

**SMALL-BODIED APES FROM NAPAK, UGANDA**

M. Pickford<sup>1</sup>, D. Gommery<sup>2</sup>, E. Musiime<sup>3</sup>, B. Senut<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Collège de France, Paris, France <sup>2</sup>UPR 2147 du CNRS, 44 rue de l'Amiral Mouchez, 75014, Paris, France

<sup>3</sup>Department of Palaeontology, Uganda Museum, Kira Road, Kampala, Uganda <sup>4</sup>UMR 7207 du CNRS, Case postale 38, 8, rue Buffon, 75005, Paris, France.

Presenter's Email : [pickford@mnhn.fr](mailto:pickford@mnhn.fr)

The sample of small hominoids from Napak, Uganda, has increased from 46 specimens in 1968 to 153 in 2009, an improvement that allows the resolution of many of the difficulties previously experienced in their interpretation. Three main points emerge from this study. The first is that restudy of the holotype of *L. legetet* reveals that it is similar to mandibles attributed to *Micropithecus clarki* and to the paratype of *Lomorupithecus harrisoni*, and is different from mandibles such as KNM KO 8, attributed to *L. legetet*. The second point to emerge is that the Napak small ape assemblage contains eight taxa : two undescribed genera and species, new species of *Dendropithecus* and *Turkanapithecus*, and species of *Limnopithecus* (as here reinterpreted), *Micropithecus*, *Kalepithhecus* and *Lomorupithecus*. There are several taxa in Kenya which are absent from Napak (*Xenopithecus koruensis*, *Rangwapithecus gordonii*, *Nyanzapithecus vancouveringorum* and other species of *Nyanzapithecus*). Likewise, *Simiolus* is not represented among the Napak fossils, but is present at Moroto II. *Kogolepithhecus* is not present at Napak, but it is related to the new genus. Third, the distribution of small apes in East Africa speaks of local to regional environmental diversity during the Early Miocene, with Napak possibly lying in a more seasonal, more arid, palaeoclimatic belt (woodland-forest mosaic on the slopes of a volcano) than the sites at Koru (humid tropical forest), and Songhor (drier tropical forest).

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