

A new species of *Homo* from the Late Pleistocene of the Philippines

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A hominin third metatarsal discovered in 2007 in Callao Cave (Northern Luzon, the Philippines) and dated to 67 thousand years ago provided the earliest direct evidence of a human presence in the Philippines. Analysis of this foot bone suggested that it belonged to the genus *Homo*, but to which species was unclear. Here we report the discovery of twelve additional hominin elements that represent at least three individuals that were found in the same stratigraphic layer of Callao Cave as the previously discovered metatarsal. These specimens display a combination of primitive and derived morphological features that is different from the combination of features found in other species in the genus *Homo* (including *Homo floresiensis* and *Homo sapiens*) and warrants their attribution to a new species, which we name *Homo luzonensis*. The presence of another and previously unknown hominin species east of the Wallace Line during the Late Pleistocene epoch underscores the importance of island Southeast Asia in the evolution of the genus *Homo*.

Continued excavations in Callao Cave (Fig. 1) that originally yielded the hominin third metatarsal^{1,2} (which we here call CCH1 for ‘Callao Cave Hominin 1’) have produced another twelve hominin elements (Extended Data Fig. 1a) from the same stratigraphic layer (layer 14): seven postcanine maxillary teeth (CCH6-a to CCH6-e, CCH8, CCH9; Fig. 2a, f, g), two manual phalanges (CCH2 and CCH5; Fig. 2b, c), two pedal phalanges (CCH3 and CCH4; Fig. 2d, e) and a femoral shaft (CCH7; Fig. 2h). CCH1 and CCH6-a are directly dated by U-series analysis to minimum ages of 67 thousand years (kyr)¹ and 50 kyr³, respectively. Crown morphology, grade of occlusal wear and exact correspondences of interproximal contact facets demonstrate that five of the upper right teeth belonged to a single individual (CCH6-a to CCH6-e; Extended Data Fig. 1b–g and Supplementary Information). The presence of two right upper third molars (M³; CCH6-a and CCH9) and a juvenile femoral shaft (CCH7) indicates that at least three individuals are represented. On the basis of the unique mosaic of primitive (that is, *Australopithecus*-like) and derived (that is, *H. sapiens*-like) morphological features observed on these specimens, we assign them to a new species, *H. luzonensis*.

Order Primates Linnaeus, 1758
Suborder Anthropoidea Mivart, 1864
Superfamily Hominoidea Gray, 1825
Family Hominidae Gray, 1825
Tribe Hominini Gray, 1825
Genus *Homo* Linnaeus, 1758
Homo luzonensis sp. nov.

Etymology. The species name is derived from the island of Luzon, where the specimens were discovered.

Holotype. CCH6 (CCH6-a to CCH6-e), maxillary right postcanine dentition of a single individual discovered on 24 August 2011. The repository is the National Museum of the Philippines, Manila.

Homo luzonensis has been deposited in the ZooBank database (<http://zoobank.org/>) with Life Science Identifier urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:4F743862-662F-4E6B-9812-8A05533C1347.

Paratypes. Recovered in 2007, 2011 and 2015 from the same excavation area and layer as the holotype: CCH1, a right third metatarsal¹; CCH2 and CCH5, two manual phalanges; CCH3 and CCH4, two pedal phalanges; CCH8, a left upper third or fourth premolar (P^{3/4}); and CCH9, a right M³ (all specimens are housed at the National Museum of the Philippines, Manila).

Referred material. CCH7, a femoral shaft that belonged to a juvenile individual (housed at the National Museum of the Philippines, Manila).

Locality. The type locality is Callao Cave, in the Callao Limestone formation in the Peñablanca region of northern Luzon, the Philippines, at coordinates 17° 42' 11.7" N, 121° 49' 25.5" E.

Diagnosis. Postcanine maxillary teeth of small size that are mesio-distally compressed, with a premolar:molar crown size ratio that is high compared to other species in the genus *Homo*. Upper premolars with two or three roots, a mesio-distally expanded lingual crown, strong buccal grooves, partial or continuous transverse crest, and an enamel-dentine junction (EDJ) shape that is distinct from that of *H. sapiens*, *Homo neanderthalensis* and Asian *Homo erectus*. Very small upper molars, with a M¹ > M² > M³ crown size pattern, a simplified occlusal morphology with reduced metacone and hypocone, no crenulation on the EDJ, and EDJ shape affinities with that of *H. sapiens* and Asian *H. erectus*. Intermediate manual phalanx (rays 2–4) that is long and narrow (unlike all hominins except *H. sapiens*), with a longitudinally curved and dorso-palmarly compressed shaft, well-developed flexor sheath attachments and a strongly developed dorsal beak; it shares shape affinities with *Australopithecus*, *H. floresiensis* and—to a lesser extent—*H. sapiens*. Distal hand phalanx with proportions unlike

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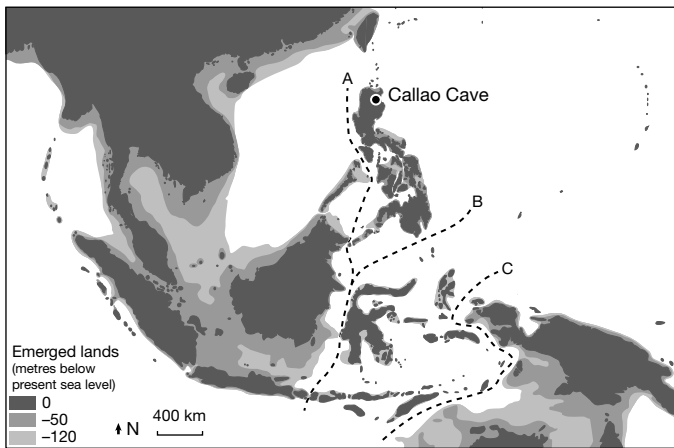


Fig. 1 | Geographical location of Callao Cave. Map showing the location of Callao Cave on Luzon Island (the Philippines), emerged lands at 50 and 120 m below present sea level (adapted from ref. ⁴⁶, H. K. Voris, Field Museum of Natural History) and the major biogeographical boundaries recognized in the area. A, Wallace's Line modified by Huxley; B, Wallace's Line; C, Lydekker's Line. Luzon Island lies between the original Wallace's Line and the Wallace's Line modified by Huxley and was never connected to mainland Asia during the Quaternary.

those of early *Homo/Paranthropus*, *Homo naledi*, *H. floresiensis* and *H. neanderthalensis*. The third metatarsal has a base that is very small relative to bone length, dorso-plantarly short and with a marked dorso-plantarly convexity of the proximal articular facet. The proximal pedal phalanx (rays 2–4) shares shape affinities with *Australopithecus*: marked longitudinal curvature, parallel medial and lateral sides in dorsal view, a small bicondylar head and weak dorsal canting of the proximal articular surface (unlike African and European early *Homo*, *H. naledi*, *H. neanderthalensis*, *H. floresiensis* and *H. sapiens*).

Description and comparison of the fossil elements

Of the seven posterior maxillary teeth, six are from the right side (CCH6-a to CCH6-e and CCH9) and one (CCH8) is from the left (Fig. 2a, f, g, Extended Data Fig. 1 and Supplementary Information). The M^2 (CCH6-b) and one of the M^3 s (CCH9) are complete; the other teeth have well-preserved crowns, and at least one—but sometimes all—roots are partly broken. Micro-fissures are present in the enamel, dentine and cementum, and the pulp cavity is generally filled by calcium carbonate; however, these post-depositional modifications do not affect the size, shape or morphological attributes of the teeth. In comparison to *Australopithecus*, *Paranthropus* and other species of the genus *Homo*, the maxillary postcanine teeth of *H. luzonensis* are small and mesio-distally compressed, and there is a marked contrast between the relative size and shape of the premolars and molars (Figs. 2–4 and Extended Data Figs. 1–4).

The upper molars of *H. luzonensis* have small crown sizes with a $M^1 > M^2 > M^3$ pattern and simplified occlusal surface morphology with a reduced number of cusps and an absence of marked crenulations at the EDJ (Fig. 3 and Extended Data Fig. 1). These derived features are found in other Late Pleistocene species of the genus *Homo* (that is, *H. neanderthalensis*, *H. floresiensis* and *H. sapiens*), but in this respect *H. luzonensis* molars more closely resemble those of *H. sapiens*^{4,5}. However, the M^1 and M^2 of *H. luzonensis* have smaller crown sizes than those of *H. sapiens* (Fig. 3 and Extended Data Fig. 2d, e). Compared to the molars of *H. floresiensis*, *H. luzonensis* molars are smaller and the M^1 is not more mesio-distally compressed than the other postcanine teeth^{6,7} (Extended Data Figs. 2–4). For their diminutive size and simplified crown morphology, *H. luzonensis* molars also differ considerably from Asian *H. erectus*^{4,5,8,9} and Denisovans¹⁰, although the EDJ of *H. luzonensis* M^1 shows some shape affinities with several Indonesian *H. erectus* specimens (Extended Data Fig. 4f, h).

H. luzonensis premolars are noticeably large relative to the molars—even more so than seen in *H. floresiensis* and unlike the pattern seen in other hominins, except *Paranthropus* (Fig. 3)—and also display several primitive features. For instance, the P^3 and P^4 crowns are asymmetric with a large and mesially displaced lingual cusp, as in early *Homo*¹¹, and complete or partial mesial transverse ridges are present on the upper premolars, similar to those of *H. floresiensis*^{6,7}. Developed mesial and distal vertical grooves are also evident on the buccal aspects of the P^3 and P^4 ; features that are more frequent in early *Homo* than in *H. sapiens*¹² and that are absent in *H. floresiensis*^{6,7}. Moreover, *H. luzonensis* premolars have multiple roots (P^3 has three, P^4 has two) that are robust and highly divergent, an archaic condition typically found in *Australopithecus*, *Paranthropus* and early *Homo*¹³. Multiple robust and divergent premolar roots also occur in Asian *H. erectus* (Early Pleistocene Indonesian and Middle Pleistocene Chinese specimens), but are rare in *H. sapiens* and absent in *H. floresiensis*^{4,6,9,12–17}. CCH8 (Fig. 2f and Extended Data Fig. 1f), an isolated left upper premolar, exhibits three roots (typically a P^3 feature) with a relatively symmetric crown (typically a P^4 feature). If CCH8 is a P^4 , a similar three-rooted condition has not been reported for any Pleistocene *Homo* from Asia and is rarely found in modern humans (1 to 3%)^{13,14}.

In terms of absolute tooth size and premolar–molar proportions, *H. luzonensis* shows a pattern that is not seen elsewhere in the genus *Homo* (Fig. 3 and Extended Data Fig. 2). Although *Paranthropus* shows similarly large premolars relative to molars (Fig. 3), the maxillary postcanine teeth of *H. luzonensis* differ markedly from those of *Paranthropus* in absolute size and shape (Extended Data Fig. 2). Multivariate statistical analysis of P^3 – M^2 dental diameters results in *H. luzonensis* clustering with Asian *H. erectus*. Both species are characterized by almost similarly sized first and second molars, large premolars relative to molars and postcanine teeth that are mesio-distally compressed (Extended Data Fig. 2g, h). The mesio-distally compressed shape of the M^1 of *H. luzonensis* is also visible in the results of the elliptic Fourier analysis of the crown contour, in which *H. luzonensis* plots at the margins of the range of variation for *H. sapiens* (which is characterized by more squared or rhomboidal M^1 s) (Extended Data Fig. 3). *H. luzonensis* differs from *H. floresiensis*, which displays an M^1 crown contour shape that is even more mesio-distally compressed and has a more developed protocone (Extended Data Fig. 3c, f). Three-dimensional geometric morphometric analyses of the P^3 and P^4 EDJs discriminate CCH6 and CCH8 from fossil and extant *H. sapiens*, *H. neanderthalensis* and Asian *H. erectus*, with *H. luzonensis* occupying its own area of the morphospace or sharing it with *H. floresiensis* when the latter is included (Fig. 4 and Extended Data Fig. 4d, e). The 3D geometric morphometric analyses of M^1 and M^2 EDJs are less clear, with *H. luzonensis* clustering with extant *H. sapiens* and Asian *H. erectus* (Extended Data Fig. 4f), with extant *H. sapiens* only (Extended Data Fig. 4g), with Asian *H. erectus* only (Extended Data Fig. 4h), or by itself (Extended Data Fig. 4i). However, the overall pattern of morphology seen in the dental remains of *H. luzonensis* is easily distinguishable from all previously described hominin species.

