

THE ANTIQUITY OF LATE MIOCENE PRIMATES IN INDIA

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Although a great deal of work has been done on the palaeoecology and evolution of the Late Miocene Primates (*Sivapithecus*, *Gigantopithecus*, *Dendropithecus*, *Indraloris*, *Sivaladapis* and *Palaeotupia*) in India, their chronological setup needs a reevaluation. Here, an attempt has been made to integrate the mammalian biozones of the Indian Siwaliks to magnetostratigraphically and tephra chronologically dated sections. The classic Siwalik fossil primate localities situated all along the Himalayan foothills around Jammu (Ramnagar), Himachal Pradesh (Haritalyangar) and Utter Pradesh (Kalagarh) are reassessed here. The Haritalyangar section has recently been revised geochronologically whereas the Ramnagar and Kalagarh sections have been placed using the mammal biochronological stratigraphic framework, which is well established in the Siwalik deposits of Pakistan. The Ramnagar locality can now be safely placed between ~12.5 to ~ 13.5 Ma using high resolution Siwalik mammalian biochronology. The short ranging bovid *Dorcadoxa porrecticornis* can be used to constrain the Kalagarh locality between 9.3 and 8 Ma. This tentative estimation is fairly well supported if we consider the age ranges of associated species such as *Hipparion* spp. (10.7-5.8 Ma), *Dorcatherium nagrii* (9.3-6.8 Ma) and *Dorcatherium majus* (10.4-7 Ma) in these deposits. The magnetostratigraphy of the famous locality of Haritalyangar has been recently revised placing the primate yielding horizons between 9.23 and 8.10 Ma. The present study allows a better intra-regional correlation among the Indian, Pakistan and Nepal Late Miocene Primate occurrences in the Siwalik sequences.

Keywords: Late Miocene, Siwalik, Primate, India.