



# The first hominins part 1



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## Contenuti del corso:

- Lezione introduttive (Prof. ssa Arzarello e Prof. Sala)
- Metodologie di studio in Paleoantropologia
- Primi ominini parte 1 (dal *Sahelanthropus* al *Ardipithecus*)
- Primi ominini parte 2 (le Australopitecine)
- Il genere *Homo* in Africa
- L'out-of-Africa verso l'Asia
- Primo popolamento dell'Europa
- I Neanderthal
- Origine dell'*Homo sapiens*
- Le migrazione dell'*Homo sapiens*

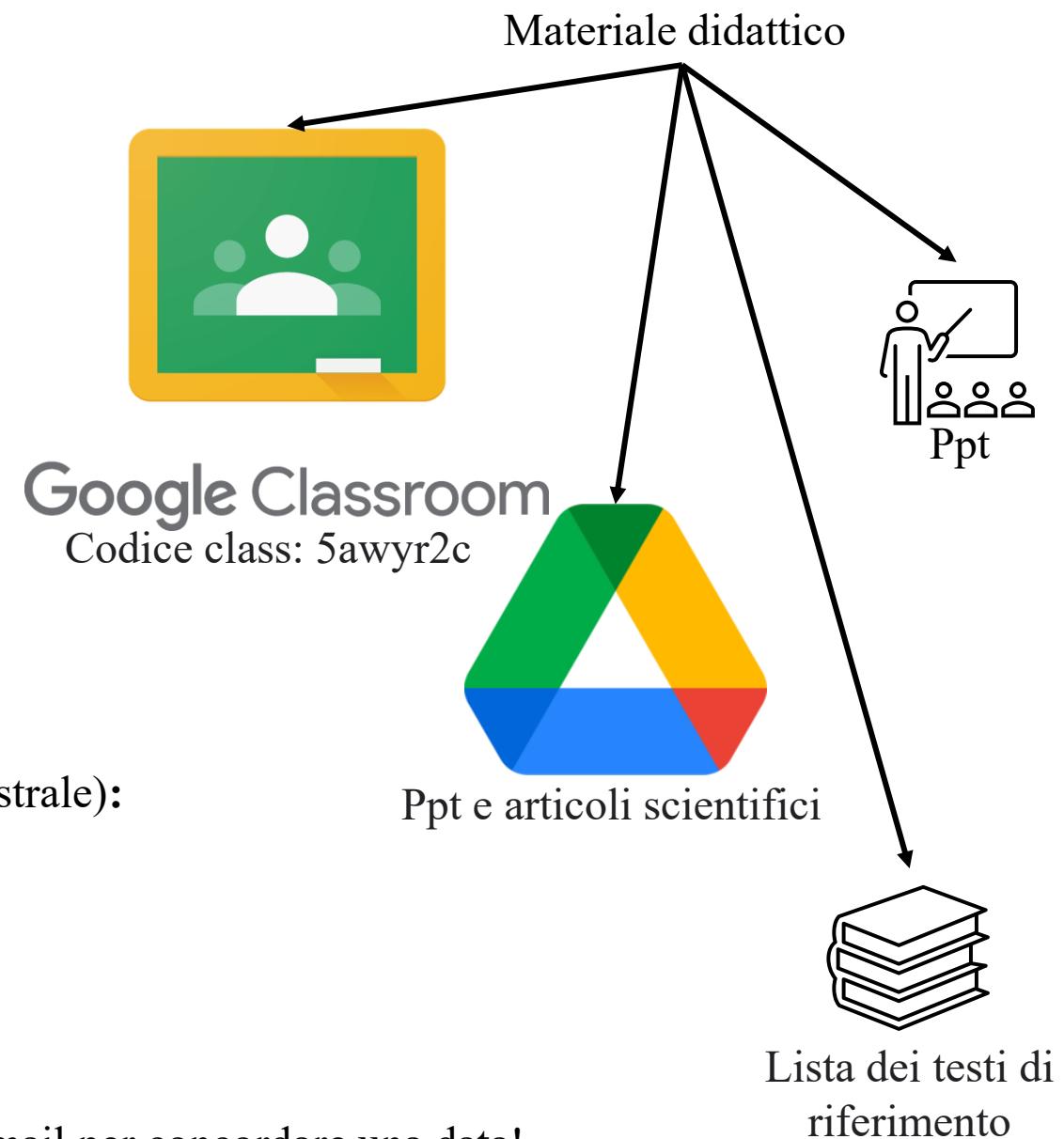
## Laboratori (verranno organizzati alla fine delle lezioni magistrali):

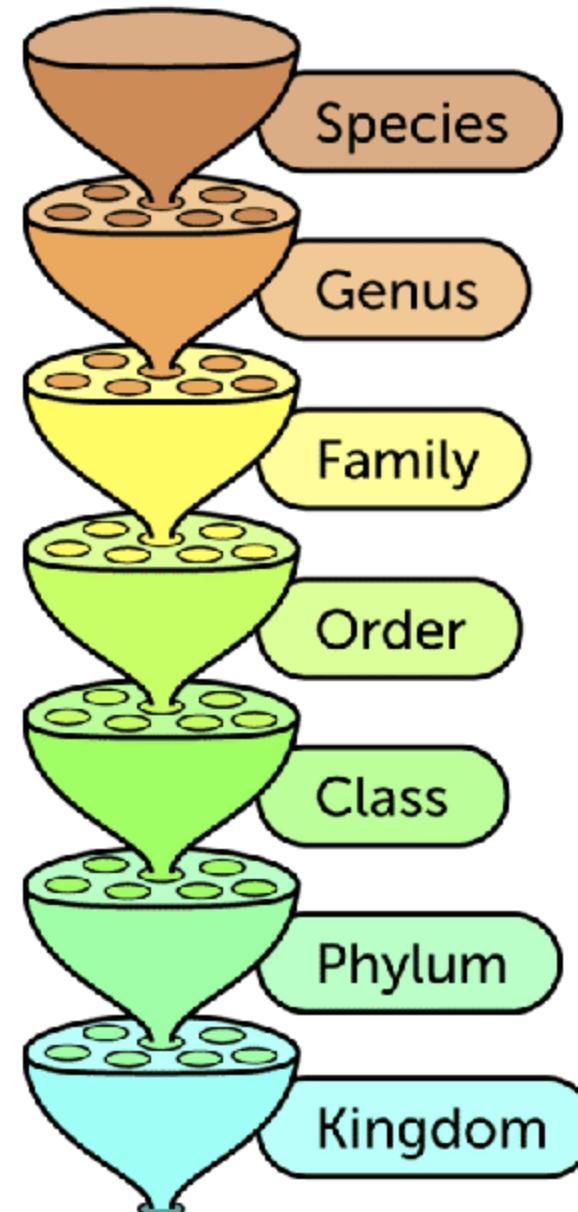
- Cranio (~3ore): anatomia ed evoluzione
- Mandibola (~3ore): anatomia, dimensione ed evoluzione

## Esame:

Orale (o scritto se richiesto dall\* student\*)

L'esame si può fare anche **fuori appelli**, basta scrivermi una mail per concordare una data!





*Homo sapiens*

*Homo*

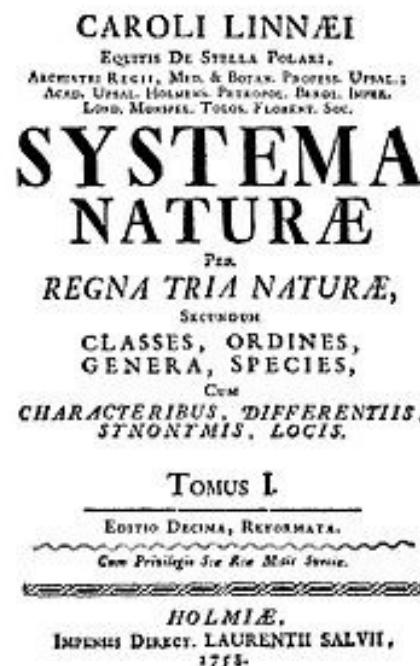
Hominidae

Primates

Mammalia

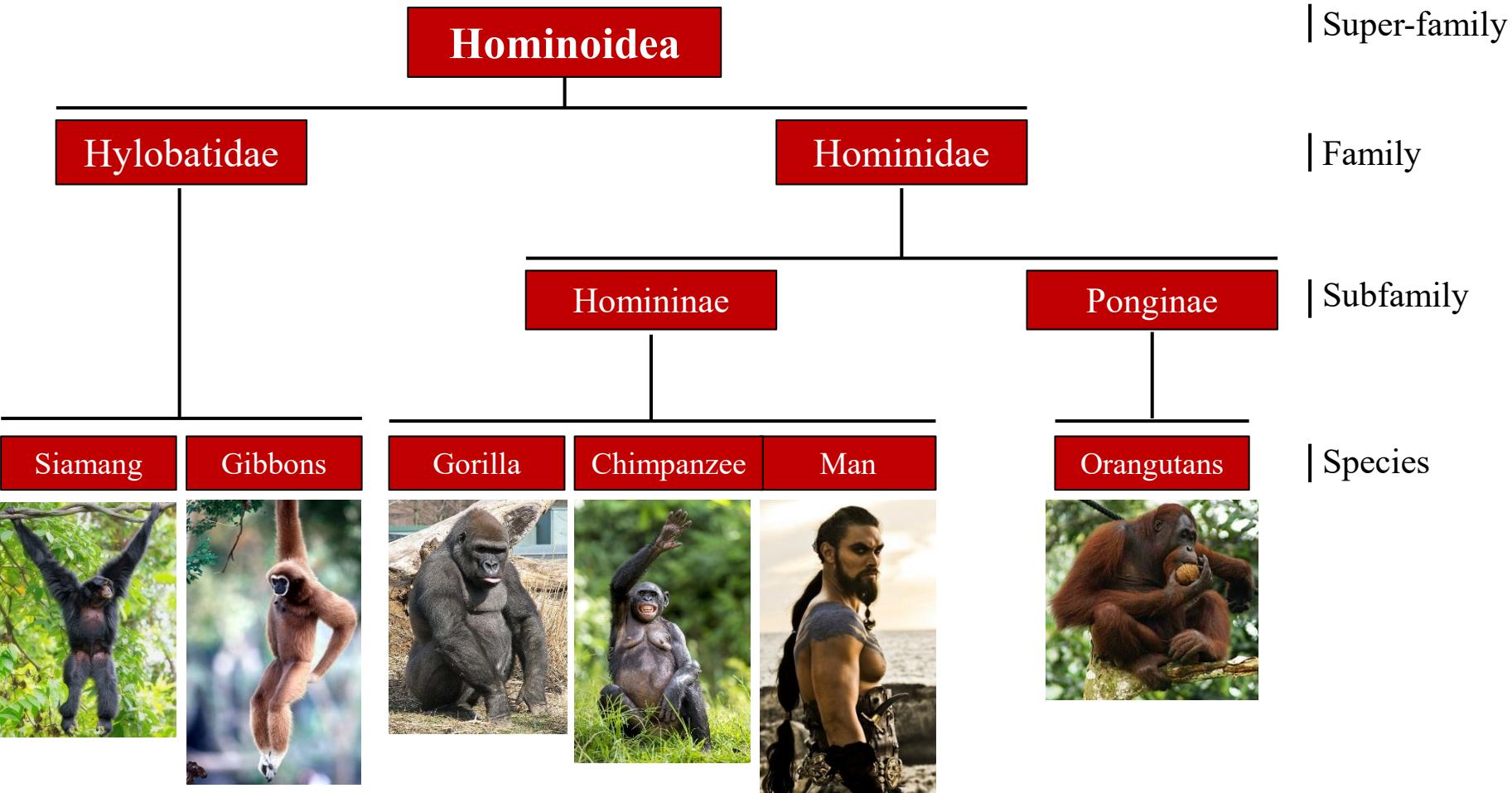
Chordata

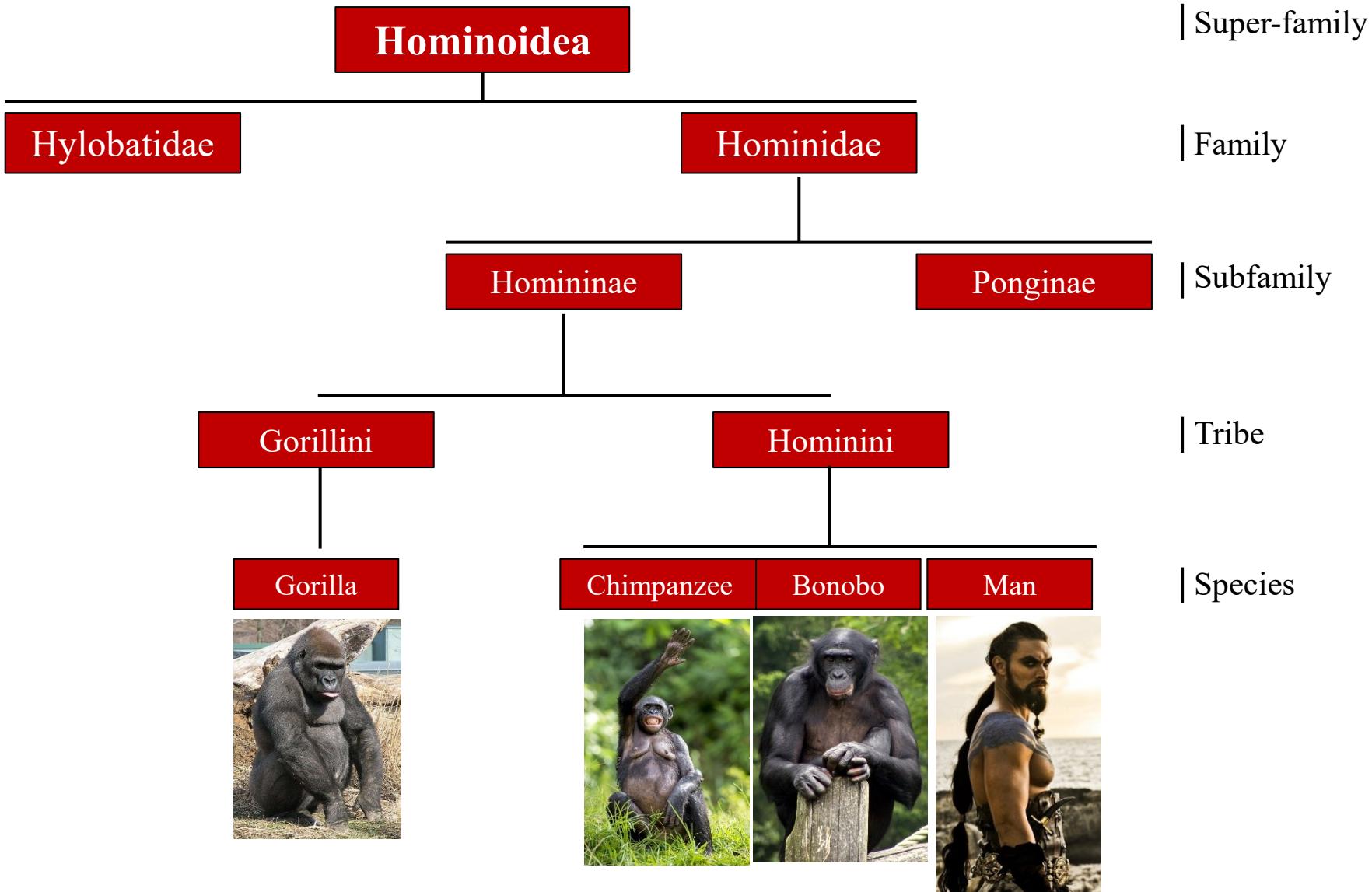
Animalia

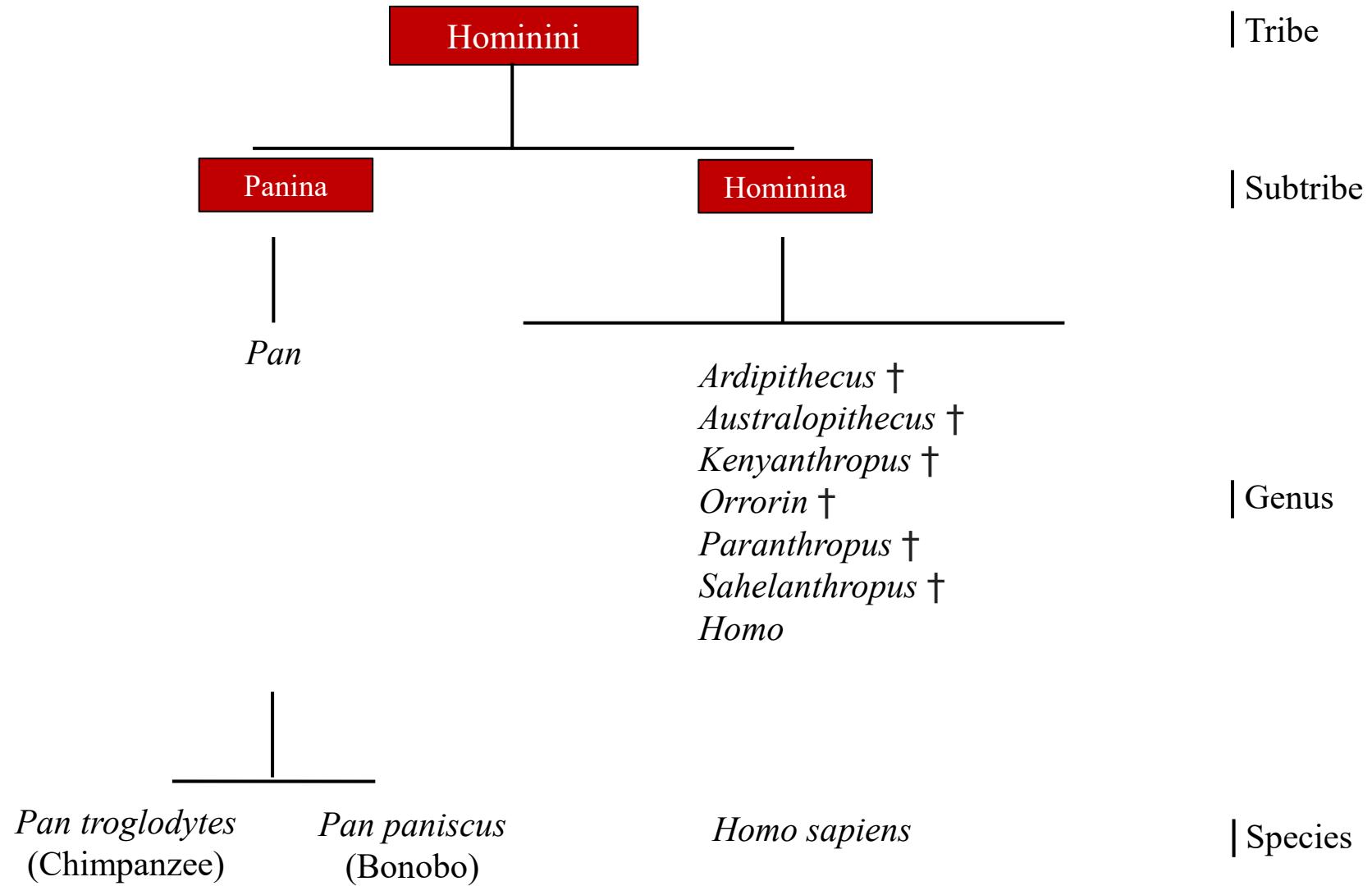


STREPSIRRHINI		HAPLORHINI				suborder					
LEMURIFORM	TARSIIFORMES	SIMIIFORMES (or ANTHROPOIDS)			Infra-order						
			Platyrrhini	Catarrhini							
<i>Lemuroidea</i>	<i>Lorisoidae</i>	<i>Tarsioidae</i>	<i>Ceboidea</i>	<i>Cercopithecoidea</i>	<i>Hominoidea</i>	Super-family					
<i>Daubentidae</i>			<i>Cebidae</i>	<i>Cercopithecidae</i>	<i>Hylobatidae</i>						
<i>Indriidae</i>	<i>Galagidae</i>	<i>Tarsiidae</i>	<i>Atelidae</i>		<i>Pongidae</i>						
<i>Lepilemuridae</i>	<i>Lorisidae</i>				<i>Hominidae</i>	Family					
<i>Cheirogaleidae</i>											
<i>Lemuridae</i>											
<b>36 o 40 teeth</b> (3 or 4 premolars)		<b>36 teeth</b> (3 premolars) Prehensile tail	<b>32 teeth</b> (2 premolars) Non prehensile tail	<b>32 teeth</b> (2 premolars) No tail	<b>32 teeth</b> (2 premolars) No tail	Anatomy					
With or without prehensile tail											
<b>Africa, Madagascar and southeast asia</b>											
<b>Africa, Madagascar and southeast asia</b>											
Indri, Lemure	Loris	Tarsi	<b>America</b>	<b>Africa – Eurasia</b>	<b>World</b>	Geography					
			Howler monkeys, Callithrix (marmose)	Macaca, Baboons	<i>Homo sapiens</i> , great apes	Species					
<b>PROSIMIAN</b>		<b>SIMIIFORME (O ANTHROPOIDE)</b>				Infra-order					