CCH2 is an intermediate manual phalanx with a total length of 32.5 mm (interarticular length, 31 mm; Fig. 2b, Supplementary Information and Supplementary Table 2). The bone is complete and well-preserved, but it was recovered broken just distal of the midshaft in two refitting parts (Extended Data Fig. 5a). On the basis of the asymmetry of the proximal and distal ends, it belongs to rays 2, 3 or 4 of the left hand. CCH2 displays primitive features such as an elongated and dorso-palmarly compressed shaft and well-developed flexor sheath attachments (Extended Data Fig. 5b). All these features are observed in *Australopithecus*^{18–20} and to a lesser extent in the *Homo habilis* holotype OH7²¹ (but see a previous publication²²), but not in other *Homo* species that show more derived morphologies^{23–26} (Extended Data Fig. 5c), although a primitive morphology is reported for *H. naledi*²⁷. Metric (Extended Data Fig. 5d–f) and 3D geometric morphometric analyses (Extended Data Fig. 6) show that the intermediate manual phalanx of *H. luzonensis* is long, narrow medio-laterally (base, shaft

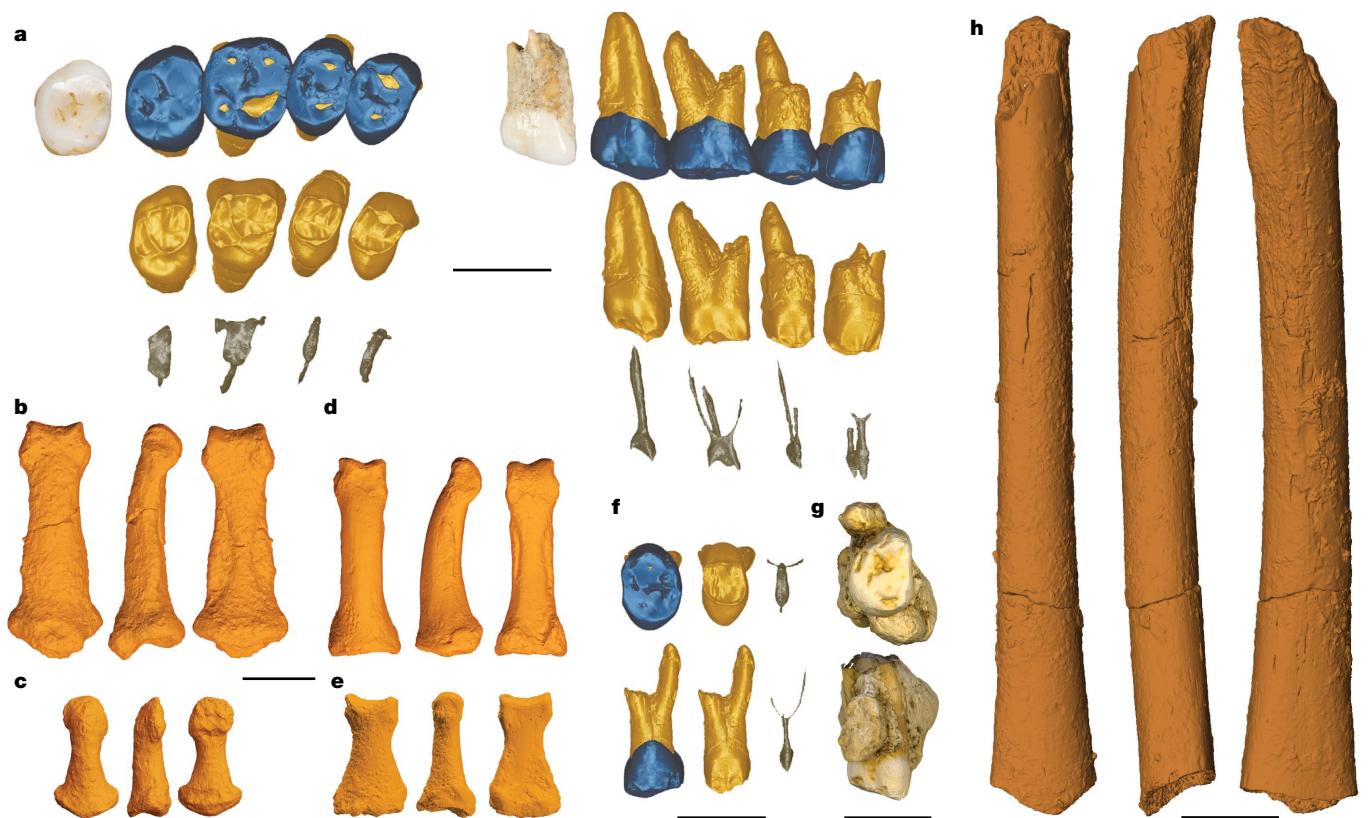


Fig. 2 | Fossil remains of *H. luzonensis* from Late Pleistocene sediments at Callao Cave. a, Holotype CCH6: postcanine maxillary teeth in occlusal (left) and buccal (right) aspects, with three-dimensional rendering of enamel (dark blue), dentine and cement (light brown), and pulp cavity (dark grey) for CCH6-b–CCH6-e. **b**, Intermediate manual phalanx CCH2 (dorsal, lateral and palmar aspects). **c**, Distal manual phalanx CCH5 (dorsal, lateral/medial and palmar aspects). **d**, Proximal pedal phalanx

CCH4 (dorsal, lateral and plantar aspects). **e**, Intermediate pedal phalanx CCH3 (dorsal, medial and plantar aspects). **f**, Left P³ or P⁴ CCH8: occlusal (top) and buccal (bottom) aspects, with three-dimensional rendering of enamel, dentine and cement, and pulp cavity. **g**, Right M³ CCH9: occlusal (top) and buccal (bottom) aspects. **h**, Juvenile femoral shaft CCH7 (anterior, lateral and posterior aspects). Scale bars, 10 mm (a–g) and 20 mm (h); additional views are shown in Extended Data Figs. 1, 5, 7–10.

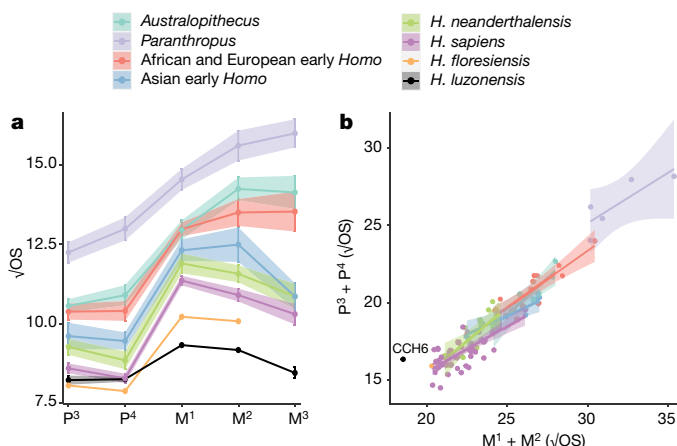


Fig. 3 | Dental metrics. a, Square root of the computed occlusal surface area of P³ ($n = 166$), P⁴ ($n = 167$), M¹ ($n = 216$), M² ($n = 185$) and M³ ($n = 129$). Dots correspond to the group average, vertical bars and shaded areas correspond to ± 2 s.e.m. $\sqrt{\text{OS}}$, square root of the occlusal surface. **b**, Bivariate scatter plot of the summed square root of computed occlusal surface areas of premolars (P³ and P⁴) versus molars (M¹ and M²), with regression lines (solid lines) and 95% confidence intervals (shaded areas) for all groups, except *H. floresiensis* and *H. luzonensis*. Sample sizes for **a**, **b**, respectively: *Australopithecus*, $n = 119$, 6; *Paranthropus*, $n = 111$, 5; African and European early *Homo*, $n = 114$, 13; Asian early *Homo*, $n = 74$, 5; *H. neanderthalensis*, $n = 126$, 12; *H. sapiens*, $n = 307$, 47; *H. floresiensis*, $n = 4$, 1; *H. luzonensis*, $n = 8^*$, 1 (*CCH8 treated as P³ and P⁴ in **a**). A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 4.

and head) and markedly curved. These shape characteristics are shared with *Australopithecus* and *H. floresiensis*, but not with *H. naledi* (which shares shape affinities with *Paranthropus*/early *Homo* specimens from Swartkrans), and are seen occasionally in *H. sapiens* (Extended Data Fig. 6a, d, e). *H. floresiensis* differs from *H. luzonensis* and most other hominins by the shape of the phalangeal head, which—in lateral or medial view—has a very small diameter and is only slightly palmarly deviated relative to the proximo-distal axis of the shaft (Extended Data Fig. 6b, c). An idiosyncratic feature that differentiates *H. luzonensis* from all other species of *Homo* is the strong development and proximal projection of the dorsal beak and this may have limited extension at the interphalangeal joint.

CCH5 is a complete and well-preserved distal manual phalanx 15.9 mm in total length (interarticular length, 15.6 mm; Fig. 2c, Extended Data Fig. 7, Supplementary Information and Supplementary Table 2). Its laterality and ray cannot be determined with certainty, but its proximal articular surface is too small to articulate with CCH2. The proportions of CCH5 (apical tuft expansion and robusticity indices) are within the ranges of variation for *H. sapiens* and *Australopithecus* and outside those of *H. neanderthalensis* and *H. floresiensis*^{23,28} (Extended Data Fig. 7d, e).

CCH4 is a complete and well-preserved right proximal pedal phalanx of rays 2, 3 or 4 (Fig. 2d, Extended Data Fig. 8, Supplementary Information and Supplementary Table 2) that is 27.4 mm long (interarticular length, 26.5 mm). It shows primitive—*Australopithecus*-like—features, including pronounced longitudinal curvature of the shaft in lateral view, parallel medial and lateral diaphyseal margins in dorsal view and well-developed flexor sheath attachments in the distal

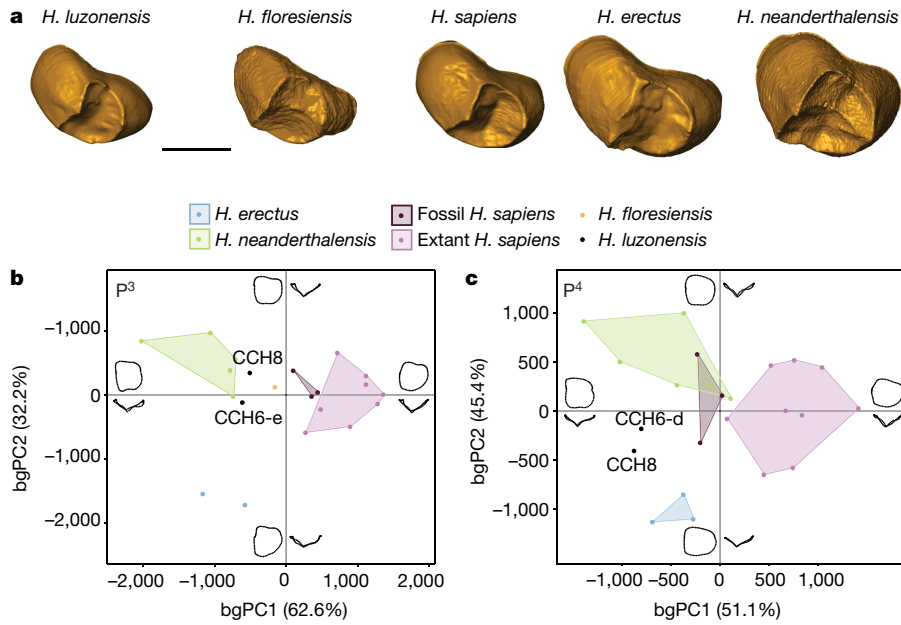


Fig. 4 | Premolar EDJ of *H. luzonensis*. **a**, EDJ of the P³ of *H. luzonensis* (CCH6-e) compared to the EDJs of *H. floresiensis* (Liang Bua 1 (LB1)), *H. sapiens*, *H. erectus* (Sangiran 4) and *H. neanderthalensis* (KRD 53). Horns of dentine were reconstructed for CCH6-e, LB1 and Sangiran 4; see Methods. Scale bar, 5 mm. **b**, **c**, Between-group principal component analyses (bgPCAs) of the three-dimensional landmark Procrustes-

registered shape coordinates of the P³s (**b**) and P⁴s (**c**). Sample sizes for **b**, **c**, respectively: *H. erectus*, *n* = 2, 3; *H. neanderthalensis*, *n* = 5, 6; fossil *H. sapiens*, *n* = 3, 3; extant *H. sapiens*, *n* = 8, 9; *H. floresiensis*, *n* = 1, 0; *H. luzonensis*, *n* = 2, 2. A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 6.

