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hypothesis that hominins are adapted to living in highly variable environments and suggests that water availability may have played a role in mammal community evolution.

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Markets and mycobacteria - a bioarchaeological analysis of the influence of urbanization on leprosy and tuberculosis in Denmark (AD 1200-1536)

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Tuberculosis (TB) and leprosy are two infectious diseases often associated with urbanization that can be observed in archaeological samples through systematically examined skeletal indicators and statistical probabilities. To test whether TB and leprosy frequencies were influenced by growing trends of urbanization in medieval Denmark, skeletons from thirteen cemetery samples (n = 1546) were examined and characterized into varving urban levels based on historic and archaeological evidence. Disease frequencies were estimated using a probabilistic approach based on sensitivity and specificity measures of six lesions associated with TB and six associated with leprosy. There were statistically significant differences in leprosy frequencies between urban levels with rural and transitional urban sites having the highest frequencies. While TB frequencies were higher overall, there were no significant differences between urban levels. Leprosy lesion counts showed that facial lesions were observed less than post-cranial lesions among the samples, while TB lesions were more often observed in the hip and vertebrae. For individual sites, leprosy was highest in rural Sct. Alberts (28%), rural Sejet (18%), and transitional urban Ole Wormsgade (22%) with other sites ranging from zero to six percent. For TB, sites with the highest frequencies were rural Sct. Alberts (100%) and urban Sct. Drotten (73%) with remaining sites from seven to 59 percent. The findings suggest the presence of leprosaria in urban settlements may have led to fewer individuals with visible facial lesions being buried non-leprosaria cemeteries. Comparatively higher TB frequencies may reflect increased contact through widening economic networks between urban and rural communities.

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Mechanics of leaping between vertical supports in a small arboreal quadruped (Cheirogaleus medius)

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Specialized vertical clingers and leapers achieve long leaps via anatomical adaptations that increase their velocity at take-off and the use of take-off angles (mean ~45°) that maximize horizontal leap distance relative to downward displacement. Studies of leaping in more generalized arboreal guadrupeds have not evaluated how these species approach leaps between vertical supports, though less specialized primates also engage in this behavior. Here we test the hypothesis that when leaping between vertical supports, species lacking vertical clinging and leaping adaptations will increase take-off angle and/or exhibit leap trajectories characterized by increasing downward displacement to achieve longer leaps. Five captive Cheirogaleus medius were recorded leaping self-selected distances (30-75cm) using a high speed camera (n=40 leaps) at the Duke Lemur Center. Leap distance, velocity, take-off angle, trajectory and landing posture were then analyzed using DLT data viewer.

C. medius take-off angles (5-38°) were significantly lower than those recorded by other studies for VCL specialists, though individuals did use higher angles when leaping longer distances (p<0.05). Take-off angle, but not initial velocity, also significantly affected leap trajectory (p<0.05). While specialized leapers land with their hindlimbs, C. medius landed with their forelimbs in all trials analyzed. The exclusive use of forelimb first landing on vertical supports has not been reported during leaping in other primates. These results suggest that small generalized primates may employ a different strategy for leaping between vertical supports involving lower take-off angles and, perhaps as a function of that low angle, forelimb first landing.

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Global variation in dental crowding

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Pilloud (2018) recently defined crowding as a deviation in the ideal alignment of teeth as a result of rotation and/or displacement. In this investigation, a scoring system for crowding was devised using a 3-point scale for the anterior teeth (incisal and lateral). However, data were not provided as to population variation in dental crowding. Here, we expand on this work to investigate the global variation of this defined trait. Data were collected from four modern major world regions (Africa,

Australia, Asia, and North America) and nine samples (Australian White, US White, US Black, US Hispanic, South African Coloured, South African Black, Japanese, Chinese, and Native American; n=990). Crowding data were collected from casts of living individuals and skeletal remains; photographs were also consulted. Grade 2 was used as the breakpoint to obtain frequencies representative of regional patterns. A chi-square analysis was run to test for population differences.

Results of maxillary crowding show Australian Whites, US Whites, US Blacks, US Hispanics, South African Coloured, and South African Black groups displayed low crowding frequencies (0-14%). Conversely, the Chinese, Japanese, and Native American samples exhibited high frequencies of crowding (15%+). In the mandible, Australian Whites showed low crowding frequencies, while all other samples exceeded the frequency of 15%. Statistical tests indicate the sample differences are significant. While there is population variation observed in dental crowding, the assessment of more populations from the archaeological record (pre-orthodontic treatment) will help to establish a more comprehensive picture of global crowding variation.

The taxonomic efficacy of the macaque innominate

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Recent research suggests that the innominate is a particularly reliable region of the primate postcranium for assessing taxonomic relationships. However, much of this work has assessed inter-generic taxonomy, leaving open the question of the accuracy of intra-generic taxonomic assessment. The genus Macaca provides a good model for testing this question, given that macaques are highly specious and have the widest geographic range of any primate genus aside from humans. Here, we tested the hypothesis that the innominate accurately predicts intra-generic taxonomy in macaques using a large sample (n=230) representing nine species; M. fascicularis, M. mulatta, M. fuscata, M. arctoides, M. radiata, M. nigra, M. nemestrina, and M. sylvanus and a Colobine outgroup (Trachypithecus cristatus). 3D scans of the innominate were taken using an HDI structured light scanner and 28 landmarks were applied to the scans to capture overall form. Following Procrustes superimposition, Canonical Variates Analysis (CVA) was performed and a Procrustes distance matrix was extracted and subjected to 2D multidimensional scaling (MDS) to visualize average group affinities. The results of both analyses showed clear differences between the Trachypithecus outgroup and macaques, as well as between M. sylvanus and M. nigra and all other macaques. While there was substantial overlap

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in shape variation among macaques, the pattern of among-species affinity broadly matched that expected based on their phylogenetic history. In general, therefore, the results support the hypothesis, although it remains to be tested to what extent convergent behaviors or environmental factors might influence the pattern of morphological variation among macaque species.

