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A reassessment of the distinctiveness of dryopithecine genera from the Iberian Miocene based on enamel-dentine junction geometric morphometric analyses

Clément Zanolli^{a,*}, Florian Bouchet^b, Josep Fortuny^b, Federico Bernardini^{c,d}, Claudio Tuniz^d, David M. Alba^{b,*}

^a *Univ. Bordeaux, CNRS, MCC, PACEA, UMR 5199, F-33600 Pessac, France*

^b *Institut Català de Paleontologia Miquel Crusafont, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Edifici ICTA-ICP, c/ Columnes s/n, Campus de la UAB, 08193 Cerdanyola del Vallès, Barcelona, Spain*

^c *Department of Humanistic Studies, Università Ca'Foscari, Venezia, Italy*

^d *Multidisciplinary Laboratory, 'Abdus Salam' International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Via Beirut 31, 34151 Trieste, Italy*

*Corresponding authors.

E-mail addresses: clement.zanolli@gmail.com (C. Zanolli); david.alba@icp.cat (D.M. Alba).

Abstract

A vast diversity of catarrhines primates has been uncovered in the Middle to Late Miocene (12.5–9.6 Ma) of the Vallès-Penedès basin (northeastern Spain), including several hominid species (*Pierolapithecus catalaunicus*, *Anoiapithecus brevirostris*, *Dryopithecus fontani*, *Hispanopithecus laietanus*, and *Hispanopithecus crusafonti*) plus some remains attributed to ‘*Sivapithecus*’ *occidentalis* (of uncertain taxonomic validity). However, *Pierolapithecus* and *Anoiapithecus* have also been considered junior synonyms of *Dryopithecus* by some authors, which entail a lower generic diversity and an inflated intrageneric variation of the latter genus. Since the distinction of these taxa partly relies on dental features, the detailed and quantitative analysis of tooth shape might help disentangling the taxonomic diversity of these Miocene hominids. Using diffeomorphic surface matching and three-dimensional geometric

morphometrics, we investigate the enamel-dentine junction shape (which is a reliable taxonomic proxy) of these Miocene hominids, with the aim of investigating their degree of intra- and intergeneric variation compared with that of extant great ape genera. We conducted statistical analyses, including between-group principal component analyses, canonical variate analyses, and permutation tests, to investigate whether the individual and combined (i.e., *Dryopithecus* s.l.) variation of the extinct genera exceeds that of the extant great apes. Our results indicate that *Pierolapithecus*, *Anoiapithecus*, *Dryopithecus*, and *Hispanopithecus* show morphological differences of enamel-dentine junction shape relative to the extant great apes that are consistent with their attribution to different genera. Specifically, the variation displayed by the Middle Miocene taxa combined exceeds that of extant great ape genera, thus undermining the single-genus hypothesis. ‘*Sivapithecus*’ *occidentalis* specimens fall close to *Dryopithecus* but in the absence of well-preserved comparable teeth for *Pierolapithecus* and *Anoiapithecus*, their taxonomic attribution remains uncertain. Among the *Hispanopithecus* sample, IPS1802 from Can Llobateres stands out and might either be an outlier in terms of morphology, or represent another dryopithecine taxon.

Keywords: *Anoiapithecus*; *Dryopithecus*; *Hispanopithecus*; *Pierolapithecus*; Hominoidea; Spain