two-thirds of the shaft, bordered by marked plantar crests (Extended Data Fig. 8b, c). The base is small, with a circular proximal articular surface that displays dorsal canting and articular angles of 94.5° and 89.6°, respectively. These angular values are outside of the ranges of variation for *H. sapiens*, *H. neanderthalensis*, *H. naledi* and *H. floresiensis*, but within those of *Australopithecus afarensis* and *Australopithecus africanus*^{20,29–31} (Extended Data Fig. 8f, g). The head is relatively small, bicondylar and proximo-dorsally to disto-plantarly compressed, with a plantar breadth that is larger than its dorsal one. All of these features are typically found in combination in *Australopithecus*^{19,20,29,31}. The morphology of the proximal pedal phalanges of *H. floresiensis* has also been described as *Australopithecus*-like in some respects (for example, absence of an hourglass shape)^{32,33}; however, the combination of features found in CCH4 is essentially indistinguishable from the features of *A. afarensis* and *A. africanus* as shown by a 3D geometric morphometric shape analysis (Fig. 5). Although proximal pedal phalanges are missing from the Asian *H. erectus* fossil record, those known for African and European species (for example, *H. naledi*, *Homo antecessor*

and *H. neanderthalensis*) suggest that the morphology of *H. luzonensis* is unique among the genus *Homo*^{26,31,34}.

CCH3 is a complete and well-preserved intermediate pedal phalanx with a total length of 16.3 mm (interarticular length, 14.9 mm; Fig. 2e, Extended Data Fig. 9, Supplementary Information and Supplementary Table 2). Because the shape, size and morphology of this element is highly variable in *H. sapiens* and other hominins, little can be said at this time about its comparative morphology; however, it visually more closely resembles the intermediate pedal phalanges of *H. sapiens* and *H. floresiensis* than it does those of *A. afarensis* (Extended Data Fig. 9c).

The previously published third metatarsal (CCH1)^{1,2} has a proximal base that is particularly small compared to the total length of the bone. It is further characterized by a pronounced triangular shape with a short dorso-plantar height and a medio-laterally expanded dorsal aspect, and a marked dorso-plantar convexity of the proximal articular facet for the lateral cuneiform. The latter feature, which is very uncommon in hominins, has been reported (since the description of CCH1) in a fourth metatarsal of *Australopithecus sediba*³⁵.

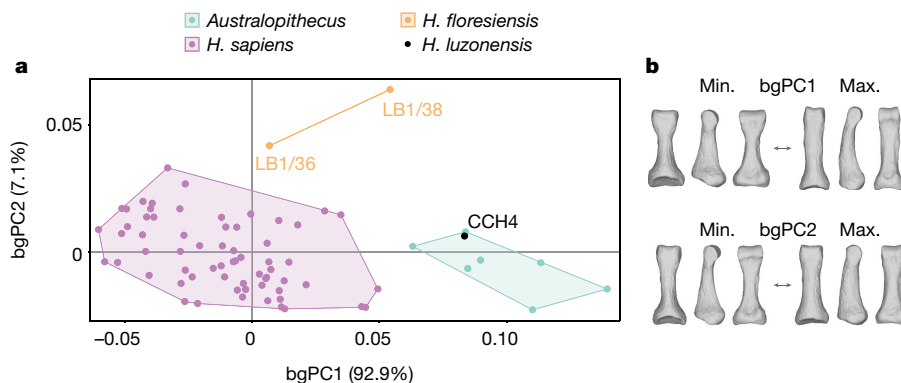


Fig. 5 | Proximal pedal phalanx of *H. luzonensis* (CCH4). CCH4 compared with specimens attributed to *Australopithecus* (*A. afarensis*, *n* = 6; *A. africanus*, *n* = 1), recent *H. sapiens* (*n* = 64) and *H. floresiensis* (*n* = 2). **a**, bgPCA of Procrustes-registered landmarks and semilandmarks:

scatter plot of individual scores for bgPC1 versus bgPC2. **b**, Shape variation associated with bgPC1 and bgPC2: CCH4 and *Australopithecus* phalanges are elongated and curved (see bgPC1 max.). A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 7.

The referred specimen, CCH7, is a partial left femur from which both the proximal and distal ends are missing (Fig. 2h, Extended Data Fig. 10 and Supplementary Information). Transverse slices of micro-computed tomography (micro-CT) scans show a high density of Haversian canals in the cortical bone that is characteristic of a growing juvenile individual (Extended Data Fig. 10c).

Implications of *H. luzonensis* for hominin evolution

The Late Pleistocene hominin fossils from Callao Cave show a combination of dental and postcranial (hand and foot) features that is distinct from currently known species of the genus *Homo* (Supplementary Table 3). The premolars of *H. luzonensis* combine size and shape features seen in other Late Pleistocene species of the genus *Homo* (for example, *H. neanderthalensis*, *H. floresiensis* and *H. sapiens*) with primitive morphological features of the crown, EDJ and roots, which are typically found in earlier hominins, including *Australopithecus* and *Paranthropus* (Supplementary Table 3). The molars are extremely small and their external morphology resembles those of *H. sapiens* and—to a lesser extent—those of *H. floresiensis*, whereas some of their EDJ shapes show affinities with those of Asian *H. erectus*. Notable similarities are observed between *H. luzonensis* and *Australopithecus* in the anatomy of their manual and pedal elements. The morphologies of the hands and feet of *Australopithecus*, which are generally described as an intermediate between the morphologies of great apes and modern humans, are typically interpreted either as indicating adaptations to various degrees of bipedalism and climbing and/or suspension³⁶ or as reflecting the retention of plesiomorphic features in obligatory bipeds^{35,37}. However, the partial and fragmentary nature of the *H. luzonensis* postcranial elements presently limits further interpretation of its locomotor and manipulative abilities.

The origin of *H. luzonensis*, as well as its phylogenetic relationships with other hominins present in eastern Asia at around the same time—including *H. sapiens*³⁸, *H. floresiensis*³⁹ and Denisovans¹⁰, and hominins recently discovered in China⁴⁰—remains to be determined. As is the case for most hominins recovered from tropical Asia⁴¹, attempted DNA extraction from *H. luzonensis* fossils has been unsuccessful. Direct dates on *H. luzonensis* tooth and bone samples indicate it was present on Luzon before 50 kyr ago^{1,3} and the recent discovery⁴² of stone tools and a butchered rhinoceros in the nearby Cagayan Valley indicates that hominins, perhaps *H. luzonensis*, have been present on Luzon since more than 700 kyr ago. Clearly, both *H. luzonensis* and *H. floresiensis* were present east of the Wallace Line on Luzon and Flores, respectively, at the same time³⁹ and perhaps even over a similar temporal interval^{17,42}. The skeletons of both species present anatomical traits that are either rare or absent elsewhere in the genus *Homo* but have similarities with those of *Australopithecus*^{6,7,23,32,33,43–45}. As is the case with the island of Flores, a substantial sea crossing has always been required to reach Luzon from any mainland, even during the lowest sea level periods of the Quaternary period⁴⁶ (Fig. 1). The insular nature of Luzon and the Philippine archipelago east of Palawan more generally is reflected in the high rates of endemism recognized in vertebrate faunas^{47–49}. Given the highly endemic nature of the Luzon vertebrate faunas, evolutionary convergences and/or reversals under the effects of insular evolution⁵⁰ may explain the distinct anatomy of *H. luzonensis*; however, further discoveries and more definitive evidence are needed. The discovery of *H. luzonensis* underscores the complexity of the evolution, dispersal and diversity of the genus *Homo* outside of Africa, and particularly in the islands of Southeast Asia, during the Pleistocene.

Online content

Any methods, additional references, Nature Research reporting summaries, source data, statements of data availability and associated accession codes are available at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1067-9>.

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METHODS

Computed tomography and virtual cleaning of the fossils. The *H. luzonensis* specimens were cleaned mechanically, following previously published procedures¹. The thickest patches of sediment were removed, but the carbonated coating was usually left untouched to avoid damaging the underlying surface of the bones or teeth. Details on the state of preservation of each specimen are given in the Supplementary Information. Descriptions and comparisons mostly relied on observations made on the three-dimensional models that were reconstructed after virtual cleaning, which was performed during the segmentation of the micro-CT slices. The refitting of specimens broken in two parts (CCH2 and CCH7) was also done virtually, after segmentation of the tomographic slices. The original fossil specimens were scanned at the AST-RX platform of the MNHN (Paris, France), using a GE Sensing & Inspection Technologies phoenix|X-ray v|tome|x L240-180 CT scanner. The teeth (CCH6b–CCH6e and CCH8) were scanned with isotropic voxel sizes ranging from 0.0094 to 0.0143 mm (voltage = 80–90 kV; current = 120–350 μ A). The bones (CCH2, CCH3, CCH4, CCH5 and CCH7) were scanned with isotropic voxel sizes ranging from 0.0233 to 0.0647 mm (voltage = 80–100 kV; current = 300–350 μ A). Semimanual segmentation using the half-maximum height protocol⁵¹ and three-dimensional modelling were performed in Avizo (Visualization Sciences Group).

Photogrammetry. The two right M³s (CCH6-a and CCH9) were intentionally preserved from potential X-ray damage that may affect dating and ancient DNA analyses^{52–54}; thus, three-dimensional surface models were obtained using photogrammetry (with Agisoft PhotoScan Professional and Geomagic Studio) at the ‘imagerie 2D/3D’ platform of Musée de l’Homme, MNHN.

Measurements. The original fossil specimens were measured to the nearest 0.1 mm with a Mitutoyo sliding Vernier calliper (Supplementary Tables 1, 2). For premolars and molars, bucco-lingual and mesio-distal diameters were measured following previously published methods⁵⁵, with correction of the mesio-distal diameter for interproximal wear. Dental crown measurements for specimens used in morphometric comparisons were averaged between right and left sides, when available.

For the proximal pedal phalanx (CCH4), the dorsal canting angle of the proximal joint surface was measured following previously published studies^{30,56} and the articular angle following a previous publication³¹, adapted to a virtual midsagittal section. For the intermediate manual phalanx (CCH2), the standard measurements of the maximum medio-lateral breadths of the base (MLbase), the midshaft (MLmid) and the head (MLend), as well as the interarticular length were measured following previously published methods¹⁸ taken from a virtual midsagittal section. For the distal manual phalanx CCH5, the apical tuft maximum medio-lateral width, the maximum medio-lateral width of the base and the biomechanical length were measured following previously published methods²⁸.

Statistics and morphometric analyses. All statistical analyses and graphics were computed with R version 3.5.1⁵⁷, using several functions adapted from a previous study⁵⁸ as well as the packages *ade4*⁵⁹, *geomorph*⁶⁰, *ggplot2*⁶¹, *ggpubr*⁶², *momocs*⁶³, *Morpho*⁶⁴, *rgl*⁶⁵, *shapes*⁶⁶ and *vegan*⁶⁷.

