human ancestors dived parttime for shellfish

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> Yet there they are, a TV writer
> in England, a Doctor (incredible but true) in Belgium,
> and a Ph.D. student in Australia −−all claiming that
> we were "more aquatic in the past".

:−)

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AAT <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AAT>
AAT: Shore Adaptations in the genus Homo
−Human Evolution based on Comparative anatomy/physiology
−Littoral Diaspora after Homo & Pan split ~5 Ma
−Comparative & Fossil information on ape & human evolution

AAT:
−Aquatic Ape Theory of human evolution (original term E.Morgan 1982)
−Aquarboreal Apes Theory of Mio−Pliocene apes (aqua=water arbor=tree)
−Amphibious Ancestors Theory of Plio−Pleistocene Homo (AAT strict sense)

AAT s.s. is based on human behavior/anatomy/physiology/DNA compared to chimps & living animals:
Waterside food collection (fruits/(coco)nuts, turtle/bird eggs, shell/crayfish, water(side)plants, drowned bovids, stranded whales...) explains unique Homo traits (not in apes/australopiths) better than forest or plains dwelling:
−large brain (frequent in water(side) mammals),
−slow−diving skills (record >100 metres),
−voluntary breath control (record >10 minutes), preadaptation for voluntary sound production (speech),
−small mouth & biting muscles,
−tongue bone descent,
−projecting nose (typical of semi−aquatics),
−poor sense of smell (disproves savanna dwelling),
−handiness/tools (durophagy, typical in waterside mammals),
−late puberty & long life span (oppostie of savanna mammals),
−alined head−spine−legs (typical of fequent swimming),
−flat feet (disproves swavanna dwelling),

−fur loss (frequent in tropical (semi)aquatics),
−fatness (typical of species that spend a lot oftime in water),
−reduced climbing,
−profuse sweating (requires lots of water & sodum, both scarce on savannas),
−high needs of water (drinking, low renal concentration),
−high needs of sodium,
−high needs of iodine (coast),
−poly−unsaturated fatty acids (eg, DHA), in abundance in aquatic foods
−etc.
All these are present in different combinations in (semi)aquatic animals but strikingly absent in, eg, savanna mammals.

After Homo & Pan split ~6-4 Ma, Homo populations spread along seashores & from there inland along lakes/rivers in savannas & elsewhere, eg, crossed 18 km sea to Flores 0.8 Ma: tools/fossils 2.5−0.1 Ma are found near Rift valley lakes & even (sea level fluctuations hindered fossilisation) Indian Ocean & African coasts, often amid seashells: Mojokerto, Dungo V Baia Farta, Terra Amata, Table Bay, Eritrea...

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