1. Introduction

Over the past two decades, discoveries in various Middle to Late Miocene localities of the Vallès-Penedès Basin (NE Iberian Peninsula; Casanovas-Vilar et al., 2016a) have revealed a previously unsuspected (e.g., see Andrews et al., 1996) high diversity of primates (Alba, 2012; Marigó et al., 2014; Alba et al., 2017, 2022), including multiple small-bodied catarrhines (Moyà-Solà et al., 2001; Alba et al., 2010a, 2012a, 2015; Alba and Moyà-Solà, 2012a) as well as fossil

great apes (Moyà-Solà et al., 2004, 2009a, 2009b; Alba et al., 2011, 2012a; Alba and Moyà-Solà, 2012b). The presence of fossil catarrhines in the NE Peninsula has been related to the moister and more forested environments than elsewhere in Iberia during the late Aragonian and Vallesian, being more similar to those from France and Central Europe (ca. 12.6–8.9 Ma; Casanovas-Vilar et al., 2008, 2016a, 2016b; Alba, 2012; Marmi et al., 2012; Alba et al., 2018). In turn, the recognition of a greater diversity than expected mainly stems from the large sampling effort devoted during the last couple decades to Middle Miocene sites (Alba, 2012; Alba et al., 2017, 2022), which led to the realization that different dryopithecine genera were recorded in the Middle and Late Miocene of Europe (Moyà-Solà et al., 2009a; Begun, 2009; Alba, 2012), and has been recently substantiated by recent discoveries elsewhere in Europe (Böhme et al., 2019).

While there is consensus that Late Miocene dryopithecines belong to different genera than *Dryopithecus* (Moyà-Solà et al., 2009a; Begun, 2009; Alba, 2012), the distinctiveness of the Middle Miocene genera *Pierolapithecus* and *Anoiapithecus* from *Dryopithecus* has been challenged by Begun and coauthors (Begun, 2009; Begun et al., 2012), who, based on various similarities (reduced maxillary sinus and resemblances in overall dental morphology), concluded that *Pierolapithecus* and *Anoiapithecus* are likely junior subjective synonyms of *Dryopithecus* (i.e., genus names subsequently established based on different type specimens that, in the authors' opinion, do not warrant a distinction at the genus rank). The distinction of these three genera is mostly based on cranial differences (such as the presence of a frontal sinus, the position of the zygomatic root, or the degree of prognathism) coupled with more subtle dental differences (Moyà-Solà et al., 2004, 2009a, 2009b; Alba, 2012; Pérez de los Ríos et al., 2012, 2013; Alba et al., 2013, 2020; Fortuny et al., 2021). In turn, the postcranial evidence available indicates multiple differences between *Pierolapithecus* and the Late Miocene *Hispanopithecus*, but the more scanty evidence available for *Dryopithecus* and the absence of postcranial remains for

Anoiapithecus do not enable reliable conclusions for these Middle Miocene dryopithecines (Moyà-Solà et al., 2004, 2009a; Almécija et al., 2007, 2009; Alba et al. 2010b, 2011, 2012b; Pina et al., 2012, 2019).

Previous analyses of the internal dental structure showed that *Dryopithecus* has proportionally thin enamel, as in the African great apes, while *Pierolapithecus* and *Anoiapithecus* display moderately thick enamel, similar to *Pongo* (Alba et al., 2010b, 2012a, 2020; Fortuny et al., 2021). In addition, some distinctive features were described on the outer enamel surface (OES) between *Pierolapithecus* and *Dryopithecus* (including thick and inflated crests, secondary enamel folds, and cusp base morphology; Alba et al., 2013, 2020; Pérez de los Ríos et al., 2013) that are not visible at the level of the enamel-dentine junction (EDJ), probably due to differences in enamel thickness between the two genera (Fortuny et al., 2021). The external occlusal morphology and enamel thickness stem from the evolutionary interplay between functional/adaptive factors and strict control mechanisms of the morphogenetic program, and they respond relatively quickly in evolutionary time to dietary/ecological changes (reviewed in Zanolli et al., 2017). Conversely, the EDJ is the developmental precursor of crown shape and is more conservative than the enamel in evolutionary terms (i.e., reflecting macroevolutionary vs. microevolutionary changes, respectively; Korehof, 1961; Olejniczak et al., 2004; Skinner et al., 2008), carrying a marked phylogenetic signal in its shape (Zanolli et al., 2022b). The EDJ is recognized as a reliable taxonomic proxy to distinguish extinct and extant hominid taxa (e.g., Skinner et al., 2008, 2009; Macchiarelli et al., 2013; Fornai et al., 2015; Zanolli et al., 2015, 2019, 2022a; Pan et al., 2016, 2020). A number of traits were identified on the EDJ of *Pierolapithecus* maxillary molars that differ from *Dryopithecus* (deeper trigon basin, higher and straighter crista obliqua, lingual dentine horns mesiodistally aligned, less cervical buccolingual waisting, less developed lingual cingulum; Fig. 1A) and from *Anoiapithecus* (shallower and less

