

## New Evidence: Only People Ever Walked Really Upright

Among **living** creatures, humans are the only 'obligatory bipeds'. Some other primates can walk upright for short stretches, but it is not their normal way of life. Argument has long raged among evolutionists as to which of the creatures they regard as ancestral to mankind walked upright in the human manner.

Not that there was ever much doubt about *Homo erectus* — the post-cranial skeleton (that is, from the head down) is virtually indistinguishable from modern man. Not only have modern creationists familiar with the fossil material (such as Marvin Lubenow<sup>1</sup>) indicated that *erectus* should really be included among *Homo sapiens*, but so too have several prominent evolutionists such as Milford Wolpoff of the University of Michigan.<sup>2,3</sup>

What about all the others? The traditional method used to try to establish whether they were primarily tree-climbers, upright walkers or knuckle-walkers has been to try to mechanically analyse arm and leg bones. However, this is notoriously subjective. Multivariate computer analysis has shown clearly that Lucy and her kind (in fact, all the australopithecines/habilines) were not anatomically intermediate between men and apes,<sup>4</sup> though this is being completely overlooked in the recent unjustified hype about the new australopithecine, *A. ramidus*.

Now that more of their limb bones are being found, a growing number of anatomists are also pointing out that these strongly suggest they did not walk upright in the human manner, but here there might have been room for argument. For instance, some evolutionists have argued that just because an australopithecine had long, robust arms and curved fingers might not mean that it did not mostly walk upright — these might have been left over from a tree-climbing ancestor.

Mary Leakey's well-known 'just like people' footprints in volcanic ash

at Laetoli have been used to insist that australopithecines must have walked upright. However, that would only be so if we knew that it was australopithecines that made them, and not people. The only reason for insisting it was not people is because of the evolutionary belief that the australopithecines had not yet evolved into people at that time — but that is clearly a circular argument.

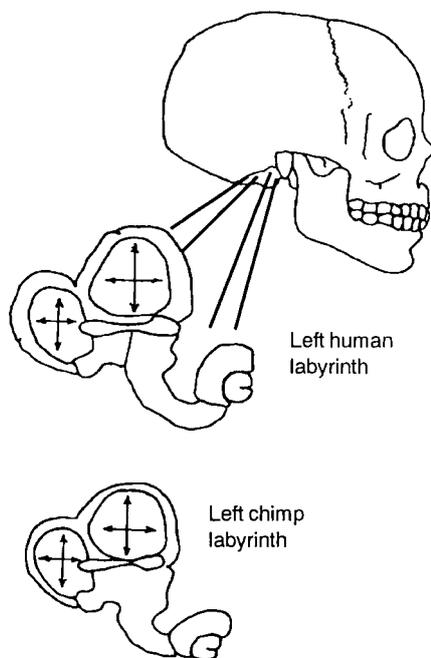
A new method has greatly helped to clarify the issue. In mammals, the bony labyrinth is a complex structure housing the inner ear organs — one lot associated with hearing, the other with balance and equilibrium — the latter is called the vestibular system. Part of this is a system of membranous ducts running through the semi-circular canals — three bony tubes that curve at roughly 90° to each other (see Figure 1). In living individuals, cells in the membranous

lining of these canals detect movements of the enclosed fluid, thus detecting movements of the head in three planes. These cells send messages to other parts to enable, for instance, the eye muscles to compensate for movement so that there is a steady image of the world, and also to the postural muscles to smoothly regulate movement.

Computerised X-ray (CAT) scans are able to show the structure of these semi-circular canals, even in fossil skulls. A large series of scans on non-fossil skulls of various extant primates has shown beyond doubt that the arrangement and radius of curvature of the semi-circular canals rigidly 'reflects patterns of movement'.<sup>5</sup> This is totally consistent with expectations based on knowledge of the function of this organ system.