For premolars and molars, uni- and bivariate analyses of dental metrics were made on raw measurements (bucco-lingual (BL) and mesio-distal (MD) diameters) and on the square roots of computed occlusal surface areas ($\sqrt{\text{MD} \times \text{BL}}$). The bgPCAs were computed on bucco-lingual and mesio-distal diameters transformed into log-shape ratios⁶⁸. Among size-adjustment procedures, log-shape ratios are well-known for their statistical robustness and efficiency in distinguishing shape from absolute size differences⁶⁹. CCH6 was considered to be a supplementary individual in the bgPCA and data were plotted a posteriori on bgPC1 and bgPC2. For intermediate manual phalanges, the robusticity index ($0.5 \times (\text{midshaft breadth} + \text{midshaft height}) / \text{articular length} \times 100$) was calculated following previously published methods²⁶ and the medio-lateral base width index ($\text{MLbase} = \text{medio-lateral width of the base} / \text{interarticular length} \times 100$), medio-lateral head width index ($\text{MLend} = \text{mediolateral width of the head} / \text{interarticular length} \times 100$), and mediolateral midshaft width index ($\text{MLmid} = \text{medio-lateral width at midshaft} / \text{interarticular length} \times 100$) were calculated as previously described⁷⁰. For distal manual phalanges, the robusticity and expansion indices were calculated according to previously published methods²⁸ (robusticity index = apical tuft maximum medio-lateral width/biomechanical length $\times 100$; expansion index = apical tuft maximum medio-lateral width/maximum medio-lateral width of the base $\times 100$).

Shape affinities of the M¹ (CCH6-c) were explored with elliptic Fourier analysis applied on Procrustes-aligned crown outlines, following previously published methodological and statistical procedures^{71,72}. Comparative specimens included a large sample of archaeological ($n = 105$) and recent ($n = 140$) *H. sapiens* from various southeast Asian populations, as well as *H. floresiensis*. Details on the samples are given in Supplementary Table 5 and in a previous study⁷². To thoroughly test the possible effects of the large and deep inter-proximal contact facet that is present on the mesial aspect of the right M¹ of LB1, two different reconstructions were included in the analyses: the original crown contour that has previously

been published⁷, and a slightly different reconstruction, with more compensation of the mesial inter-proximal contact facet (see Extended Data Fig. 3d).

For premolars and molars, the virtual surfaces of the EDJ of the Callao specimens were compared with those of fossil and extant *Homo* specimens (Supplementary Table 6). The moderately worn dentine horn apices were reconstructed following a geometric method validated in a previous study⁷³. To do so, the virtual slices of each tooth were resampled to be parallel to the cervical plane. This plane was then translated into each dentine horn extremity, and two sections perpendicular to the cervical plane—corresponding, respectively, to the widest mesio-distal and bucco-lingual diameters of the last section of the dentine horn and intersecting its centre—were used to reconstruct the height and orientation of each apex. Interpolations were then performed for rendering the three-dimensional shape of the tips. Landmarks were placed at the dentine horn apices of the paracone and protocone for the premolars, and of the paracone, protocone metacone and hypocone for the molars⁷⁴. A set of sliding semilandmarks was positioned along the marginal ridges, as well as along the oblique crest on the molars⁷⁴ (Extended Data Fig. 4a, b). To analyse the shape of the proximal pedal phalanx CCH4, it was compared with samples of *Australopithecus*, recent *H. sapiens* and *H. floresiensis*, restricted to proximal pedal phalanges of rays 2, 3 and 4 of the right foot (*Australopithecus* phalanges attributed to a left foot were mirrored), with no signs of pronounced osteoarthritis and/or osteophyte (details on the samples can be found in Supplementary Table 7). The only exception to the latter condition was the *H. floresiensis* proximal pedal phalanx LB1/38—which presents a developed osteophyte on one side of its head—because ‘the value [of the curvature] seen in LB1/38 falls outside the human range and recalls the condition reported for some australopithecines’³². After the sliding of the semilandmarks (minimization of the bending energy criterion), we made sure that no semilandmarks were on the surface of the osteophyte of LB1/38. The analytical procedure involved 20 landmarks and 250 semilandmarks, equally spaced on the whole surface of the phalanges (Extended Data Fig. 8e).

For intermediate manual phalanges, CCH2 was compared with samples of *Australopithecus*, *Paranthropus/Homo*, *H. naledi*, *H. floresiensis* and recent *H. sapiens*. For recent *H. sapiens*, the most complete individuals for intermediate manual phalanges were selected from the collections for the more accurate determinations of the rays, following a previously published method⁷⁵. The siding of the phalanges was done using previously described techniques^{76,77}. For each individual, intermediate phalanges of rays 2, 3 and 4 of the left hand were selected for analyses, but in case the right hand was more complete, right phalanges were mirrored and used instead (see details on the samples in Supplementary Table 9). The head of the *H. floresiensis* intermediate manual phalanx LB1/48, which is partly damaged on one side, was virtually reconstructed by mirroring the well-preserved side for this series of analyses. The analytical procedure involved 23 landmarks and 250 semilandmarks, equally spaced on the whole surface of the phalanges (Extended Data Fig. 6g).

Generalized Procrustes analyses were performed with principal component analyses (PCAs) and bgPCAs based on the Procrustes shape coordinates⁷⁸ (Figs. 4 and 5 and Extended Data Figs. 4, 6). The analytical strategies followed for analysing the shape of proximal pedal phalanges and that of intermediate manual phalanges differ. For proximal pedal phalanges, all phalanges from rays 2, 3 and 4 were analysed together in a single Procrustes analysis, because inter-individual variation is greater than intra-individual (between rays) variation (that is, proximal pedal phalanges of rays 2, 3 and 4 of a single *H. sapiens* individual tend to cluster closely on PC1 versus PC2). By contrast, intra-individual variation is larger than inter-individual variation in recent *H. sapiens* when intermediate manual phalanges from rays 2, 3 and 4 are analysed together (that is, the effect of the ray is dominant on PC1 versus PC2). Because the objective of this analysis was to test for the shape affinities of *H. luzonensis* in a taxonomical perspective, but not an attempt at determining the most probable ray to which CCH2 belonged, recent *H. sapiens* were subdivided into three distinct samples (one for each ray, from ray 2 to ray 4), which were analysed in three separate Procrustes analyses, each including all fossil specimens. In all sets of analyses (EDJ, proximal pedal phalanges and intermediate manual phalanges), the Callao specimens were included a posteriori in the bgPCAs. **Comparative specimens.** *Australopithecus* includes *A. afarensis*, *A. africanus*, *Australopithecus anamensis* and *A. sediba*; *Paranthropus* includes *Paranthropus aethiopicus*, *Paranthropus boisei* and *Paranthropus robustus*; African and European early *Homo* includes *H. habilis*, *Homo rudolfensis*, *Homo ergaster*, *Homo georgicus* and *H. antecessor*; *Paranthropus/early Homo* (phalanges only) includes specimens from Olduvai and Swartkrans whose generic attribution is debated (see main text and Extended Data Figs. 5–7), Asian early *Homo* includes *H. erectus*, *H. cf. floresiensis* (from Mata Menge, Flores, Indonesia); *H. floresiensis* includes the holotype LB1 and elements (phalanges) of LB6; *H. sapiens* includes recent specimens (including ‘Negritos’), as well as Upper Pleistocene and Holocene specimens (except for EDJ analyses, for which fossil *H. sapiens* samples were distinguished from recent *H. sapiens*). For dental metrics, ‘Negritos’ were treated as a separate

group in the analyses shown in Extended Data Fig. 2j–k. For pedal and manual phalanges, the three-dimensional models used in the geometric morphometrics analyses were obtained from scanning original specimens (recent *H. sapiens*) and high-quality casts (*Australopithecus* and *Paranthropus/Homo*) with Nextengine and Mechsca surface scanners. Three-dimensional models of *H. floresiensis* were provided by Pusat Penelitian Arkeologi Nasional, and those of *A. sediba* and *H. naledi* intermediate manual phalanges by the University of the Witwatersrand, Evolutionary Studies Institute through <https://www.morphosource.org/>, Duke University. Detailed lists of specimens included in each analysis (including analyses presented in Extended Data Figs. 2–8) and sources of data are given in Supplementary Tables 4–12.

Reporting Summary. Further information on experimental design is available in the Nature Research Reporting Summary linked to this article.

Data availability

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request. *Homo luzonensis* has been deposited in the ZooBank database (<http://zoobank.org/>) with Life Science Identifier urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:4F743862-662F-4E6B-9812-8A05533C1347. The description of the species has been deposited with Life Science identifier urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:0E4607F1-1374-4842-B32B-7CE2250807DF.

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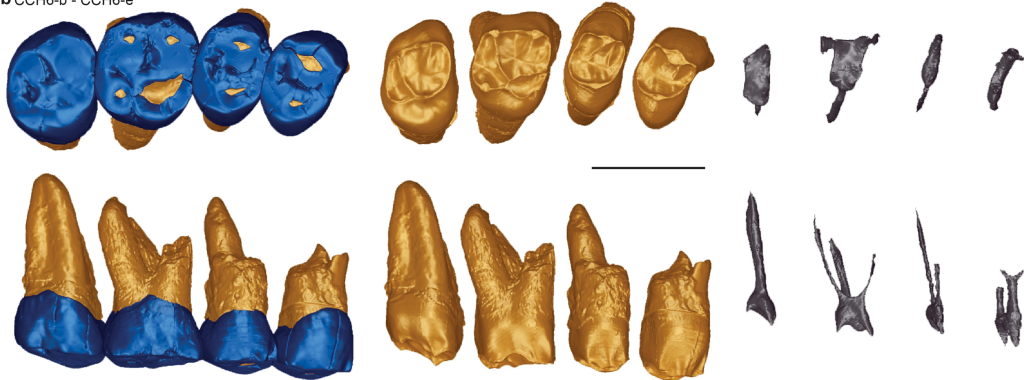
Specimen No	Accession No	Date of discovery	Excavation square	Identification
CCH1	II-77-J3-7691	2007 May 5	Square 1	R third metatarsal*
CCH2	II-77-J3-10130	2011 August 21	Square 1**	manual phalanx (intermediate)
CCH3	II-77-J3-10131	2011 August 21	Square 1**	pedal phalanx (intermediate)
CCH4	II-77-J3-10132	2011 August 21	Square 1	pedal phalanx (proximal)
CCH5	II-77-J3-10133	2011 August 21	Square 1	manual phalanx (distal)
CCH6-a***	II-77-J3-10136	2011 August 24	Square 1	R M ³
CCH6-b***	II-77-J3-10137	2011 August 24	Square 1	R M ²
CCH6-c***	II-77-J3-10138	2011 August 24	Square 1	R M ¹
CCH6-d***	II-77-J3-10139	2011 August 24	Square 1	R P ⁴
CCH6-e***	II-77-J3-10140	2011 August 24	Square 1	R P ³
CCH7	II-77-J3-10141	2011 August 20	Square 5	femur (shaft)
CCH8	II-77-J3-10216	2011 August 31	Square 1	L P ^{3/4}
CCH9	II-77-J3-12488	2015 July 01	Square 7	R M ³

* described in (Mijares et al., 2010¹ and Déroit et al., 2013²)