restricted mesial fovea, M¹ and M² hypocone dentine horn less lingually situated relative to that of the protocone, markedly less buccolingually waisted cervix, and more weakly developed lingual cingulum; Fig. 1A; Fortuny et al., 2021).

The lower dentition of *Pierolapithecus* is unknown and most of the lower molars of *Anoiapithecus* are either not well preserved or worn, which complicates the diagnosis of isolated teeth or dentognathic fragments found in the Middle Miocene sites of the Vallès-Penedès Basin. In particular, two specimens are currently attributed to ‘*Sivapithecus*’ *occidentalis* species inquirenda (Alba et al., 2020; Fortuny et al., 2021): IPS1826+IPS1827 (holotype), including the M₂ and M₃ of a single individual; and IPS41734, a mandibular fragment with M₂. The taxonomic allocation of the holotype specimen has varied among authors throughout the years, but most recently Alba et al. (2020) considered it a species inquirenda because the lack of suitable material to compare it with other taxa makes it impossible to determine its taxonomic attribution with certainty (i.e., it is “a species of doubtful identity needing further investigation;” ICZN, 1999: Glossary). The three molars of ‘*S.*’ *occidentalis* exhibit thick enamel, excluding the possibility that they belong to *Dryopithecus* (Alba et al., 2020; Fortuny et al., 2021). They also show thinner enamel than the two species of *Hispanopithecus*, as well as a combination of different morphological characteristics at the EDJ (including more centrally tilted metaconid dentine horns, with a well-developed metaconulid dentine horn; Fig. 1B). ‘*Sivapithecus*’ *occidentalis* is a senior subjective synonym of either *Pierolapithecus catalaunicus* or *Anoiapithecus brevirostris* (i.e., ‘*S.*’ *occidentalis* was established, based on a different type specimen, before the other species, and it would thus take precedence if it was eventually considered that it is conspecific with either of them). This is indeed likely, given that the holotypes of these species come from the same area and a very restricted time span of less than 100 kyr (Alba et al., 2022), but

currently available data from the occlusal surface are insufficient to reach a definitive conclusion in this regard (Alba et al., 2020; Fortuny et al., 2021).

To further investigate the taxonomic diversity of Iberian dryopithecines and to test whether the genera currently recognized (*Pierolapithecus*, *Anoiapithecus*, *Dryopithecus*, and *Hispanopithecus*) can be readily distinguished on dental grounds, we conducted diffeomorphic surface matching and three-dimensional (3D) geometric morphometrics of the EDJ shape. We also evaluated the degree of intra- and intergeneric variation of these dryopithecine genera in comparison with that of extant great ape genera.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. *Dryopithecine specimens and extant comparative sample*

The Miocene dryopithecine sample includes 45 molars from 25 specimens from the Vallès-Penedès and Seu d'Urgell basins (Catalonia, Spain), housed at the Institut Català de Paleontologia Miquel Crusafont. Details of the μ CT scans, segmentation process, and description of the EDJ of these specimens are reported in Fortuny et al. (2021). The surface models of the EDJ of these dryopithecine molars are available on MorphoSource (<https://www.morphosource.org>; the list of the digital object identifiers for each specimens can be found in Supplementary Online Material [SOM] Table S1). Four molars belonging to three specimens attributed to *Dryopithecus fontani* from Saint-Gaudens (type locality), in France, were used as reference material. The *D. fontani* specimens are curated at the Muséum de Bordeaux. More information on the fossil samples is available in SOM Table S1. One specimen, IPS1816, was previously regarded as an M₂, but based on root morphology as shown by the μ CT scan (especially that of the mesially-located tooth that resembles more a P₄ root; SOM Fig. S1), and in agreement with the general crown morphology, it is more likely to represent an M₁.