Applying the technique to fossil skulls has shown that of all the australopithecines studied (not Lucy, but several allegedly more recent than that creature), the semi-circular canals all 'show great-ape-like proportions and *H. erectus* shows modern human-like proportions'.<sup>6</sup>

Two specimens of the confused and uncertain taxon *Homo habilis* (which some still believe to be a link between australopithecines and *erectus/sapiens*) were studied. One of these has already been regarded as mislabelled anyway by several researchers who have reassigned it to *erectus*; the labyrinthine anatomy is consistent with this. The other *habilis* specimen studied shows such a vastly different inner ear anatomy that it cannot be the same species, so the reassignment of the former to *erectus* seems in order. Contrary to the evolutionist assumption that this *Homo habilis* would turn out to be 'transitional' in labyrinthine anatomy between the australopithecines and *erectus*, its semi-circular canals show a pattern even more ape-like than the australopithecines, that is, even less suited to upright posture than the apes.



**Figure 1.** Compared to apes and all alleged 'ape-men', the anterior and posterior canals of humans (living and fossil) are larger in proportion to the lateral one. Humans truly walk, not occasionally shuffle on two legs — they can also run and jump upright.

It is disturbing to contemplate the many people who have been misled by pictures of *Homo habilis* ('handy man') walking upright and using tools.

The following summarizes the situation to-date in relation to the semi-circular canal evidence:

**HUMAN PATTERN**  
(*True upright walking — 'obligatory bipedalism'*)

- \* Modern people
- \* *Homo erectus* (a post-Flood racial variant of modern man)

**APE-LIKE PATTERN**  
(*Basically quadrupeds — tree-climbing, knuckle-walking*)

- \* All modern apes
- \* All known extinct apes
- \* Australopithecines regarded as later than 'Lucy'
- \* '*Homo habilis*' (pattern even further from the human than the apes)

**GROUPS NOT STUDIED, BUT NOT REALLY IN DOUBT**

- \* *Australopithecus afarensis* (for example, 'Lucy')
- Since these are supposed to have come earlier than the australopithecines studied, there is no reason in evolutionary theory to expect that these walked upright, but their descendants did not.
- \* Archaic humans (archaic *sapiens*, Cro-magnon, Neanderthal)

There is no reason for evolutionists to suppose these did **not** have the upright-walking labyrinthine pattern, since in evolutionary theory they come after *erectus* which already has it. In any case, all agree that the post-cranial skeleton in all these is totally of the modern 'upright' kind.

**NOT STUDIED YET, AND OF INTEREST**

Leakey's skull KNM ER 1470 Variouslly classified as an australopithecine/habiline, there is some divergence of opinion between those modern creationist writers on the subject, who accept *erectus* as true man. For example, Lubenow argues that 1470 is true *Homo*,<sup>7</sup>

whereas Mehlert says it is merely a large-brained *A. africanus*,<sup>8</sup> If the labyrinth of 1470 is ever CAT-scanned, this will be an ideal test between the two positions. If Lubenow's view is confirmed with an 'upright' result (all creationists would predict that it will be one or the other, not transitional), then because other *africanus* specimens have been the opposite, evolutionists would need to seriously consider a reclassification to *erectus/sapiens*.

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**The Eye, the Fly and I**

Studying the enormous structural differences between the compound eyes of flies and the camera eyes of vertebrates has naturally led evolutionists to insist that these eyes evolved quite independently.

Evolutionary phylogenies also add weight to this. Even where there are great similarities, such as that between the eye of the squid (an invertebrate) and our own, this has been attributed to remarkable convergent (or parallel) evolution, rather than common ancestry.

In fact, '*phylogenetic studies of the structure and development of eyes led to the proposal that eyes have evolved independently many times (perhaps as many as three or four dozen).*'<sup>1</sup>

A surprising gene has now been discovered in fruitflies. This *Pax-6* gene is a remarkable homologue of the same gene in vertebrates, and both are key regulators of eye development.

Obviously, from an evolutionary point of view,

*'the finding of a highly homologous molecule functioning as a key regulator of eye*

*morphogenesis in flies and vertebrates strongly argues for a common developmental origin.'*

It appears as if more than one of the genes regulating early developmental patterns are the same in flies and vertebrates, too much for evolutionists to pass off as 'convergence'.

For the evolution model, the evidence now points in two different directions. Creationists can view this with ease as mounting evidence for a mosaic pattern of similar structures and mechanisms being used in a wide variety of creatures, that is, common design features **not** restricted to a pattern of distribution consistent with common ancestry (evolution).

It looks as if evolutionists will be forced to conclude that something as different as my eye, that of a fly, and that of a squid have evolved from a common ancestral 'eye'.

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