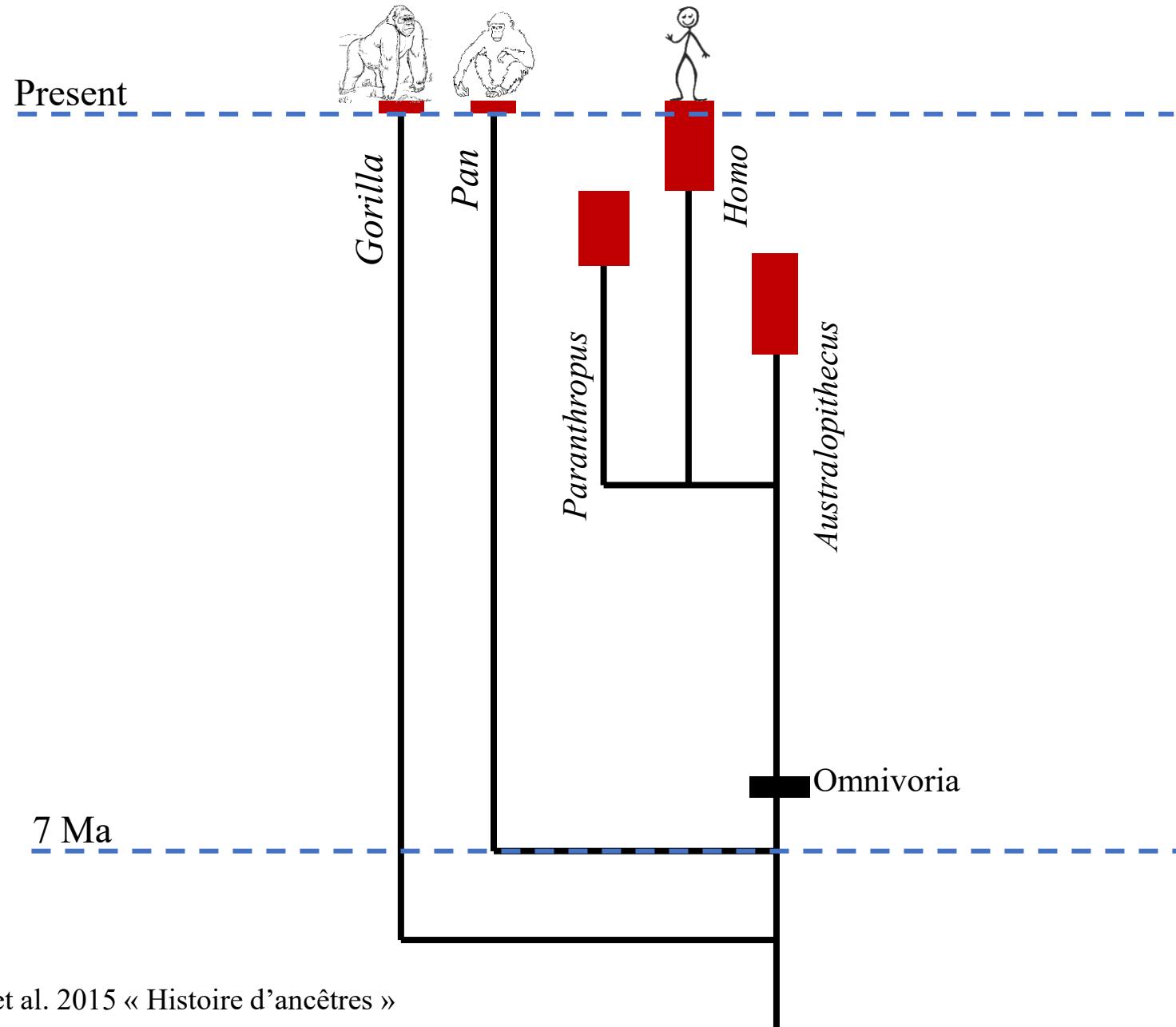


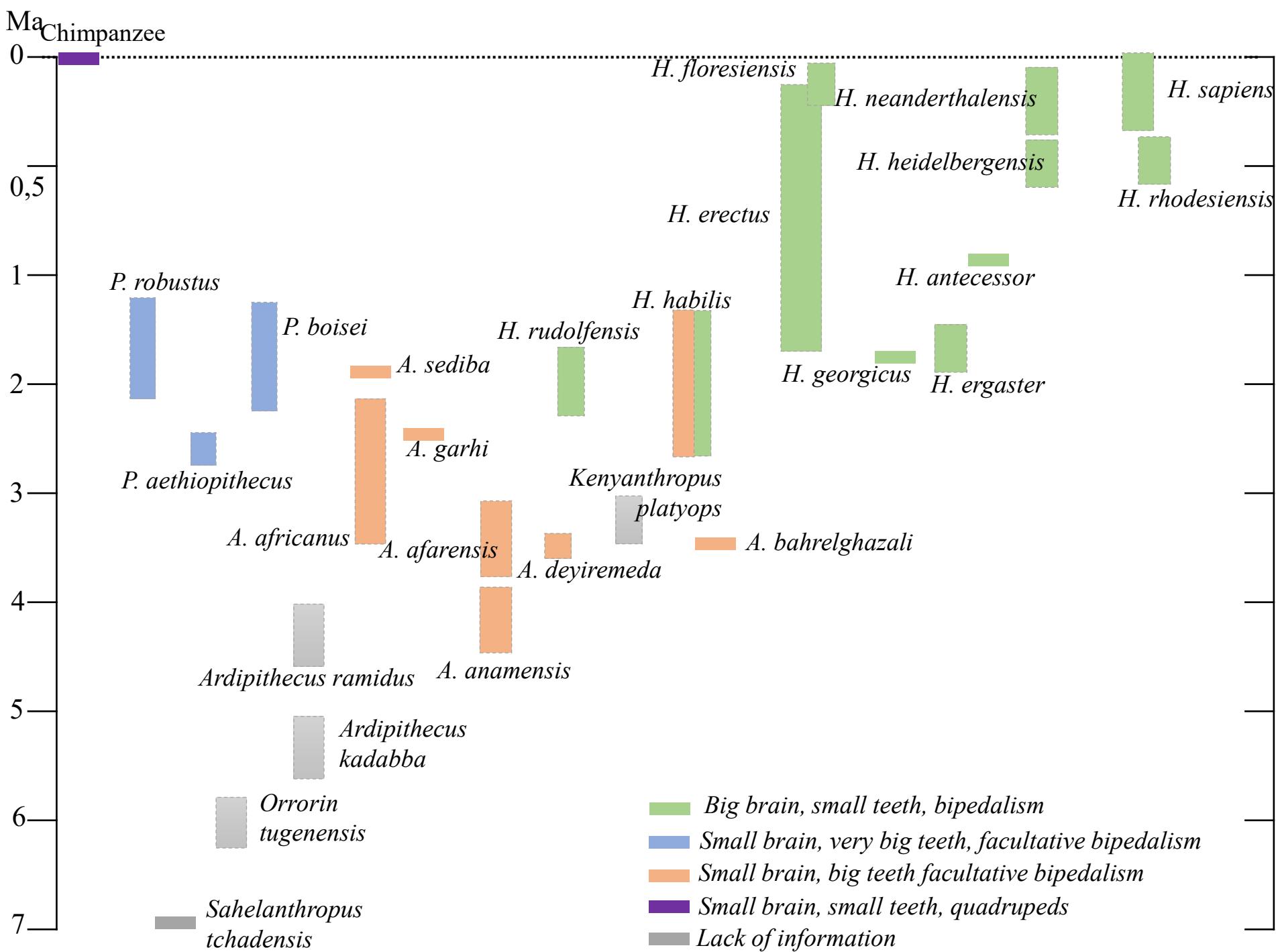


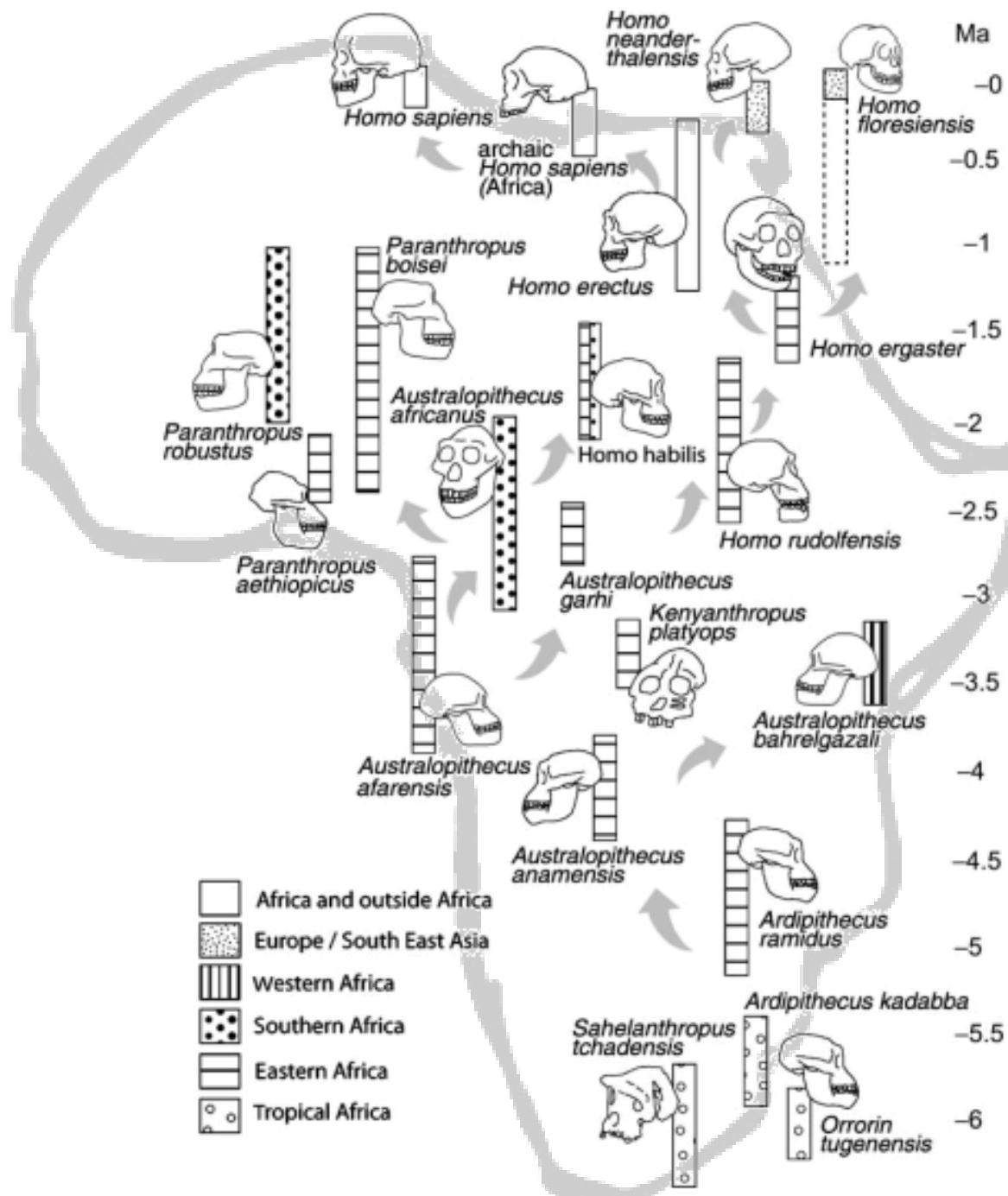


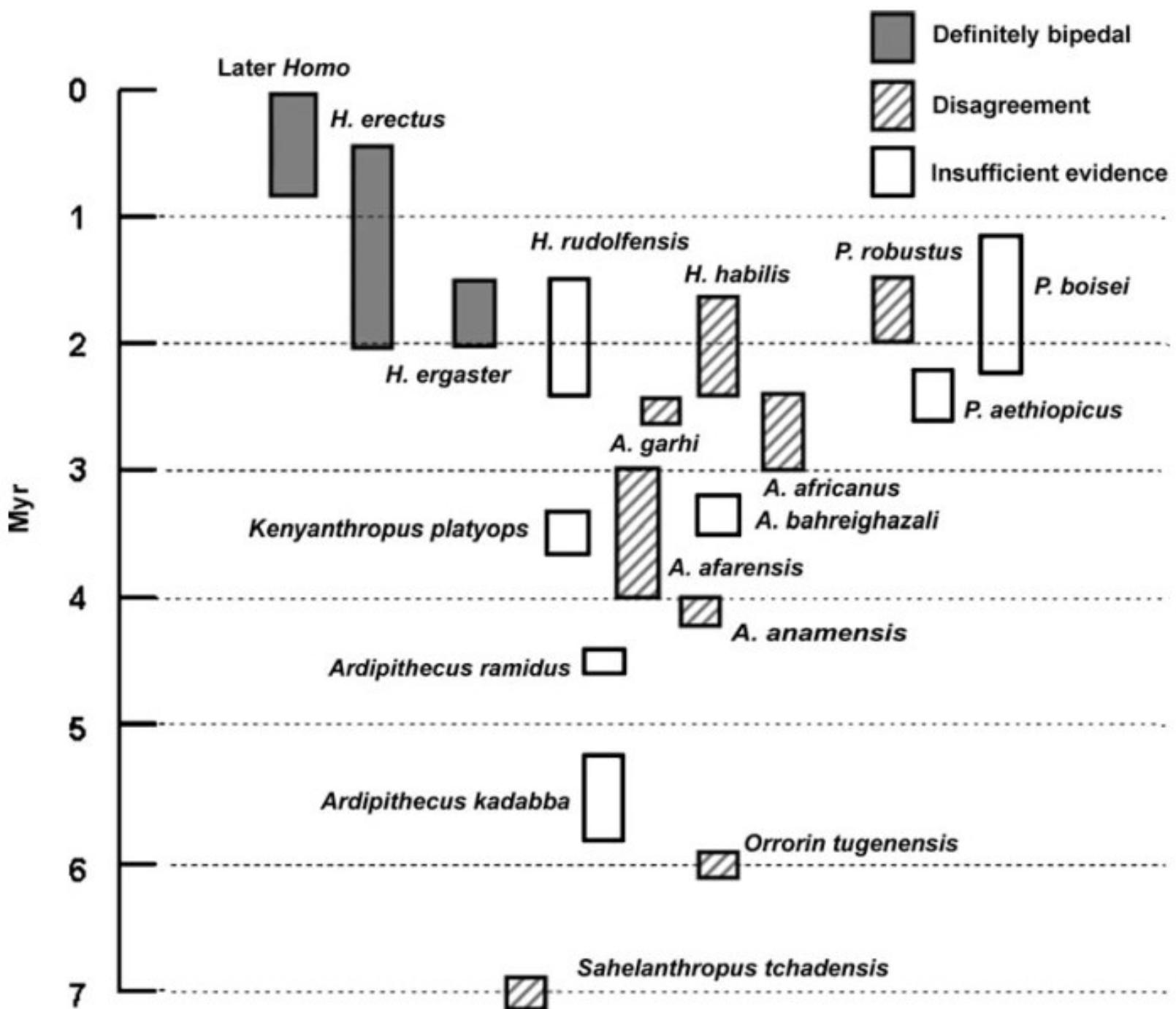


# Anthropoidea

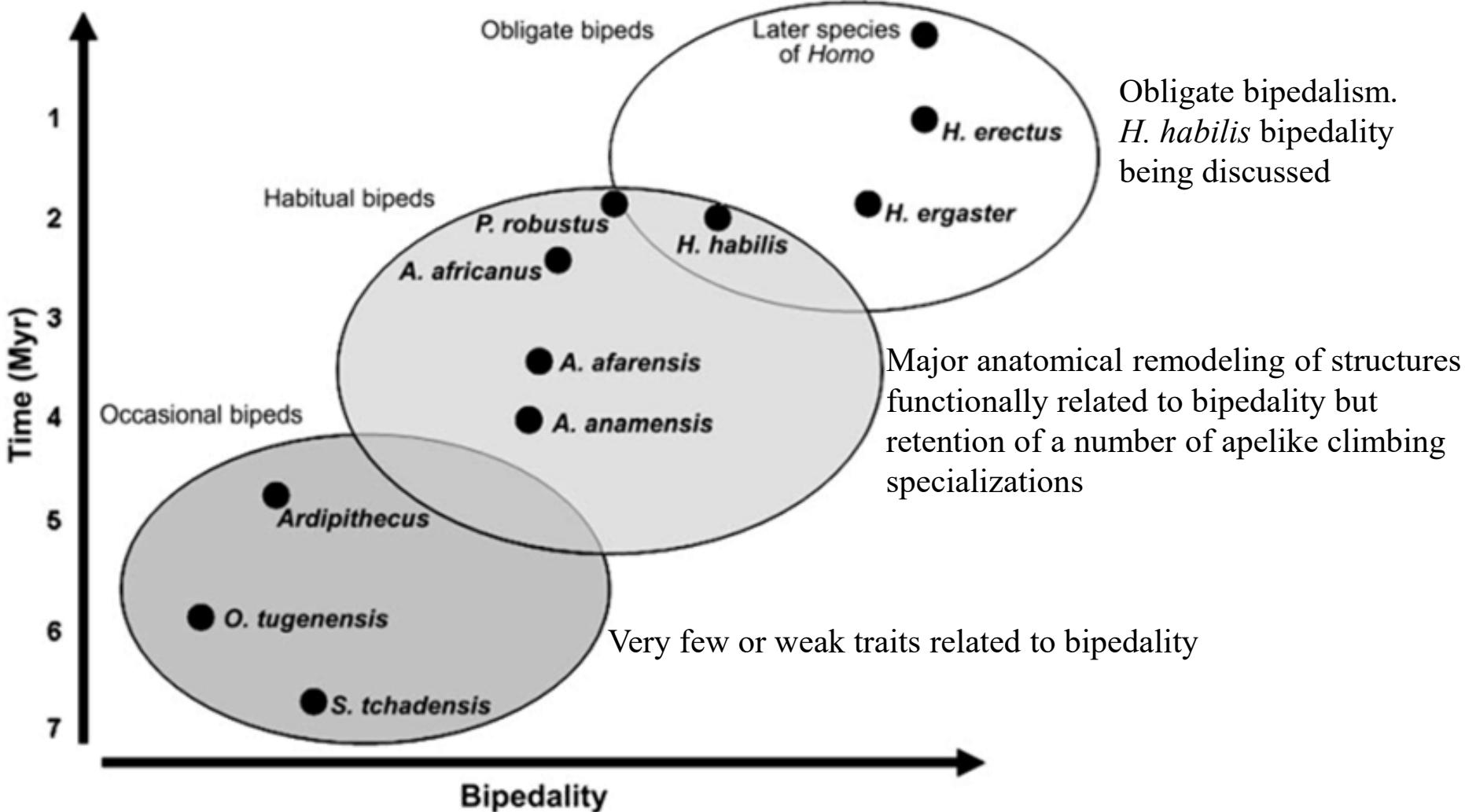








Degree of bipedalism in fossil Hominins through time.  
Only well documented correlation between taxa and bipedalism are included.

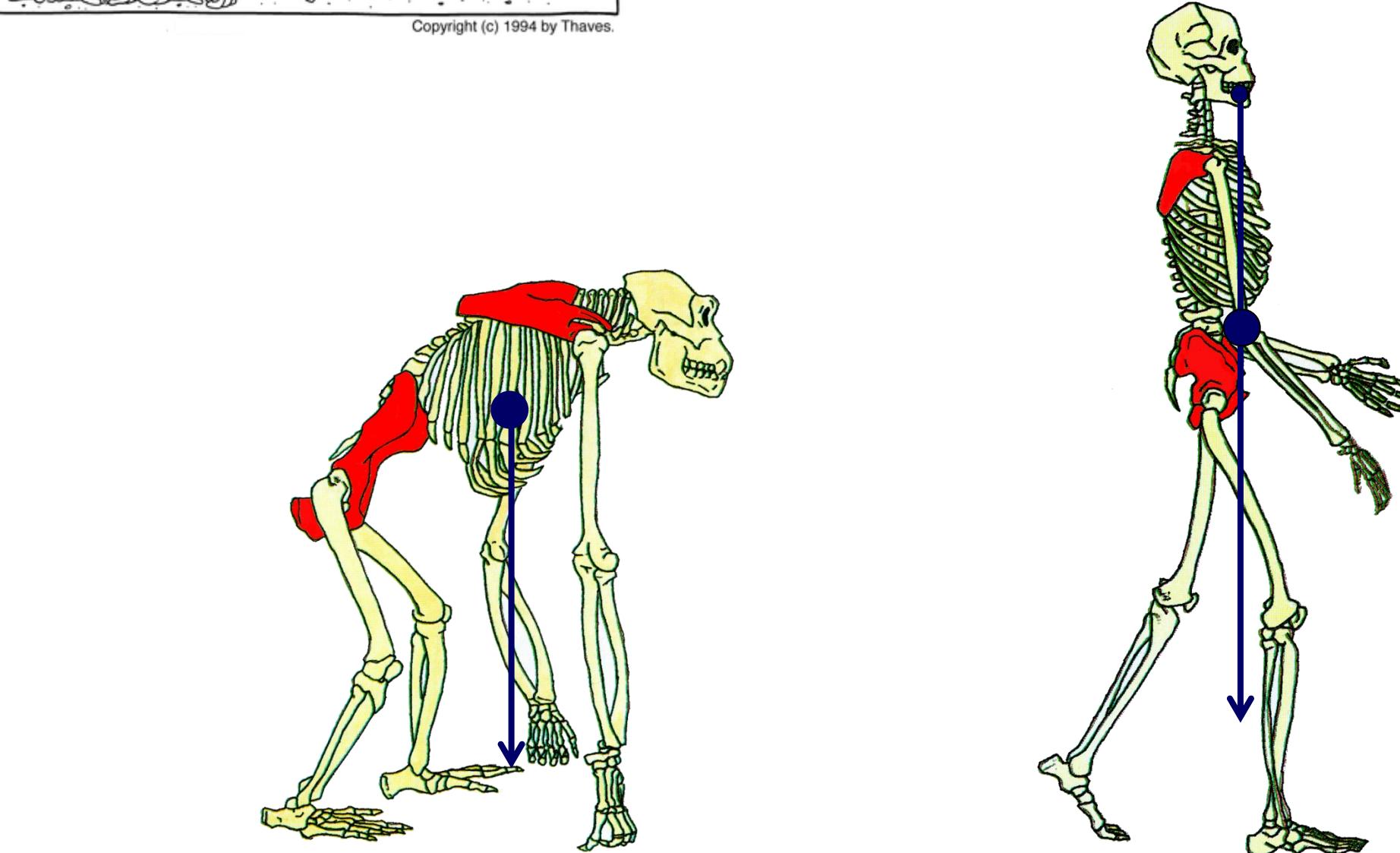


# Frank and Ernest

STAY AWAY FROM THOSE ERECT  
HOMINID GUYS--THEIR LOWER BACK  
PAIN MAKES THEM MEAN!



