

# Re: Convergent evolution and Intelligence

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<TomHendricks474@xxxxxx> wrote:

Question for group,  
Is intelligence in different species convergent evolution?  
Ex. dolphins, chimps, humans and perhaps octupi.

Tom Hendricks

Define "intelligence"...

But if all these species are intelligent, it either relies on shared ancestral (plesiomorphic) neural traits, or it is convergently derived (autapomorphic). We share a lot of homology with octupuses at the neural cell structure level, more with dolphins (since they're mammals, and so are we), and more with chimps (since they're primates, and so are we). Brain structure homology likewise is inversely related to phylogenetic distance.

If chimps had ancestors incapable of symbolic reasoning in the Pan clade, and evolved their own kind of intelligence, then theirs would be convergent with ours, but probably based on the same shared ancestral structures.

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University of Queensland – Blog: [evolvethought.blogspot.com](http://evolvethought.blogspot.com)  
"He used... sarcasm. He knew all the tricks, dramatic irony, metaphor, bathos, puns, parody, litotes and... satire. He was vicious."

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