the idea of Gaianizing Darwin by introducing and discussing the existence of a Gaian  
108 constraint acting on the “altruistic” Daisyworld (aDw) within the circular causal dynamics of  
109 Dw. We conclude in section 6.

110

## 111 2. The Daisyworld equations and dynamics

112

### 113 2.1 The original Daisyworld equations

114

115 Dw is a hypothetical planet in orbit around a star similar to our sun. Its surface is populated by  
116 two types of daisies. Where there are black daisies the albedo is 0.25 and where there are white  
117 daisies the albedo is 0.75. The albedo of the bare planet is 0.5. The star’s luminosity varies  
118 very slowly, as does that of our sun (Caldeira & Kasting 1992). The area occupied by the  
119 daisies grows or decreases in such a way that the final result is that the mean temperature of the  
120 planet is located in a narrow margin of temperature that is close to the optimum for the daisies’  
121 growth (22.5°C). For this parameter, the planet is homeostatic, that is: the temperature is  
122 regulated. The equations we use are taken from the original model (Watson & Lovelock 1983).

123

124 The populations of white and black daisies are simulated based on the rate of change of the  
125 land they occupy:

126

$$127 \quad da_i / dt = a_i (x\beta_i - \gamma) \quad (1)$$

128

129 where  $a_i$  is the area occupied by daisy species  $i$ ,  $\gamma$  is the death rate of the daisies ( $\gamma$  is taken to be  
130 constant and equal to 0.3) and  $\beta_i$  is the growth rate. The planet is taken to have a unit area and  
131 we denote the area not covered by daisies by  $x=1-a_b-a_w$ . The growth rates  $\beta_i$  are a parabolic  
132 function whose maximum is at 22.5°C:

133

$$134 \quad \beta_i = \max (0, 1 - ((22.5 - T_i) / 17.5)^2) \quad (2)$$

135

136 where  $T_i$  is the local temperature of the daisies of species  $i$ . This temperature is determined by  
137 the average temperature of the planet ( $T_D$ ) and by the energy transfer between areas of different  
138 albedo:

139

$$140 \quad (T_i + 273)^4 = q(A_D - A_i) + (T_D + 273)^4. \quad (3)$$

141

142 Here,  $q$  is a constant factor chosen by Watson and Lovelock to be  $2.06 \cdot 10^9 \text{ K}^4$ .  $A_D$  is the  
143 average albedo of the planet given by:

144

145

$$A_D = 0.25a_b + 0.5x + 0.75a_w \quad (4)$$

146

147 Finally, the temperature of the planet  $T_D$  is determined by the energetic equilibrium between  
148 the radiation of energy entering and leaving the planet:

149

150

$$SL(1-A_D) = \sigma(T_D + 273)^4 \quad (5)$$

151

152 Here,  $\sigma$  is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant and  $S$  is a scale constant chosen so that  $S/\sigma =$   
153  $1.68 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ K}^4$ .  $L$  is the luminosity of the sun; different authors allow this to vary in different  
154 ways; we follow the equation suggested by Robertson & Robinson (1998):

155

156

$$L(t) = 1/(1-0.08352 \cdot t) \quad (6)$$

157

158

where  $t$  is measured in Gyr ( $10^9$  years).

159

160 Next, we shall explain the set up of the Daisyworld and Daisyworld-like dynamic simulations  
161 as a preparation for the comparison to follow.

162

163

## 2.2 The dynamic equations of Daisyworld and Darwinian Daisyworlds

164

165 Watson & Lovelock (1983) (hereinafter referred to as W&L) assume the daisies' growth is  
166 faster than the increment in the Sun's luminosity. Therefore, the derivative of the area in  
167 equation (1) is replaced by zero. The changes in the daisy populations are not given in terms of  
168 time, but in terms of the Sun's luminosity, which they take to vary between 0.6 and 1.6.

169

170 Robertson & Robinson (1998) (hereinafter referred to as R&R) simulate the increase in  
171 luminosity by equation (6) and measure time between -3.5 and 7 Gyr with no dynamic  
172 simulation of the daisies' growth. Nevertheless, R&R introduce the daisies' adaptation to the  
173 temperature simulation using a discrete recursive equation to calculate the optimal temperature:

174

175

$$T_{\text{opt}}(t) = T_{\text{opt}}(t-1) + a(T(t-1) - T_{\text{opt}}(t-1)) \quad (7)$$

176

177 where  $T_{\text{opt}}(t)$  is the optimum growth temperature of the daisies (similar for black and white) in  
178 the interval  $t$ ,  $T$  is the local temperature of the daisy population, and  $a$  is the adaptation rate,  
179 which they chose to be between 0 and 0.05. They use time intervals of 40 Myr and also each  
180 5Myr without significant changes.

