

## Re: Updated AAH Definition

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"Algis Kuliukas" <[algis@RiverApes.com](mailto:algis@RiverApes.com)> wrote in message  
news:77a70442.0411101819.4c7f81a1@posting.google.com...

> *How about this, updated, version, Marc?... The Aquatic Ape Hypothesis (AAH):* The hypothesis that water has acted as an agent of selection in the evolution of humans more than it has in the evolution of our ape cousins and that, as a result, many of the major physical differences between humans and the other apes may be explained, at least in part, as adaptations to moving (wading, swimming and/or diving) better through various aquatic media and from greater feeding on resources that might be procured from such habitats.

Excellent. Only, I'm not convinced we need definitions of "Aquatic Ape Hypothesis": it's a misnomer IMO: it's not about apes, but about Homo, it's not about having been aquatic (some people get weird ideas when they hear the word "aquatic"), but waterside, and it's not a hypothesis, but a theory. I prefer "AAT" – everybody knows what it's about (aquatic ape / aquariboreal apes / amphibious ancestors / ...):

"AAT proposes that water has acted as an agent of selection in the evolution of humans (Homo) more than it has in that of chimpanzees (Pan), and that many of the major physical differences between humans and the other apes may be explained, in part, as adaptations to moving better through various aquatic media (wading, swimming and/or diving) and from greater feeding on aquatic and waterside resources."

We certainly need Homo in the definition: AAT sensu stricto is about Homo, has nothing to do with apes.

I'd prefer this: "AAT proposes that human ancestors, during a certain period after the Homo/Pan split, spent an important part of their day in water, wading, swimming and diving, and feeding on aquatic and waterside foods." (why make it longer than necessary?)

This is a minimalistic definition: I'd be more explicit (& more debatable):

"The Aquariboreal Ape Theory proposes that most Miocene hominoids lived in coastal/swamp forests, and that Homo, after the Homo/Pan split, became

seaside omnivores that once fed predominantly on aquatic and waterside foods."

If more details are needed, I propose our scenario, of course:

– Aquarboreal Apes Theory of hominoid evolution: "Hominids (chimpanzees, humans and gorillas) and pongids (orangutans) split in the Miocene. A climbing-plus-wading lifestyle in coastal or swamp forests, where most Miocene hominid-pongid fossils are found, helps explain how they (starting from a more monkey-like