** recovered from the dry sieve

*** belonged to a single individual (CCH6)

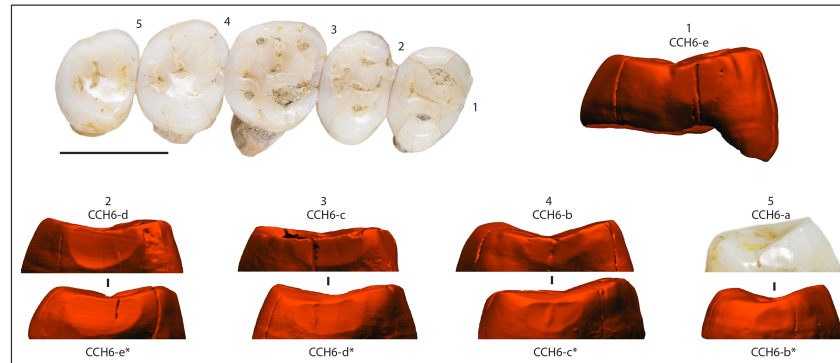
b CCH6-b - CCH6-e



c CCH6-a



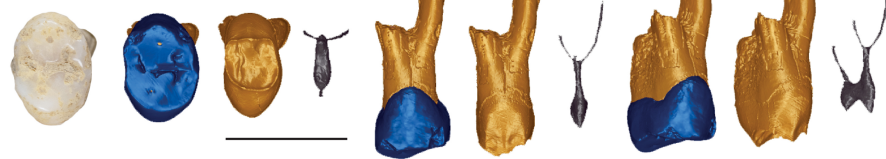
d CCH6-a - CCH6-e



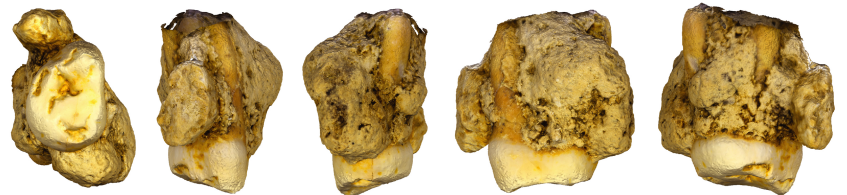
e CCH6-c



f CCH8



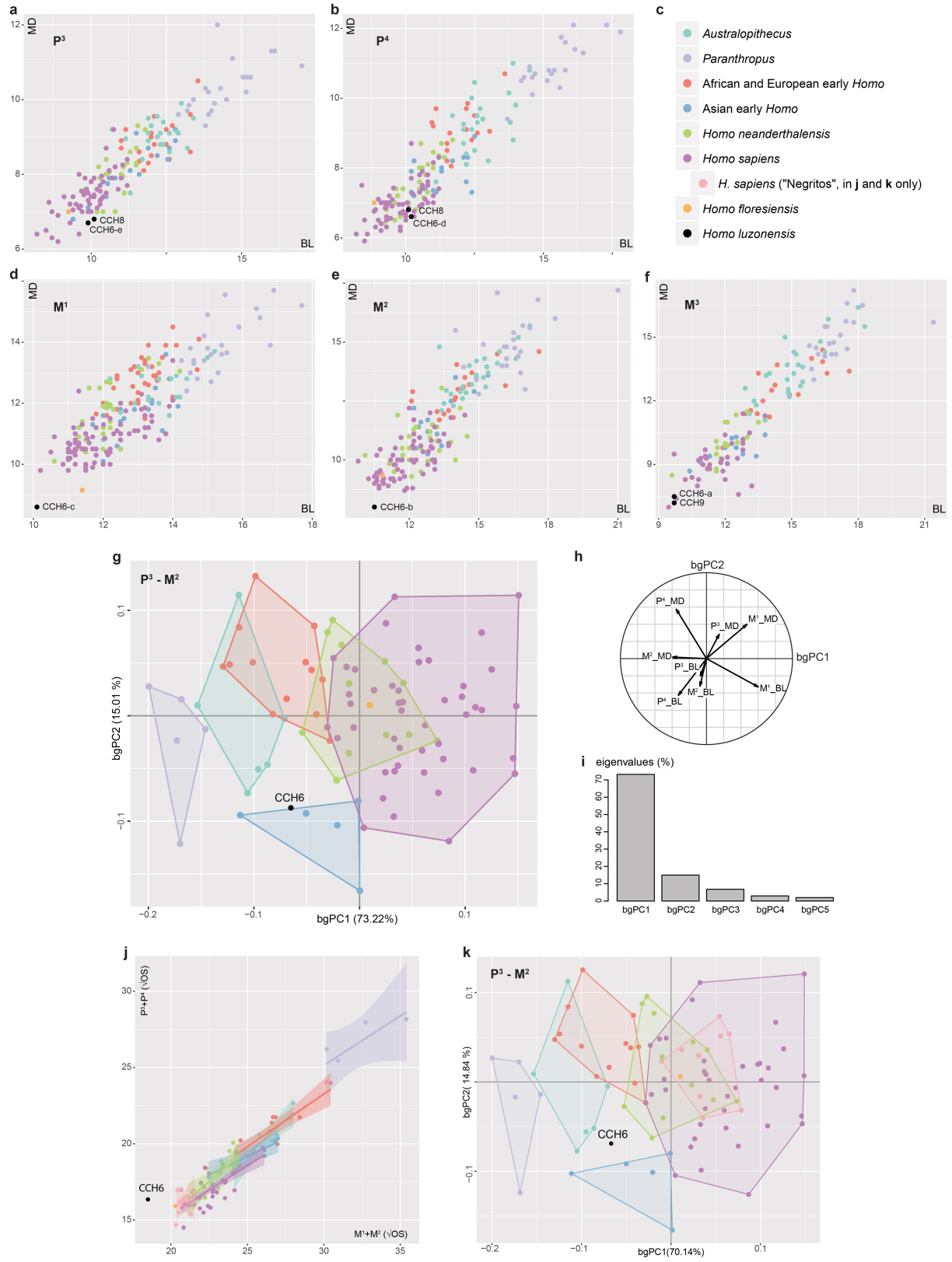
g CCH9



Extended Data Fig. 1 | See next page for caption.

Extended Data Fig. 1 | Inventory of the fossil elements attributed to *H. luzonensis* and detailed views of the dental remains. **a**, The hominin fossils recovered from Callao Cave. R, right; L, left; P, premolar; M, molar. **b**, Three-dimensional rendering of the postcanine maxillary teeth CCH6-b to CCH6-e (M^2 – P^3): occlusal (top row) and buccal (bottom row) aspects. Enamel is shown in dark blue, dentine and cement in light brown and pulp cavity in dark grey. In all views, mesial is to the right, distal to the left. **c**, CCH6-a, right M^3 : occlusal, buccal, lingual, mesial and distal aspects (from top to bottom and left to right). Occlusal view: mesial is to the right, distal to the left. **d**, CCH6-a to CCH6-e, right M^3 – P^3 : photograph of occlusal aspect. Mesial is to the right, distal to the left. The numbers indicate the locations of the detailed views of the inter-proximal contact facets (IPCFs): P^3 (CCH6-e), mesial IPCF 1: note the small size of this

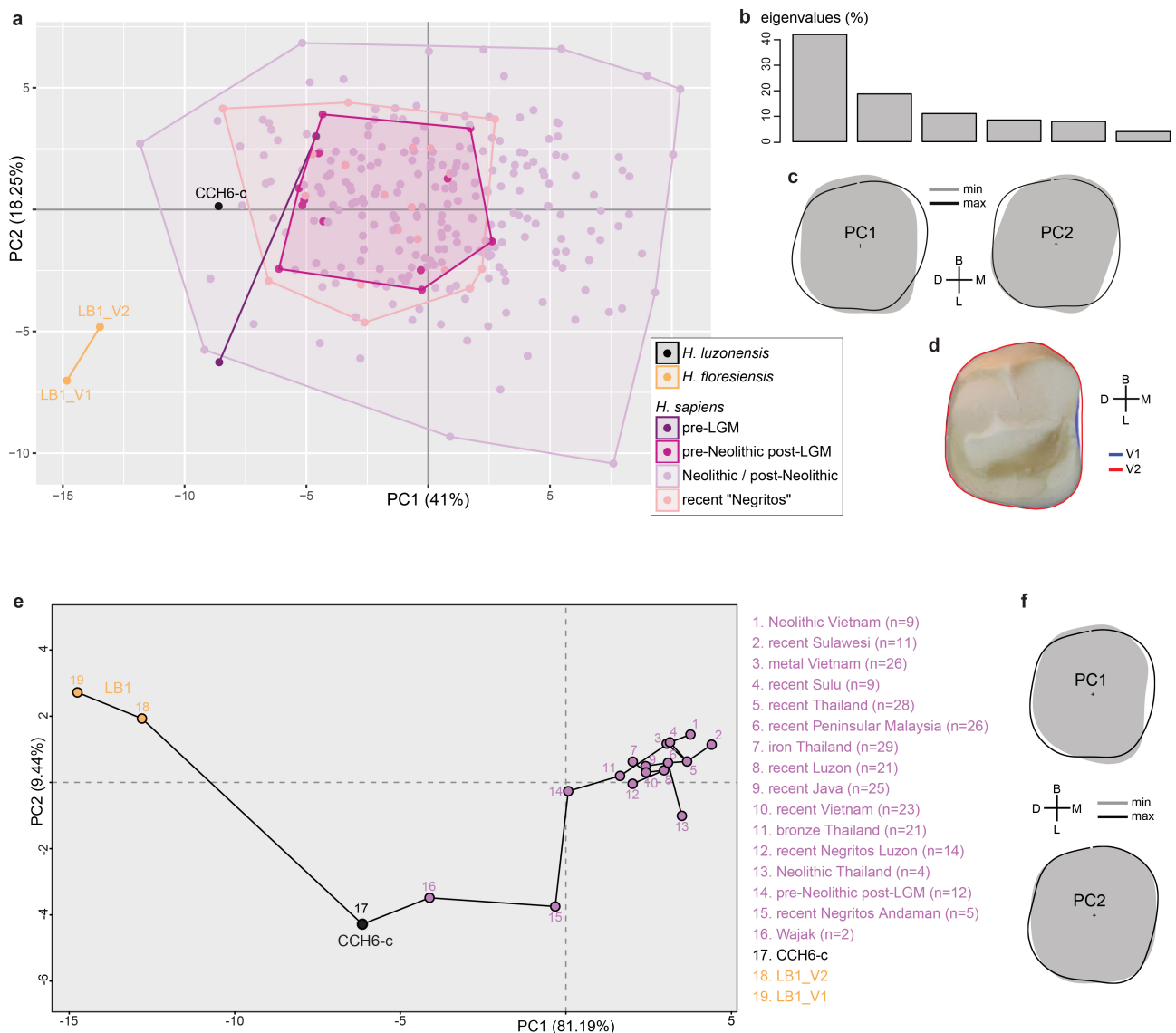
IPCF, indicating that the canine was probably not large; 2–5: note the perfect match between corresponding pairs of mesial (top row) and distal (bottom row, mirrored images) IPCFs, from the P^3 (CCH6-e) to the M^3 (CCH6-a). **e**, CCH6-c, right M^1 : distal aspect, showing the partially fused lingual and disto-buccal roots. Lingual is to the left, buccal to the right. **f**, CCH8, left P^3 or P^4 , photograph of the original fossil (occlusal view) and three-dimensional rendering: occlusal (top row), buccal (middle row) and mesio-buccal (bottom row) aspects. Enamel is shown in dark blue, dentine and cement in light brown and pulp cavity in dark grey. **g**, CCH9, right M^3 : occlusal, buccal, lingual, mesial and distal aspects (from top to bottom and left to right). Occlusal view: mesial is to the right, distal to the left; captures of the three-dimensional surface model. Scale bars, 10 mm (IPCF views in **d** (1–5) are not to scale); the mirrored image is indicated by an asterisk.



Extended Data Fig. 2 | See next page for caption.