181

182 A numerical integration based on the Euler method is used in the dynamic simulations of  
183 Lenton & Lovelock (2000) (hereinafter referred to as L&L). However, since the time units of  
184 the daisy growth and the increase in  $L$  are so different, the time span is the same as R&R and it  
185 is divided into 262 intervals (every 40 Myr). In each of these intervals, a simulation of 100  
186 iterations of equations 1 to 5, with a fixed value of  $L$ , is executed. The time units of each  
187 iteration are not given, but each of these corresponds to a "generation" (i.e., their time step or  
188 "generation" step here is 40Myr/100 or 400,000 years). Although the generation time seems  
189 enormous, the solar luminosity (the driver that provides changes in the daisies' area through  
190 changes in planetary temperature) increases by less than 0.5% in 40Myr and is virtually

191 constant (a variation of less than 0.005%) in L&L. This slow change of luminosity means that  
 192 the adaptation rate chosen by L&L could be qualified as “moderate”.

193  
 194 Based on these works, we set up our dynamic simulations with time steps 40 to 800 times  
 195 lower than the generation time of L&L. This set up defines the adaptation restriction in a  
 196 realistic-like fashion and, when simulated, is more precise although, given the small variation  
 197 in luminosity, it gives similar results. In the next section, we compare the regulatory  
 198 performance of the DDw(s) and Dw.

### 200 3. A comparison of Daisyworld and Darwinian Daisyworlds

201

#### 202 3.1 Adaptive Daisies

203

204 Different simulations with different assumptions have introduced the notion of adaptation to  
 205 Dw. Keeling (1991) investigated the effect of introducing a third black daisy with a  
 206 preadaptation to 33°C (instead of 22.5°C) that “causes an environmental catastrophe” (Wood et  
 207 al. 2008). Other authors have researched the effect of adaptation in Dw (Saunders (1994),  
 208 Stöcker (1995), Stanley (2002), Pujol et al. (2005), Robertson & Robinson (1998), Lenton &  
 209 Lovelock (2000), Williams (2006), Wood et al. (2008), Weber & Robinson (2004)).

210

211 Thus, we have replicated the simulation of L&L, where no restrictions to adaptation occur  
 212 before 40°C. This shows that there is no temperature regulation until we approach 40°C, where  
 213 the restriction on adaptation begins to occur (Fig. 1A). From 40 to 50°C, the growth rate takes a  
 214 value between 1 and 0, decreasing linearly. From 50°C it becomes zero. Before 40°C, black  
 215 daisies occupy the planet and adapt to the increasing temperature. The graph simply follows  
 216 the luminosity of the sun, with a higher temperature in the presence of black daisies than that  
 217 of the lifeless planet.

218

219 When the planetary temperature approaches 40°C, the temperature restrictions on the growth of  
 220 black daisies begin and regulation appears around  $36 \pm 3$  °C. In this simulation, therefore,  
 221 there is also an optimal temperature point in the equations, a kind of “thermostat”, as W&R  
 222 stated, concerning the original Dw. This “thermostat” is based on the limitations to adaptation.  
 223 However, it is not an ad hoc thermostat like the 22.5°C in W&L; it is rather a “natural” one,  
 224 because the physical restrictions apply here as a universal-external law.

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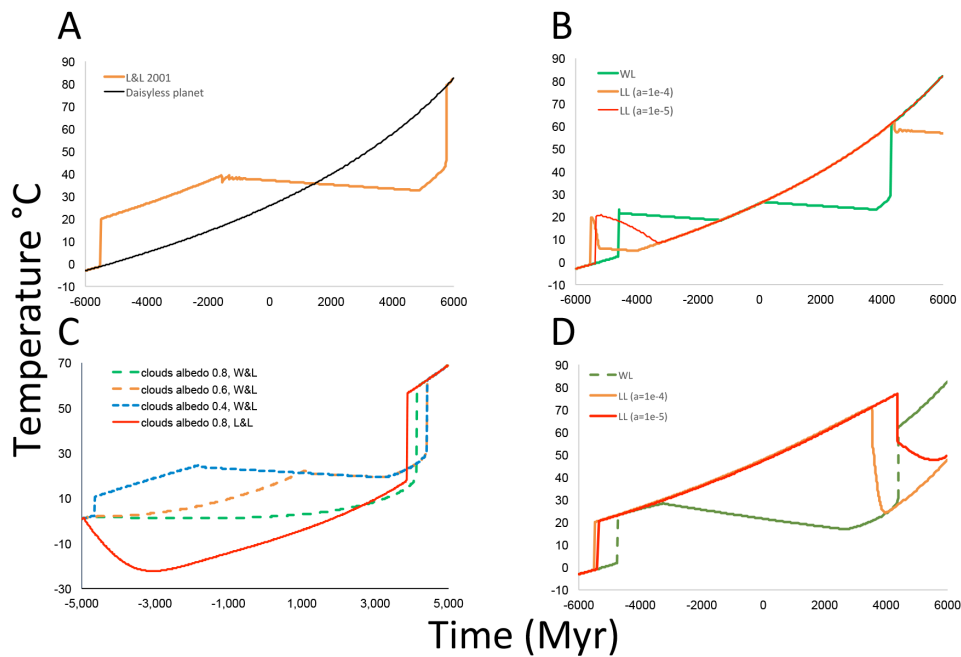
#### 227 3.2 Cheating daisies