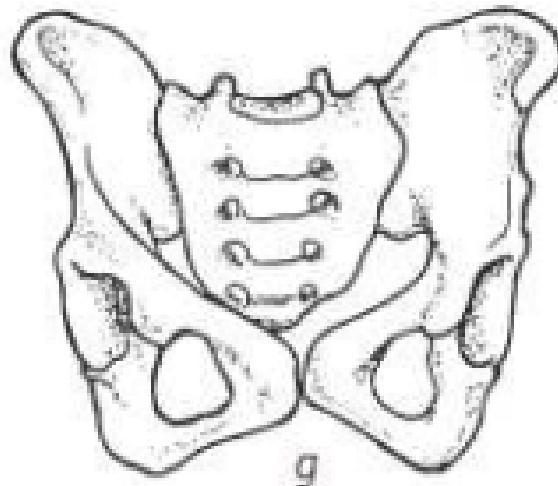
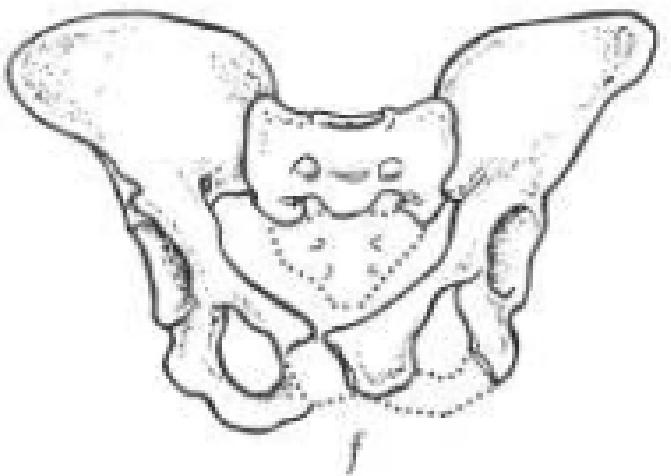
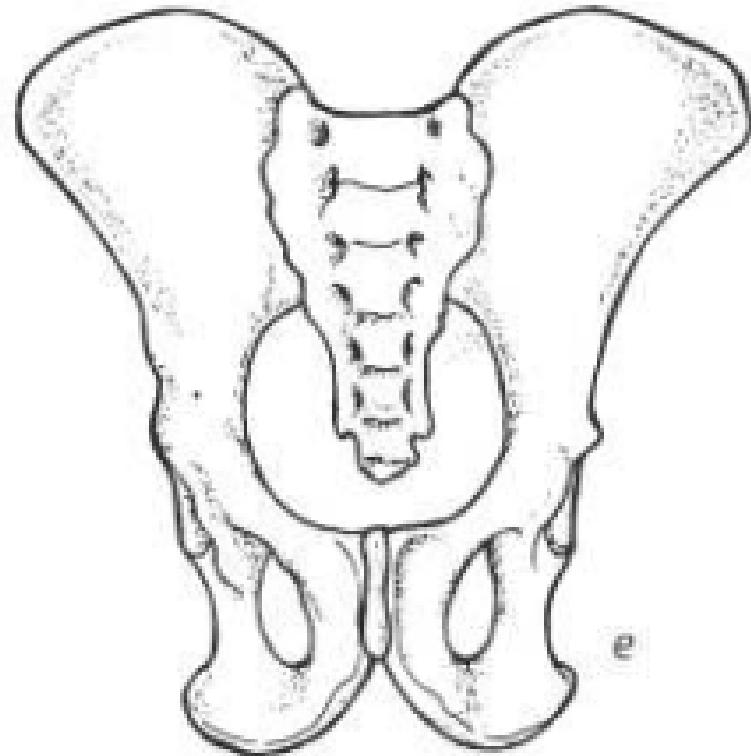
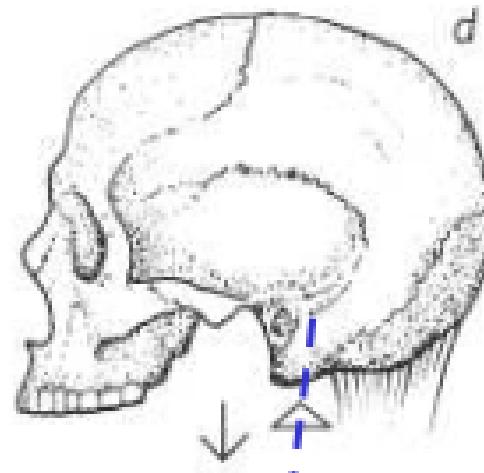
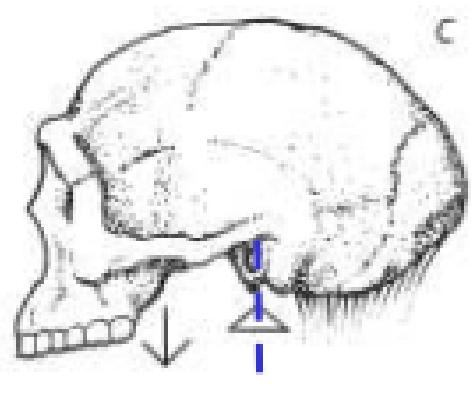
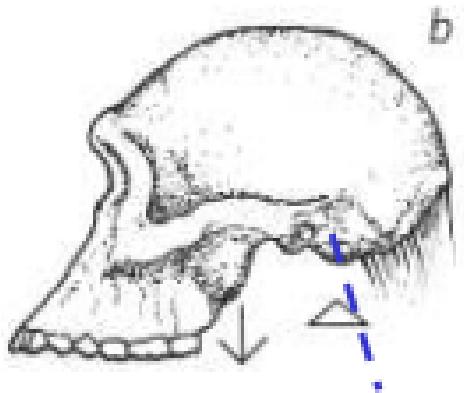
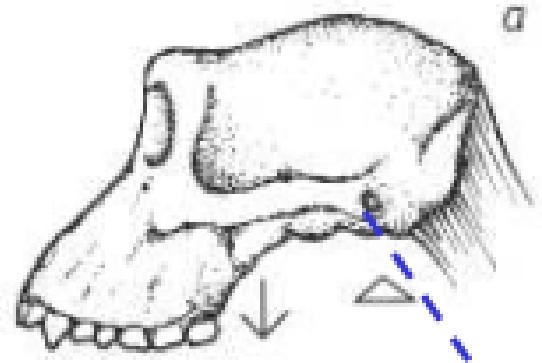
Copyright (c) 1994 by Thaves.

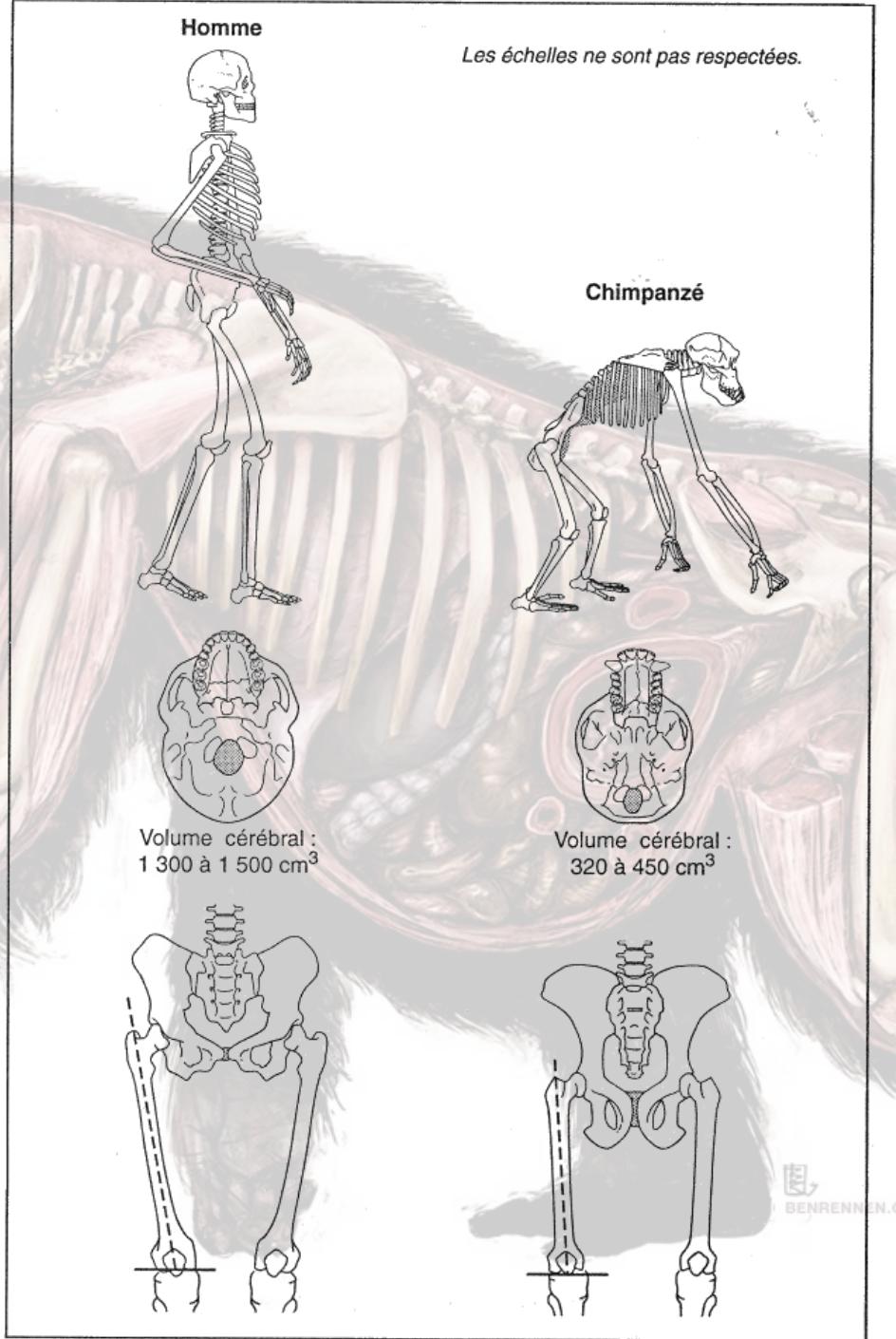


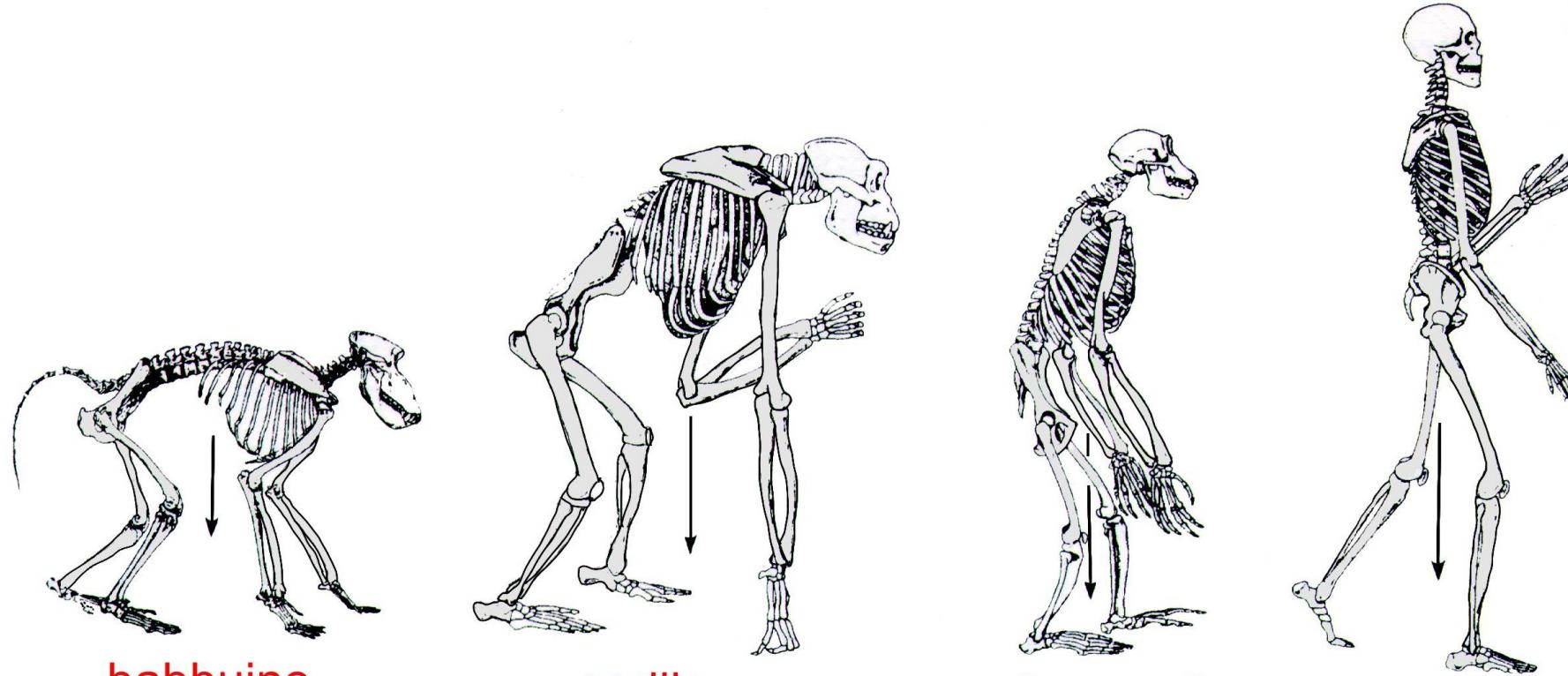
— — — Axe de la colonne vertébrale

△ Point d'appui de la colonne vertébrale

↓ « déséquilibre » face / boîte crânienne





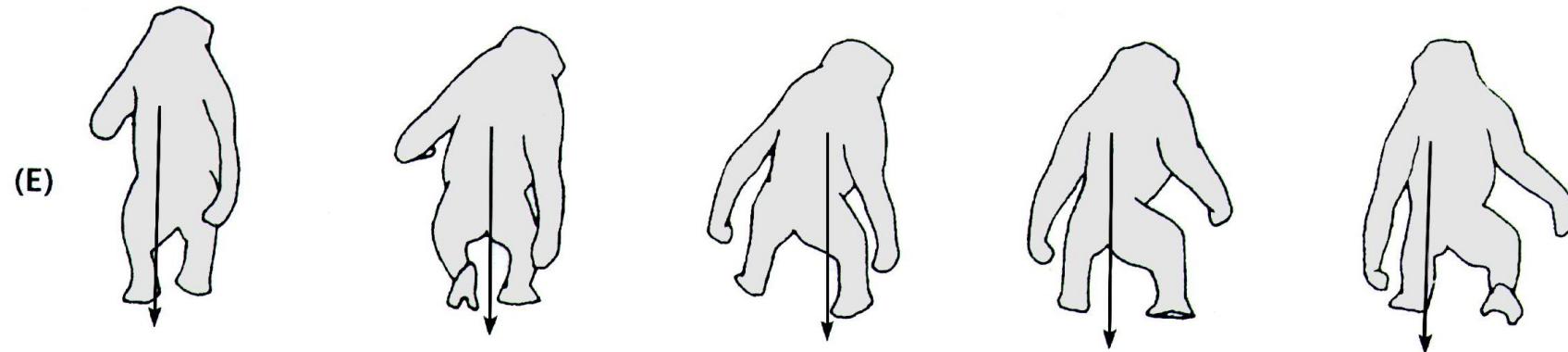


babbuino

gorilla

scimpanzè

uomo



Bipedismo occasionale



(d) Chimp



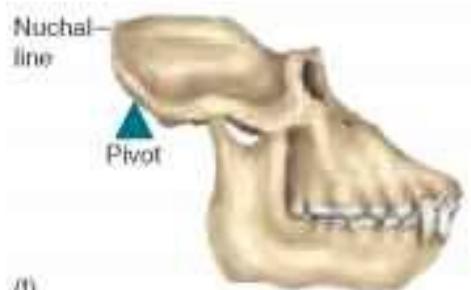
Human



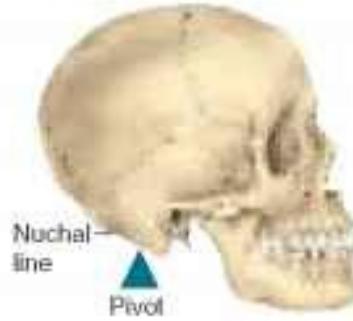
(e) Chimp



Human



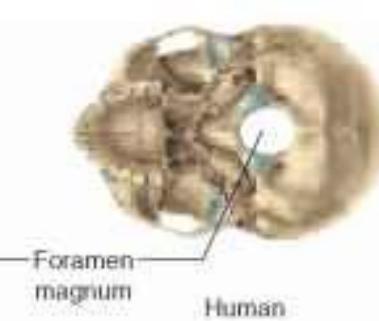
(f)



(f)

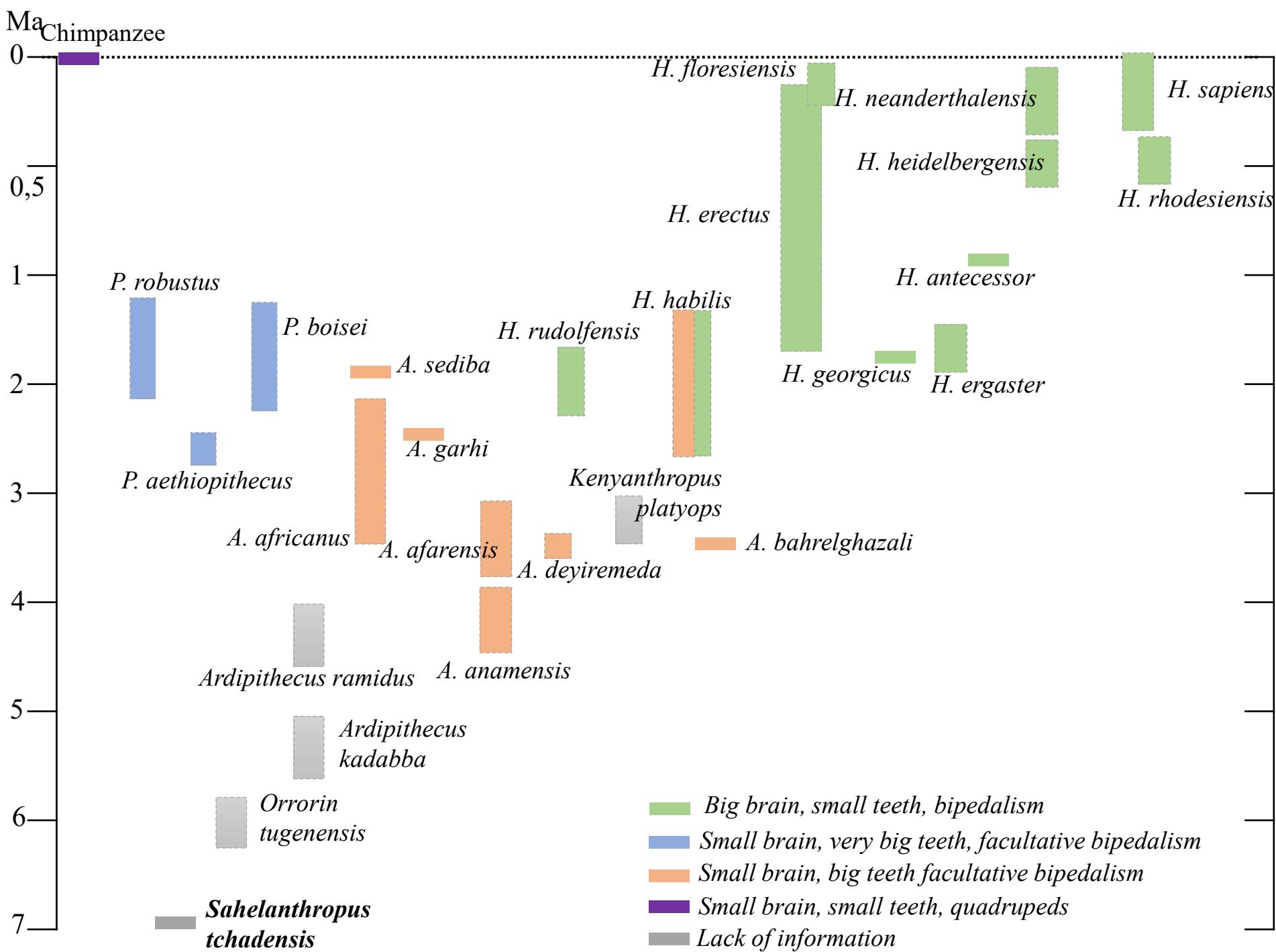


Chimp

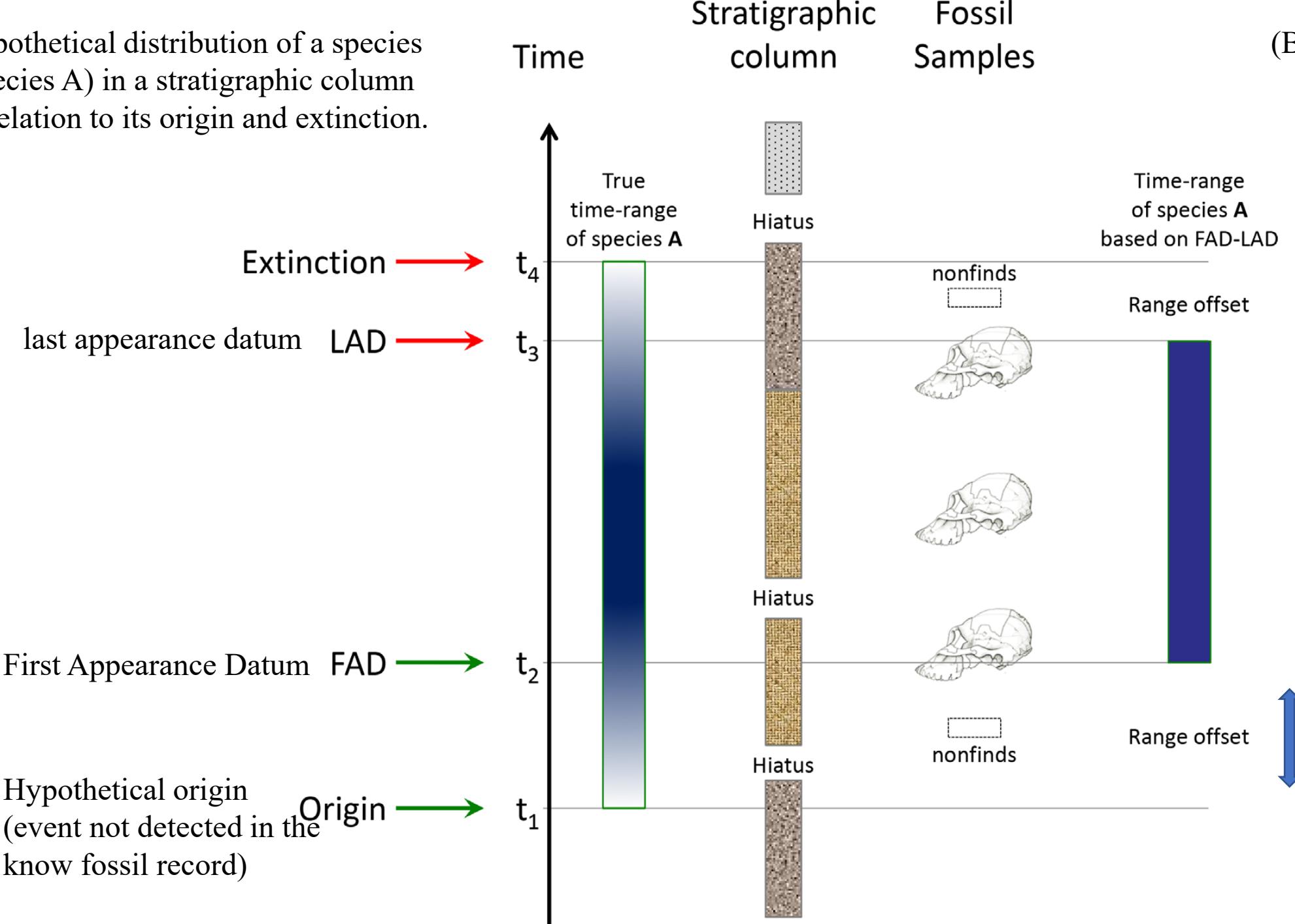


Human

Foramen  
magnum

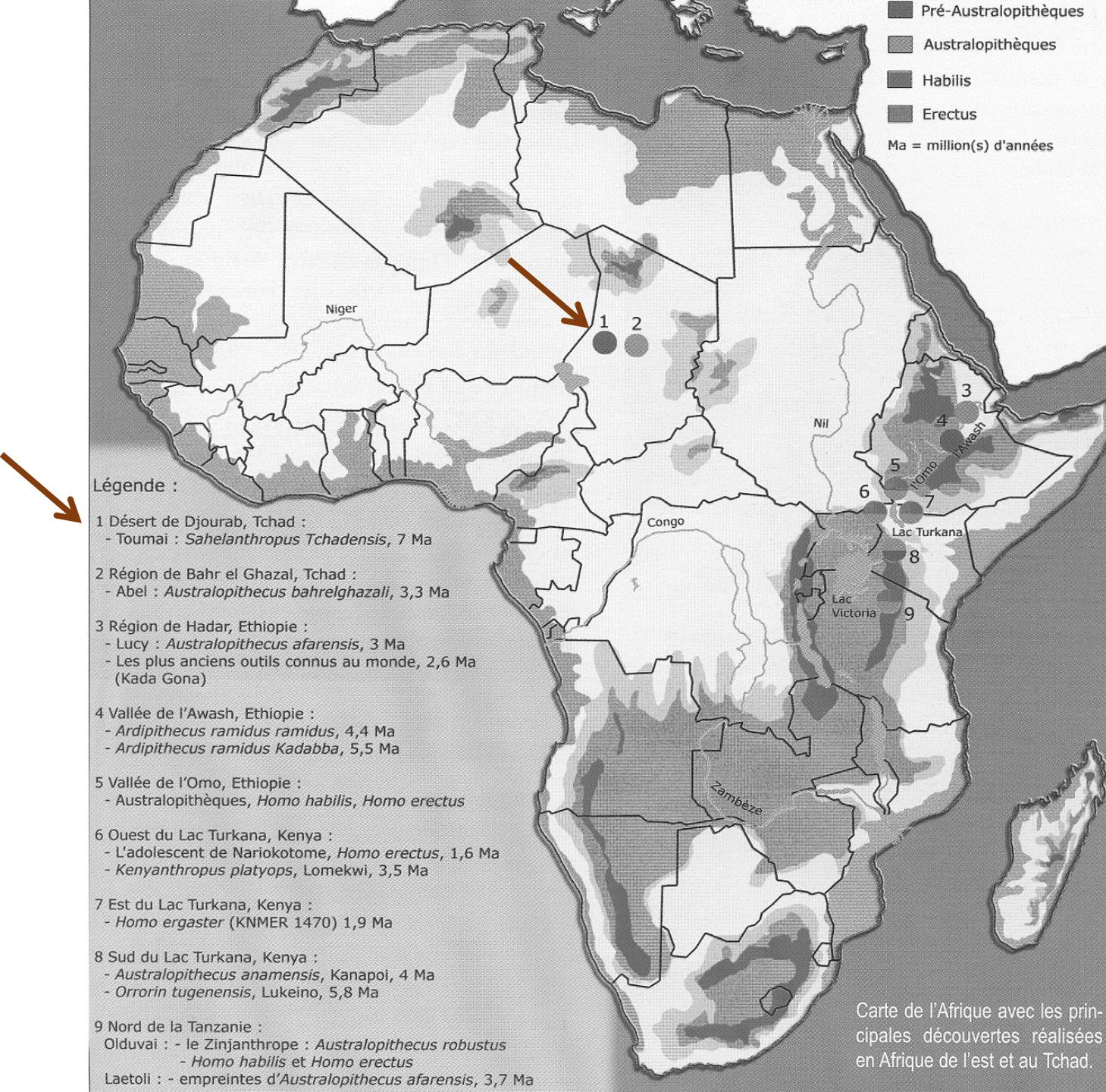


Hypothetical distribution of a species (species A) in a stratigraphic column in relation to its origin and extinction.



