

在中国云南发现狒狒化石

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摘要: 现存狒狒类(Papionin)生活于非洲(如 *Papio* 和 *Theropithecus*)、亚洲(如 *Macaca*)和北非(*M. sylvanus*)。在上新世和更新世, *Theropithecus* 经历了从非洲到亚洲的扩散过程, 在印度发现了类似化石。这次在云南中甸金沙江附近发现的下更新世狒狒化石(*Papio*)证明, 如同亚洲猕猴和现代人类祖先一样, 非洲狒狒类(*Papio* 和 *Theropithecus*)在同一时期从非洲扩散到亚洲。所不同的是它们没有像猕猴和人类一样生存下来。这次化石的发现对于研究以下生物学问题提供了重要依据: 1) 探讨旧大陆猴类在上新一更新世从非洲到亚洲的扩散过程; 2) 研究不同旧大陆猴类的进化和环境适应性; 3) 为现代人类祖先在非洲—亚大陆的扩散研究提供证据; 4) 由于化石产地包括有人类祖先和其他动物的化石, 因此, 狒狒在亚洲的生态适应研究将为探讨人类在同一时期的生态适应提供证据。

关键词: 狒狒; 化石; 云南; 中甸

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Fossil Baboon found in Yunnan, China

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The extant papionin monkeys are represented today by several genera including *Papio* (baboons) and *Theropithecus* (geladas) in Africa, and *Macaca* (macaques) in North Africa and Asia. However, During the Pliocene and Pleistocene, while geladas occupied African and India (e.g., Delson, 1984; Prasad, 1996; Fleagle, 1999; Frost & Delson, 2002; El-Zatari et al, 2005), *Papio* inhabited only sub-Saharan Africa. In both cases, diversity was considerably greater in the past than today. African papionins were also sympatric with hominins, both groups being found together in major fossil hominin localities throughout East and southern Africa. Papionins are important chronological (faunal) markers for hominin sites as well as providing insights into ecology. In 2001, in Zhongdi-

an County, Yunnan Province, China, a fossil primate was unearthed from a locality along the Jingsha River that strongly morphologically resembles *Papio* (see Fig. 1). This fossil comprises most of a well-preserved mandible with some teeth. The specimen is dated using faunal correlation to the Lower Pleistocene. The presence of a *Papio*-like lineage in China is important because: 1) it indicates much wider geographic distribution for this previously African-only lineage, offering new information about primate evolution and biogeography; 2) it stems from a time when hominins first occupied East Asia; 3) it was discovered in a region likely to have been a major corridor for settlement of East Asia by hominins and other primates; and 4) it potentially offers new insights into various aspects of hominin ecol-

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ogy.

A study is currently being conducted which aims to understand its morphology and systematics, based on comparison with modern baboons and geladas and relat-

ed fossils, and to analyse questions surrounding the biogeography and dispersal, and possible local adaptations, of this and other primate fossils in Yunnan Province.



Fig. 1 Comparison of a modern baboon (*Papio hamadryas ursinus*) mandible (above) and the fossil *Papio*-like (species unidentified) specimen in China (below)

In addition to similarity in their dental structure, the bodies of both exhibit a deep (transverse plane) and anteroposteriorly extensive fossa located inferior to the premolars and mesial molars.

Key words: *Papio*; Fossil; Yunnan; Zhongdian

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