Extended Data Fig. 2 | Dental metrics. a, b, d–f. Bivariate scatter plots for mesio-distal (MD) versus bucco-lingual (BL) diameters of P³ (a), P⁴ (b), M¹ (d), M² (e) and M³ (f). **c.** Key for a, b, d–g, j, k. Sample sizes for a, b, d, e, f, respectively: *Australopithecus*, $n = 23, 23, 21, 26, 26$; *Paranthropus*, $n = 22, 20, 26, 23, 20$; African and European early *Homo*, $n = 23, 19, 37, 21, 17$; Asian early *Homo*, $n = 16, 17, 17, 13, 11$; *H. neanderthalensis*, $n = 23, 26, 27, 30, 20$; *H. sapiens*, $n = 57, 61, 86, 70, 33$; *H. floresiensis*, $n = 1, 1, 1, 1, 0$; *H. luzonensis*, $n = 2^*, 2^*, 1, 1, 2$ (*CCH8 is a P³ or a P⁴). A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 4. **g–i.** bgPCA of the log-shape ratios of bucco-lingual and mesio-distal diameters of four postcanine maxillary teeth (P³, P⁴, M¹ and M²), CCH6 was treated as a supplementary individual and was plotted a posteriori. **g.** Scatter plot of specimens for bgPC1 versus bgPC2, with convex hulls

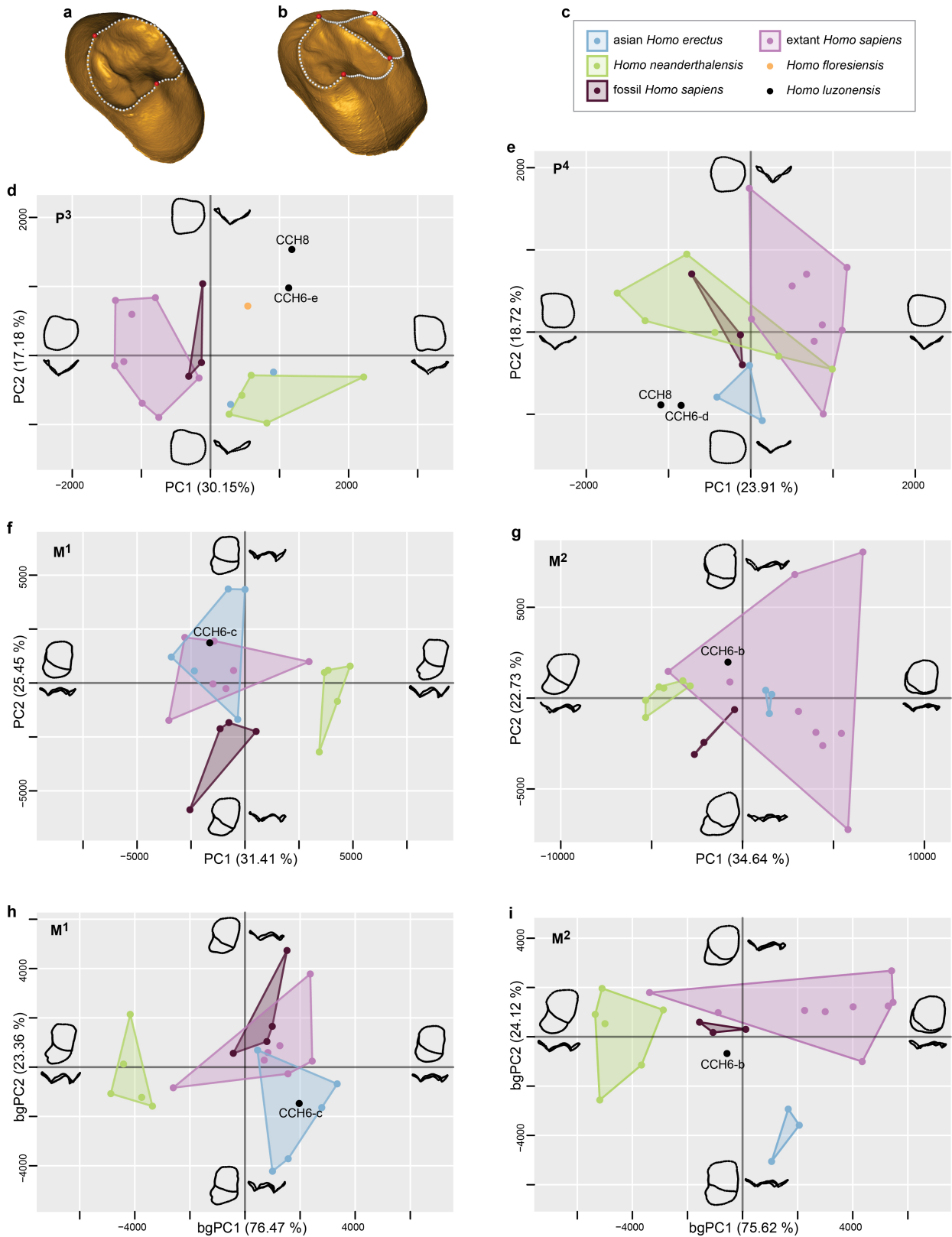
for all groups, except *H. floresiensis* and *H. luzonensis*. Sample sizes: *Australopithecus*, $n = 6$; *Paranthropus*, $n = 5$; African and European early *Homo*, $n = 13$; Asian early *Homo*, $n = 5$; *H. neanderthalensis*, $n = 12$; *H. sapiens*, $n = 47$; *H. floresiensis*, $n = 1$; *H. luzonensis*, $n = 1$. A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 4. **h.** Variable scores for bgPC1 versus bgPC2 (correlation circle; log-shape ratios of variables). **i.** Bar plot of eigenvalues (%) of bgPC1–bgPC5. **j, k.** Bivariate scatter plot of the summed square root of computed occlusal surface areas of premolars versus molars (j) and bgPCA of the log-shape ratios of bucco-lingual and mesio-distal diameters of four postcanine maxillary teeth (k) similar to the analyses presented in Fig. 3b and in g, respectively, but with ‘Negritos’ treated as a separate group (same sample sizes as in g, except for: *H. sapiens*, $n = 38$ and *H. sapiens* ‘Negritos’, $n = 9$).



Extended Data Fig. 3 | Elliptic Fourier analysis of M¹ crown contour.

CCH6-c compared to the holotype of *H. floresiensis* (LB1) and large samples of archaeological and recent *H. sapiens* individuals. **a**, PCA of shape data for all specimens, scatter plot of individual scores for PC1 versus PC2 (see Methods; elliptic Fourier descriptors applied to Procrustes-aligned outlines, ten harmonics included). LGM, Last Glacial Maximum. Sample sizes: *H. luzonensis*, $n = 1$; *H. floresiensis*, $n = 2$; pre-LGM, $n = 2$; pre-Neolithic post-LGM, $n = 12$; Neolithic/post-Neolithic, $n = 232$; recent 'Negritos', $n = 19$. A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 5. **b**, Bar plot of eigenvalues (%) of PC1–PC6. **c**, Extreme shape variations along PC1 and PC2. The scores of *H. luzonensis* M¹ along PC1 and PC2 reflects a crown outline shape that is mesio-distally compressed, but not as much as that of *H. floresiensis* (two versions of the LB1 right M¹). **d**, Right M¹ of the

H. floresiensis LB1 showing the two different versions of the crown outline (see Methods): the original contour (V1; in blue) published in a previous study⁷, and the contour (V2; in red) drawn by J.C. differ in the compensation of the mesial IPCF. These two versions differ minimally in the results of the elliptic Fourier analysis (see **d** and **h**). **e**, PCA of Fourier descriptors for the means of 16 groups of *H. sapiens* (sample sizes in brackets, see details in Supplementary Table 5), *H. luzonensis* CCH6-c and *H. floresiensis* LB1 (V1 and V2 treated as 2 groups): scatter plot of mean scores for PC1 versus PC2 with a superimposed minimum spanning tree indicating distances between groups. **f**, Extreme shape variations along PC1 and PC2: *H. floresiensis* differs from *H. luzonensis* in having a M¹ crown contour shape that is more compressed mesio-distally, with a more developed protocone.



Extended Data Fig. 4 | Procrustes analyses of the premolar and molar EDJ. **a**, Landmarks placed on the main dentine horns (in red) and semilandmarks (in white) positioned along the marginal ridges of the premolar EDJ. **b**, Landmarks placed on the main dentine horns (in red) and the semilandmarks (in white) positioned along the marginal ridges and on the oblique crest of the molar EDJ. **c**, Key for **d–i**. **d–g**, PCAs of the three-dimensional landmarks Procrustes-registered shape coordinates

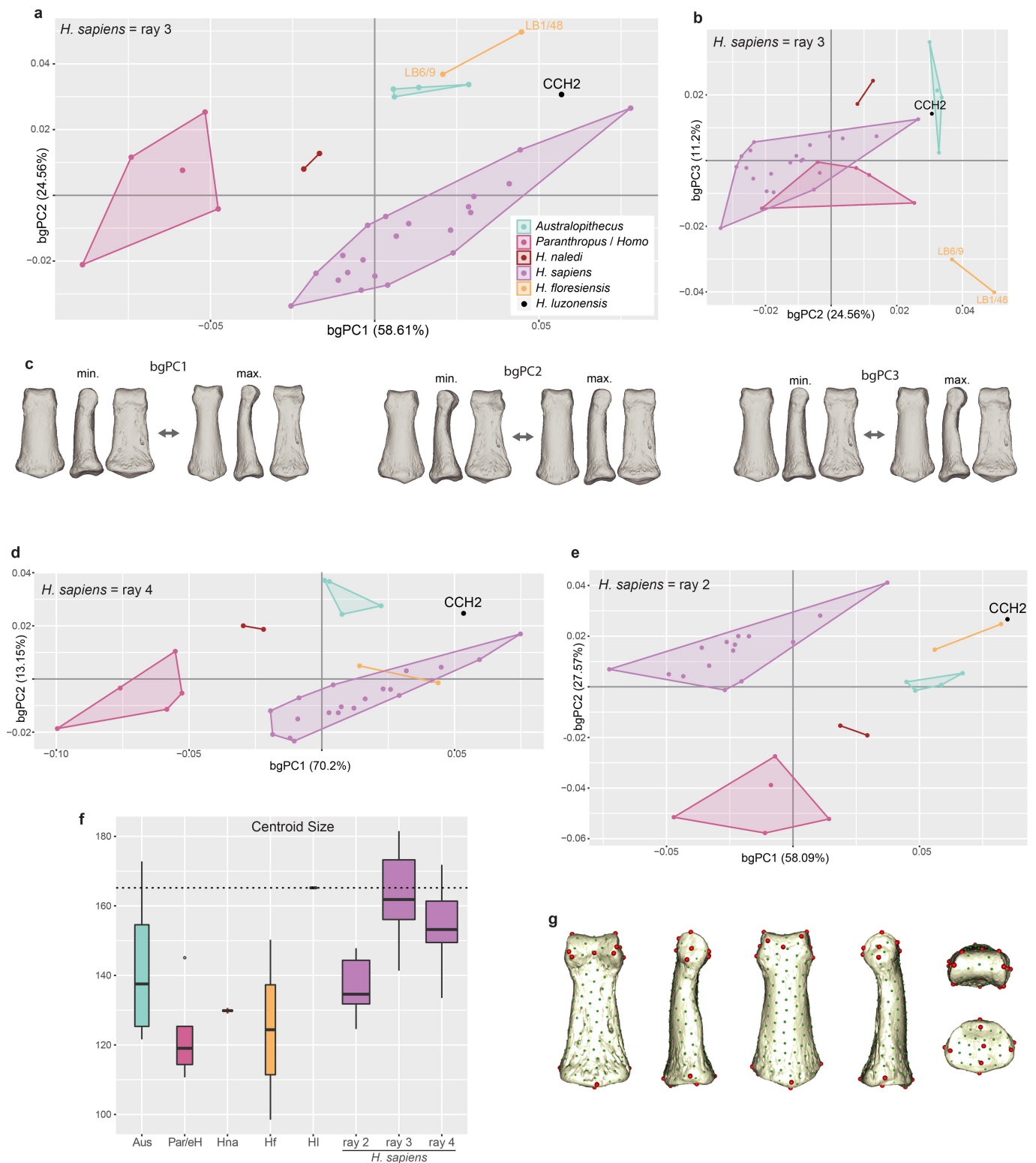
of the P³s (**d**), P⁴s (**e**), M¹s (**f**) and M²s (**g**). **h**, **i**, bgPCAs of the three-dimensional landmarks Procrustes-registered shape coordinates of the M¹s (**h**) and M²s (**i**). Sample sizes for **d**, **e**, **f** and **h**, and **g** and **i**, respectively: *H. erectus*, $n = 2, 3, 5$, and 3 ; *H. neanderthalensis*, $n = 5, 6, 5$, and 6 ; fossil *H. sapiens*, $n = 3, 3, 4$, and 3 ; extant *H. sapiens*, $n = 8, 9, 7$, and 9 ; *H. floresiensis*, $n = 1, 0, 0$, and 0 ; *H. luzonensis*, $n = 2, 2, 1$, and 1 . A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 6.



Extended Data Fig. 5 | See next page for caption.