The gap between the true origin of a species and its first appearance datum can be significant, especially if the species is rare, with few specimens per sample

# Sahelanthropus tchadensis



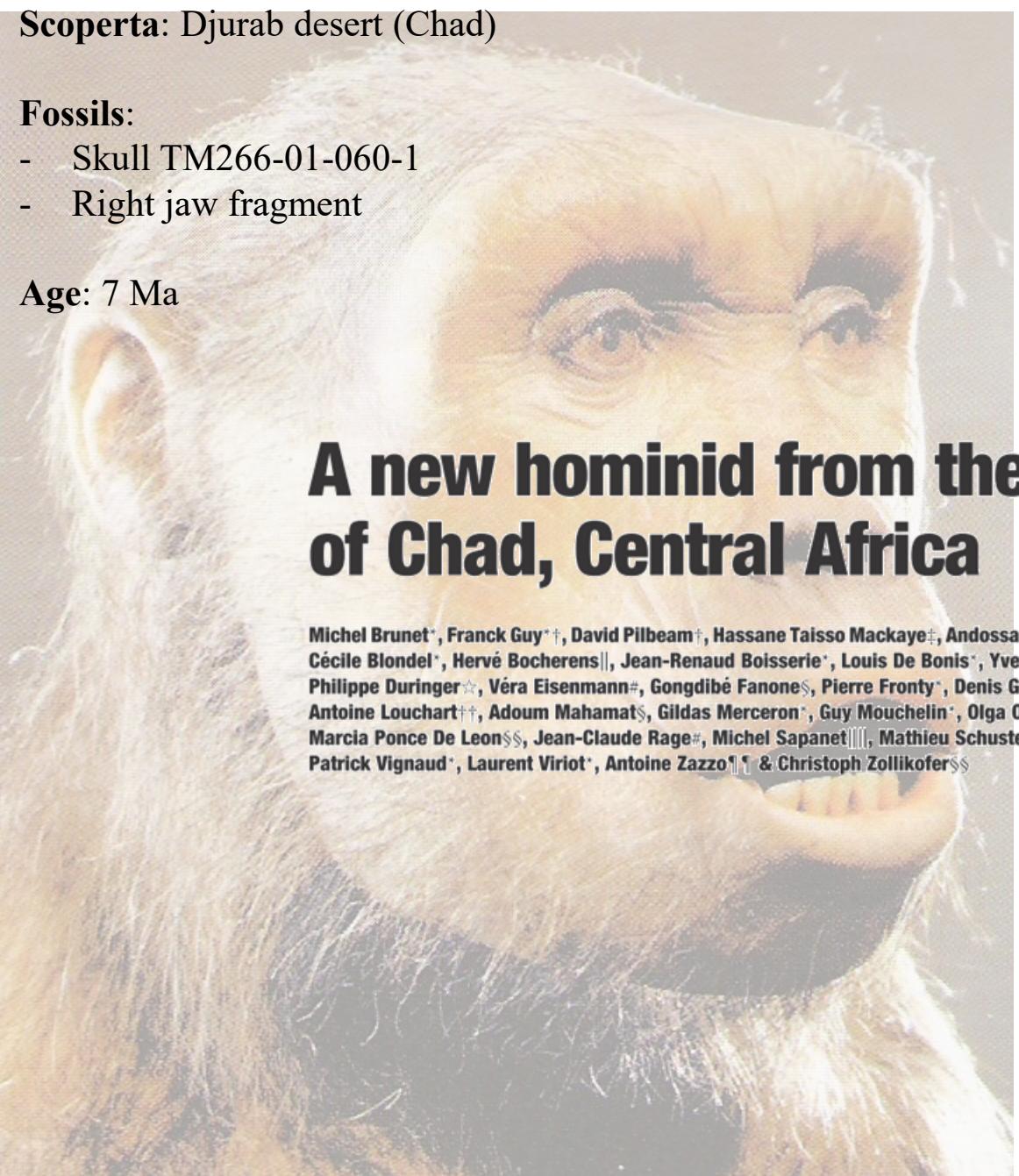
# *Sahelanthropus tchadensis* (Toumai)

Scoperta: Djurab desert (Chad)

Fossils:

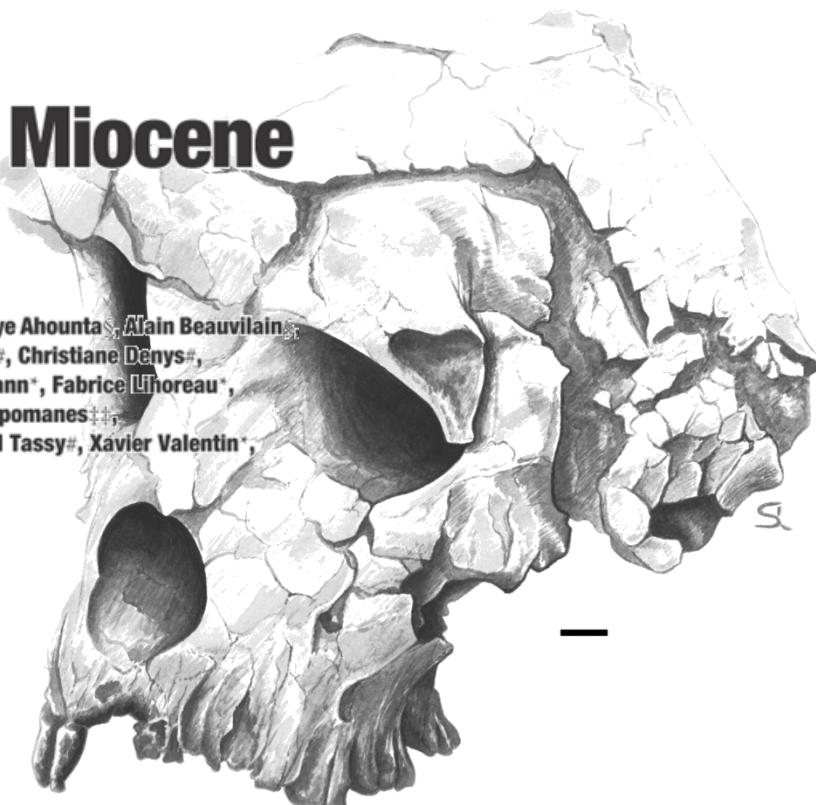
- Skull TM266-01-060-1
- Right jaw fragment

Age: 7 Ma



## A new hominid from the Upper Miocene of Chad, Central Africa

Michel Brunet\*, Franck Guy\*\*†, David Pilbeam†, Hassane Taisso Mackaye‡, Andossa Likius\*\*‡, Djimdooumalbaye Ahounta§, Alain Beauvilain§, Cécile Blondel\*, Hervé Bocherens||, Jean-Renaud Boissier\*, Louis De Bonis\*, Yves Coppens¶, Jean Dejax#, Christiane Denys#, Philippe Duringer★, Véra Eisenmann#, Gongdibé Fanone§, Pierre Fronto\*, Denis Geraads\*\*, Thomas Lehmann\*, Fabrice Lihoreau\*, Antoine Louchart††, Adoum Mahamat§, Gildas Merceron\*, Guy Mouchelin\*, Olga Otero\*, Pablo Pelaez Campomanes††, Marcia Ponce De Leon§§, Jean-Claude Rage#, Michel Sapanet|||, Mathieu Schuster★, Jean Sudre||, Pascal Tassy#, Xavier Valentin\*, Patrick Vignaud\*, Laurent Viriot\*, Antoine Zazzo||| & Christoph Zollikofer§§





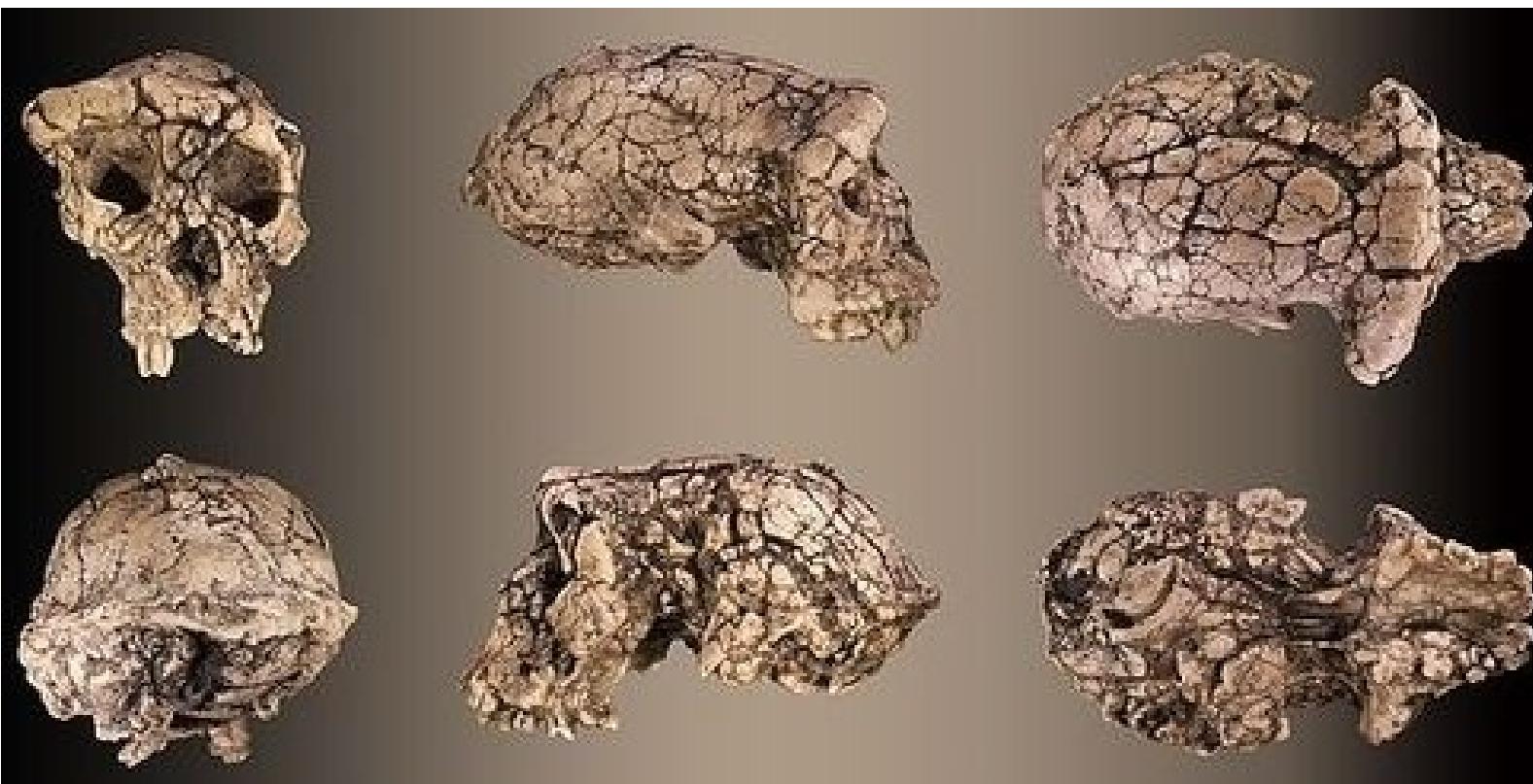
*Robust supra-orbital morphology*  
*(Male?)*

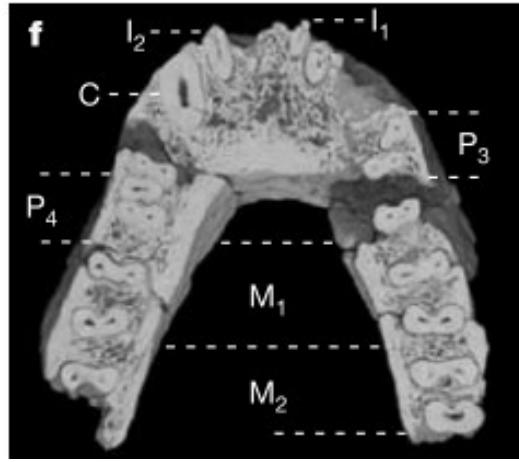
Morfologia sovra-orbitaria  
Robusta (Maschio?)

*Low molar and premolar crown*

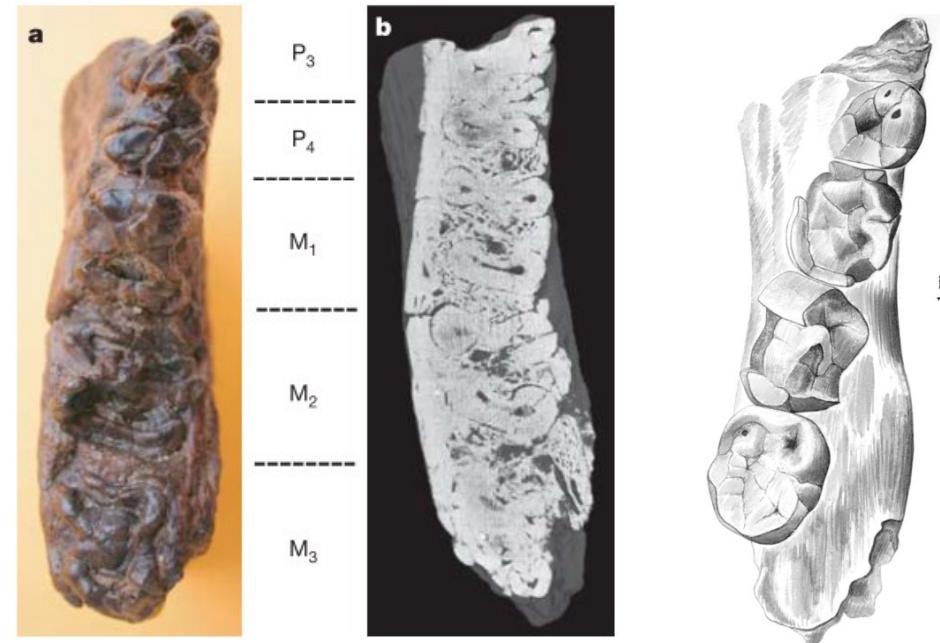
*Enamel thickness between chimp and Ardipithecus* Corona dei molari e dei premolari bassa

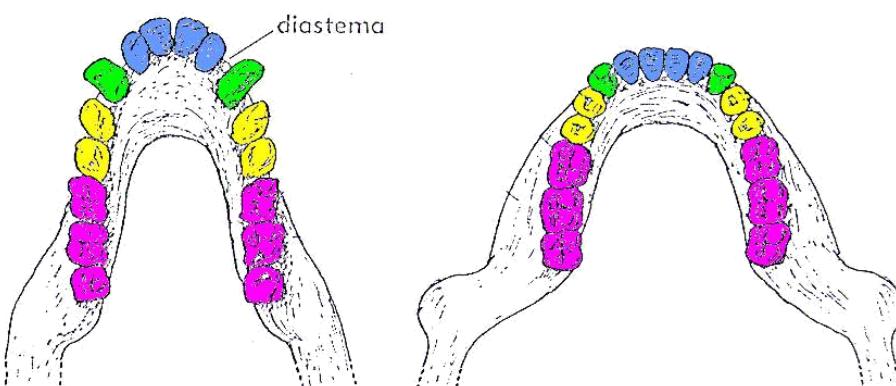
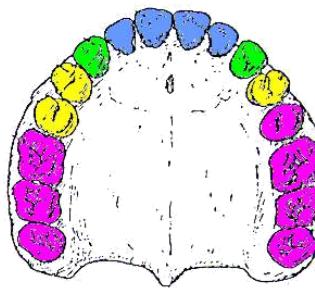
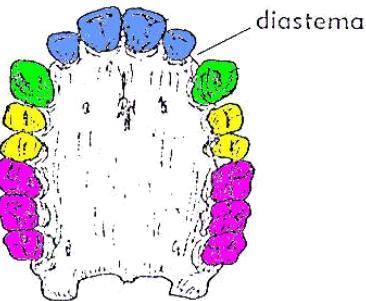
Spessore dello smalto tra scimpanzé e *Ardipithecus*





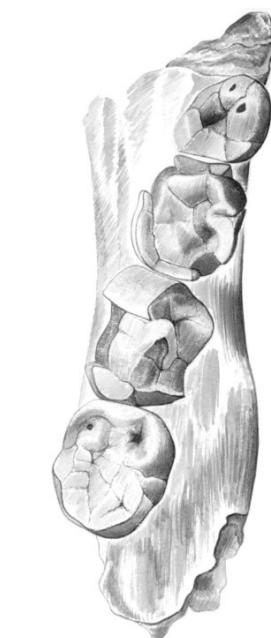
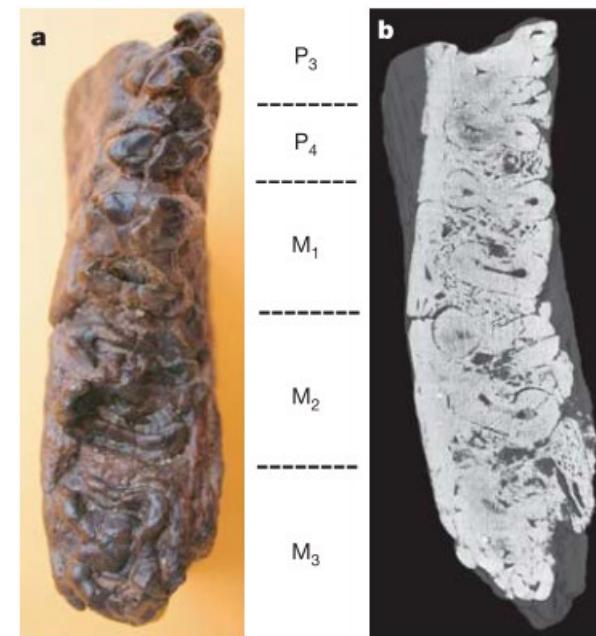
- C/P3 non affilati / *not sharp*
- Assenza di diastema tra C/P3  
*No diastema between C/P3*

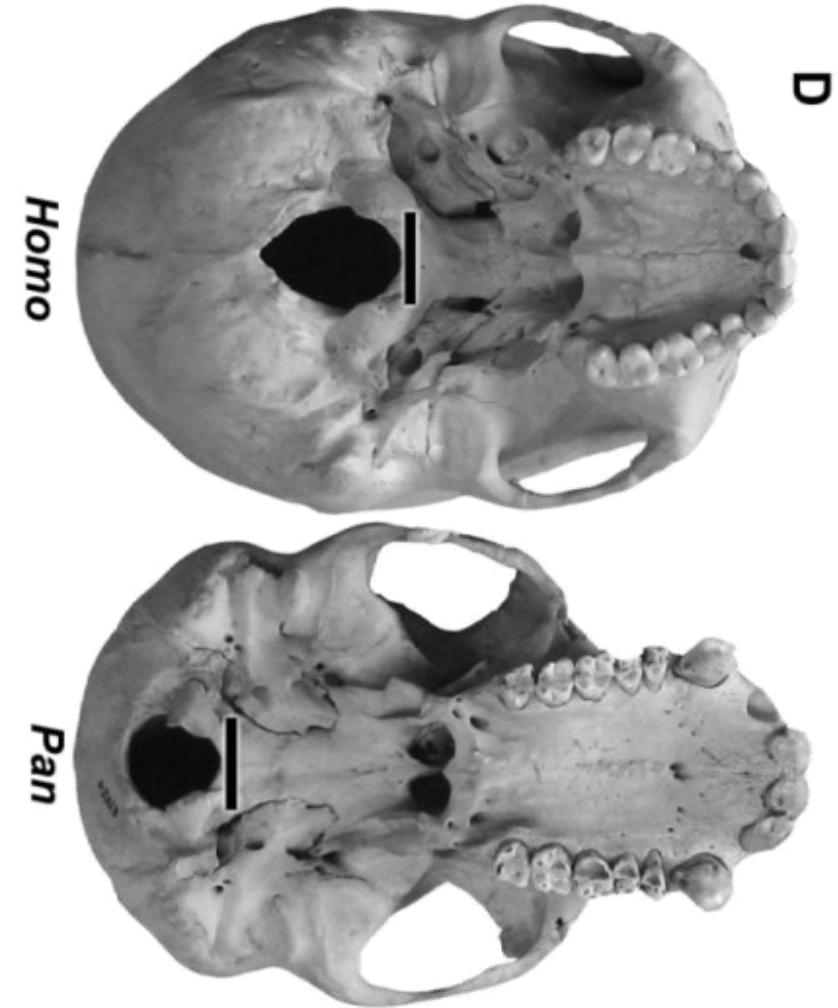
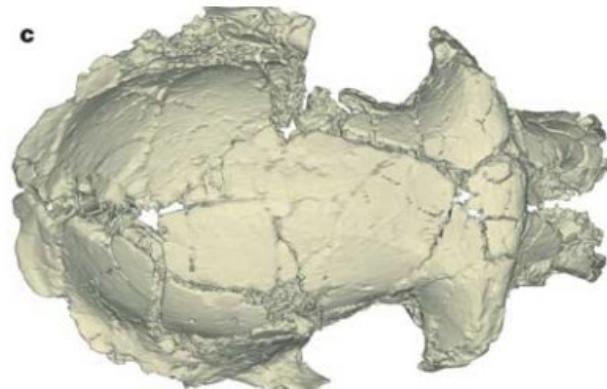
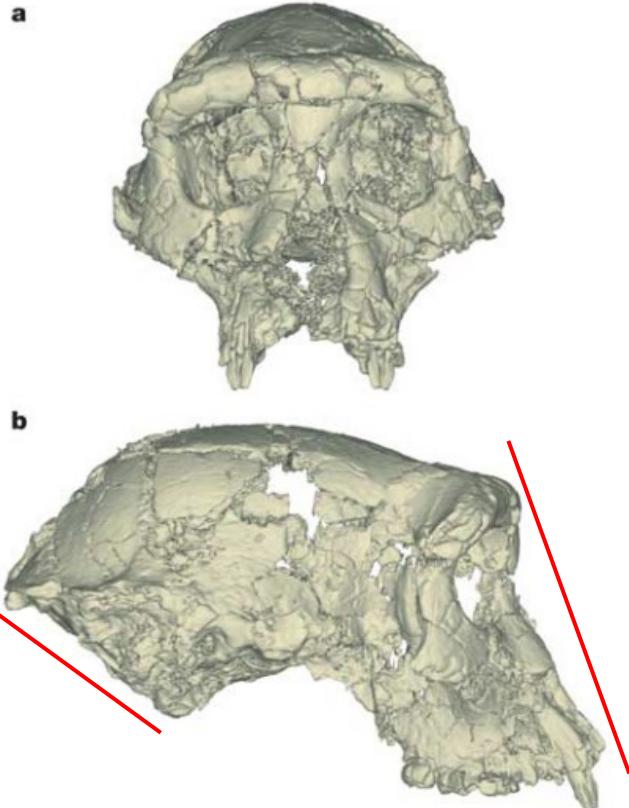




