

Question of Homo Evolution Derived from the Ages and Features of China Human Fossil Specimens

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Since the discovery of the first China Ape man fossil—*Sinanthropus pekingensis* in 1921, more specimens have been collected in China. They are *Homo erectus*, which inhabited from more than 1~2 Ma B.P. to about 0.20Ma B.P. and *H. sapiens* from about 0.20 Ma B.P. to the present. It seems that *H. sapiens* evolved from the later *H. erectus* just like “relay race”. An almost complete *Homo* skull—Dali Man was unearthed from a sand-gravel layer of Tiansuigou gully, Dali County, Shaanxi Province, China in 1978. It possesses the features of both *H. erectus* and *H. sapiens*, and it might be a transitional species from the *H. erectus* to *H. sapiens* or there is also the possibility that it belongs to the late stage of *H. erectus* or the early stage of *H. sapiens*. Many dating age of Dali Man: 0.18~0.23 Ma B.P., about 0.20Ma B.P., older than 0.25 Ma B.P., 0.30 Ma B.P. and 0.308 Ma B.P. have got in the past. Recently, we got a new age, that is 0.42~0.48 Ma B.P.. Hence, some questions will arise. 1. If we regard Dali Man as one of *H. sapiens*, there should be a long time overlap between these two *Homo* species. In the other words, *H. erectus* and *H. sapiens* had a period of coexistence or parallel evolution. Then, could *H. sapiens* evolved from *H. erectus*? 2. What is the essential differences between these two species of *Homo*? Whichever Dali Man was considered to be *H. erectus* or *H. sapiens*, was it possible for the counterpart to exist as an independent species?