MC wrote:
> When I query the file (H5F_IS_HDF5(fname)) all is OK but the moment I
> try to get a handle (file_id = H5F_OPEN(fname)) IDL generates a
> fatal error and dies completely (needing me to kill it).

I remember having a similar problem with IDL 6.4. There are two API versions
for HDF5: 1.6.x and 1.8.x. The help file for IDL 6.4 states that it uses HDF5
library version 1.6.3.

IDL simply crashed when trying to read a file written by version 1.8.x of the
HDF5 library (the file was generated by a C program in my case). Maybe this is
a worthwhile line of inquiry for you.

chl