

Re: Adaptability of man

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- *From:* William Morse <wdmorse@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
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Paul Crowley wrote:

<aesthete8@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:egsprn\\$17c4\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:egsprn$17c4$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Is the following true?:

– Man is a creature adapted for life under circumstances which are very narrowly limited. A few degrees of temperature more or less, a slight variation in the composition of the air, the precise suitability of food, make all the differences between health and sickness, between life and death.

It is true — even if the direct opposite is routinely asserted by those who enjoy unthinking self-praise. It is also very important from the point of view of human evolution.

If you were naked, and had no blankets and no shelter, where could you sleep at night? If you had a wife, small children and a baby (naked and without blankets and shelter) where could they sleep at night?

The only reasonable answer is "in the tropics within a few miles of the sea". And in the wet season (with frequent heavy rain), you'd all need something like a sandy beach. That is an extraordinarily limited habitat. Once the hominids could build shelters, make fabrics and exploit fire, they could expand it substantially.

But — until substantial technology arrived, the statement above is true.

But substantial technology is the hallmark of our species. Take away

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that, and we are bipedal chimps. Homo species have had substantial technology for at least several hundreds of thousands of years, and have occupied a huge range of niches for at least that long. So the above is false, unless you are referring only to the early evolution of man

Yours,

Bill Morse

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