Paul Artale 8.12.24

Review: Christopher Rupe & Dr John Sanford, *Contested Bones*, FMS Publications, 2017 (2019 edn.)

Pages: 369

Excellent Resource for Christians and Evolutionists

This methodically tracks each purported hominin in the imaginary link back from *Homo sapiens* to the Last Common Ancestor.

Fossil find history, researchers involved, and their conclusions are analysed against Evolution's standard storyline. Deep conflict is found in fossil interpretations, e.g: the *foramen magnum* location in *Ardipithecus ramidus* reconstructed as human like; brow ridges of Neanderthals and smaller ones in *Homo floresiensis* interpreted as non human; lack of human brain sections from hominin endocasts; ape-like brain volumes in hominids likely just microencephaly; and deformed limbs could easily be from dwarfism/genetic disorders or malnutrition.

Even evolutionists are split on their religious views: "Lucy" was and was not in the line to man, and Habilis should really be replaced by Sediba. Some also inflate the number of hominin genuses when there could just be *Australopithecene* and *Homo* (which is the Biblical view).

Radiometric dating methodology and genetics complete this as a technical, but not out-of-reach, resource for those looking to expose the pseudoscience of Evolution.

***

I) Power of the Paradigm (pp. 9-17)

Rudolph Zalliger created the "March to Progress" in 1965.

Hominin is any supposed intermediated between the Last Common Ancestor (LCA) and humans

Hominid is any type of human.

Ardipithecus is the same as *Australopithecus*.

Holotype is the defining specimen of a classification.

Hypodigm is the total bone collection of a species.

One evolutionary path is said to be:

?--> *Ardipithecus* --> *Australopithecus afarensis* --> *Homo habilis* --> *Homo erectus* --> *Homo sapiens*

There is no clear transitional genus; i.e., a half-man-half-ape.

II) A Theory in Crisis (pp. 18-30)

Only *Australopithecus* and *Homo* are clearly delineated genuses. *Homo* variants like Erectus and Floresiensis exhibit pathologies.

All *Homo* fossils are modern from neck down.

III) Homo neanderthalensis: The First Human Bones (pp. 31-53)

500 Neanderthal skeletons have been found at 124 sites across Europe, Middle East, and Western Asia. The primary distinctive feature is skull shape.

European and Asian DNA is 1-4% Neanderthal.

In 2000, a molar was found in Denisova cave, Siberia, and a finger bone in 2008. Mitochondrial DNA was sampled and sequenced from each.

Ernst Haeckel proposed *Homo stupidus* for Neanderthal.

In 1908, Marcellin Boule found a near complete Neanderthal skeleton at La Chapelle-aux-Saints ("Old Man"), from which artists made a deceptive image. His reconstruction had a severely curved spine and jutting head.

Ernst Mayer developed the biological species concept (BSC). The alternative is morphological species concept (MSC).

Boxer Nikolai Valuev has a Neanderthal-like prominence in his brow ridge.

Thomas Huxley first compared Aboriginal skulls to Neanderthals in 1863.

In 1992, Sierra de Atapuerca ("Sima de los huesos"), northern Spain, 28 hominin remains were found at the bottom of a 43ft shaft. These were 'dated' 430Ka and were a mix of *Homo*, *Neanderthal*, and *Erectus* bones.

Neanderthal DNA is 99.7% human.

The Upper Paleolithic is 40,000kya.

AMH is Anatomically Modern Human.

Neanderthals were pyrotechnologists; they could make pitch adhesive from birch bark.

IV) Homo Erectus: Upright "Ape-man" or Fully Human? (pp. 54-77)

Erectus was most likely a smaller-brained (~940cm^3) degenerate Homo.

In 1891, Eugene Dubois found a tooth, skullcap, and femur on Java and declared them *Pithecanthropus erectus* ("Java Man").

There have been 300 Erectus finds.

In 1984, Kenya, Turkana Boy was found; near complete Erectus skeleton. His body proportions are identical to the tall Dinka of south Sudan.

Erectus is 'dated' at 1.9Ma to 140Ka; volcanic tuff underneath the Turkana bones was K-Ar dated at 1.6Ma.