228

229 The introduction of cheaters has been proposed by L&L as grey daisies with an albedo of 0.5  
 230 and a growth rate 5% greater than that of the black and white daisies, which can be interpreted  
 231 as an ‘advantage’. Grey daisies do not contribute to temperature regulation because their  
 232 albedo is the same as that of the lifeless planet.

233 We have simulated both the W&L and the L&L –with biophysical restrictions to adaptation—  
 234 with the introduction of a grey daisy in the equations (Fig. 1B). The stabilizing feedback in the  
 235 W&L (see section 5 for details) is strong enough to maintain the regulation. However, if we  
 236 add the grey daisy to the adaptive L&L DDw, the regulation is strongly impaired, as it is not as  
 237 robust against cheaters as the W&L Dw.

238



239  
 240  
 241 **Figure 1. Comparison of Daisyworld and Darwinian Daisyworld with simulation step or generation time of**  
 242 **10,000 years.** **A)** Results of the simulation of the model of Lenton & Lovelock (2000), where the adaptation is  
 243 only restricted from 40°C up (see text). Green dashed line is the temperature variation in the lifeless Daisyworld.  
 244 Orange line is the temperature evolution in Daisyworld with the adaptation rate of  $a=10^{-4}$ . **B)** Response to the  
 245 introduction of a “cheater” in the models: simulation with black, white and grey daisies. Orange line: Lenton &  
 246 Lovelock (2000) adaptation rate  $a=10^{-4}$ ; red line: Lenton & Lovelock (2000) adaptation rate  $a=10^{-5}$ ; green dashed  
 247 line: original model by Watson & Lovelock (1983). The black and white daisies have a growth rate 5% smaller  
 248 than that of the grey daisies. **C)** Cloudy Daisyworlds: Green dashed line: albedo of black daisies plus clouds is  
 249 0.8, as in W&L with similar results; orange dashed line: the same model with albedo 0.6; blue dashed line: the  
 250 same model with albedo 0.4. Red line: the model by Lenton & Lovelock (2000) with clouds of albedo 0.8. See  
 251 text for details and WL (1983). **D)** Regulation of temperature adding a competitive effect between daisies. Death  
 252 rate is not constant, but  $\gamma = (0.3 + 0.1 \cdot \text{area of competing daisy})$ . Green dashed line: Original model of Watson &  
 253 Lovelock (1983); orange and red lines: adaptive model of Lenton & Lovelock (2000) with adaptation rates  $a = 10^{-4}$   
 254 and  $10^{-5}$ , respectively. See text for details.  
 255

### 256 3.3 Cloudy Daisyworld.

257  
 258 By suggesting that “not every interaction between the biota and the environment can be  
 259 expected to operate in such civilized fashion”, W&L introduced a modification upon which  
 260 black daisies generate clouds with a high albedo as a by-product of their growth; the cloudy  
 261 Daisyworld. Thus, their local temperature is lower than the average of the planet. Their results  
 262 show that regulation is maintained and the white daisies do not appear.  
 263

264 Our simulation of W&L shows the same results (Fig. 1C). We also show that the regulation is  
 265 more stable when the albedo of the clouds is greater than the albedo of the white daisies.  
 266 Otherwise, the regulation tends to be over a narrower range of solar luminosity. We have also  
 267 found that the regulation is impaired in a cloudy Daisyworld with the adaptive-restrictive DDw  
 268 of L&L, although the daisies could modify the environment of the planet as a by-product of  
 269 their growth. That is, the adaptive-restrictive DDw does not respond with temperature stability  
 270 to a “not too civilized” interaction (Fig. 1C).  
 271

### 272 3.4 Competitive Daisies

273  
 274 Saunders (1994) considered that ‘space’ could be a resource for competition. Lenton &  
 275 Lovelock (2001) reinterpreted that “*inter- and intra-specific competition (between and within*  
 276 *species) are given equal weighting in the original Daisyworld*”. That is, the daisies may  
 277 ‘compete’ for space (see equation (1)).

278  
 279 In this DDw a competitive effect between daisies is added. Instead of being constant and equal  
 280 to 0.3 as in W&L, the death rate of daisies ( $\gamma$ ) in our simulations equals  $0.3 + 0.1 * \text{the area of}$   
 281  $\text{the competing daisy}$ . Here, each class has a negative effect on the other. Thus, the presence of  
 282 one daisy inhibits the growth of the other, rather than simply denying space to grow. The  
 283 remaining equations are unaltered.

