DESCRIPTION

The Journal of Human Evolution concentrates on publishing the highest quality papers covering all aspects of human evolution. The central focus is aimed jointly at paleoanthropological work, covering human and primate fossils, and at comparative studies of living species, including both morphological and molecular evidence. These include descriptions of new discoveries, interpretative analyses of new and previously described material, and assessments of the phylogeny and paleobiology of primate species. Submissions should address issues and questions of broad interest in paleoanthropology.

In addition to original research papers, space is allocated for the rapid publication of short communications on new discoveries, such as exciting new fossils, as well as to lead book reviews and obituaries. All manuscripts are subjected to review by three referees.

Research Areas Include:
- Paleoanthropological work, covering human and primate fossils
- Comparative studies of living species, including both morphological and molecular evidence
- Primate systematics and phylogeny, behavior
- Functional studies, particularly relating to diet and locomotion
- Body size and allometric studies
- Studies in Paleolithic archaeology
- Taphonomic and stratigraphical studies supporting fossil evidence for primate and human evolution
- Paleoecological and paleogeographical models for primate and human evolution

AUDIENCE

Biologists, palaeontologists, anthropologists, archaeologists and geologists interested in all aspects of the evolution of humans and other primates.

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INTRODUCTION
The Journal of Human Evolution (JHE) is the premier forum in physical anthropology and paleontology for publishing high quality, peer-reviewed research papers on all aspects relating to human and primate evolution. The central focus is aimed jointly at paleoanthropological work, covering human and primate fossils, and at comparative studies of living species, including both morphological and molecular evidence. These include descriptions of new discoveries, interpretative analyses of new and previously described material, and assessments of the phylogeny and paleobiology of primate species. Submissions should address issues and questions of broad interest in paleoanthropology.

Types of paper
Research papers should be written as concisely as possible and contain the maximum density of information. Submitted manuscripts can be any length up to approximately 150 pages (including tables and references), subject to limitations on space. The Editors of JHE will also consider publishing special issues devoted to particular topics or themes that fall within the purview of the journal. Presubmission inquiries to the Editors, including detailed special issue proposals, are mandatory.

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**SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR TAXONOMIC PAPERS**

**Taxonomic papers**

All manuscripts should adhere to the last edition and subsequent amendments of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (hereafter, the Code), which can be accessed online (http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted-sites/iczn/code/). However, taxonomic papers should follow particular rules that are outlined below (manuscripts will be considered 'taxonomic papers' when new taxa are erected, when amended diagnoses of taxa are provided, or when the main aim of the paper is taxonomic at the Editor's discretion).

**Structure of the paper**

A separate section entitled Systematics (for extant taxa) or Systematic paleontology (for extinct taxa) is mandatory. This section may substitute the standard Results section; if not, then the latter must be placed immediately after the systematic section. This section primary heading should be followed by successive taxonomic subheadings in round type that do not adhere to the style of secondary or tertiary headings of the journal, and which must include rank (but see below), taxon name, and taxonomic authorships and/or specifications about the novelty of taxa (see abbreviations below), without dot at the end. For example:

**Systematic paleontology**
Order Primates Linnaeus, 1758
Infraorder Catarrhini . Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1812
Superfamily Cercopithecoida Gray, 1821
Family Cercopithecidae Gray, 1821
Subfamily Colobinae Blyth, 1863
Genus Mesopithecus Wagner, 1839
Mesopithecus pentelicus Wagner, 1839

Studied specimens

Description

Text begins here, indented, and with the heading in italics on the previous line. Tertiary headings can be added below to separate the description of different anatomical parts. Additional secondary headings (in italics) may be added below, as required (Comparisons, Remarks, etc.).

