



FIGURE 10.11.

The most likely hypothetical family tree of human beings according to Richard Leakey. This lineup of fossil creatures was drawn prior to the recent evidence indicating that *Ramapithecus* is the ancestor of the orangutan. Note also that *Australopithecus afarensis* (Lucy) is charted as the ancestor of the later australopithecines instead of in the line leading to humans.

as a probable human ancestor. However, both Johanson and Leakey as of mid-1982 indicate that *Ramapithecus* is a potential missing link in the hypothetical chain leading from ape to humans.

Some vitally important new fossil evidence has recently been discovered on *Ramapithecus*. Until mid-1982, the only fossil parts of the *Ramapithecus* skeleton that had been discovered were jaws and teeth, which indicated seed-eating. An expedition led by David Pilbeam, probably the world's leading expert on fossil apes, returned from Pakistan with fossils that included formerly unknown parts of the facial skeleton of *Ramapithecus*. According to Pilbeam and Susan Lipson, an associate anthropologist at Harvard University, these new fossil specimens indicate that *Ramapithecus* is not the ancestor of man, but rather the ancestor of the orangutan.<sup>11</sup>