284  
 285 Figure 1D shows that temperature regulation in the competitive DDw is impaired when there  
 286 are restrictions to adaptation. The temperature variation is around 15° C as against around 7°C  
 287 in the original W&L, while temperature regulation in the adaptive DDw of L&L is never  
 288 attained in the time scale presented.

289  
 290 The existence of competition<sup>1</sup> in Daisyworld has raised some doubts (Robertson & Robinson  
 291 1998). Simulations by Cohen and Rich (2000) and Pujol et al. (2005) found that temperature  
 292 regulation is weakened with interspecific competition,<sup>2</sup> concluding that “natural selection” may  
 293 not lead to Dw temperature self-regulation.

294  
 295 Summarizing this section, we have compared the original Dw with the proposed Darwinian  
 296 mechanisms: the adaptive simulations of L&L with restrictions to adaptation, with the addition  
 297 of clouds, and the entrance of cheaters or competition. We have performed other combinations  
 298 with similar results (not shown); the regulation is weakened or impaired when more  
 299 simultaneous Darwinian characteristics are simulated. The next section shows how regulatory  
 300 properties can arise without natural selection.

## 302 4. Self-regulatory worlds without natural selection

### 303 4.1 Symbiotic coordination of daisies

304  
 305 The Dw equations (W&L 1983) do not describe the individual behaviour of the daisies, but the  
 306 variation of the total area occupied by each species of daisy. The growth in the area of a type of  
 307 daisy depends on the area that remains to be occupied<sup>3</sup>. The total life area remains  
 308 approximately constant and is almost the possible theoretical maximum over billions of years.

---

<sup>1</sup>Competition is a concept in the adaptationist programme of the *modern synthesis*, which stems from the idea that resources are limited for all individuals to have equal access and supply. That is, it distinguishes a relationship between organisms in which one is harmed when both are trying to use the same ‘limited’ resource related to growth, reproduction, or survivability, excluding the ecological balance for such behaviours.

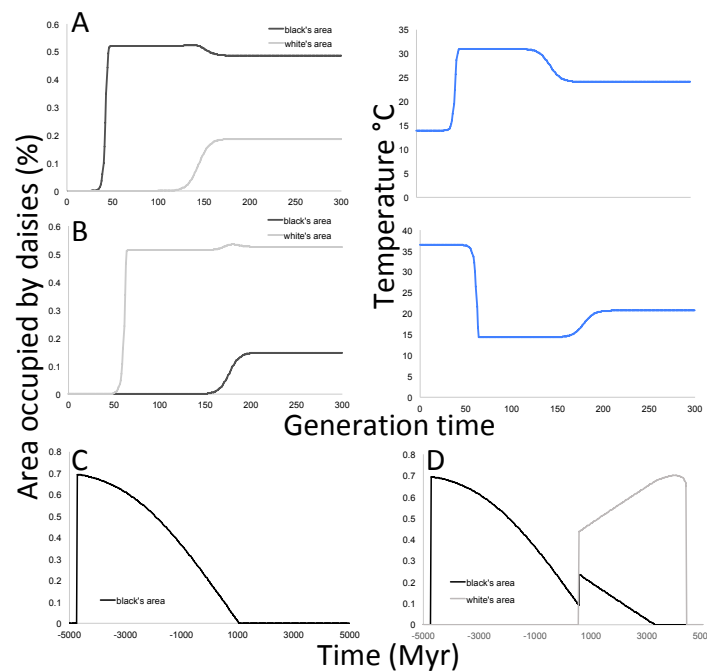
<sup>2</sup>They do impair the growth of the other daisy species. We have also carried out simulations in this way with similar conclusions (results not shown). Instead of impairing the “reproduction”, we have modelled the inter-species competition impairing the death rate (the presence of one daisy increases the mortality rate of the other).

<sup>3</sup>For instance, the growth rate of the ice area of a freezing water pond depends on the area that remains to be occupied, not on competition between ice and liquid water. The same applies here for the area occupied by a Daisyworld with only one daisy species and the bare ground; the mathematical description of ice/daisies and water/bare ground and the behaviour observed is not in fact qualitatively different.

309 Thus, whether the space area represents competition or cooperation depends upon whether we  
 310 look at the individual behaviour of daisies, or rather the whole planet. Nevertheless,  
 311 competence and cooperation are anthropocentrically charged terms (Margulis and Sagan 2002,  
 312 chapter 1). We prefer the notion of coordination whenever a structural coupling between two or  
 313 more organisms can be observed (Maturana 1980).