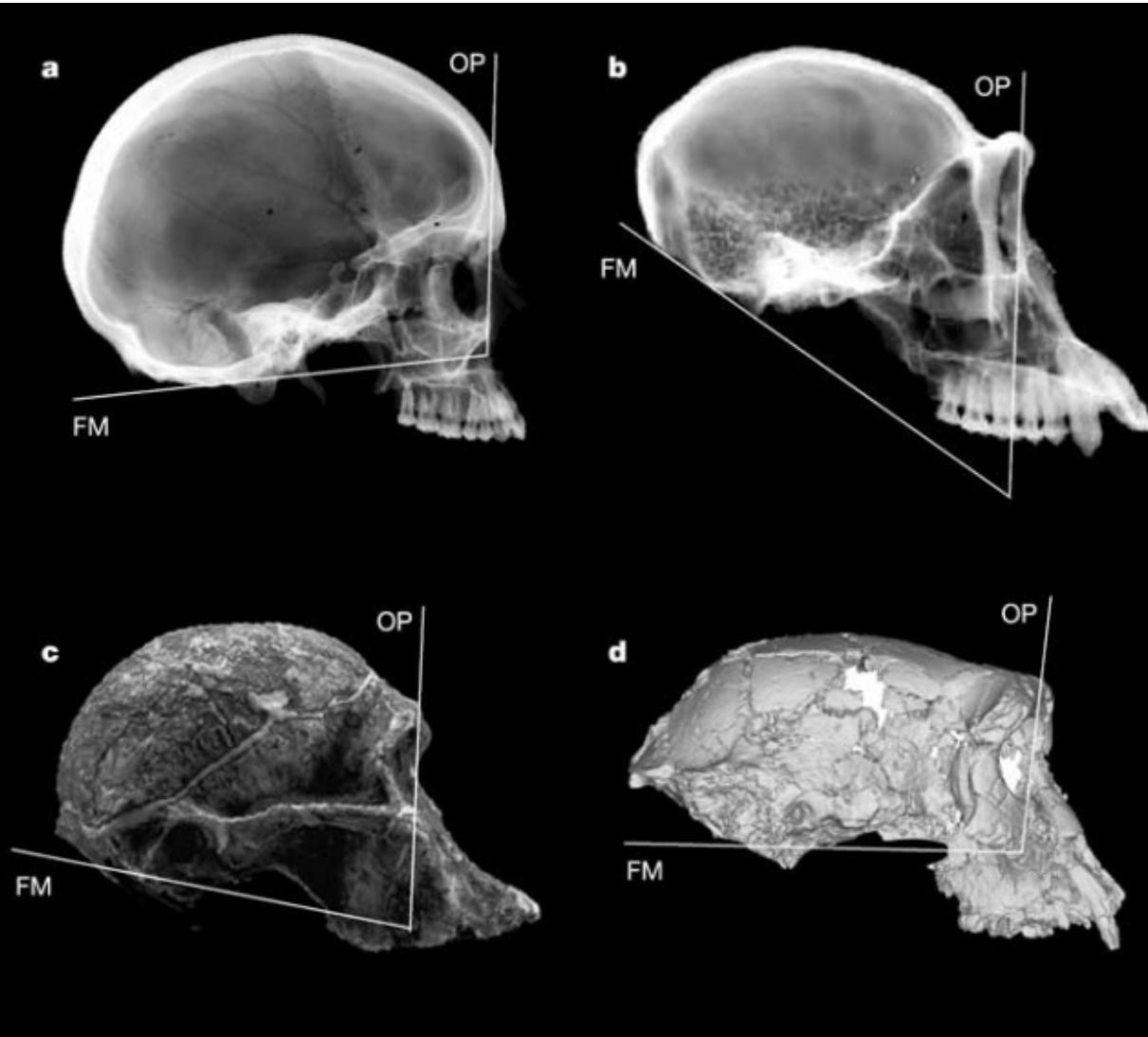


- C/P3 non affilati
  - Assenza di diastema tra C/P3
  - Sinfisi piuttosto verticale
  - i denti post-C presentano un spessore dello smalto tra i scimpanzé e i australopitecine
- Post-C teeth present an enamel thickness between chimp and Australo*





- Faccia relativamente verticale con un premascellare corto anteroposteriormente / *Face relatively vertical with a anteroposteriorly short premaxilla*
- Piano nucale piatto e largo / *Nuchal plan flat and wide*
- Foramen magnum posizionato anteriormente / *Anterior position of the foramen magnum*



(Zollikofer, 2005)

FM: Foramen magnum

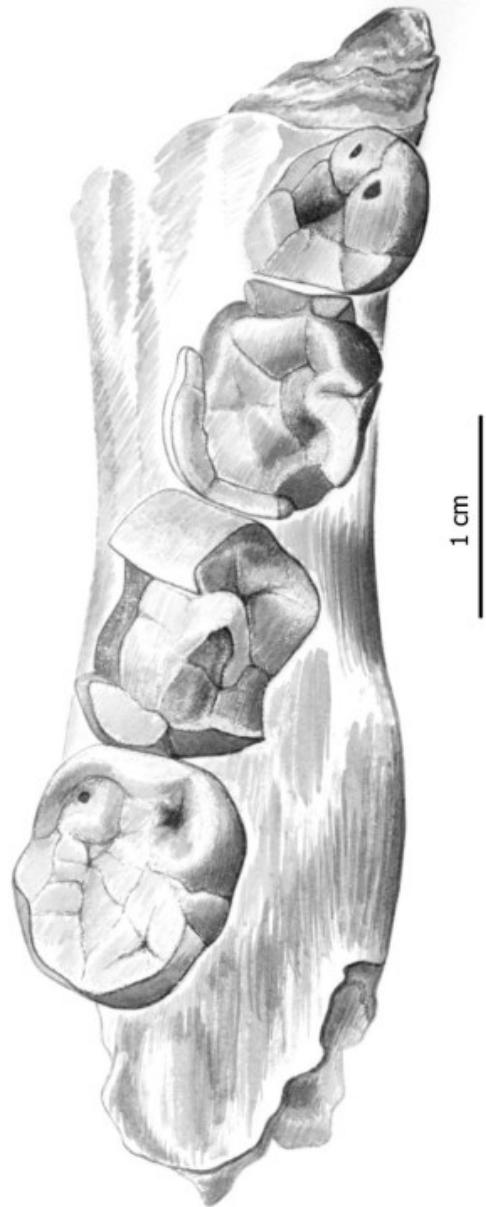
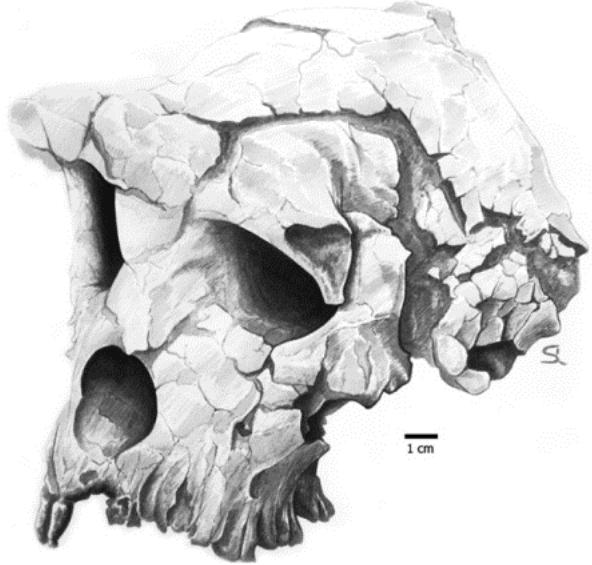
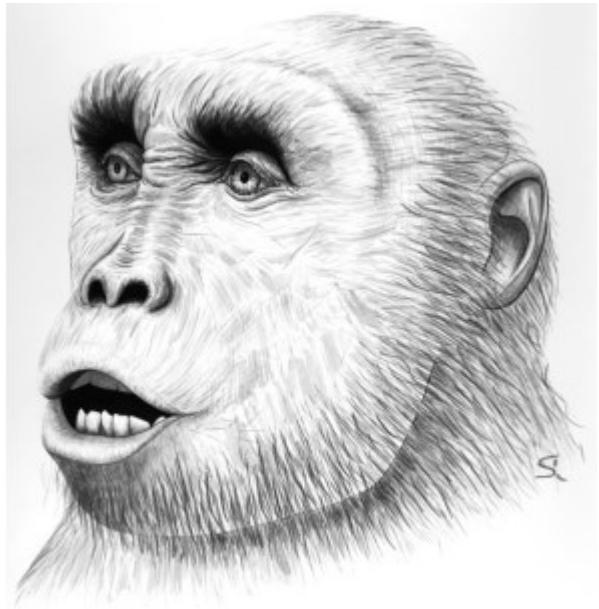
OP: orbital planes

- Angolo tra il piano orbitale (OP) e il piano del foramen magnum (FM)

*Angle between the orbital plan and the foramen magnum*

- Orientazione del piano nucale relativamente al piano di Francoforte nella variabilità dei Australopitecine e *Homo*

*Orientation of the nuchal plane relative to the Frankfurt plan inside Australopitecine and Homo variability*



Probabilmente bipede  
*Probably bipedal*

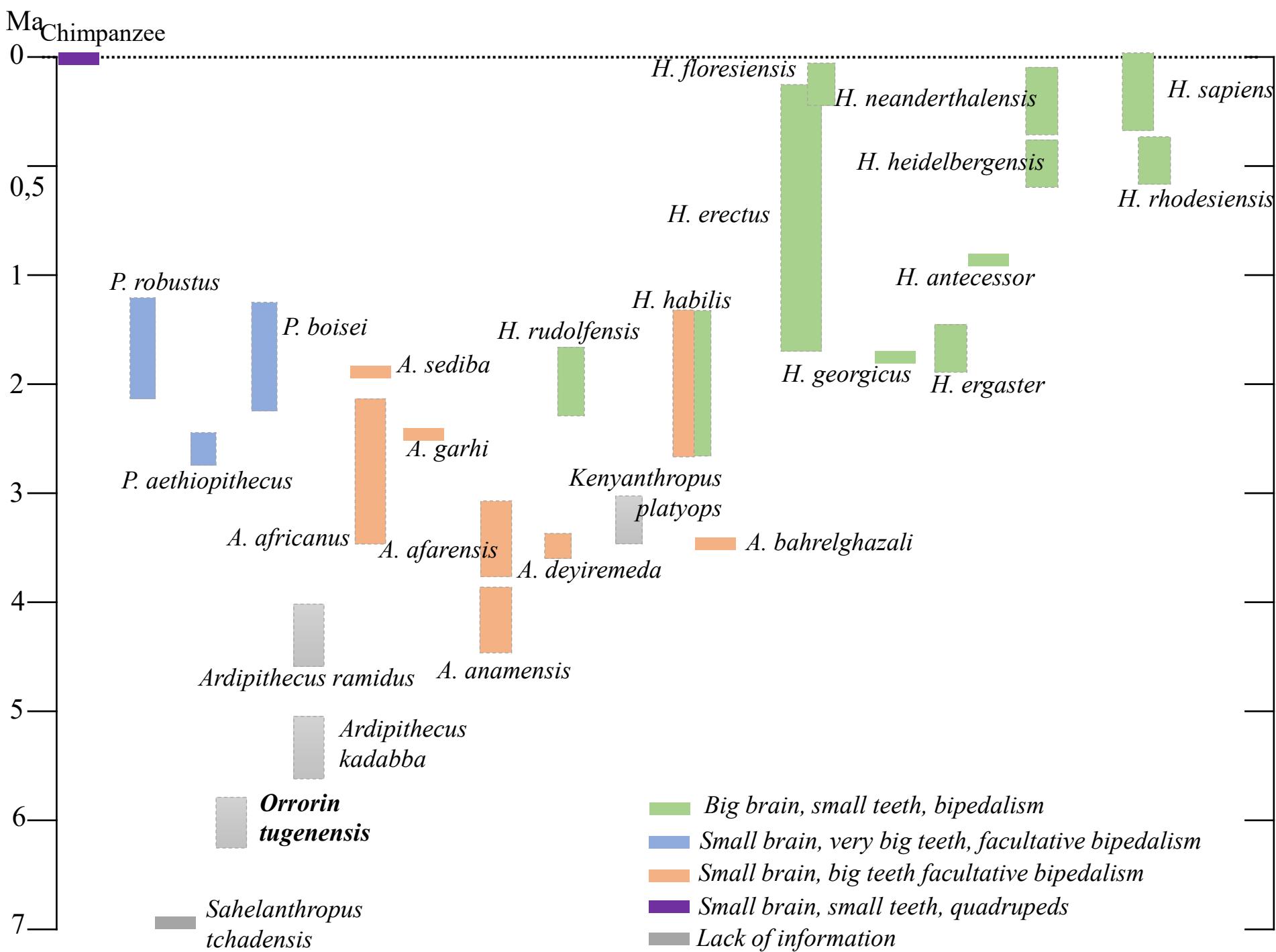
Frequentava spazi  
forestali  
*Associated with forest*



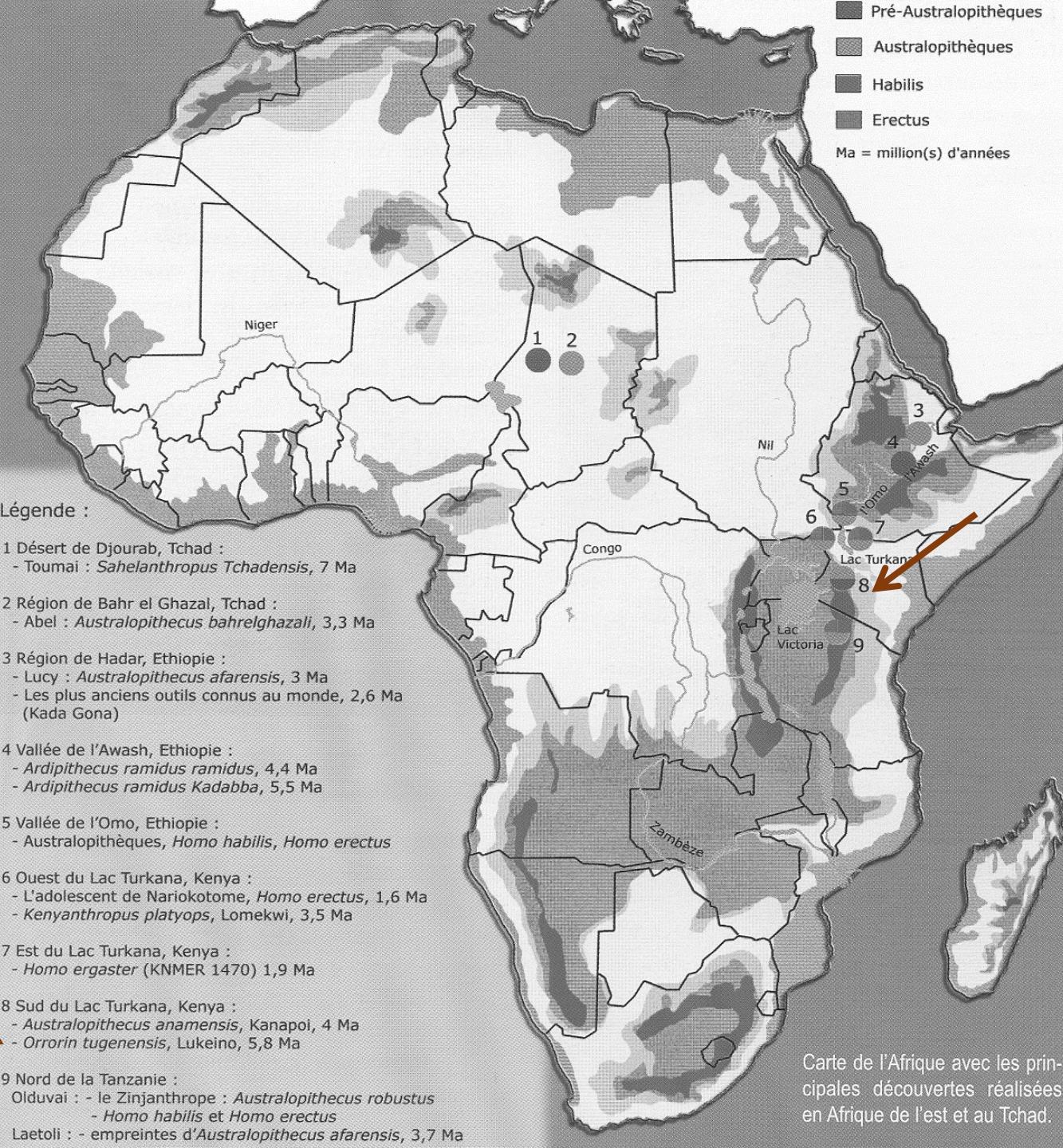
Chronology of the earliest hominin species: *Sahelanthropus tchadensis*, *Ardipithecus kadabba*, and *Orrorin tugenensis*. The temporal distribution of each taxon is represented by a solid rectangle. The first appearance datum (FAD) is the earliest (stratigraphically lowest) record of each taxon. The dashed vertical lines represent confidence intervals on the origin of the taxon. Some of the key specimens for each taxon are noted on the left of the Columns (Bobe and Wood, 2021)

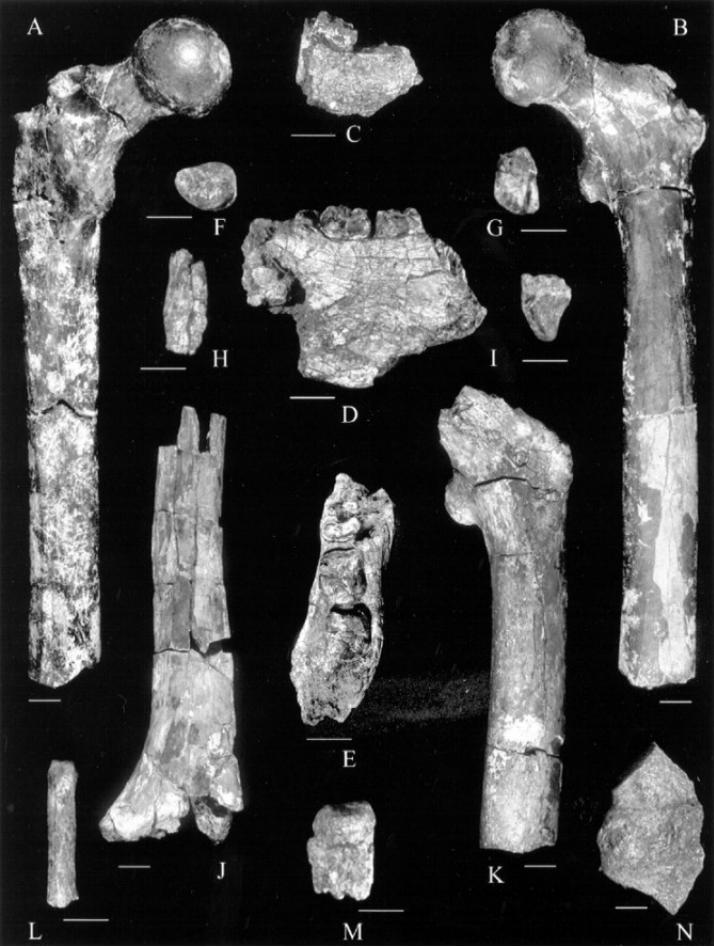
## Chronology of the earliest hominin species





# Orrorin tugenensis





(Senut et al., 2001)

## Discovery: Tugen hills, Baringo Lake, Kenys

### Reperti:

- Left femur (A, B)
- Right jaw fragment with  $M_3$  (C)
- Left jaw fragment with  $M_{2-3}$  (D,E)
- Right  $M^3$  (F)
- Right  $P_4$  (G)
- $I^1$  (H)
- Right C (I)
- Right humerus (J)
- Left proximal part of a femur (K)
- Proximal hand phalanx (L)
- Left  $M^3$  (M)
- Proximal fragment of a right femur (N)

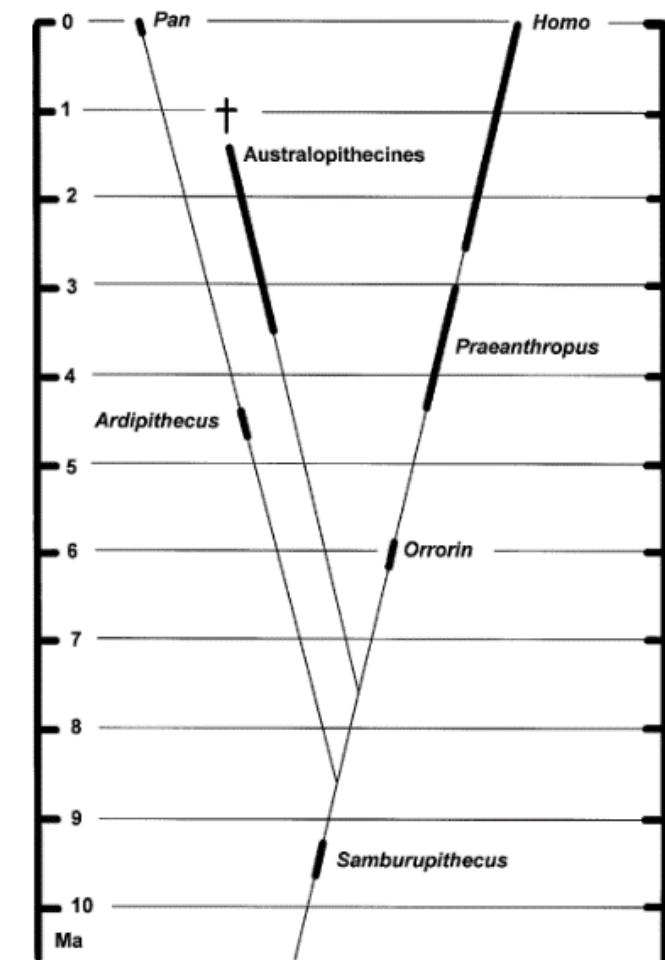
Età: 6 Ma

La taglia dei denti iugali mostra che la faccia era corta

Lo spessore dello smalto dei denti iugali attesta un regime alimentare probabilmente onnivoro

