

Re: all serious PAs now believe the savanna hypothesis.

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Paul Crowley <[dsfdfsdfs@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dsfdfsdfs@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

But where does all that huge amount of sediment come from? It's the land being churned up as the sea advances. Those huge sand-banks off the coast of many continents (such as North America) are mostly a temporary phenomenon, and will soon get washed away into the ocean (i.e. within a few tens of thousands of years). In that sediment are minute traces of ground-up hominid fossils, each fossil scattered over probably hundreds or thousands of miles.

Not every land/sea interface has the precipitous character of an Irish limestone cliff. Where low land interfaces with the sea there can be miles of mudflats (e.g. Waddensea), saltwater marshes, or mangroves. Here the transition is much more gradual.

What happens to such places when sea-levels rise by (say) one metre or two metres?

In mangroves that happens twice per 24 hours.

While there may be natural coastal barriers, they will be breached in storms after such a rise. Then the coast will move inland.

You should visit the Everglades, before and some time after a hurricane. Is it gone?

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The sediments in such areas can come from hundreds of miles away through rivers and currents. And in particular when tectonic processes lower the crust huge amounts of sediment can accumulate before erosion reverses the process.

I don't understand what you are saying here. I'm saying that coastal areas will (over geological time) frequently be inundated, and coasts will cross most of the territory, chewing up all they encounter.

And yet the North Sea has such a rich fossil record of landmammals, including Neanderthals.

The Afar triangle was the Afar sea.

Then where is the Afar marine fossil record?

Just because Elaine Morgan said so in one of her books doesn't make it true. Even if the Danakil Depression was once a sea-arm it would still be hundreds of miles away from Hadar.

What makes you think this?  
Take a look at the maps:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afar\\_Depression](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afar_Depression)  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AfarGEOLOGY.jpg>  
<http://www.eva.mpg.de/evolution/files/dikika.htm>  
<http://www.donsmaps.com/images10/gonamapsm.jpg>

And now take a look at a map of the area based on bathymetric data:  
<http://web.inter.nl.net/users/G.Hanenburg/Afar.jpg>

Assume that all the blue areas (below sealevel) are under water. That would still only fill the Danakil Depression in the northern corner. In order to inundate the rest of the Afar Triangle you would have to raise sealevel several hundred metres. That would not even be possible with a complete meltdown of both the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets (sealevel equivalent ~70 m).

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Saying that the Hadar hominids were close to the paleo-coast is like saying that the chimpanzees of the Tai Forest in Ivory Coast are close to the coast (if so, they still have a rainforest ecology)

I am more concerned to say that hominids occupied islands, with little more than toe-holds on the mainland. The paleo-islands in the Afar Triangle may well have been suitable.

What islands?

And what about Sterkfontein, Swartkrans,

Koobi Fora?

Mostly the remains of refugee groups, which had fled inland -- the only apparently safe direction. (Therefore predominantly young and male.)

Paleobullshit.

So you have them living on the savanna competing with lions and hyenas?  
And that's not bullshit?

You seem to have a blind spot here. If the hominids in your scenario can deal with predators when they migrate onto the mainland (all the way to Toros Menalla, Chad, 2500 km inland) then hominids in other scenarios should have at least the same skills.

Gerrit

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