314  
 315 We have simulated Dw with fixed sun luminosities. When the luminosity is  $L=0.85$  (Fig. 2A),  
 316 the Dw temperature without daisies is  $13.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the growth of black daisies takes up slightly  
 317 more than 50% of the planet area in around 50 generations, while the white daisies grow very  
 318 slowly until the abrupt increase in temperature is produced by the black daisies. They then start  
 319 to grow more quickly and need more than 150 generations to take up almost 20%. When the  
 320 white daisies occupy more than 10% of the planet, the black daisies readjust their population,  
 321 due to temperature change, to slightly less than 50%. For a luminosity similar to our present  
 322 sun  $L = 1$ , the stabilisation of the Dw temperature, the area of daisies and the start of the  
 323 growth of both daisies happens more quickly, in less than 100 generations (not shown). When  
 324 the luminosity is  $L=1.15$  (Fig. 2B), the growth of the white daisies quickly reaches 45.7%,  
 325 triggering a temperature change which allows the growth of black daisies up to 20%.  
 326 Furthermore, when the area of black daisies grows, the area of white daisies also grows from  
 327 45.7 to 48.3%. These results show that the growth of the white daisies is coupled to that of the  
 328 black daisies. Wherever the growth of black daisies takes place, an area of white daisies also  
 329 grows. That is, the growth of both daisies is not mutually exclusive and seems to follow a  
 330 coordinated symbiotic pattern rather than a competitive one.

331



332  
 333  
 334 **Figure 2. Symbiotic coordination in Daisyworld.** A,B) Area of Daisy occupation (left panels) and planetary  
 335 temperature evolution (blue)(right panels) for 300 daisy generations at a fixed sun luminosity of  $L=0.85$  (A) or  $L=$   
 336  $1.15$  (B). C,D) Area occupation of daisies with increasing luminosity, with only black daisies (C) and when white  
 337 daisies appear at a solar luminosity of  $L=1.05$  (D).

338

339



340 The symbiotic coordination can also be shown when the luminosity is changing (Fig. 2C,D).  
 341 The life-time of a Dw with only black daisies is shorter (Fig.2C) when compared to a Dw on  
 342 which the white daisies appear on the planet several thousand million years later, when  $L =$   
 343  $1.05$  (Fig.2D). This shows that the appearance of white daisies allows the blacks to regain their  
 344 growth rate and expand their life span two thousand million years more than when black daisies  
 345 are alone.

346  
 347 All these results suggest that the resource space is a symbiogenic rather than a competitive  
 348 adaptive feature. The area occupied by black and white daisies is in balance with respect to the  
 349 luminosity and the regulating temperature of the whole planet, which is "comfortable" for both  
 350 daisies. Daisyworld constrains a maximum occupation of the planet with respect to a global  
 351 temperature self-regulation.

#### 352 353 354 4.2 Butterflyworld and Pandoword: regulation without natural selection

355  
 356 Butterflyworld (Bw) is a hypothetical planet with a single butterfly species with sexual  
 357 dimorphism (black male, white female) (Castro 2013, 2019, 2020). Both sexes are required. As  
 358 such there is no competition, hence no natural selection. All parameters such as factor ( $q$ ) and  
 359 heat transfer factor in Bw are the same as in the Dw of W&L. However, the birth rates and  
 360 mortality of the butterflies with respect to daisies are different.

361  
 362 The growth rate of the butterfly area depends on the presence of butterflies of the other sex and  
 363 of the area that remains to be occupied ( $x$ ) (see equation (1) for comparison). The mortality rate  
 364 depends on the parameter  $B$  and the area occupied by the butterflies of the same sex. Then, the  
 365 rate of variation of the area occupied by males, which replaces equation (1) of the Dw of  
 366 W&L, is:

$$367 \quad \frac{da_m}{dt} = \sqrt{a_m \cdot a_f} \cdot x - a_m \cdot (1 - B_m) \quad (8)$$