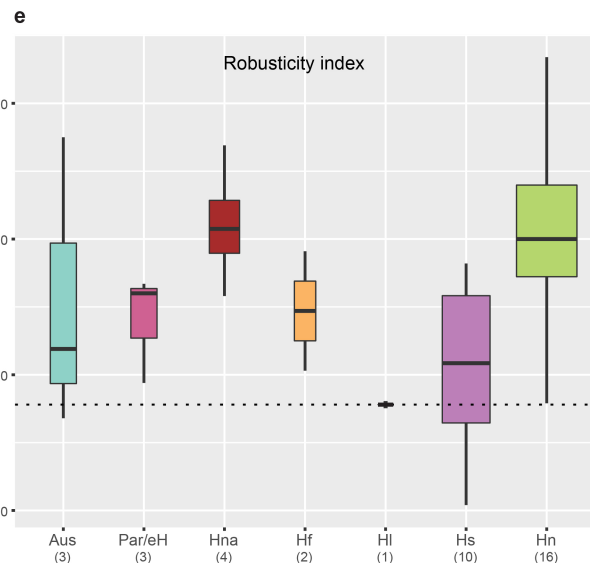
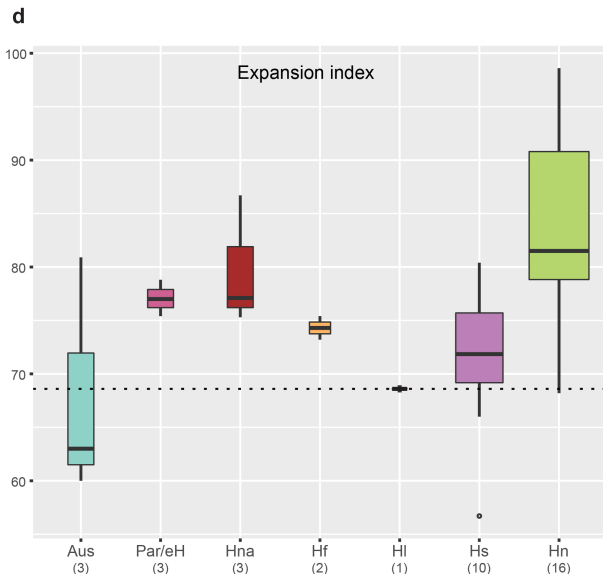
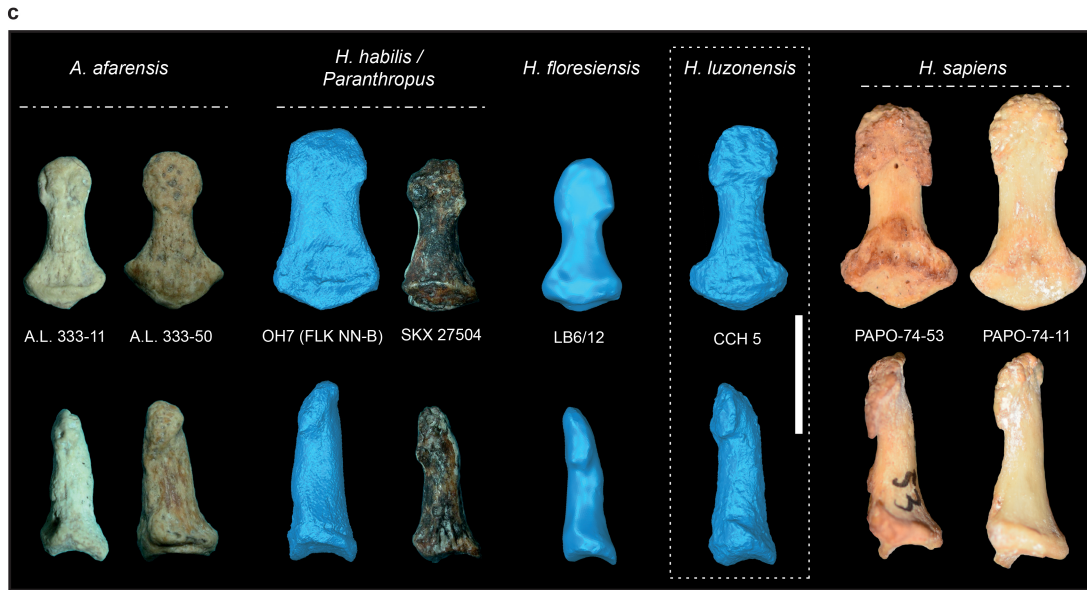
Extended Data Fig. 5 | CCH2, intermediate manual phalanx of *H. luzonensis*. **a**, Photograph of the original specimen CCH2 in palmar view. **b**, Three-dimensional rendering of CCH2. From left to right: palmar, lateral, dorsal, medial, distal (top), proximal (bottom), disto-lateral and proximo-lateral aspects. **c**, Comparison of CCH2 with Pliocene (A.L.333-88), Lower Pleistocene (OH7 (FLK NN-F) and KNM-WT 15000BO), Upper Pleistocene (LB1/48) and recent (PAPO-74-11) intermediate manual phalanges in palmar (top) and side (bottom) views. All specimens are from rays 2–5 of unknown side, except for OH7 (third ray, probably from the right hand of a juvenile individual). Note the unique proximally accentuated beak located on the dorsum of the proximal surface of CCH2. **d–f**, Relative robusticity of the intermediate manual phalanx CCH2.

Box-and-whisker plots depicting the ratio of the interarticular length (IA) and the maximum medio-lateral width of the base (MLbase) (**d**), the head (MLend) (**e**) and the midshaft (MLmid) (**f**). Box, 25–75th percentiles; centre line, median; whiskers, non-outlier range; dots, outliers; dotted line, value for CCH2. AE-eH, African and European early *Homo*; Aus, *Australopithecus*; Hf, *H. floresiensis*; Hl, *H. luzonensis*; Hna, *H. naledi*; Hn, *H. neanderthalensis*; Hs, *H. sapiens*, Par/eH, *Paranthropus*/early *Homo*. *n* indicates sample size. A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 8. For conservative reasons, taxonomic assignment of hand remains of OH7 and several SKX specimens are considered to be uncertain (see main text and Methods). Scale bars, 10 mm.



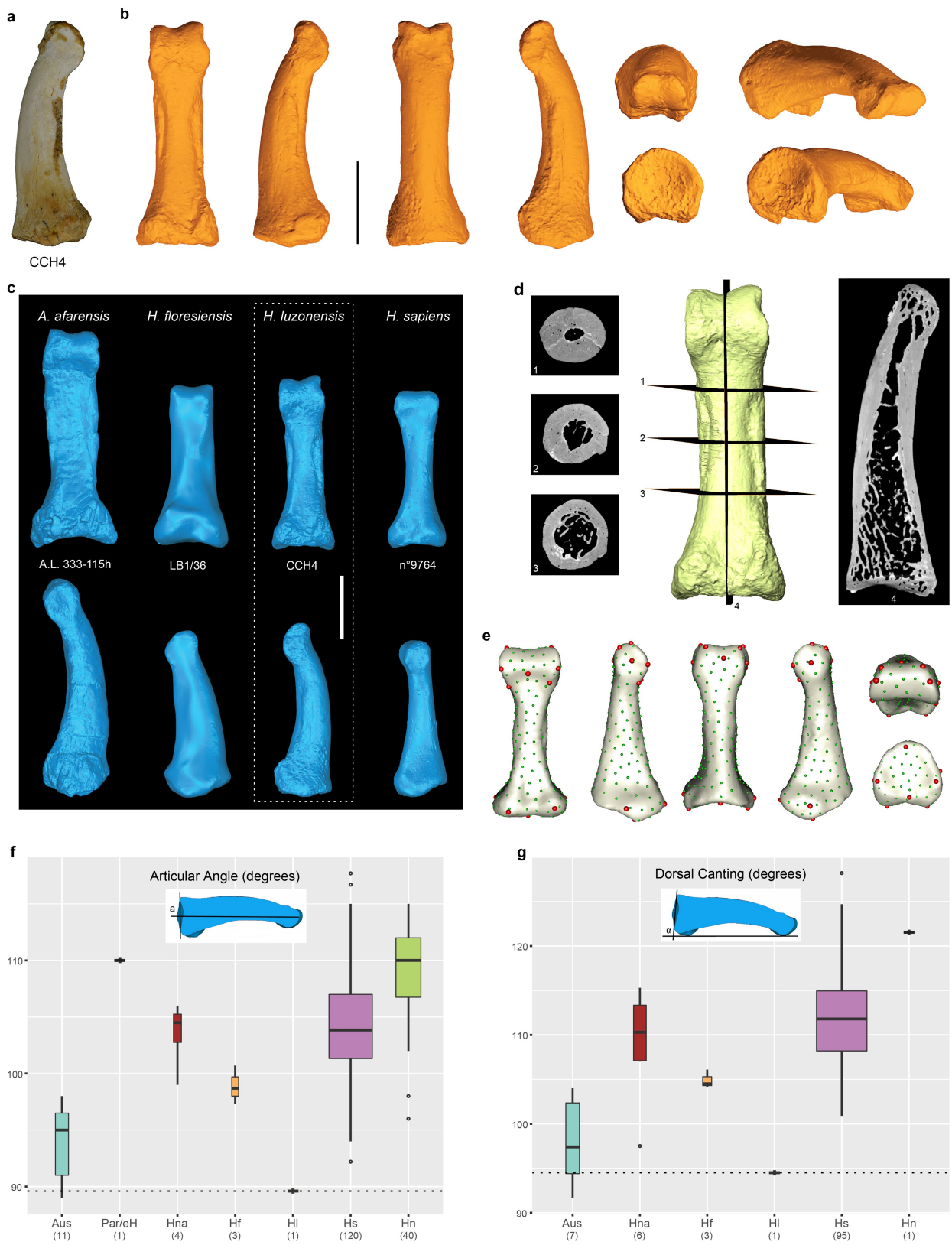
Extended Data Fig. 6 | Procrustes analyses of the intermediate manual phalanx of *H. luzonensis*. CCH2 compared to specimens attributed to *Australopithecus* (*A. afarensis*, $n = 1$; *A. africanus*, $n = 1$; *A. sediba*, $n = 2$), *Paranthropus/early Homo* (Swartkrans, Member 1, $n = 3$; Member 3, $n = 2$), *H. naledi* (Hand 1, $n = 2$), *H. floresiensis* (LB1/48 and LB6/9) and recent *H. sapiens* separated into 3 samples corresponding to ray number ($n = 15$, 21 and 19 for rays 2, 3 and 4, respectively). A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 9. **a–c**, bgPCA of Procrustes-registered landmarks and semilandmarks (*H. sapiens* sample includes ray 3 only): scatter plot of individual scores for bgPC1 versus bgPC2 (**a**); scatter plot of individual scores for bgPC2 versus bgPC3 (**b**); shape variation associated with bgPC1, bgPC2 and bgPC3 (**c**). **d**, bgPCA

of Procrustes-registered landmarks and semilandmarks (*H. sapiens* sample includes ray 4 only): scatter plot of individual scores for bgPC1 versus bgPC2. **e**, bgPCA of Procrustes-registered landmarks and semilandmarks (*H. sapiens* sample includes ray 2 only): scatter plot of individual scores for bgPC1 versus bgPC2. **f**, Box-and-whisker plot depicting centroid size (Procrustes registration of all specimens together). Box, 25–75th percentiles; centre line, median; whiskers, non-outlier range; dots, outliers; dotted line, value for CCH2. **g**, Protocol for three-dimensional Procrustes analysis: landmarks placed on the main anatomical features ($n = 23$, in red) and equally spaced semilandmarks ($n = 250$, in green) placed on the whole surface of the intermediate manual phalanx (template shown on the intermediate manual phalanx, ray 3, of the recent *H. sapiens* 17980).



Extended Data Fig. 7 | CCH5, distal manual phalanx of *H. luzonensis*. **a**, Photograph of the original specimen CCH5 in palmar view. **b**, Three-dimensional rendering of CCH5. From left to right: palmar, lateral/medial, dorsal, medial/lateral, distal (top), proximal (bottom), disto-lateral/medial and proximo-lateral/medial aspects. **c**, Comparison of CCH5 with Pliocene (A.L.333-11 and A.L.333-50), Lower Pleistocene (OH7 (FLK-NN-B) and SKX 27504), Upper Pleistocene (LB6/12) and recent distal manual phalanges (PAPO-74-53 and PAPO-74-11) in palmar (top) and side (bottom) views. All specimens are from rays 2–5 of unknown side, except for OH7 (second to fourth ray, probably from the right hand of a

juvenile individual). **d**, **e**, Box-and-whisker plots depicting the expansion index ((apical tuft maximum medio-lateral width/maximum medio-lateral width of the base) \times 100) (**d**) and the robusticity index ((apical tuft maximum medio-lateral width/biomechanical length) \times 100) (**e**) of the distal manual phalanx CCH5. Box, 25–75th percentiles, centre line, median; whiskers, non-outlier range; dots, outliers; dotted line, value for CCH5. A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 10. For conservative reasons, taxonomic assignment of hand remains OH7 and SKX 27504 are considered to be uncertain (see main text and Methods). Scale bars, 10 mm.



