

THE HOMINID DELUSION

Both science and the public have been duped in the past with the Piltdown Hoax. It now appears we have been duped, albeit unintentionally, with a kind of hominid hoax.

Since the Piltdown discovery in 1912, we have graduated four generations of students with the impression that science had the fossil evidence to prove we are descended from apes. It is time that students be taught with honesty and candor. We must not be guilty of a cover-up of the vast holes in our records and end up with an

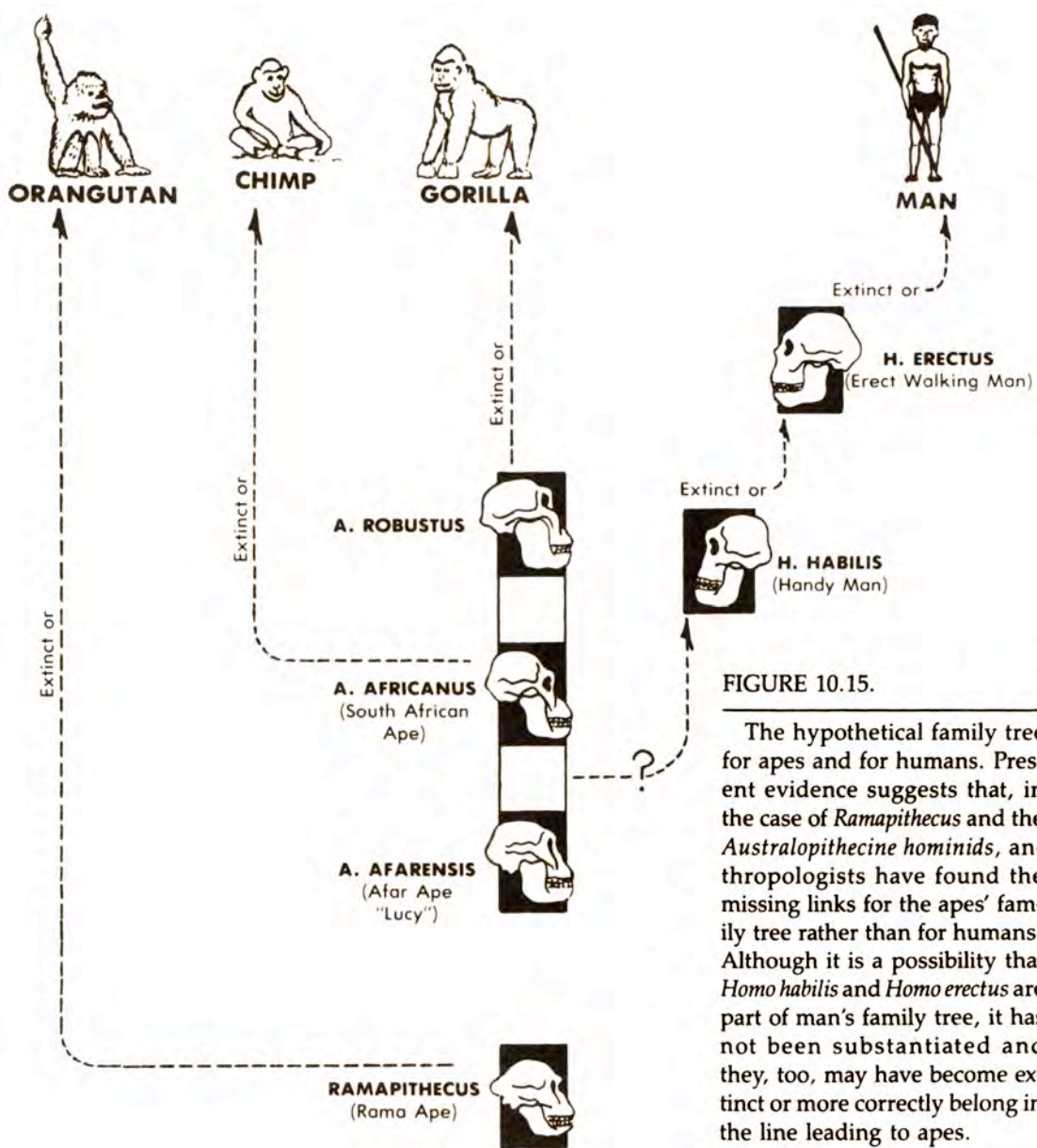


FIGURE 10.15.

The hypothetical family tree for apes and for humans. Present evidence suggests that, in the case of *Ramapithecus* and the *Australopithecine* hominids, anthropologists have found the missing links for the apes' family tree rather than for humans. Although it is a possibility that *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus* are part of man's family tree, it has not been substantiated and they, too, may have become extinct or more correctly belong in the line leading to apes.