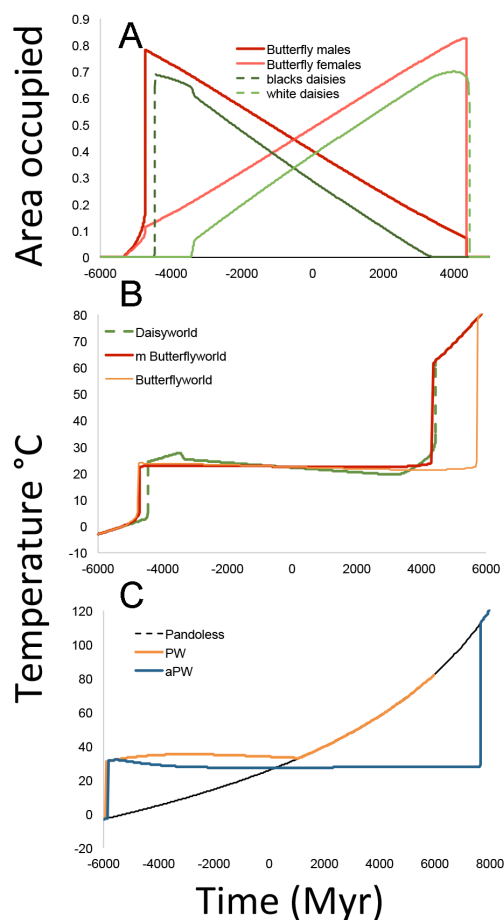
368  
 369 where  $a_m$  is the area occupied by males and  $a_f$  that occupied by females, the same symmetrical  
 370 equation applies for the  $a_f$  variation. Thus, growth is maximized when there are as many males  
 371 as females, and mortality depends on the temperature (parameter  $B$ , equation (2)) in proportion  
 372 to the number of males ( $a_m$ ). Therefore, in Bw, area variation with the temperature is not  
 373 dependent on reproduction but mortality dependent.

374  
 375 When the planet temperature is regulated by means of the change in the relative areas of males  
 376 and females,  $B$  could approach 1 and there may not be any mortality. In fact, this happens with  
 377 female butterflies that could occupy very nearly 100% of the planetary area, the males being  
 378 reduced to much less than 1%. However, this situation is not biologically plausible in natural  
 379 systems. Thus, to overcome this, we modify equation (8), hence the Bw (Castro 2013),  
 380 assuming that in each generation time, at least 3% of butterflies irrespective of their local  
 381 temperature, will die:

$$382 \quad \frac{da_m}{dt} = \sqrt{a_m \cdot a_f} \cdot x - a_m \cdot (1.03 - B) \quad (8bis)$$

383  
 384  
 385

386 We call this the modified Bw (mBw). Here symbiotic coordination between sexes is observed  
 387 for reproduction, mathematically reflected in the square root, that requires the presence of both  
 388 with a maximum when both populations are equal<sup>4</sup>. The results of this simulation show the  
 389 comparison of the area occupied by male and female butterflies of mBw and of black and  
 390 white daisies of Dw (Fig.3A) and the comparison of the temperature regulation between them  
 391 (Fig. 3B). The butterfly area in mBw of each sex never surpasses 85% and, during the  
 392 temperature regulation time, both sexes have more than 7% presence (Fig. 3A). Overall,  
 393 temperature regulation of the Bw is longer than that of mBw and Dw, while temperature  
 394 variability is much less in Bw and mBw than in Dw (Fig.3B).  
 395



396  
 397  
 398 **Figure 3. Area and Temperature evolution in Butterflyworld, Pandoworld and Daisyworld.** A) Dark green  
 399 and light green dashed lines are the area occupied by black and white daisies in Dw, respectively. Red and orange  
 400 lines are the area occupied by male and female butterflies in mBw, respectively. B) Temperature evolution in Dw  
 401 (green dashed line), Bw (orange line) and the modified mBw (red line). C) Temperature evolution of Pandoless  
 402 Pw (black line), Pw (orange line) and the active aPw with the capacity for ‘learning’ through changing the albedo  
 403 with an overheating sensor (blue line).  
 404

405 Pandoworld (Pw), inspired by Pando, a notable clonal aspen tree (*Populus tremuloides*)  
 406 (deWoody et al. 2008), is a planet on which Pando increases or decreases in size at each time

<sup>4</sup> The “cost of sex” has apparently been resolved from a Darwinist standpoint because it is assumed that sex could increase variability. However Gorelick and Heng (2010) review the evidence and discuss whether this may not be the case. The “selfishness dilution”, that sex implies in nature and in our model, shows that it could contribute rather to improving the Gaian self-regulatory properties that, in turn, stabilise this kind of functional processes (i.e., sex could be regarded as a Gaia constraint, see next section).

407 step. That is, in Pw there is no competition, reproduction or variation upon which Darwinian  
 408 natural selection can act. Pw follows the same equations as Dw with some constant parameters  
 409 changed; the albedo is 0.15 –usual for forests–, instead of the black daisies’ 0.25, while the  
 410 fixed mortality rate of the area occupied by Pando is 0.1 instead of the 0.3 for daisies. When  
 411 Pando occupies an appreciable amount of the surface of the planet, Pw self-regulates its  
 412 temperature in a similar way to Dw with the black daisies only (Fig. 3C).

413  
 414 Following Rubin et al. (2020, 2021), we have further equipped the Pw with cognition-like  
 415 properties. We call this “active” Pw (aPw), which detects the increase in solar luminosity  
 416 (external states) through sensing the temperature (sensory states). The aPw changes its albedo  
 417 slowly (limiting it from 0.15 to 0.85), losing dark leaves in favor of light leaves (active states).  
 418 The aPw reaches a remarkably long lasting (more than 13 Gyr) temperature self-regulation  
 419 (Fig. 3C).