*Molar and premolar highlight a short face*

*Enamel thickness attest an omnivore alimentation*



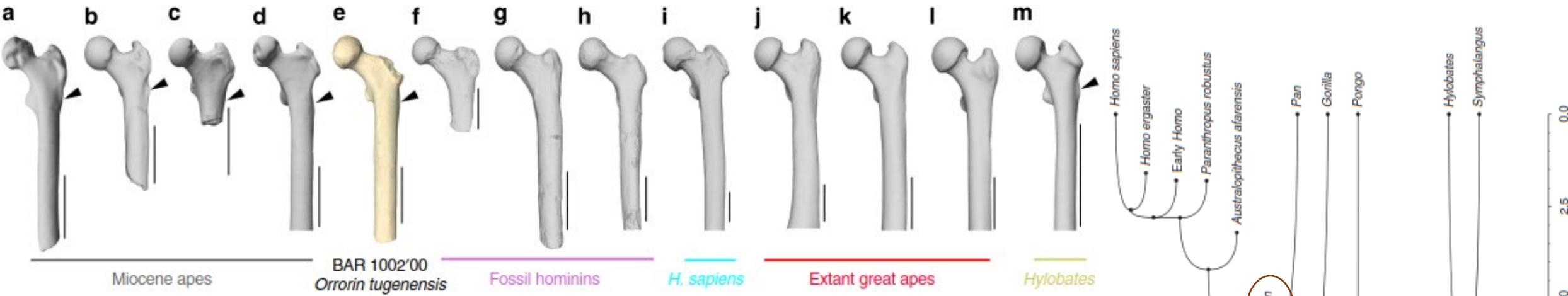


(Richmond *et al.*, 2008)

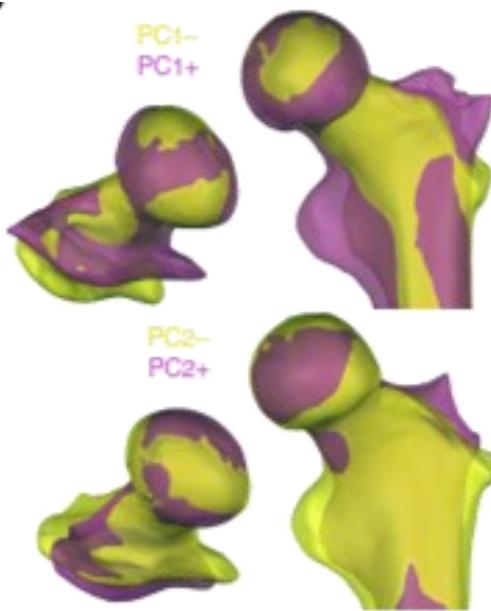
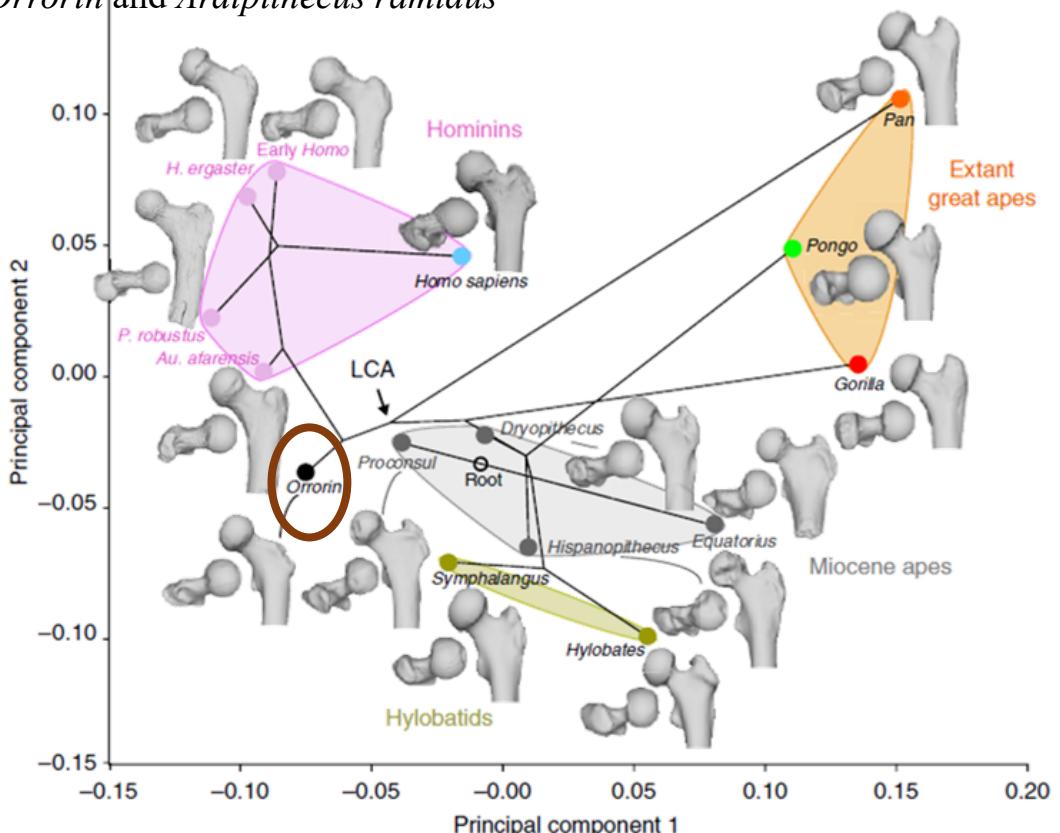
(A) *P. troglodytes*, (B) *O. tugenensis* (BAR 1002'00), (C and D) *Paranthropus robustus* (SK 97 and SK 82, reversed), (E) *A. afarensis* (A.L. 288-1ap), (F) *Paranthropus boisei* (KNM-ER 1503, reversed), (G) early *Homo* (KNM-ER 1481), and (H) modern *H. sapiens*. Scale bar, 2 cm.

*Like the other early hominins' femurs (C to F), Orrorin is different from modern human and great apes with a long and narrow femoral neck and a wide proximal diaphysis.*

Come gli altri femore dei primi ominini (C a F), *Orrorin* si distingue dai umani moderni e dalle grandi scimmie con un collo femorale lungo e stretto e una diafisi prossimale larga.



The arrows indicate a laterally protruding gluteal tuberosity, observed in *Hylobates*, Miocene hominoids, as well as in *Orrorin* and *Ardipithecus ramidus*



## ARTICLE

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The femur of *Orrorin tugenensis* exhibits morphometric affinities with both Miocene apes and later hominins

Sergio Almécija<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Melissa Tallman<sup>4</sup>, David M. Alba<sup>3,5</sup>, Marta Pina<sup>3</sup>, Salvador Moyà-Solà<sup>6</sup> & William L. Jungers<sup>1</sup>

0.0  
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Ma

*Sympalangus*

*Hylobates*

*Pongo*

*Gorilla*

*Pan*

*Paranthropus robustus*

*Australopithecus afarensis*

*Homo ergaster*

*Early Homo*

*Homo sapiens*

*Equatorius*

*Dryopithecus*

*Hispanopithecus*

*Proconsul*

*Root*

*Hylobatids*

*Equatorius*

*Hylobates*

*Dryopithecus*

*Hispanopithecus*

*Proconsul*

*Root*

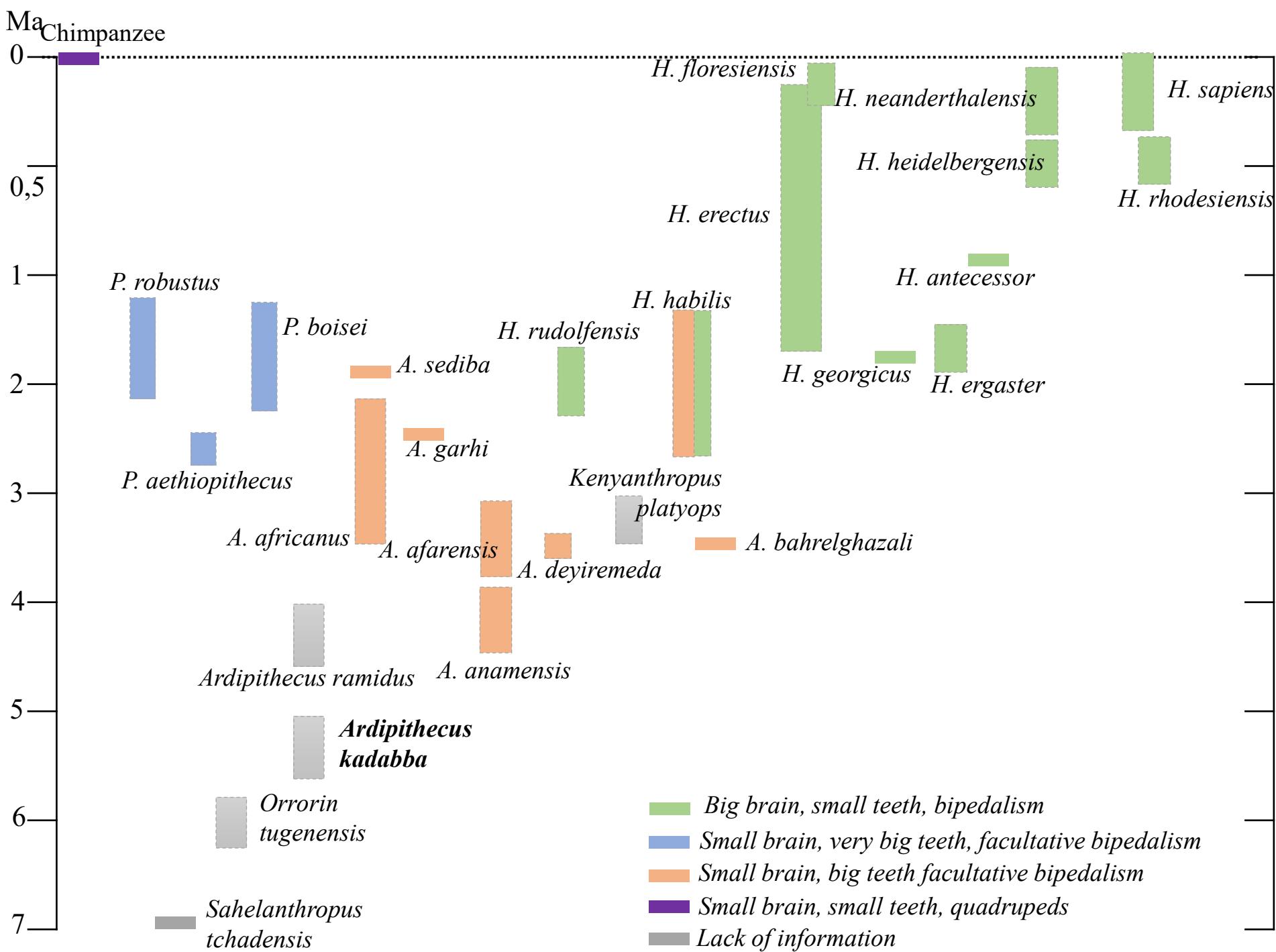
*Hylobatids*

*Equatorius*

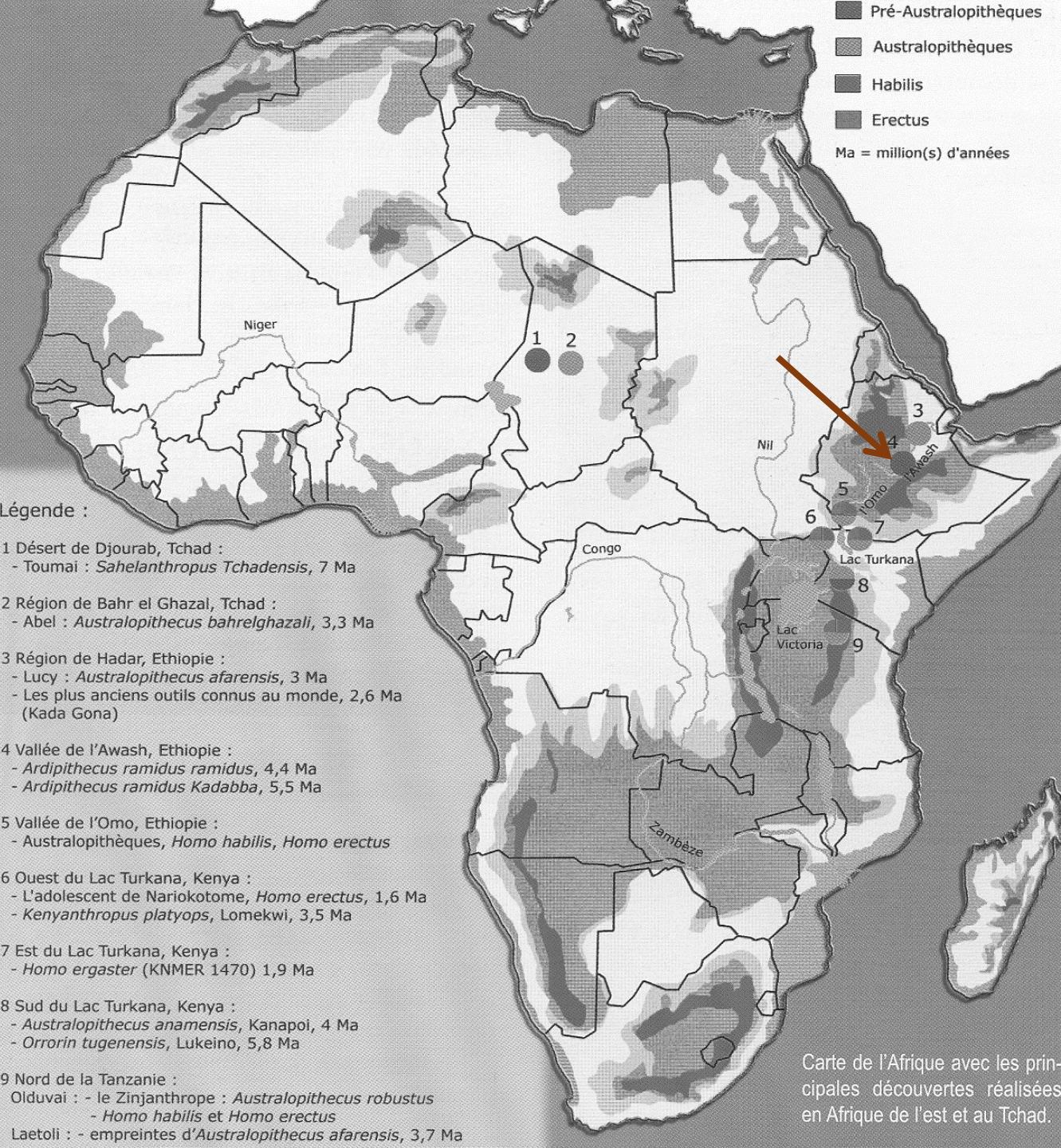
*Hylobates*

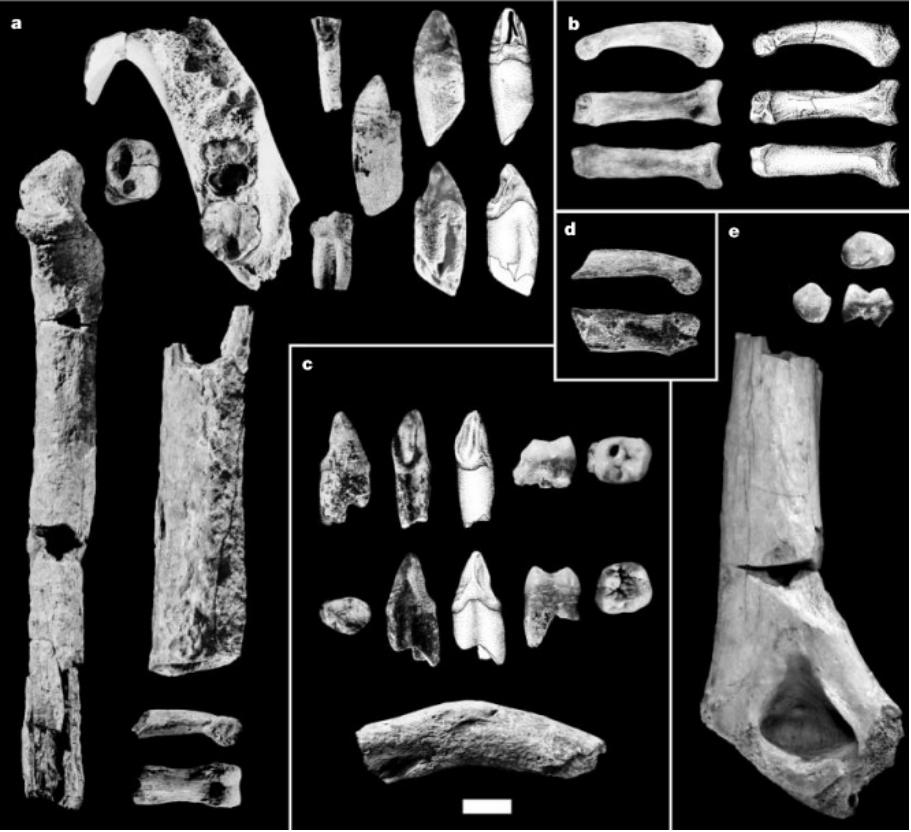
*Hylobates*

*Hylobates*



# *Ardipithecus kadabba*





**Discovery:** Aramis area, Awash valley, Ethiopia

**Fossils:**

- Jaw fragment (a)
- Fragment of ulna and humerus (a)
- Clavicle fragment (c)
- Foot and hand phalanx (b,d)
- 11 isolated teeth (a,c,e)
- 4 post-cranial fragments

**Age:** 5,8 – 5,2 Ma

# Late Miocene hominids from the Middle Awash, Ethiopia

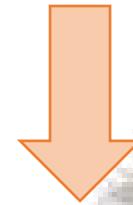
**Yohannes Haile-Selassie**

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Molecular studies suggest that the lineages leading to humans and chimpanzees diverged approximately 6.5–5.5 million years (Myr) ago, in the Late Miocene<sup>1–3</sup>. Hominid fossils from this interval, however, are fragmentary and of uncertain phylogenetic status, age, or both<sup>4–6</sup>. Here I report new hominid specimens from the Middle Awash area of Ethiopia that date to 5.2–5.8 Myr and are associated with a wooded palaeoenvironment<sup>7</sup>. These Late Miocene fossils are assigned to the hominid genus *Ardipithecus* and represent the earliest definitive evidence of the hominid clade. Derived dental characters are shared exclusively with all younger hominids. This indicates that the fossils probably represent a hominid taxon that postdated the divergence of lineages leading to modern chimpanzees and humans. However, the persistence of primitive dental and postcranial characters in these new fossils indicates that *Ardipithecus* was phylogenetically close to the common ancestor of chimpanzees and humans. These new findings raise additional questions about the claimed hominid status of *Orrorin tugenensis*<sup>8</sup>, recently described from Kenya and dated to ~6 Myr<sup>9</sup>.

