

***Australopithecus ramidus*, a new species of early hominid from Aramis, Ethiopia**

Tim D. White, Gen Suwa & Berhane Asfaw

Nature 371, 306–312 (1994)

IN this article we attributed hominid fossils from Aramis to *Australopithecus ramidus* sp. nov. We noted that generic placement was conservative and that *ramidus* might represent a new genus. Meanwhile, as *ramidus* is likely to be the sister taxon of the remaining hominid clade, generic separation from *Australopithecus* is appropriate. We hereby make available a new generic nomen for the Aramis fossils described in our article.

Order Primates Linnaeus 1758
Suborder Anthropoidea Mivart 1864
Superfamily Hominoidea Gray 1825

Ardipithecus gen. nov.

Etymology. 'Ardi' means 'ground or floor' in the Afar language.
Type species. *Australopithecus ramidus* White, Suwa and Asfaw, 1994.

Locality, horizon and associations. These are the same as for *Australopithecus ramidus*.

Diagnosis. Compared with *Australopithecus*, *Ardipithecus* is characterized by less postcanine megadontia, with upper and lower canines larger relative to the postcanine teeth; lower first deciduous molar narrow and obliquely elongate, with large protoconid, small and distally placed metaconid, no anterior fovea, and small, low talonid with minimal cusplule development; temporomandibular joint without definable articular eminence, absolutely and relatively thinner canine and molar enamel; lower third premolar more strongly asymmetrical, with dominant, tall buccal cusp and steep, posterolingually directed transverse crest; upper third premolar more strongly asymmetric, with relatively larger, taller, more dominant buccal cusp.

Discussion. In late 1994 a mandible of *A. ramidus* was found at Aramis associated with a partial postcranial skeleton, 50 m north of the holotype specimen, and at the same stratigraphic level. Analysis of this specimen has begun, and will provide further features with which to characterize *Ardipithecus*. □

YOURS TO HAVE AND TO HOLD BUT NOT TO COPY

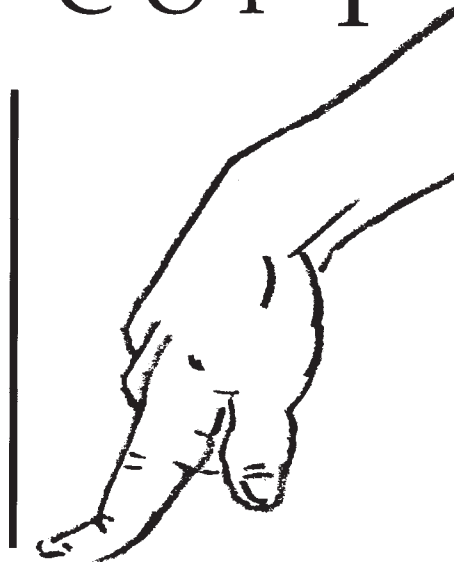
The publication you are reading is protected by copyright law. This means that the publisher could take you and your employer to court and claim heavy legal damages if you make unauthorised infringing photocopies from these pages.

Photocopying copyright material without permission is no different from stealing a magazine from a newsagent, only it doesn't seem like theft.

The Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) is an organisation which issues licences to bring photocopying within the law. It has designed licensing services to cover all kinds of special needs in business, education, and government.

If you take photocopies from books, magazines and periodicals at work your employer should be licensed with CLA.

Make sure you are protected by a photocopying licence.



The Copyright Licensing Agency Limited
90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP
Telephone: 0171 436 5931
Fax: 0171 436 3986