420

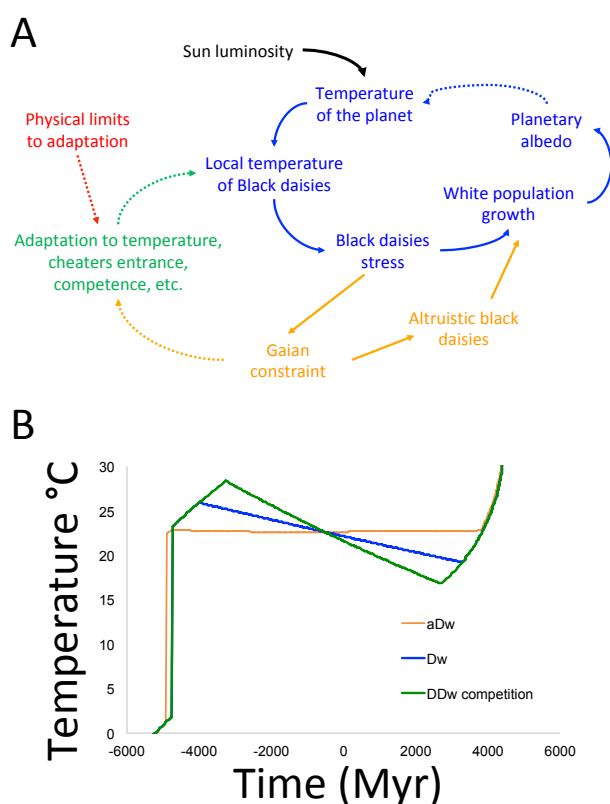
## 421 5. Gaianizing Darwin: Planetary constraints and “altruistic” daisies

422

423 Our analysis of the original Dw and DDw shows that the mechanisms behind them cannot be  
 424 interpreted in the light of the natural selection of daisies. We have shown that the addition of  
 425 Darwinian characteristics into Dw tends to weaken or even impair the regulation of its  
 426 temperature. How the Darwinian characteristics affect the Dw temperature self-regulation is  
 427 shown in an influence diagram of the Dw (Fig.4A).

428

429



430

431

432 **Figure 4. Simplified dynamic influence diagram of Daisyworld(s) and their temperature self-regulation.** A) Dynamic  
 433 influence diagram of Dw, DDw and aDw under a Gaian constraint. Blue loop represents original Dw of W&L. Blue + Green  
 434 represent the adaptive, competence, cheaters and other Darwinian characteristics of DDw. Red add physical restrictions on

435 daisy adaptation. Orange represent how a Gaian constraint limits Darwinian influence and adds an ‘altruistic’ loop on Dw  
 436 (aDw). Bold arrows indicate positive feedbacks (e.g., the more Sun luminosity, the higher the temperature of the planet; or the  
 437 lower the Sun luminosity, the lower the temperature of the planet). Dashed arrows indicate negative feedbacks (e.g., the higher  
 438 the planetary albedo, the lower the temperature of the planet)<sup>5</sup>. **B**) Comparison of temperature self-regulation of Dw (blue  
 439 line), DDw with antagonistic competence (green line) and aDW with “altruistic” daisies (orange line) (see text for  
 440 explanations of this model).

441  
 442  
 443  
 444  
 445 When a Darwinian influence (green), which is destabilising, is added to the stabilising blue  
 446 loop (original Dw), the temperature self-regulation is impaired or destroyed. Adaptive with  
 447 restrictions (red-green) has a set point temperature which is stressful for daisies. It reduces the  
 448 strength of the “green” causation, adding a negative causation if and only if the physical  
 449 restriction happens. Indeed, much of the DDw we have analysed here or from elsewhere adds  
 450 “green” destabilising causation, in the sense that it impairs temperature regulation. For  
 451 example, some recent results of the Guild (Williams 2006) or the Flasks simulations  
 452 (Nicholson et al. 2017), also found that the regulation is impaired with the entrance of adaptive  
 453 cheaters.

454  
 455 However, the inclusion of a ‘Gaian constraint’ (orange loop)(Fig. 4A) which strongly restricts  
 456 the Darwinian influence and/or triggers “apoptosis-like<sup>6</sup>” behaviour in black daisies allows the  
 457 global temperature self-regulation to stabilize (Fig.4B). The proposal is thus to reverse the  
 458 logic of the inter-specific competence by an “altruistic” behaviour. That is, instead of the death  
 459 rate being:  $\gamma = 0.3 + 0.1 \cdot \text{area of competing daisies}$ ; for the “altruistic” daisies, the death rate  
 460 becomes:  $\gamma = 0.24 + 0.1 \cdot \text{own area of daisies}$ , i.e., they die in function of their own density<sup>7</sup>.  
 461 The temperature self-regulation of this “altruistic” aDw remains for more than  $8 \cdot 10^9$  years,  
 462 with the temperature variation lower than  $0.3^\circ\text{C}$  (Fig.4B). These values are much more robust  
 463 than for DDw or even Dw. A ‘comfortable’ temperature may be reached for each individual  
 464 daisy, as well as for the whole Dw, because daisies depend on the regulation properties of the  
 465 whole system and the whole system constrains the equilibrium population area of daisies.