(Nature 412, 2001)

*Ardipithecus ramidus kadabba*

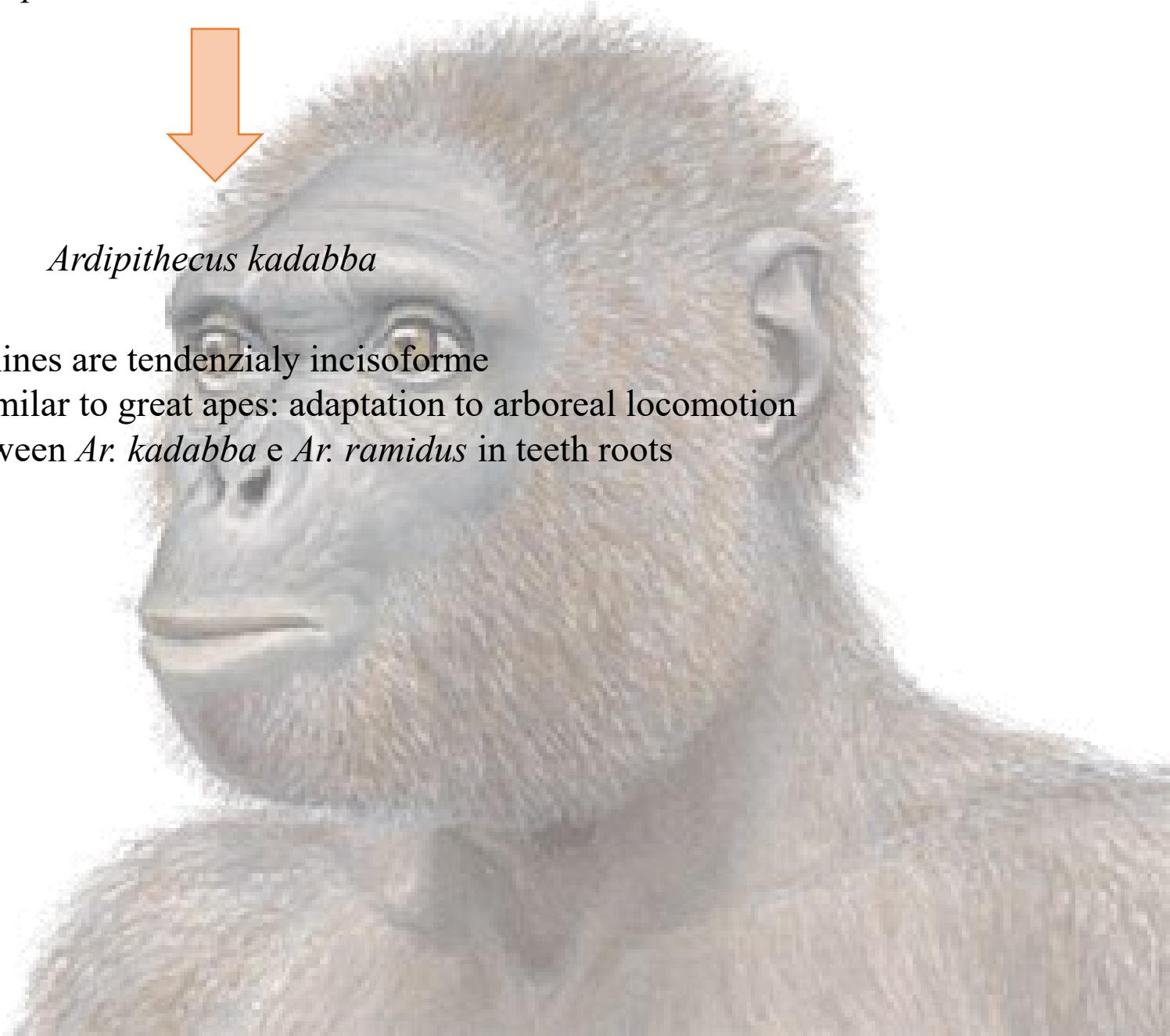


*Ardipithecus kadabba*

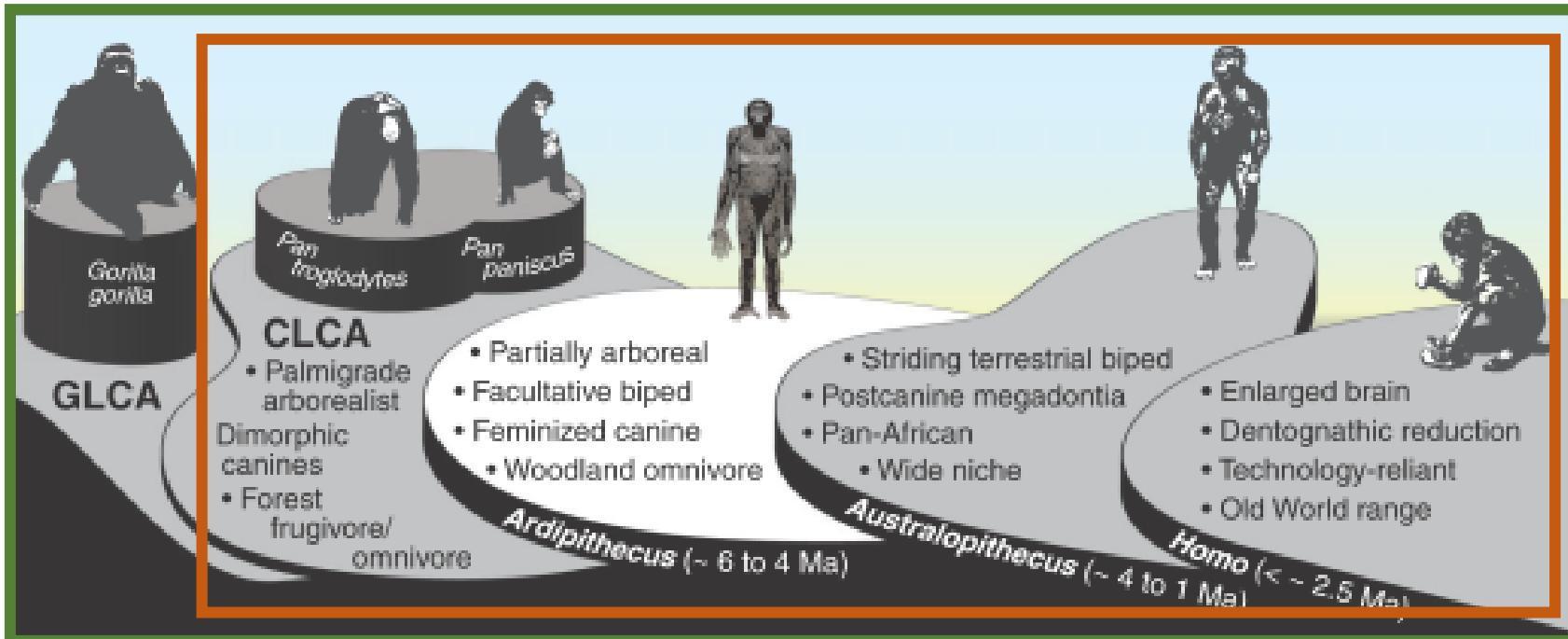
Canines are tendenzialy incisoforme

Post-cranial elements similar to great apes: adaptation to arboreal locomotion

Differences between *Ar. kadabba* e *Ar. ramidus* in teeth roots



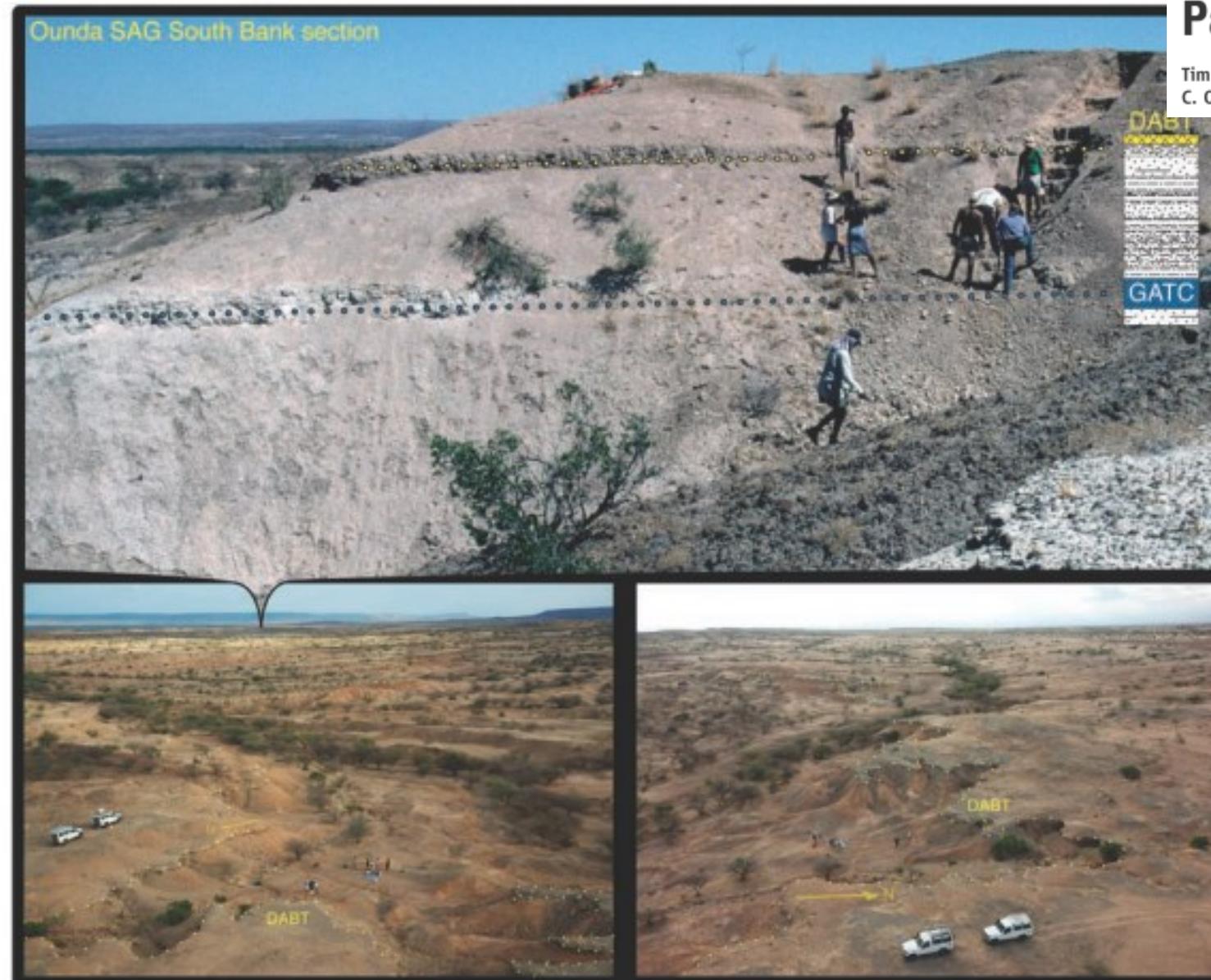
## Homininae      Hominini



Evolution of hominids and African apes since the gorilla/chimp+human (GLCA) and chimp/human (CLCA) last common ancestors. Pedestals on the left show separate lineages leading to the extant apes (gorilla, and chimp and bonobo); text indicates key differences among adaptive plateaus occupied by the three hominid genera.

***Ardipithecus ramidus* and the Paleobiology of Early Hominids**

**Fig. 1.** Geography and stratigraphy of the Aramis region. Two dated volcanic horizons constrain the main *Ardipithecus*-bearing stratigraphic interval in the Aramis region. The top frame shows these tephra in situ near the eastern end of the 9-km outcrop. The dark stripe in the background is the riverine forest of the modern Awash River running from right to left, south to north, through the Middle Awash study area of the Afar Rift. The lower frames are contemporaneous helicopter views over ARA-VP-1 (Yonas Molar Site) to show the geographic position of the top photo and to depict the extensive outcrop of the upper tuff horizon (dotted lines show the DABT) across the local landscape. Vehicles are in the same position to provide orientation. Sediments outcropping immediately below this 4.4-million-year-old horizon yielded the floral, faunal, and isotopic contexts for *Ar. ramidus*. The frame to the left shows the slight eastward dip of the Sagantole Formation toward the modern Awash River. The contiguous frame to the right is a view up the modern upper Aramis catchment. The ARA-VP-6 locality where the partial *Ardipithecus* skeleton was excavated is near its top right corner (Fig. 2).



The frame to the left shows the slight eastward dip of the Sagantole Formation toward the modern Awash River. The contiguous frame to the right is a view up the modern upper Aramis catchment. The ARA-VP-6 locality where the partial *Ardipithecus* skeleton was excavated is near its top right corner (Fig. 2).

## *Ardipithecus ramidus* and the Paleobiology of Early Hominids

Tim D. White,<sup>1,\*</sup> Berhane Asfaw,<sup>2</sup> Yonas Beyene,<sup>3</sup> Yohannes Haile-Selassie,<sup>4</sup> C. Owen Lovejoy,<sup>5</sup> Gen Suwa,<sup>6</sup> Giday WoldeGabriel<sup>7</sup>

Età: 4.4 Ma

- 110 resti ritrovati
- 50 kg, 120 cm di altezza
- Piccole differenze nella taglia corporea tra maschio e femmina

*Little body size difference between males and females*

- Capacità cranica / *Brain size* = chimpanzees
- Faccia piccola e canini/premolari ridotti (riduzione delle competizioni sociali)

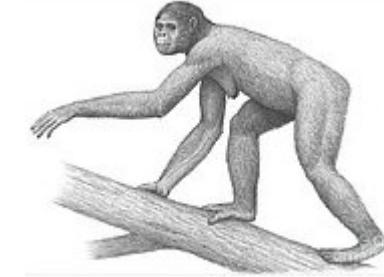
*Small face and reduced canine/premolar complex (minimal social aggression)*

- Nessuna sospensione, o knuckle-walking ma una bipedia più primitiva che i Australopitecini

*No suspension, vertical climbing or knuckle-walking but more primitive bipedalism than Australopithecus*

- Riduzione dello spessore delle smalte in confronto a *Australopithecus*

*Reduced thickness of the enamel compared to Australopithecus*



*Ar. Ramidus* indica che gli ultimi antenati comuni tra i umani e le scimmie africane non erano «chimpanzee-like» e che gli ominidi e le scimmie africane estinti sono fortemente specializzati, ma attraverso un cammino evolutivo molto diverso.

*Ar. ramidus thus indicates that the last common ancestors of human and African apes were not chimpanzee-like and that both hominids and extant African apes are each highly specialized, but through very different evolutionary pathways.*

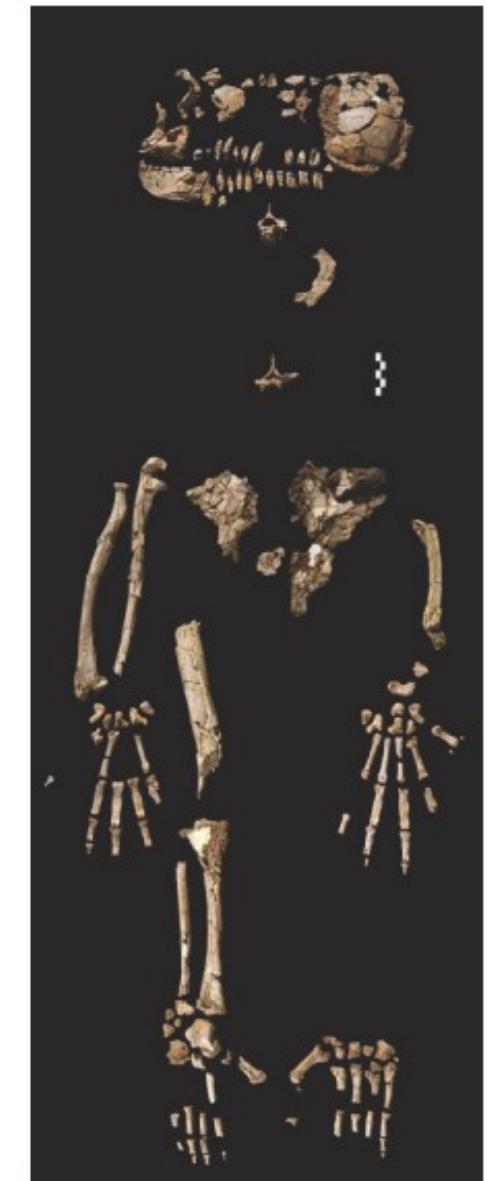


I scheletri dimostrano delle dimensioni postcraniali importanti relativamente alle dimensione dentarie

*Skeletal individuals illustrate larger postcranial dimensions for the Ardipithecus individual relative to dental size.*

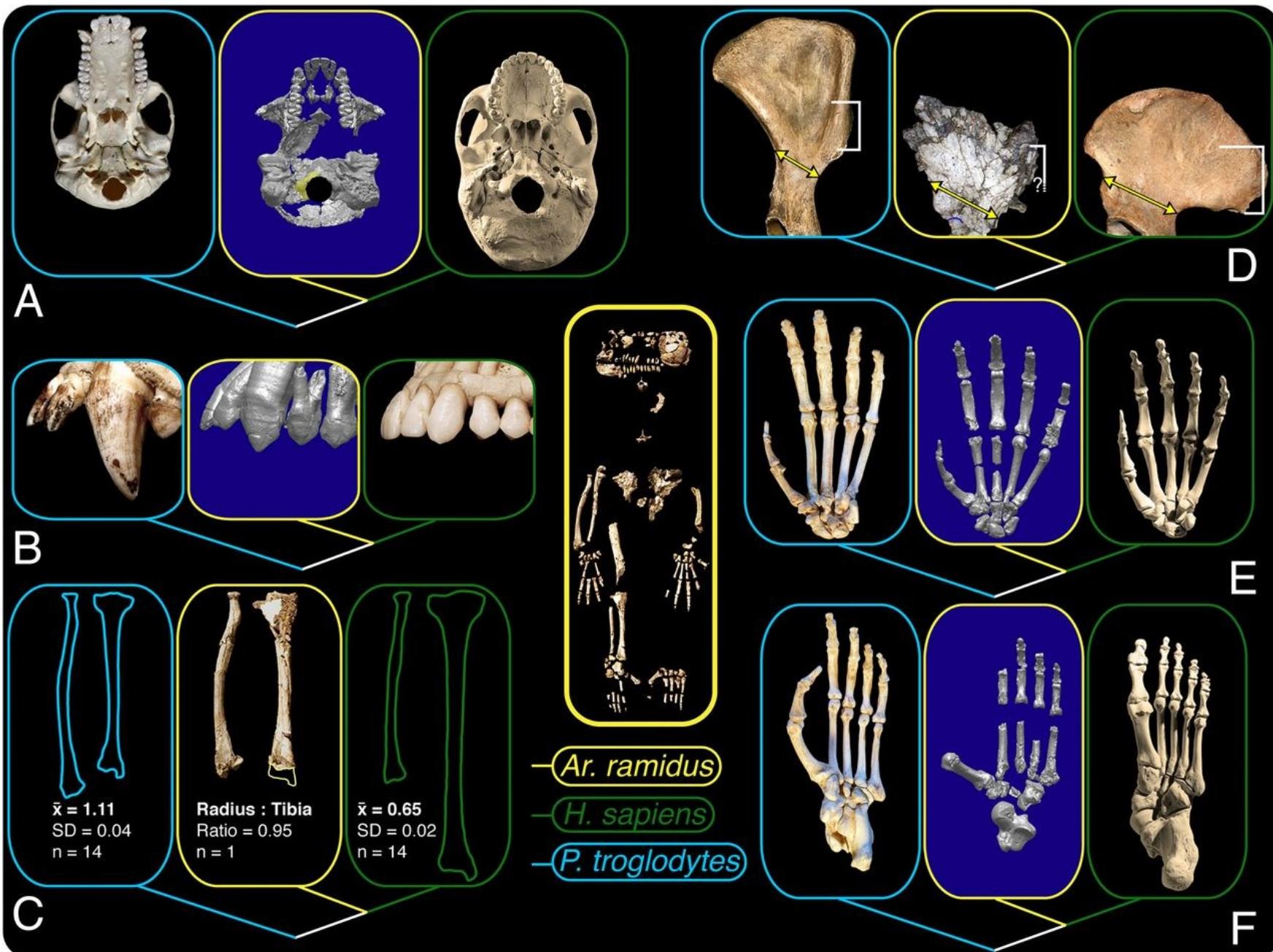
Confronti tra dimensioni dentarie post canini rivelano la megadontia dei *Australopithecini*.

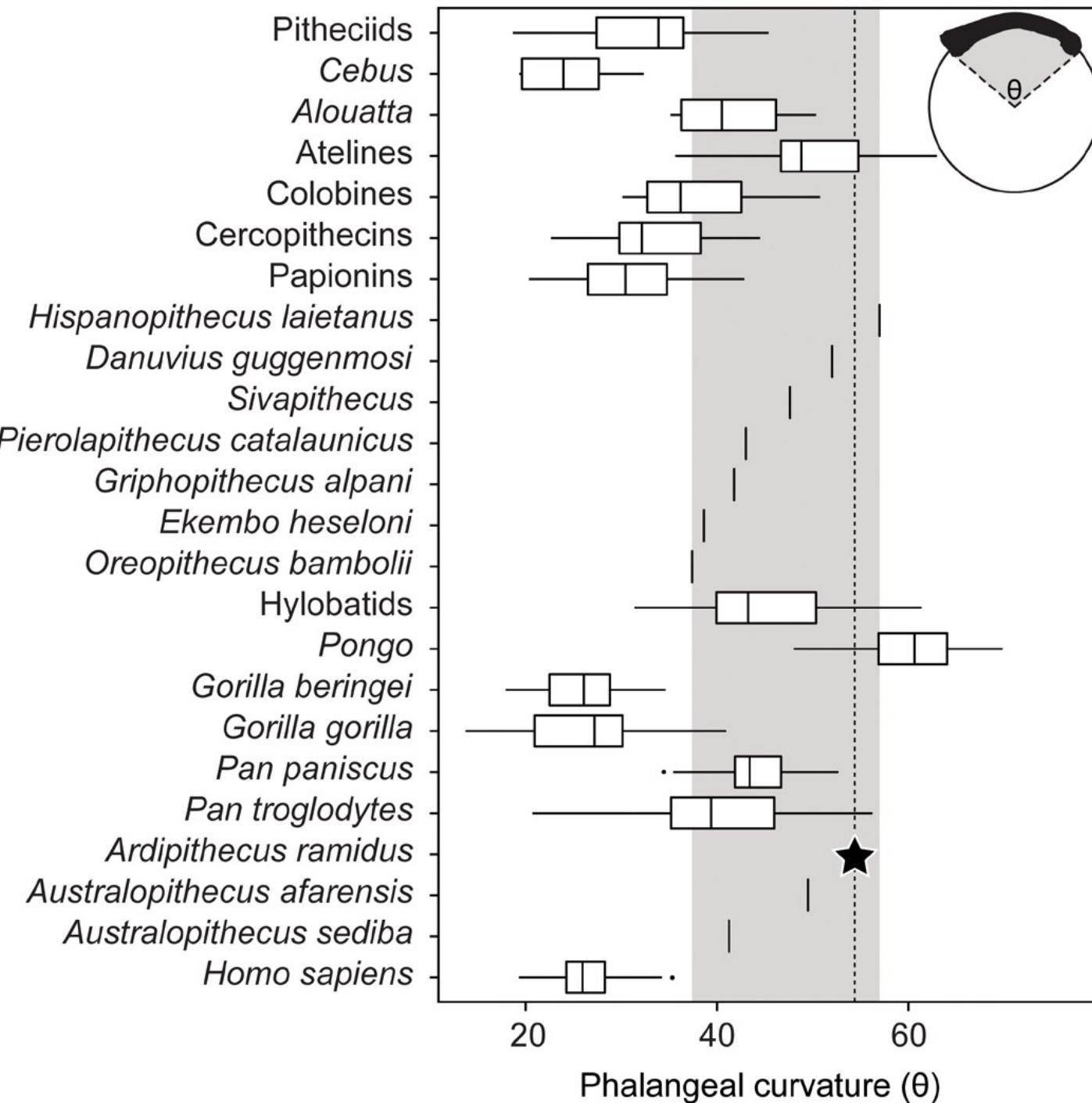
*Comparison of the postcanine dentitions reveals the megadontia of the Australopithecus individual*



