

Re: Faster Than A Hyena?

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- *From:* pgarrone@xxxxxxxxxxxx
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On Feb 22, 12:47 am, "Paul Crowley"
<slkwuoiutiuytcu...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

<pgarr...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

news:b2bb32ab-1853-4dc7-a826-acfdf18f62e3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

After some research I see there is evidence that early homo (pre-erectus) did make it out of Africa, and on re-reading Leakey, I see that all species of homo, including the early/questionable ones, were runners,

How come, after mastering this niche, they stopped occupying it?

though the A'piths were not.

So A'piths clearly occupied a different niche (and different habitats) from later homo.

How come all hominids before Homo (as represented by A'piths) went into extinction — after so successfully occupying a distinct niche for a few million years?

Bad evolutionary theorists — such as the savanna types (e.g. Leakey) and the aquatic nuts — love to indulge in promiscuous niche-swapping. It can 'explain' everything, and avoids all need for thought.

It seems that they are quite unfamiliar

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with all of nature, and the fact that taxa and species prefer to stick to the same kind of habitat, and ways of life. They have no understanding of evolution, nor of the concept of 'evolutionary niche'.

Paul.

I can relate that as a youth in a rural area, we hunted wild pigs to castrate them, and did this by running them down, homo erectus style. It takes a certain intelligence to cope with the hunted animal's various strategems. So its still an option. However any sensible person would obviously just lay a trap and save all that unnecessary energy expenditure.

As to why the A'piths went extinct? Leakey says they were under pressure from Homo on one side and Baboons on the other. Apparently they couldn't run, and compared to homo had limited intelligence. It's interesting that gracile A'piths mostly existed before Homo, with robust A'piths existing after, though there is some slight overlap. Perhaps size and power conferred some sort of defense.

As to niche swapping, obviously most species occupy quite stable niches, but homo is the "first", so must have transcended a sequence of niches quite rapidly, biologically speaking, to "arrive". Its like the concept of "Punctuated equilibrium", except there were no equilibrium points. There do not seem to be any barriers going from brachiating ape, to a'piths walking on the savanna, to homo habilus with scavenging and running and stone tools, to erectus with endurance hunting, to full language and rationality of homo sapiens.

Probably the most difficult step is the evolution of Homo from Apith. I find the scavenging hypothesis fairly satisfying, as it fills the criteria of small gradual steps, rather than having endurance hunting appear in a quantum leap.

Peter

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