

Re: Faster Than A Hyena?

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- *From:* Lee Olsen <paleocity@xxxxxxxxxxx>
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On Feb 19, 7:10 pm, pgarr...@xxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

As a lurker who's merely read some of Leakey's popular science books, I am unconvinced that hominids such as Homo Habilis or the Australopithecines would have practised persistence/endurance hunting.

1) If they did, surely they would have been mobile enough to migrate out of Africa, and Homo Erectus is the first human to do this.

2) The Austraopithecines, like gorillas and unlike homo and chimpanzees, had strong sexual dimorphism. This implies that the males of a group were unrelated and competed with each other for access to related females, which implies they were power rather than endurance athletes.

Therefore this line of evidence seems poor ammunition to use against the various crackpot alternate theories seen on this group.

"Specifically, longer, more linear bodies are better adapted for heat loss in dry open environments, where evaporative heat loss from sweating is very effective. All modern-day tall "elongated"

African (e.g., Nilotics) are restricted to such environments."

Alan Walker and Richard Leakey editors.

1993 The Nariokotome Homo Erectus Skeleton.

Harvard University Press, Cambridge

"Two independent lines of research converged on the conclusion that early Homo was an efficient runner, the first human species to be so (Leakey 1994:55)."

They were referring to the Turkana Boy and his long legs, not A'piths or the other questionable cousins.

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