The extant comparative sample includes 60 molars per genus (10 upper and 10 lower teeth per molar position and per genus) for *Pan*, *Gorilla*, and *Pongo* (SOM Table S2). For each molar position, because of the limited availability of extant comparative material, the antimeres of some specimens were sometimes used to reach 10 teeth/genus. It is also recommendable to include antimeres for the extant species because it cannot be excluded that some of the right and left isolated molars from the same position and fossil locality belong to a single individual. To represent as much as possible the extant intrageneric variation, specimens of both sexes, from various geographic areas, and of different species (with two species of *Pan*—*Pan troglodytes* and *Pan paniscus*—and two species of *Pongo*—*Pongo pygmaeus* and *Pongo abelii*) were included (SOM Table S2).

2.2. Geometric morphometric analyses of the enamel-dentine junction

We used a diffeomorphic surface matching (DSM) approach to analyze EDJ shape (Durrleman et al., 2012, 2014). Diffeomorphic surface matching analyses can capture the taxonomically relevant aspects of EDJ morphology (Beaudet et al., 2016; Zanolli et al., 2018, 2022a; Braga et al., 2019), including both prominent features (such as the dentine horns and marginal crests) and more subtle features (like the protostylid and occlusal basin morphology), and thus improves on traditional (semi)landmark-based geometric morphometric analyses (Zanolli et al., 2018; Braga et al., 2019; Urciuoli et al., 2020, 2021a). This landmark-free, mesh-based approach relies on the construction of average surface models, and the difference between surfaces is interpreted as the amount of deformation needed to align them by using diffeomorphic shape matching (Glaunès and Joshi, 2006; Durrleman et al., 2014). The deformations between surfaces are mathematically modeled as smooth and invertible functions (i.e., diffeomorphisms). From a set of surfaces, an atlas of surfaces is created. The method estimates an average object

configuration or mean shape from a collection of object sets (here the EDJ surfaces) and computes the deformations from the mean shape to each specimen. In addition, a set of initial control points located near its most variable parts, and a set of momenta parameterizing the deformations of the mean shape to each specimen are estimated (Durrleman et al., 2012).

For each tooth position, the EDJ surfaces decimated to 50,000 polygons were manually oriented, then superimposed using the rigid and uniform scale option of the ‘Align Surfaces’ module in Avizo v. 7.0 (FEI Visualization Sciences Group, Hillsboro). This was done by minimizing the root mean square distance between the points of each specimen to corresponding points on the reference surface using an iterative closest-point algorithm. We used Deformetrica v. 4.3 software (Bône et al., 2018) to generate a global mean shape with a set of diffeomorphisms relating the global mean shape to each individual and the output (control points and deformation momenta) used to perform the statistical analyses to explore the EDJ shape variation and to classify the data. Deformations were computed at the IN2P3 Computing Center (Lyon, France). The output data were imported into R v. 4.1.3 (R Core Team, 2022) with the package ‘RToolsForDeformetrica’ v. 0.1 (Dumoncel, 2021). Using the packages ‘ade4’ v. 1.7-6 (Dray and Dufour, 2007) and ‘Morpho’ v. 2.8 (Schlager, 2020) for R, we first computed principal component analyses (PCAs), followed by between-group PCAs (bgPCAs) based on the deformation moments and using the following three groups assigned with equal prior probabilities: *Pan*, *Gorilla*, and *Pongo*. The Iberian Miocene specimens were then projected a posteriori into the bgPCA morphospace. We followed the recommendations of Cardini and Polly (2020) by computing cross-validated bgPCAs (cv-bgPCAs) to ensure that group discrimination is not spurious using the package ‘Morpho’. We also performed cross-validated canonical variates analyses (CVAs) using the same groups as for the bgPCAs using the R package ‘Morpho’. Since CVA computation requires the number of variables to be much smaller than the number of