Erectus have greater prognathism and larger teeth than Sapiens.

A virus from Zika forest in Uganda is claimed to cause microencephaly.

The epigenome can influence cranium features.

Kow Swamp fossils in the Murray Valley, NSW, are claimed to be 19kyo and late Erectus.

Usage of stone tools to infer sub-human intelligence is a mistake.

Reductive evolution [devolution] is when Nature 'favours' elimination of a trait.

V) Homo floresiensis: Is "Hobbit" a New Species (pp. 78-96)

In 2003, Michael Morwood and Peter Brown were exploring limestone cave Ling Bua ("cold cave") on the Island of Flores. Up to 2009, they had found remains of fourteen hominins, and called them *Homo floresiensis* ("Hobbit"). No DNA exists in the remains.

Hobbit would have required boats to reach Flores as there was never a land bridge (paleontologists claim a tsunami blew them there on a flotsam and jetsom raft).

Human insular dwarfism is characterised by a small body, shrunken face, pronounced supraorbital tori (brow ridges) and megadontia.

Laron syndrome is a growth hormone (IGF-1) defect.

Extreme "splitters" divide *Australopithecus* into: *Ar. ramidus; Au. africanus: Au. afarensis; Au. anamensis: Au. bahrelghazali; Au. prometheus; Au. sediba.*

VI) Ardipithecus ramidus: Oldest Human Ancestor or Extinct Ape? (pp. 97-112)

Ardi was found in Awash river valley in Aramis, Ethiopia; 45% of its skeleton was sandwiched between volcanic ash layers.

Time White discovered the partial remains as, "road kill" since no articulation was present.

The ape-sized braincase was 300-350cm^3.

Researchers took the 100 skull pieces and reconstructed the skull with a foramen magnum close to a human position, claiming this as evidence for bipedality.

Lumbar lordosis is lower spine curvature; something absent in apes.

Human diamond-shaped canines are different from sharper ape teeth.

Chimpanzees have a *hallux* great toe for grasping.

Ardi's fingers are long and curved, and it may have palm-walked since the wrists don't lock for knuckle walking ("palmigrade quadrepedalism").

VII) *Australopithecus afarensis*: Lucy's Kind – The Third View (pp. 113-157)

Afarensis consists of over 400 specimens.

Hadar, Ethiopia, was formed by rifting of two plate boundaries.

Monkey knee joints meet in a straight line.

In 1975, Donald Johanson found over 200 jumbled bones from multiple individuals of different ages on an eroded hillside, dubbing it the "First Family". He thought they got there from a flash flood.

One mandible was U-shaped like humans, not V as in australopiths.

In 1976, he argued for coexistence of *Homo* and *Australopithecus* at 3-4 mya.

Johnson and Tim White's origins model conflicts with Richard Leakeys, over the date of *Homo* (the "KBS Tuff Controversy").

In 1976, Mary Leakey discovered fossilised footprints in volcanic ash in Laetoli, Tanzania running 88ft. Three individuals; a child, adult, and

younger creature. They have large heel impressions, developed arches and inline big toes – all human characteristics. The prints are 'dated' at 3.7Ma.

Arborealists and terrestrialists disagree of Afarensis' motion.

VIII) *Homo habilis*: Crucial "Missing Link" or Invented Species? (pp. 159-173)

Olduvai Gorge, East Africa, is a steep-sided raving spanning 30mi across and 300ft deep.

Zinjanthropus boisei ("Zinj") has a small brain, large face, small teeth, and large sagittal crest on the skull top.

Homo remains have been found mixed with Habilis at Olduvai; in 1960 Jonathan Leakey found some Habilis pieces in Bed I ("Johnny's Child").

There is no agreement on where Habilis actually fits.

IX) Australopithecus sediba: A "Mosaic" Species? (pp. 175-197)

Only 40-60% of two skeletons were first found by Lee Berger: MH-1 is Malapa Hominin 1, an adolescent male. MH-2 is an adult female.

While other fossils have been found since, MH* remain the defining types.

Berger replaces Afarensis with Africanus, and Habilis with Sediba in the line to Erectus.

