

## Re: beach & brain (was Re: DHA ... savannah and bipedalism.

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.anthropology.paleo/2004-07/1164.html>

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"Andrew Nowicki" <[andrew@nospam.com](mailto:andrew@nospam.com)> wrote in message  
news:4102852C.37252E1@nospam.com...

> > *I don't know when fire use evolved (earlier than 1.5 Ma?) & how important it was, but it might well have been very important (for Homo, not for apiths of course: enamel micro-wear suggests most apiths ate predom.wetland plants).*

> *"Grasses have large quantities of silica crystals in their cells which scratch tooth enamel. Browsing animals feed on the leaves, branches and fruits of trees and bushes. These plant materials have fewer silica crystals in their cells, and a more finely polished tooth surface results. Omnivorous animals, eating meats as well as plant material, scratch their teeth heavily when biting into bone."*

<http://www.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/1979/6/79.06.02.x.html>

Yes.

> *"Little is known about the diets of hominids that predate the Homo genus, because these hominids did not leave archeological traces such as 'kitchen middens' and stone tools. Consequently, researchers have made inferences concerning hominid diet on the basis of craniodental morphology, gross dental wear, and dental microwear. The current consensus is that the 3-million-year-old Australopithecus africanus hominid subsisted on fruits and leaves, similar to the modern chimpanzee.*

Overlapping diets, yes, likely.

> *Early hominid diets are of some theoretical significance, since one current view is that the emergence of the more intelligent Homo genus depended on the consumption of high-quality animal foods that made possible biological changes resulting in the evolution of a larger brain.*

Yes, Homo = waterside food. Fr.Muskiet cs.2004 "Is Docosahexaenoic Acid (DHA) Essential? Lessons from DHA Status Regulation, Our Ancient Diet,

sci.anthropology.paleo: Re: beach & brain (was Re: DHA ... savannah and bipedalism.

Epidemiology and Randomized Controlled Trials" J.Nutr.134:183–6 "African hominids have long been assumed to have been hunter–gatherers who obtained a great deal of their food from the open savanna. Meat from savanna animals is a poor DHA source, but savanna meat does have higher (n–3)/(n–6) ratios compared with domestic animals. Savanna hunting is, however, not easy even with modern tools. Hunting hominids at that stage of evolution would have possessed unimaginable complex cognitive functions for plannin