



Myriam Hönig
Leitung

Michael Seifert
Abteilung Presse, Forschungs-
berichterstattung, Information
Telefon +49 7071 29-76789
Telefax +49 7071 29-5566
Michael.seifert@uni-tuebingen.de
www.uni-tuebingen.de/aktuell

Wir bitten um Zusendung von
Belegexemplaren! Danke.

Pressemitteilung

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Study shows late archaic survival in Africa

**Fossil from West Africa reveals further complexity in recent
human evolution**

Tübingen, den 16.09.2011

A new study into human remains found in the Iwo Eleru cave in West Africa in 1965 provides evidence that Later Stone Age humans shared physical characteristics with much older humans. These findings add to recent evidence that archaic and modern humans might have co-existed and cross-bred in Africa over a considerable period of time, indicating a more complex path of human evolution than previously thought.

An international team of researchers led by Professor Katerina Harvati from the University of Tübingen and Professor Chris Stringer from the Natural History Museum London, dated the specimen at around 13.000 years old which is a time long after the first appearance of modern humans about 200.000 years ago. Yet its cranial shape is remarkably similar to African fossils that date to more than 100.000 years ago - in fact its nearest neighbor in the analyses is the Ngaloba (Laetoli 18) skull from Tanzania, thought to be about 140.000 years old.

Professor Katerina Harvati commented "Our extensive morphological and dating analysis shows, that the evolution of modern humans in Africa was a complex process and that populations of archaic hominins or their genes survived in Africa much later than previously thought. Our findings also agree with recent genetic reports of admixture between archaic humans and anatomically modern humans in Africa as recently as 35 thousand years before present".

Early modern human fossils from this Later Stone Age period are very rare in West and Central Africa. As well as providing insight into the complex origins of modern humans, this study also highlights the real lack

of scientific knowledge about human evolution in West Africa, suggesting there is much more to discover in this region.

PLoS ONE: "Morphologie und Chronologie der Schädelkalotte aus Iwo Eleru (Nigeria, Later Stone Age)

Katerina Harvati¹·Chris Stringer²·Rainer Grün³·Maxime Aubert³·Philip Allsworth-Jones⁴·Caleb Adebayo Folorunso⁵

¹ Paläoanthropologie, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte und Archäologie des Mittelalters und Senckenberg Center for Human Evolution and Paleoecology, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen – Germany.

²Palaeontology Department, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, UK

³Research School of Earth Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra 0200, Australia

⁴Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield, West Street, Sheffield S1 4ET, UK

⁵Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Contact:

Prof. Dr. Katerina Harvati
University of Tübingen
Paleoanthropology
Senckenberg Center for Human Evolution and Paleoecology
Rümelinstrasse 23 · 72070 Tübingen · Germany
Telephone: +49-7071-29 76515 and -75516
katerina.harvati@ifu.uni-tuebingen.de

Prof. Dr. Chris Stringer
Natural History Museum London
Palaeontology Department
Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BD, UK
Telephone: +44-(0)7957-785749
c.stringer@nhm.ac.uk