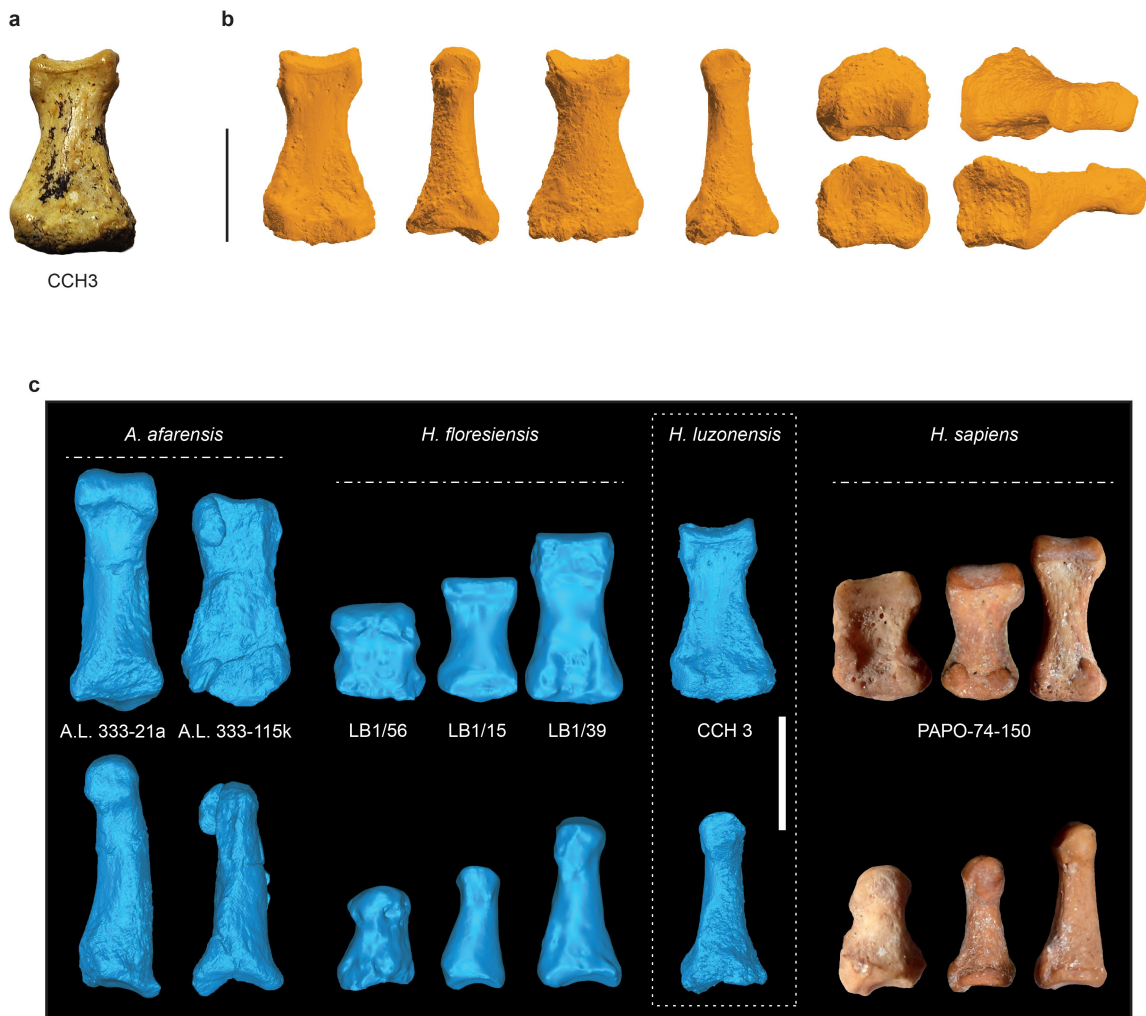
Extended Data Fig. 8 | See next page for caption.

Extended Data Fig. 8 | CCH4, proximal pedal phalanx of *H. luzonensis*.

a, Photograph of the original specimen CCH4 in lateral view. **b**, Three-dimensional rendering of CCH4. From left to right: plantar, lateral, dorsal, medial, distal (top), proximal (bottom), disto-lateral and proximo-lateral aspects. **c**, Comparison of CCH4 with Pliocene (A.L.333-115h, left third proximal phalanx, mirrored), Pleistocene (LB1/36, unknown side and rays 2–5) and recent ('Negrito' 9764, right third proximal pedal phalanx), proximal pedal phalanges in plantar (top) and side (bottom) views.

d, Transverse (1, 2, 3) and mid-sagittal (4) micro-CT slices of CCH4 (plantar aspect of three-dimensional rendering, during the segmentation process; 1, 2, 3, dorsal is up, plantar is down, lateral is left, medial is right;

4, distal is up, proximal is down, dorsal is left, plantar is right). **e**, Protocol for three-dimensional Procrustes analysis: landmarks placed on the main anatomical features ($n = 20$, in red) and equally spaced semilandmarks ($n = 250$, in green) placed on the whole surface of the proximal pedal phalanx (template shown on the proximal pedal phalanx, ray 2 of the right foot of the recent *H. sapiens* 35071). **f**, **g**, Box-and-whisker plots depicting comparisons of the articular angle α (**f**) and the dorsal canting angle α (**g**) of the proximal pedal phalanx CCH4. Box, 25–75th percentiles; centre line, median; whiskers, non-outlier range; dots, outliers; dotted line, value for CCH4. A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 11. Scale bars, 10 mm.



Extended Data Fig. 9 | CCH3, intermediate pedal phalanx of *H. luzonensis*. **a**, Photograph of the original specimen CCH3 in plantar view. **b**, Three-dimensional rendering of CCH3. From left to right: plantar, medial, dorsal, lateral, distal (top), proximal (bottom), disto-medial and proximo-medial aspects. **c**, Comparison of CCH3 with Pliocene (A.L.333-21a, unknown side and rays 2–5, and A.L.333-115k, fourth intermediate

phalanx), Upper Pleistocene (LB1/56, LB1-15 and LB1/39: unknown side and rays 2–5) and recent (PAPO-74-150) intermediate pedal phalanges in plantar (top) and side (bottom) views. Note the variation in shape and size both between taxa (for example, *H. sapiens* and *H. floresiensis*) and in the same individual (for example, LB1 and PAPO-74-150). A detailed list of specimens can be found in Supplementary Table 12. Scale bars, 10 mm.



Extended Data Fig. 10 | CCH7, femoral shaft of a juvenile individual of *H. luzonensis*. **a**, Photograph of the original specimen CCH7 (posterior aspect). **b**, Three-dimensional rendering of CCH7. From left to right: anterior, medial, posterior and lateral aspects. Scale bar, 20 mm. **c**, Transverse micro-CT slices of CCH7 at proximal diaphysis (top),

midshaft (middle) and distal diaphysis (bottom), and posterior aspect of the three-dimensional rendering of the femoral shaft, during the segmentation process (orientation of slices: anterior is up, posterior is down, lateral is left, medial is right).

Reporting Summary

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When statistical analyses are reported, confirm that the following items are present in the relevant location (e.g. figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section).

n/a Confirmed

- The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- An indication of whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.
- A description of all covariates tested
- A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- A full description of the statistics including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F , t , r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted
Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.
- For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
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- Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's d , Pearson's r), indicating how they were calculated
- Clearly defined error bars
State explicitly what error bars represent (e.g. SD, SE, CI)

Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) may be useful.

Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection

as mentioned in the Methods section, the following software were used to process 3D data / models: Avizo, Agisoft PhotoScan Professional and Geomagic Studio

Data analysis

as mentioned in the Methods section, all statistical analyses and graphics were computed with R version 3.5.1, using several functions from Claude (2008), and the packages ade4, geomorph, ggplot2, ggpubr, momocs, Morpho, rgl, shapes, and vegan.

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The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request. The ZooBank LSID for this publication and the nomenclature acts it contains is urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:0E4607F1-1374-4842-B32B-7CE2250807DF

Field-specific reporting

Please select the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

Life sciences Behavioural & social sciences Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/authors/policies/ReportingSummary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/authors/policies/ReportingSummary-flat.pdf)

Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	The original fossils from Callao Cave were compared to other fossil and extant hominins using conventional analytical procedures in morphometrics (traditional morphometrics and geometric morphometrics). All information are given in Methods.
Research sample	The main sample of the analyses consists in the original hominin fossils recovered from Callao Cave. Analyses involve comparisons with other species of fossil and extant hominins. Each comparative sample of fossil specimens was designed in order to maximize the number of available specimens per anatomical element. Detailed descriptions of samples are given in supplementary information.
Sampling strategy	No sample size was determined a priori for hominin specimens used for comparisons, but an effort was made to get as many specimens per group as possible.
Data collection	Data collection was made using digital calipers, surface scanners, photogrammetry and micro-tomography by the authors (Florent Détroit, Julien Corny, Guillaume Daver and Clément Zanolli). Part of the data used for comparisons is derived from published data. All details are given in Methods and Supplementary Information.
Timing and spatial scale	Data collection on the original fossils from Callao Cave started in 2011 (first discoveries) and lasted in 2018 (last measurements made on the 3D models derived from the micro-tomographical record).
Data exclusions	Only comparative specimens with incomplete / damaged parts were excluded from analyses
Reproducibility	All attempts to repeat the measurements made on the original fossils were successful. This work does not involve experiments, but most analyses were tested with different replicate measurements of the original fossils and/or different compositions of the comparative sample of recent <i>H. sapiens</i> and gave similar results.
Randomization	Comparative specimens were allocated into taxonomical groups.
Blinding	Blinding was not relevant to comparative fossil hominins (grouped according to taxonomy). CCH fossils were added a posteriori in the bgPCAs (teeth, intermediate manual phalanx and proximal pedal phalanx).
Did the study involve field work?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Field work, collection and transport

Field conditions	The excavation took place in Callao Cave, Peñablanca, Cagayan Province in Northern Luzon, Philippines (tropical climate)
Location	Callao Cave, at coordinates 17° 42' 11.7" N 121° 49' 25.5" E
Access and import/export	The archaeological excavations at Callao Cave were conducted with a Special Authorization (SA) for Land Archaeological Exploration and /or Excavation issued by the National Museum of the Philippines. The Last SA issued was in May 7, 2015 with CPD SA No. 2015-08. The excavation also has the corresponding permits from the Protected Area Management Board-Peñablanca and the Office of the Cagayan Valley Governor. Export of specimens for laboratory analysis were covered by National Museum Permit to Export Cultural Properties (no 1104 and 1165).
Disturbance	Excavation procedures and techniques followed national and local regulations.

Disturbance

Minimal disturbance was caused by the excavation (the main disturbance was to slightly change the path/trail followed by tourists to visit the first chamber of Callao Cave)

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

Materials & experimental systems

- n/a Involved in the study
- Unique biological materials
 - Antibodies
 - Eukaryotic cell lines
 - Palaeontology
 - Animals and other organisms
 - Human research participants

Methods

- n/a Involved in the study
- ChIP-seq
 - Flow cytometry
 - MRI-based neuroimaging

Palaeontology

Specimen provenance

Fossil specimens were recovered from the excavation of Layer 14 of Callao Cave, at coordinates 17° 42' 11.7" N 121° 49' 25.5" E. The archaeological excavations at Callao Cave were conducted with a Special Authorization (SA) for Land Archaeological Exploration and /or Excavation issued by the National Museum of the Philippines. The Last SA issued was in May 7, 2015 with CPD SA No. 2015-08. The excavation also has the corresponding permits from the Protected Area Management Board-Peñablanca and the Office of the Cagayan Valley Governor. Export of specimens for laboratory analysis were covered by National Museum Permit to Export Cultural Properties (no 1104 and 1165).

Specimen deposition

As mentioned in the text, the original Callao Cave hominin fossils are deposited at the National Museum of the Philippines, Manila.

Dating methods

Only already published dates are cited in this study

Tick this box to confirm that the raw and calibrated dates are available in the paper or in Supplementary Information.