

POSTCRANIAL ADAPTATIONS IN THE MIOCENE LARGE APES OF KARAMOJA

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Since 1985, a Franco-Ugandan team has been working in Neogene deposits of the country and especially in Karamoja, in North-Eastern Uganda. This is a vast semi-arid plain with volcanoes dated from the Miocene (between 20 and 6 million years). New fieldwork at Napak (20-18 Ma) and Moroto (17.6 Ma) has yielded hundreds of new specimens of large and small fossil hominoids including postcranial elements of large hominoids which increase the material found by Bishop in the 1960's. At Napak, a large hominoid attributed to *Ugandapithecus major* is represented by a partial left scapula (including the glenoid cavity, the base of the spine and the proximal part of the axillary border), a right proximal femur (missing the head) found in 1998 at Napak I and a left femoral head discovered in 1999 at Napak IX. The femoral and scapular features suggest that *Ugandapithecus* was a large-bodied tree-climber. From Moroto, two large hominoid femoral specimens are known and have been attributed to *Morotopithecus*. However, new fragments of the more complete femur have been found and a new reconstruction is proposed. It confirms the presence of two large hominoids at Moroto. One is close to Afropithecines (as also shown in the palato-facial features) and mainly an arboreal quadruped and the other one resembles *Ugandapithecus*.

Keywords: Miocene, Napak, Moroto, Hominoidea