

## Re: Faster Than A Hyena?

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  - *Date:* Fri, 22 Feb 2008 21:45:11 -0000
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<pgarrone@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:d5edbbf3-d62d-4657-a0c3-905c9afd26f6@xx](mailto:news:d5edbbf3-d62d-4657-a0c3-905c9afd26f6@xx)

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.

Luckily, you did not have to compete with lions, hyenas, cheetahs, wild dogs, smilodon, dire wolves, giant carnivorous bears, and all the other predators around with HE.

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.

Very likely. So why all the supposed selection for speed and endurance?

As to why the A'piths went extinct? Leakey says they were under pressure from Homo on one side

Homo were in a different habitat -- according to you and to standard PA.

and Baboons on the other.

They'd been competing with baboons from day 1. Why evolve at all if they did not have some distinct advantages?

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Baboons will always survive in dense jungle (where no one maintains hominds lived). Apiths must have had some edge in more open habitat.

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

A classic cop-out. We can forget all evolutionary theory which applies to every other species, and invoke a set of special ones for our own line.

This is not scientifically respectable (but that is never a concern for standard PA).

There do not seem to be any barriers going from brachiating ape, to a piths walking on the savanna,

Except that it is manifest fantasy.

to homo habilis  
with scavenging and running and stone tools, to erectus with endurance hunting,

More fantasy.

to full language and rationality of homo sapiens.

Language and \*some\* rationality indisputably arrived over some period.

Probably the most difficult step is the evolution of Homo from Apith. I find the scavenging hypothesis fairly satisfying

Hopeless. A primate does not descend from the trees to start scavenging. There were already many species far better adapted to the purpose. We have no

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liking for rotten meat; we have a poor sense of smell, we are hopeless in the dark. Normal adults carry a large weight of fat. There is nothing that indicates scavenging.

as if fills the criteria of small gradual steps,

Gradual steps? Nonsense. The adaptation to cope with rotten meat is huge. All cats are carnivores, but none will touch rotten meat — even though they must encounter it all the time. Much the same applies to carnivorous birds. Only those with special adaptations (e.g. vultures) will eat rotten flesh.

Paul.

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