

DISTAL HUMERAL AND ULNAR MORPHOLOGY OF *PARAPRESBYTIS*, A PLIOCENE COLOBINE FROM RUSSIA AND MONGOLIA

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Parapresbytis echanuman is a colobine known from two middle Pliocene localities at southeast of the Lake Baikal, northern East Asia. This study examined morphology of the currently available postcranial specimens of *Parapresbytis*. A total of eighteen and thirteen linear measurements were taken from the humerus and the ulna, respectively, and compared with those of extant and European fossil colobines using principal components analyses. The distal humeral specimen of *Parapresbytis* is slightly larger than those of male *Semnopithecus* and *Nasalis*, while the ulnar specimen is much larger than those of extant colobines and is nearly as large as that of a male *Papio ursinus*, suggesting a considerable intraspecific variation. Distal humeral and ulnar morphologies of arboreal colobines can be distinguished from those of terrestrial colobines such as *Semnopithecus*, *Dolichopithecus*, and *Mesopithecus*, and those of *Parapresbytis* are within the range of the arboreal colobines. This rejects the previously suggested phylogenetical closeness of *Parapresbytis* to *Dolichopithecus*. Because the arboreally adapted elbow is shared by most extant colobines, it does not provide evidence for phylogenetic proximity between *Parapresbytis* and any particular arboreal colobines such as *Rhinopithecus*. The elbow morphology suggests that *Parapresbytis* did not adapt to terrestrial locomotion but arboreal locomotion as much as the extant arboreal colobines do. This is congruent with the paleoenvironmental evidence, which indicates presence of forests in the middle Pliocene Lake Baikal area.

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