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A comparative analysis of CT and surface scan 3D models of fossil primate dentition using dental topographic metrics

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Three-dimensional (3D) models of primate dentitions are useful for learning about the behavior and phylogeny of extinct primate species. In particular, 3D dental topographic analysis has been extremely valuable in determining how tooth morphology can be a quantifiable method of estimating dietary type. The three metrics commonly applied are Relief index (RFI), Drichlet-Normal Energy (DNE), and 3D-Orientation Patch Counted Rotated (OPCR). These metrics can be applied to CT scans and surface scans of fossils or casts. We sought to verify the accuracy of these measures between scanning methods. To do this, we compared these metrics between surface scans of both high resolution resin casts and fossils, and CT scans of fossils. We used models created from CT-scans of the lower four cheek teeth (M3, M2, M3, and P4) of Anapithecus hernyaki and surface scans of the same specimens created by an Enhanced Light Scanner. Each tooth was cropped and smoothed in Avizo and analyzed in Morphotester. The Morphotester analysis showed no significant difference in values obtained for all three metrics. This suggests that surface scans of casts and fossils provide similar values as CT scans made from the original specimens. We conclude that researchers can use high quality casts and surface scans for RFI, DNE, and OPCR measures when access to CT scans and fossils is limited

Genomic and phenotypic diversity of antibiotic resistant Escherichia coli isolated from the gut microbiome of non-industrial populations

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We are now in an era of antibiotic resistance and in noticeable danger of a post-antibiotic age. Recent increases in incidence and severity of antibiotic resistant bacteria, especially in clinical contexts, has been attributed to the widespread use of antimicrobial chemicals in healthcare. agriculture, and our sanitized built environments. However, very little is known about the extent of antibiotic resistance in human-associated microbial ecologies prior to industrialization. Here, we report the recovery and characterization of antibiotic resistant Escherichia coli from the distal gut microbiome of a non-industrial antibiotic naïve population in South America. These E. coli strains belong to seven distinct genomic clades, and show acute resistance to the antibiotics Ampicillin, Chloramphenicol, Erythromycin, and Doxycycline. No resistance was observed against the synthetic antibiotics Ciprofloxacin and Ceftriaxone. Genomic analysis of these strains identified markers correlating with resistance to specific antibiotics including TEM-1 beta lactamase (Ampicillin), and the tetC efflux protein (Doxycycline). Among the strains resistant to Chloramphenicol and Erythromycin, no mechanisms known to confer acute resistance including antibiotic inactivation (chloramphenicol acetyltransferase) or target alteration (ribosomal methylation genes) were identified. While non-specific multi-drug efflux pumps such as acrAB, and mdtEF, are observed in these strains, they are ubiquitousin their occurrence in E. coli. Overall, these results suggest the presence of potential novel mechanisms underlying Chloramphenicol and Erythromycin resistance in these non-industrial E. coli isolates. Further, our study highlights the necessity for increased characterization of antibiotic resistance in non-industrial and non-clinical environments

Evolution of pelvic list, hip adduction, and step width in hominins

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Human bipedal walking entails unique frontal plane balance strategies compared to other primates. Compared with bipedal chimpanzees, humans walk with step widths that are proportionally three times narrower, utilize stance-phase hip adduction rather than abduction, and use a pattern of pelvic drop on the swing side rather than swing-side pelvic elevation. The degree to which step widths and pelvic motion are directly related remains unknown. We sought to determine if and how the human-like pattern of pelvic and hip motion is related to step width. Ten human subjects walked on a treadmill at narrow (~0 cm), normal, and wide (~3X normal) step widths. Full body kinematics were measured using the Plug-In Gait marker set with a 12-camera Vicon motion capture system.

Our results show there is a predictable change in hip adduction with step widths; narrow steps produced the highest adduction (~ +1°), while wide steps produced abduction ($\sim -8^{\circ}$). All step width conditions produced the same pattern of pelvic motion; swing-side pelvic drop. Wide steps resulted in an overall decreased range of pelvic motion compared with the normal and narrow condition (~3°). These results suggest that though hip adduction is highly correlated with step width, changes in step width alone are insufficient to explain the unique human-like pattern of stancephase pelvic drop. The change to pelvic drop on the swing side in humans and perhaps some early hominins likely evolved independently, and not as a direct result of the emergence of valgus knees and narrow step widths.

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Shifting sleep ecologies among foragers: An intra-community comparison of village and forest sleep of BaYaka foragers from the Congo

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Background: Sleep research has largely been conducted in Western, industrialized societies. where sleep disturbances are attributed to technological disruption and societal demands for work. Little is known, however, about sleep patterns in hunter-gatherer populations, who are less buffered from aspects of their natural ecology and whose cultural ecologies may differentially affect sleep. We conducted a naturalistic sleep study to investigate sleep patterns in the BaYaka, a semi-nomadic, non-industrial forager population in Republic of the Congo. Sleep patterns were characterized during two seasons of different subsistence activities within a community.