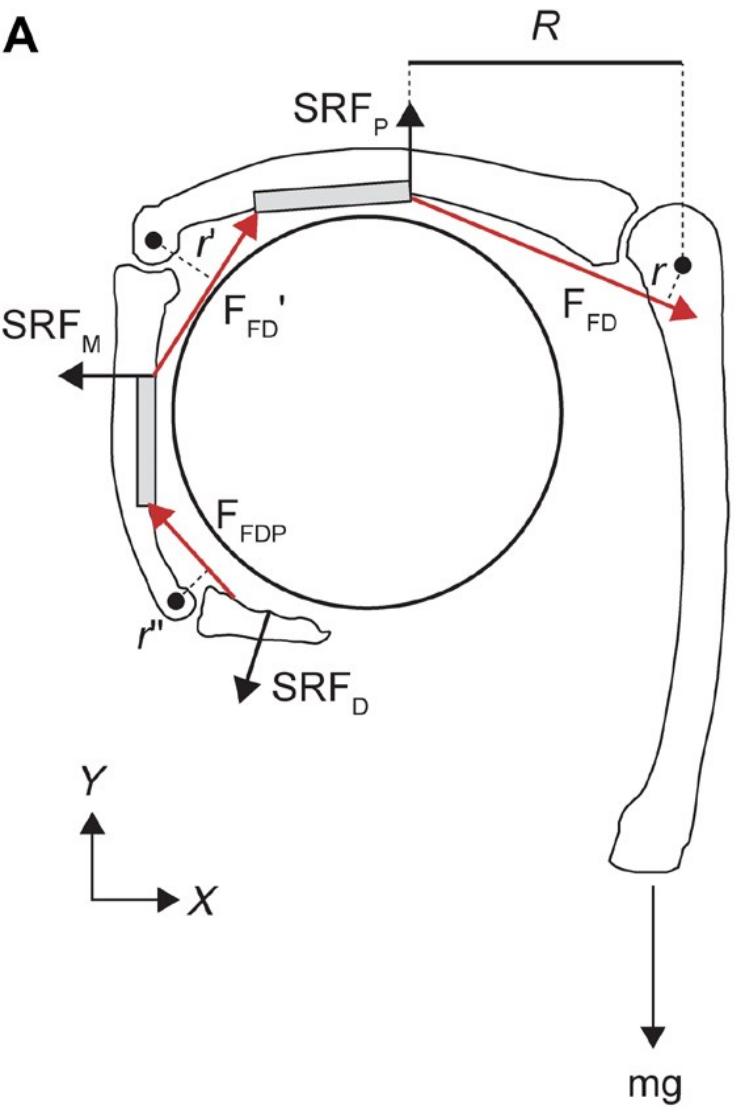
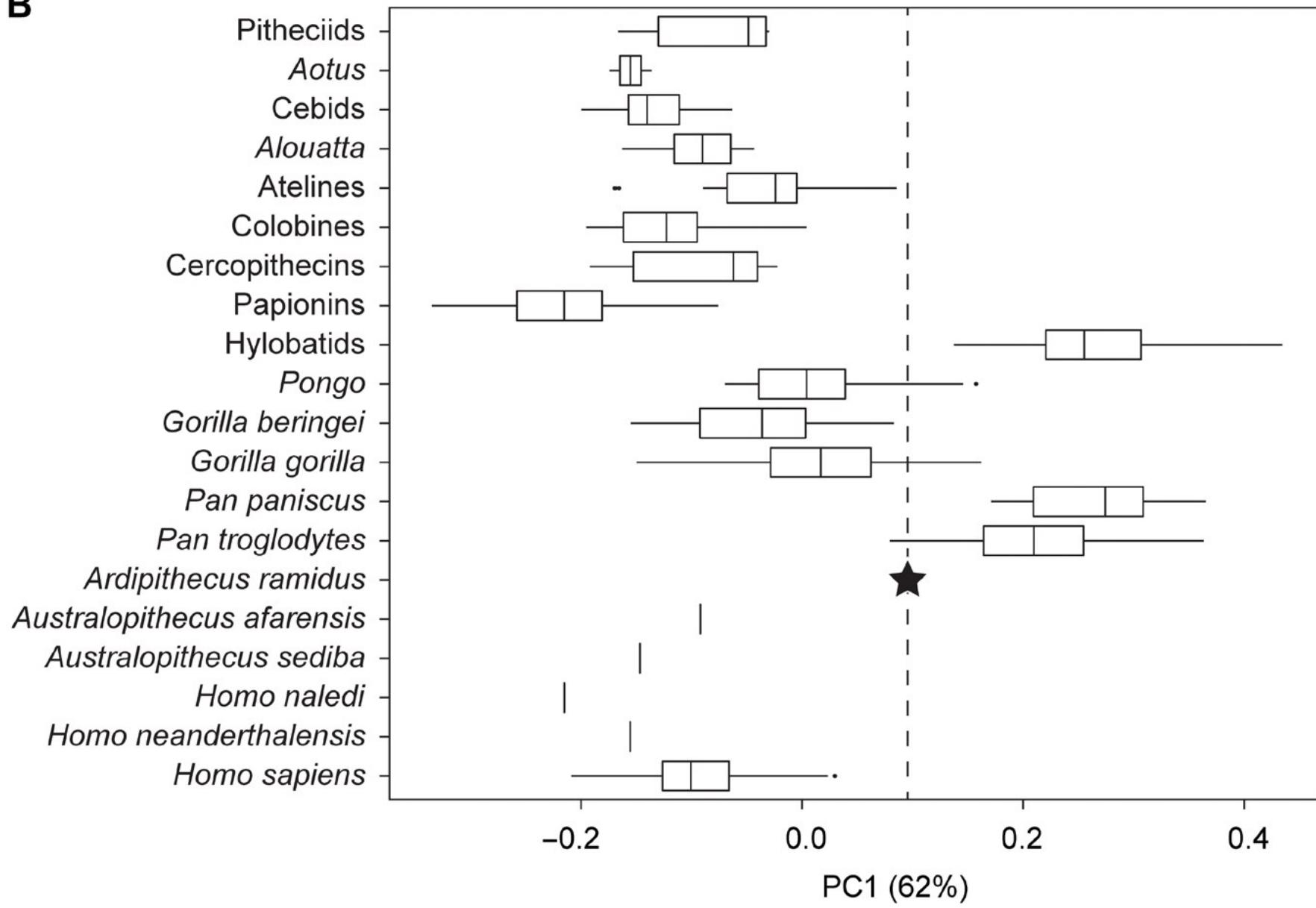
**Fig. 3.** The ARA-VP-6/500 skeleton. This is a composite photograph to show the approximate placement of elements recovered. Some pieces found separately in the excavation are rejoined here. Intermediate and terminal phalanges are only provisionally allocated to position and side.

# Evolution in different directions.





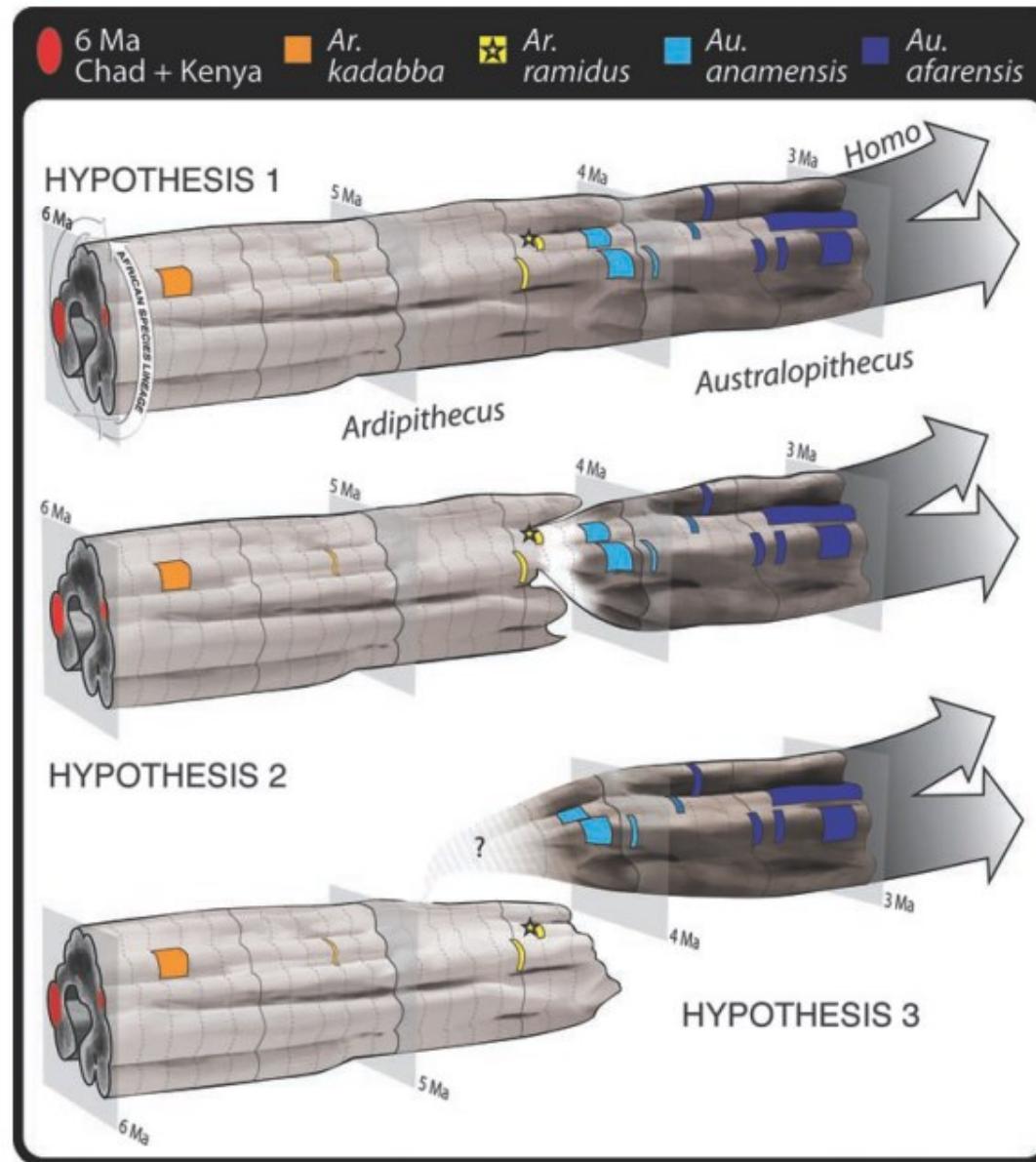
Proximal phalangeal curvature in anthropoid primates. The gray bar indicates the range of variation among the Miocene fossil hominoids included here. The curvature of the *Ar. ramidus* PP3 falls within the ranges of variation of *P. troglodytes*, *Pongo*, hylobatids, and atelines; between the highly suspensory Miocene hominoids *Danuvius* and *Hispanopithecus*; and above the ranges of variation of all other taxa.

**A****B**

Metacarpophalangeal and interphalangeal joint shape contributes to suspensory performance.



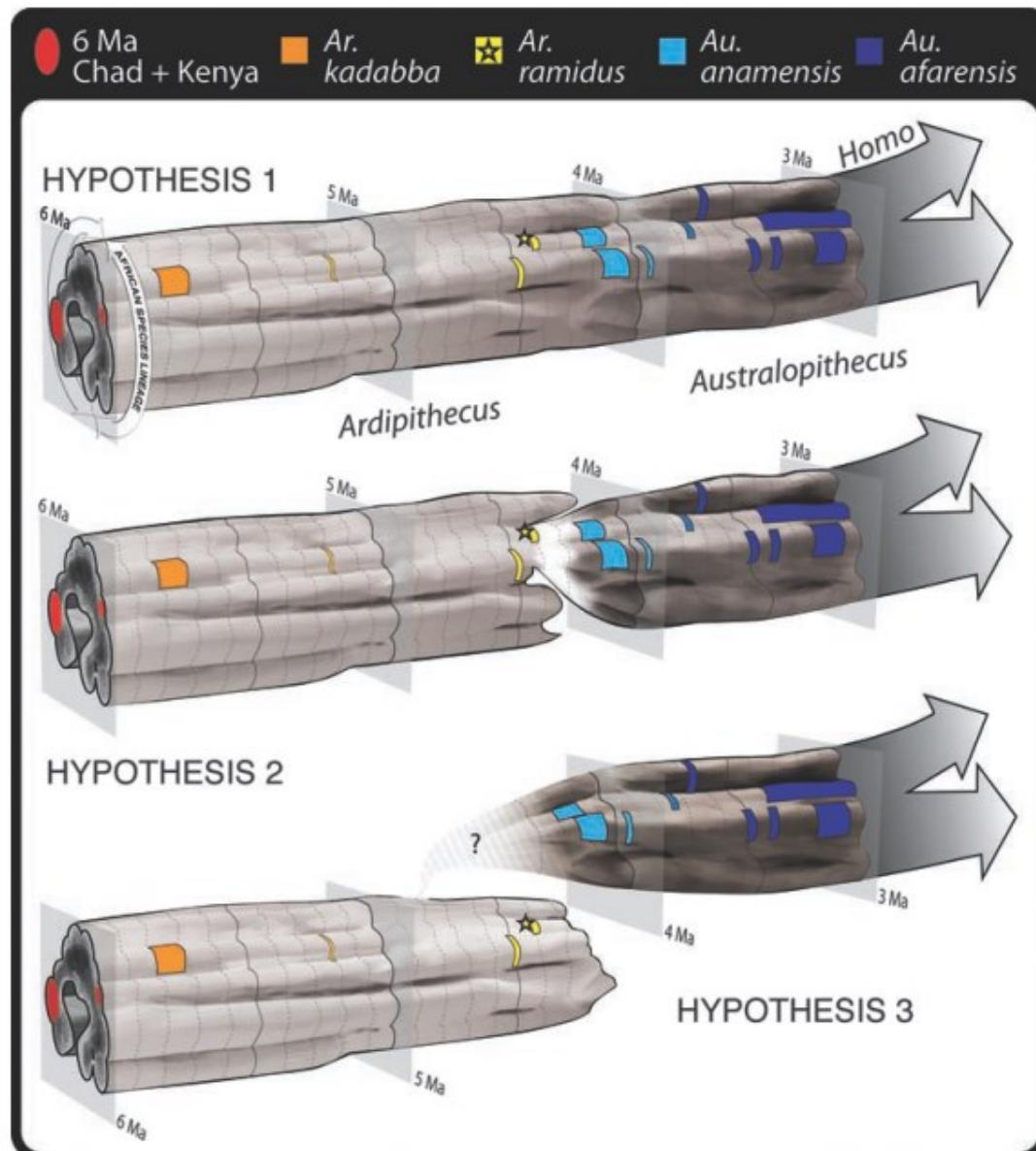
©'09 J.H. Matternes



**1 ipotesi:** tutte le evidenze conosciute rappresentano un unica linea evolutiva

**2 ipotesi;** raffigura la stessa evidenza di una transizione diretta tra *Ardipithecus* e *Australopithecus* (speciazione) accaduta tra 4,5 e 4,2 Ma in un gruppo di popolazione regionale (o locale) che potrebbe avere incluso I rift dell'Afar e Turkana.

**3 ipotesi:** consente una speciazione allopatica (cladogenesi attraverso una microevoluzione accumulata in una popolazione periferica isolata che è diventata separata al livello riproduttivo.



**Hypothesis 1:** interprets all known evidence to represent a species lineage evolving phyletically across its entire range.

**Hypothesis 2:** depicts the same evidence in an *Ardipithecus*-to- *Australopithecus* transition (speciation) occurring between ~4.5 and ~4.2 Ma in a regional (or local) group of populations that might have included either or both the Afar and Turkana rifts.

**Hypothesis 3:** accommodates the same evidence to an alternative, much earlier peripheral allopatric “rectangular” speciation model (cladogenesis through microevolution accumulated in a peripheral isolate population, becoming reproductively separated).

Allopatrica Peripatrica Parapatrica Simpatrica

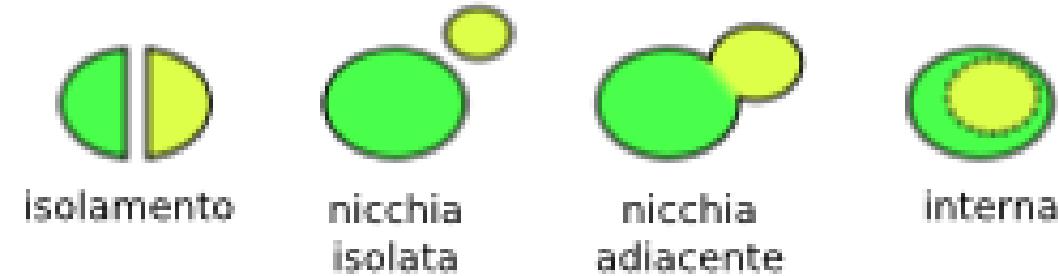
Popolazione originaria



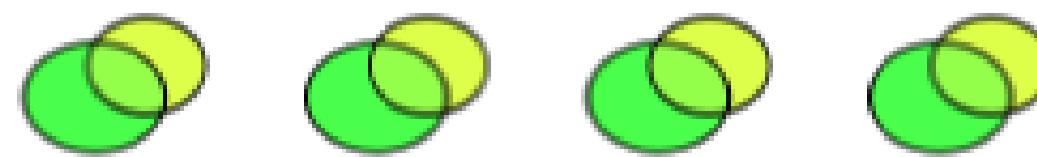
Prima tappa della speciazione



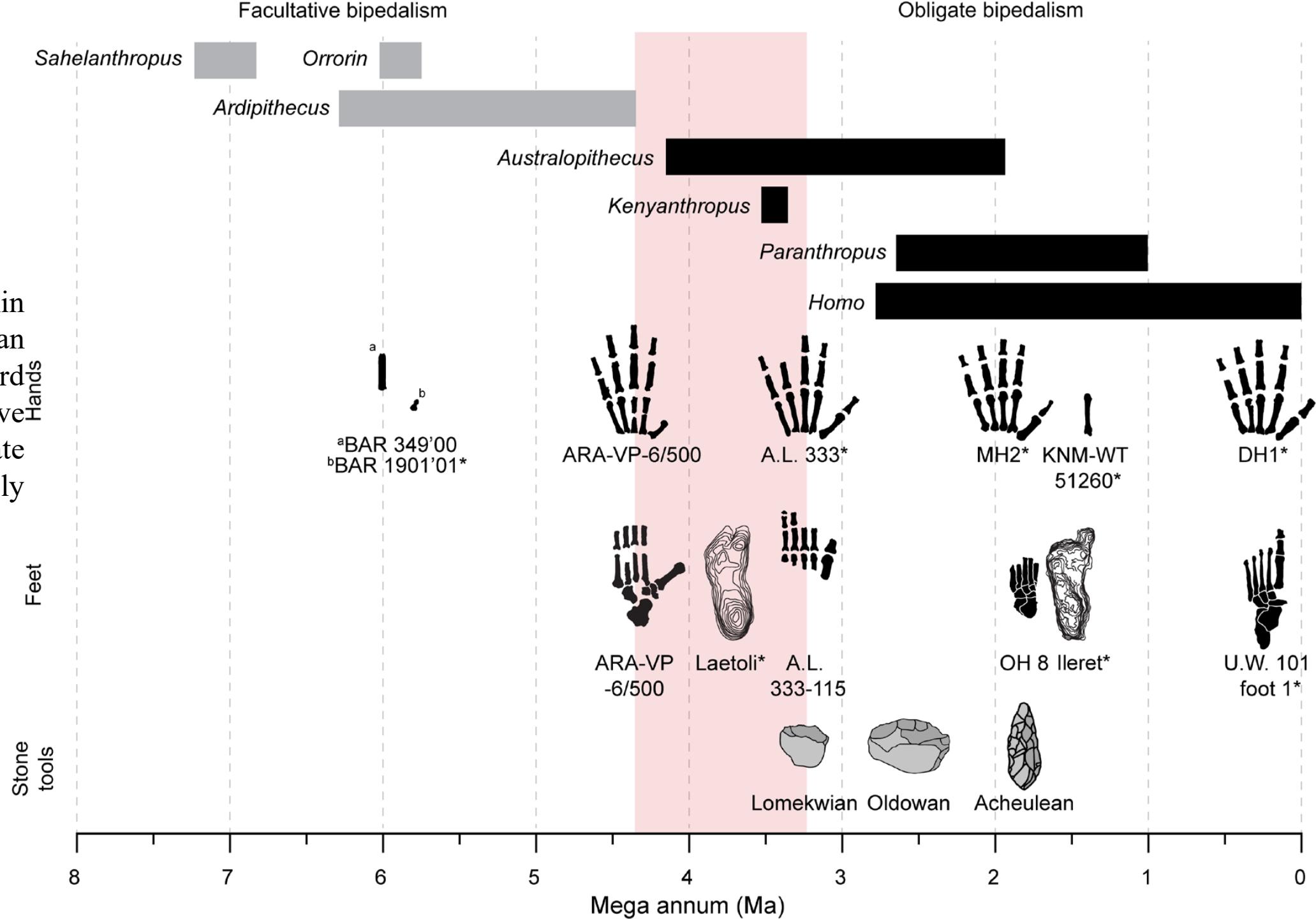
Evoluzione dell'isolamento riproduttivo



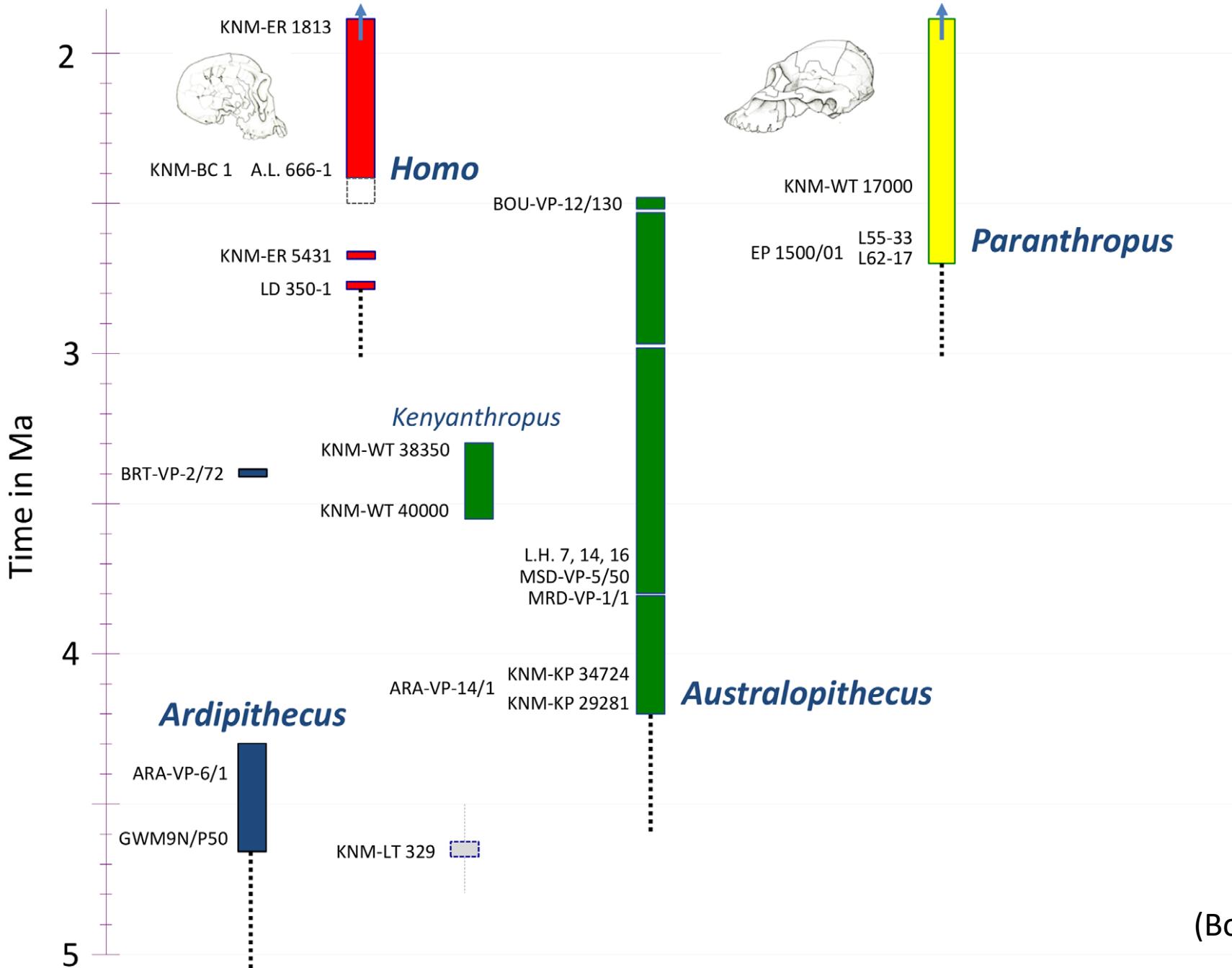
Redistribuzione degli areali delle due specie



The evolution of hominin hands and feet reflects an evolutionary shift toward enhanced manipulative capabilities and obligate bipedalism, respectively (Prang et al. 2021)



# Chronology of hominin genera in eastern Africa from 5 Ma to 2 Ma



(Bobe and Wood, 2021)