The use of taxon ranks is mandatory when ruled by the Code (i.e., family-, genus- or species-group taxa), and optional for higher-level ranks not ruled by the Code (e.g., class, order). New taxa must be explicitly denoted as such after taxon name (e.g., sp. nov.), whereas new rank must be explicitly specified after taxonomic authorship. A taxonomic subheading can be followed, on next line, by another taxonomic subheading (of lower rank), a synonyms list, or one or more secondary or tertiary headings (in accordance to the journal style), depending on the case. Tertiary headings will be used except for longer sub-sections of 'Description', 'Comparisons' or 'Remarks', which must be under secondary headings and may be alternatively placed within a separate Results section (if any). The erection of new family- and genus-group taxa must be accompanied at least by a designation of the type genus or species, respectively, whereas the erection of new species-group taxa must obligatorily include a succinct diagnosis (without references, and preceded by a tertiary heading), which must be differential unless a separate differential diagnosis is provided.

Synonyms

If applicable, systematic headings of species-group taxa may be followed by a synonyms list with references. References cited within the synonyms list(s) must be included in the references list of the paper, but their citation does not adhere to the standard citation style of the journal. Only relevant synonyms must be included (e.g., original description, new rank, genus transfer, etc.). Each synonym must be placed on a text line of its own, flushed to the left, beginning with year, followed by colon, taxon name, authorship without year, semicolon plus citation (if different from authorship), colon, plates and/or figures and comma (if applicable), and page range.

Taxonomic authorities

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names must be separated by 'and' (instead of ampersand); for three or more authors, the name of first author followed by 'et al.' should be used as long as the full list of authors can be unambiguously identified in the references list.

**Taxon names**

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**Standard abbreviations and open nomenclature**

When new taxa are erected, their name must be followed by an expression that unambiguously denotes that they are new (e.g., 'sp. nov.', 'gen. nov.', 'gen. et sp. nov.', 'fam. nov.', etc.) in the title, the abstract, the systematics section, and the first time they are mentioned in the text. Expressions 'sp. nov.' and 'gen. nov.' will be used instead of other equivalents, such as 'n. sp.' and 'n. g.', respectively. Authors are encouraged to use open nomenclature modifiers to express doubts in taxonomic assignments. Indeterminate species must be denoted by 'sp.' after genus name, indeterminate subspecies by 'subsp.' after species name, and 'indet.' for after the family-group taxon name in the remaining instances. When a taxon may be assigned to two different species, separate the two binomina by 'vel' (meaning 'or') or slash, not the species epithets by a slash or an hyphen (e.g., Homo erectus vel Homo ergaster or Homo erectus/H. ergaster, instead of Homo erectus/ergaster or Homo erectus-ergaster). Other standard abbreviations are 's.l.' (sensu lato, in broad sense), 's.s.' (sensu stricto, in strict sense), 'cf.' (confer, compare with), 'aff.' (affinis, closely related to) and '?' (question mark). The latter three conventions should not be mistaken with one another: 'cf.' means that a particular specimen is likely to belong to the taxon, but the assignment cannot be confidently confirmed due to the lack of enough data; 'aff.' means that a particular specimen appears most closely related to that taxon but probably represents a different one (likely to be new); the question mark indicates that the taxonomic (not nomenclatural) validity of a particular taxon is doubtful. These conventions must precede the relevant taxonomic rank, separated by space in the case of 'cf.' and 'aff.', and without space in the case of question marks. Therefore, uncertainly at the species rank should be denoted by putting these modifiers before the species epithet without repeating the genus name (e.g., Australopithecus cf. afarensis, not Australopithecus cf. A. afarensis); if taxonomic uncertainty applies to the genus rank as well, then the modifier must be written only once (e.g., cf. Australopithecus afarensis). When the inclusion of a particular species within a genus is questioned but there is no better alternative, then the genus name must be written within simple (not double) quotation marks, which should not be italicized (e.g., 'Sivapithecus' occidentalis). All the taxonomic abbreviations and symbols mentioned above are standard in taxonomy; hence, they should not be italicized, and their meaning should not be further specified anywhere in the manuscript. The same applies to other taxonomic terms, such as 'nomen nudum', 'nomen dubium', 'nomen oblitum', etc.

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