

Re: New Ethiopian Find – Oldest Biped At 3.8–4 mya

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From: Algis Kuliukas (algis_at_RiverApes.com)

Date: 03/17/05

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"JAE" <jae@ucdavis.edu> wrote in message
news:<1111072673.958698.250470@141g2000cwc.googlegroups.com>...
> *Algis Kuliukas wrote:*

> > *I stand by the point I made at the beginning and have repeated many
> > times: Human bipedal efficiency only really works in certain flat,
> > firm and relatively vegetation–free substrates. As the substrate
> > becomes less perfect the efficiency gets worse. It's clearly due to
> > our inverted pendulum gait and this can only be practiced in certain
> > places.*
>
> *That you stand by a point based on anecdote, as you've got no
> comparison, is perfectly in line with the rest of your quackery.*

As usual you avoid musing over the interesting subject in question, the science and the implications on human evolution and instead try to twist my arguments into something they're not and then go for the jugular with nasty personal attacks.

> > *As apes do not do the inverted pendulum gait I think it is reasonable
> > to assume that they would be less effected, efficiency–wise, by
> > walking in less–than–perfect substrates than we are.*
>
> *That you argue far more about what you believe is reasonable to assume,
> that you position this above actual study, that you attempt in no way
> to expand beyond anecdote to investigate the relevent comparison—
> all this serves to make you look like the antithesis of a scientist. You
> are a propagandist with a cultish devotion to a notion that that you've
> admitted no evidence can move you from. It appears that neither does
> it take evidence to move you to this point.*

That your only response is, again, to attack me and not the message when you have repeatedly claimed that is what I do to you, merely shows your hypocrisy and double standards.

My mistake was to share the results of an incomplete study with you that was in progress. Charles Oxnard warned me of this. In most scientific fields (in the good old days), he told me, you'd send your results to your adversaries before publication, so as to get them to critique the results first. People in those days were more interested in the science, than in reputations, apparently. Not in anthropology, though. I thought a scientist would appreciate such openness, instead you've used it as a vehicle to attack me. Congratulations.

I admitted that no evidence could dissuade me from the notion that (shock, horror) water has influenced our evolution more than it has the evolution of our great apes, true – because, after all, humans swim better than apes. (It's illustrative how you didn't qualify that – but left it out so as to make my position look as dodgy as possible – a really scientific approach that.)

> > > *"Efficient" is relative. You appear to be using it as absolute.*
> *The*
> > > *statement that bipedalism is efficient in certain substrates is*
> > > *meaningless without external reference on those substrates.*
> >
> > *I know and I've given that relative data several times. Walking in*
> > *tall grass is a lot more expansive than walking on concrete.*
>
> *Again assuming that your study was performed in such a way that it was*
> *worth a damn (and this is an assumption rather than anything I'd advise*
> *people to do) you have no comparison with which to view the relevance*
> *of this.*

Not yet, but I will have. Note that I am not slinging four-letter insults your way in response to the repeated, blatant slurs against my methods, although that is surely the deserved response.

[... snipped yet more bitter vitriol ...]

I wasted enough time trying to communicate with you. All you are interested in is reputation, not the subject, not the science, nor the implications. You come here, not to share knowledge, ideas and enlightenment but to strut around like some pompous old professor, determined to show how superior he is and how stupid and inferior anyone is who dares to challenge him. Specifically, as far as I'm concerned, you seem to come here to pick on me like some great lumbering pretentious academic bully. Well... up yours, Jason! (Sticks middle finger in general direction of the computer screen.)

Algis Kuliukas