

# An ape fossil found in South America

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Both uniformitarian and creation scientists make deductions based on fossil order in the geological column and on their worldwide distribution. Biogeography analyzes the present animal and plant distributions to explain how they arose. Animal and plant fossils enter into the deductions. We generally know the present distribution of animals and plants, but explanatory difficulties emerge when considering fossil distributions. Surprises still happen that require changes in the ideas of fossil distributions and biogeography. We really do not have a complete knowledge of fossil distributions.<sup>1</sup>

## Northeast African ape fossil now found in western South America

Recently, an ape fossil was discovered in the Paleogene (early Cenozoic) in the Amazon of Peru in South America.<sup>2</sup> Another unidentified ape was also found from the family Parapithecidae, the only other fossil distribution of which is from northeast Africa and Arabia (figure 1). Uniformitarian scientists are then forced to advocate rafting across the Atlantic Ocean over 1,500–2,000 km, the distance between the two continents at that time according to plate tectonics.<sup>3</sup> The ape discoveries were completely unexpected:

“The discovery of a parapithecid stem anthropoid in the late Paleogene of Peruvian Amazonia is entirely unexpected and provides a notable example of how important paleontological information is for understanding the ephemeral forces that shaped modern biodiversity.”<sup>4</sup>

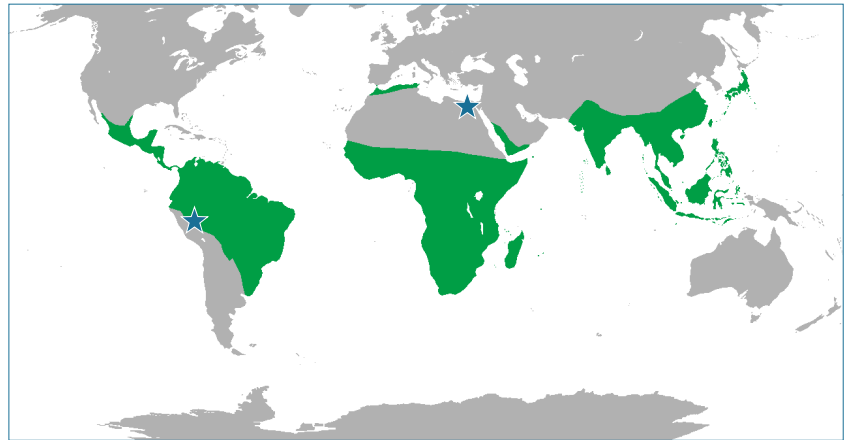


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**Figure 1.** Range of present-day non-human primates. Locations of recently discovered fossil primates from the family Parapithecidae from eastern Peru and northeast Africa indicated with stars. Although there are no apes in Egypt today, fossil apes are found there.

Besides rafting across the Atlantic Ocean, the fossil site is more than 4,000 km from the easternmost point of South America, and the African fossils are far from the Atlantic Ocean. Then how did the apes migrate from northeast Africa to the Atlantic Ocean, catch a raft, and spread 4,000 km to western South America? This suggests to uniformitarian scientists that the animals must have at one time been widely distributed across Africa and South America, but there is no fossil evidence of this.

## Noah's Flood implications

The unexpected discoveries highlight the fact that we still do not know precise fossil distributions. More discoveries are expected in the future. Another notable discovery in South America was the finding of a ‘platypus-like’ monotreme in southern Argentina dated to about 60 Ma.<sup>5</sup> Monotremes were assumed to be denizens of only Australia.

The interpretation of ape fossils depends upon the location of the Flood/post-Flood boundary. We do not know whether these ape fossils were deposited during the Flood or rafted after the Flood after spreading from the ‘Mountains of Ararat’. If

post-Flood, we should find the type of ape fossil between northeast Africa and western South America, and we do not. So, these ape fossils are likely to have been laid down in the Flood. But large natural rafts could have carried monkeys and apes found in South America today from Africa post-Flood. The rafts in the Creation/Flood Model are much larger and more capable of carrying animals over oceans than any that uniformitarian scientists could muster from vegetation ripped up by storms.<sup>6,7</sup>

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