MH1 lumbar verterbrae are similar to Turkana Boy (Erectus) but MH-2 to australopiths.

Scapular bones are most similar to orangutans.

Some reject the hypothesis of an extensive ghost lineage connecting Sediba to Homo.

Sediba did not make tools.

Endocasts show a size of 420cm^3, and absence of Broca's area for speech; i.e., the brain of an ape.

X) *Homo naledi*: "Almost Human" or Fully Human? (pp. 198-231)

In 2013, the Dinaledi Chamber in Gauteng, South Africa was found 100ft below and 300 ft from the cave entrance, having 1,500 unmineralised bones of 15 hominins, *Homo naledi*.

"Naledi" means "star".

Naledi's brain is similar in size to Australopithecus, (466-560 cm^3) but the mandible is more human. It's feet and hands are also human-like.

Naledi might have suffered microencephaly.

Humans have lower scapulae than apes.

Humeral torsion is head orientation relative to humerus distal end.

In 2017, Naledi was 'dated' at 236-335Ka, yet as a transition from australopiths to Homo it had to be 2-3Ma.

Naledi's endocast has no fronto-orbital sulcus, similar to half of humans.

XI) Coexistence: Australopith & Man (pp. 232-268)

Cladogenesis is divergence into two separate lineages.

The Olduvai Bed I had 2,500 stone artifacts and 3,500 animal fossils, also, a 4m stone circle.

Oduvai Bed II has a quartzite awl for leather working.

The first Homo supposedly only evolved *4Ma* after the last Afarensis.

XII) Dating Methods: Do We Really Know How Old Bones Are? (pp. 269-306)

Ar solubility in minerals is surprisingly high meaning initial Ar will cause big problems for K-Ar 'dating'.

Ar-Ar involves rocks bombarded with neutrons to change some K-39 into Ar-39. The Ar-39 then becomes proxy for relative K-40 in the rock sample, since K-39/K-40 is assumed to be a fixed ratio in nature. The problem is how many neutrons to use; they need to use a separately 'dated' sample (usually via the K-Ar method).

Thus, Ar-Ar dating is as fallible as K-Ar.

Also, radiogenic and non-radiogenic Ar-40 are indistinguishable.

Natural gas is *assumed* too old to contain C-14, so any found is labelled as contamination.

Paleo-magnetic time-scales are usually based on K-Ar dating.

XIII) Genetic Evidence: Validation of the Ape-to-Man Story? (pp. 307-328)

"Indels" are multi-nucleotide differences.

The estimated waiting time for five fixed mutations in a population of 10,000 is 2.3Ga.

Given 100 mutations per generation, and a fallacious 90% junk DNA, there would be at least 10 harmful mutations per generation in every person leading to mass disease.

Ken Miller used beta-globin pseudogene in *Kitzmiller v. Dover* (2005) as evidence of evolution from LCA. One gene of the six deemed "broken", HBBP1, is actually highly functional. When mutated, it cases β-thalassemia.

The GULO gene enables C production, but it differs in apes and humans from rats from three others.

Human and rat GULO only aligns at 13.4%, therefore, evolutionists claim

a rapid degradation over Deep Time.

About half the human genome are dispersed repetitive elements.

Alu is a short interspersed element (SINE) of 300bps, and makes up 10% of the genome. These seem to mark start and end points for double-stranded RNAs (dsRNAs), also, they are used in Adenosine-to-Inosine editing of RNAs.

The claimed fusion site on Human Chromosome 2 contains a pseudogene DDX11L2 which creates RNAs, so is functional. The 171bp repeat of a centromere is present in the site, but it is also found in other places in the genome.

XIV) A Simpler Model (pp. 329-349)

The Multiregional (MR) model has Erectus in East Africa moving into Europe and Asia, then evolving in parallel on all three continents.

The Out of Africa (OOA) model and *Homo sapiens* evolving 200kya in Africa.

The Out-of-Middle-East (OME) Biblical model has rapid growth post-Babel from a small population in the Middle East and north Africa.

Conclusions: Our Personal Perspective (pp. 350-353)