466  
 467 Darwinian characteristics added to Dw attempt to address the central theoretical problem of  
 468 how planetary self-regulation could happen with selfish organisms that are selected not to work  
 469 for global properties or to reach a common good (Maynard-Smith, 1988). Initial simulations  
 470 show that this was not possible (R&R, Saunders 1994). Then, some authors claimed Gaia to be  
 471 ‘lucky’ (Watson 2004). On the other hand, it has been suggested that assuming the existence of  
 472 an ultrastable<sup>8</sup> natural selection of feedbacks across scales (Lenton et al. 2018), or that the  
 473 competing of macro/super ‘units of selection’ such as biogeochemical cycles or hypothetical

---

<sup>5</sup>A circular causation cycle is a stabilising loop that could result in planetary self-regulated temperature and also self-regulated daisy populations when an odd number of discontinuous arrows are in the loop; otherwise, it is a positive reinforcing loop (a destabilising loop). Butterflyworld and Pandoworld do not have the green destabilising feedbacks and reinforce the stabilising feedback through i) the coupling of butterflies (in Bw) with selfishless behaviour, ii) the learning of the aPw, or iii) through “altruistic” daisies under a Gaian constraint.

<sup>6</sup> This model is inspired by the behaviour of apoptotic planktonic, photosynthetic microorganisms found in the oceans, as described by Bidle and Falkosvki (2004).

<sup>7</sup> We chose 24% of deaths instead of 30% to be able to compare it with the original Dw, assuming that the area limit for the daisies was 70% of the planet in both simulations.

<sup>8</sup> Ultrastability is a stability of a logical level, higher than the stability to which a system converges without changing its internal organisation, which was introduced by Ashby (1966).

474 pre-existing clades (Doolittle 2017, Doolittle and Inkpen, 2018), will constitute a ‘probable’  
475 Darwinized Gaia.

476  
477 Our results obtained from comparing Dw with DDw, and introducing mBw, aPw and aDw,  
478 suggests that the central theoretical problem of Dw remains. That is, there is no possibility of  
479 planetary self-regulation with the Darwinian mechanisms of adaptation, competence and  
480 cheating. Therefore, there should be an alternative explanation for the generation of habitable  
481 dynamics on Earth or Gaian-like planets elsewhere that does not involve natural selection  
482 mechanisms.

483  
484 Margulis suggested that Gaia is the “selector” (Margulis and Sagan 2002). For us, “Gaianizing  
485 Darwin” rather means that the whole system constrains the Darwinian mechanisms and allows  
486 the generation of planetary habitable dynamics favouring such different processes as the  
487 equilibrium population of organisms through “altruistic” behaviour, as illustrated in the aDw  
488 (Fig. 4B), and/or by symbiotic coordination, as shown above (Figs. 2 and 3A), among others.

489

## 490 6. Conclusion

491

492 Although different works showed the Darwinian effects on Dw, none has shown their additive  
493 effect at the same time. This is shown through the comparison of the original Dw with DDw  
494 including adaptive restrictions, competition, high albedo clouds, by-products and cheaters. The  
495 Darwinian responses of the daisies in DDw tend to weaken the temperature regulation in the  
496 original Dw with one of them and further impaired when two or three or all four simulated  
497 processes are added. That is, the more Darwinian characteristics are added, the less planetary  
498 temperature self-regulation is attained.

499

500 As Dw regulates its temperature over a wide range of solar luminosities by ordinary physical  
501 processes, such processes on Earth, in our opinion, involve at least strong symbiotic  
502 coordinated relationships. We have developed hypothetical worlds, such as a Butterflyworld,  
503 an active Pandoworld and an altruistic Daisyworld, that cannot be considered subject to  
504 Darwinian selection, but which could be regarded as coherent with a Gaian constraint  
505 hypothesis. The temperature self-regulation of these worlds is attained much more efficiently  
506 even when compared with the original Dw. This casts doubt on the attempts of Darwinizing  
507 Gaia and the compatibility between the Gaia hypothesis and natural selection. Alternatively, by  
508 Gaianizing Darwin instead, we think that we overcome the lucky and probable Gaia as a  
509 hypothesis for the long habitability on Earth and elsewhere in the universe.

510

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