specimens, we computed the CVAs based on a subset of the first principal component (PC) scores showing the highest degree of correct classification (screening the correct classification results and selecting the minimum number of PC scores enabling to reach the optimum of correct classification; Hastie et al., 2009). Between three and six PC scores representing ca. 60 to 76% of the total variance were selected for CVA analyses. This choice of PC scores subset is a compromise between including a sufficient proportion of overall shape variation and limiting the number of variables to avoid unrealistic and unstable levels of discrimination (Skinner et al., 2009). We also assessed the structuration of data and results of the multivariate analyses to test that group separation is not spurious (Cardini and Polly, 2020). The amount of variance (r^2) explained by group differences in the raw shape data was estimated by computing a permutational multivariate analysis of variance (PERMANOVA; 1000 permutations) based on the Euclidean distance between the means and implementing a Holm correction using the R packages ‘vegan’ v. 2.5-7 (Oksanen et al., 2020) and ‘pairwiseAdonis’ v. 0.3 (Martínez Arbizu, 2020).

We computed the Euclidian distances (EDs) between specimens for the bgPCA and CVA scores to assess intra- and intergeneric variation in the comparative sample (for an example with Procrustes distances, see Spoor et al., 2015). Distances for bgPCA and CVA scores were computed between each specimen of the same genus (i.e., intrageneric variation) for both extant and extinct genera, and also between specimens of samples combining two or more different dryopithecine genera (i.e., intergeneric variation). To ensure that these analyses were not biased by the small sizes of the fossil samples we further performed permutation tests. For intrageneric variation analyses, fossil samples were restricted to the specimens available for each genus. For intergeneric variation analyses, fossil samples included specimens from two or more genera to test the hypotheses that *Pierolapithecus* and *Anoiapithecus* might be junior synonyms of

Dryopithecus (Begun, 2009; Begun et al., 2012) and that ‘*Sivapithecus*’ *occidentalis* species inquirenda (Alba et al., 2020; Fortuny et al., 2021) might be a senior synonym of *P. catalaunicus* or *A. brevisrostris*. For each fossil sample, the ED based on the scores of the two first bgPCs (representing more than 90–95% of the variance) and CVs (representing 100% of the variance) was computed for each pair of specimens and the average ED was calculated. For each extant genus, we generated all the possible combinations (permutations) of specimens with the same sample size as the fossil sample of interest, and average ED for each set of permutations was calculated as explained above. Average ED for each fossil sample was then compared with the distribution of average EDs for the corresponding extant set of permutations. The probability of each fossil sample displaying a lower variation than each extant genus was computed by dividing the number of extant permutations with a higher or equal average ED than that of the fossil sample by the total number of extant permutations. The null hypothesis that a given fossil sample does not exceed the variation seen within an extant genus was rejected when the aforementioned probability (interpreted as a *p*-value) was lower than 5% ($p < 0.05$). For intergeneric comparisons (i.e., including specimens from multiple dryopithecine genera), rejecting the null hypothesis would support the existence of more than a single genus (unless more variable than extant ones), whereas failure to reject the null hypothesis would be compatible with a single genus (but would not reject the presence of multiple genera).

3. Results

Comparisons between bgPCA and cv-bgPCA plots show a similar degree of discrimination between *Pan*, *Gorilla*, and *Pongo* (Fig. 2; SOM Fig. S2). Results of the PERMANOVA based on the raw data confirm the high level of discrimination between the three groups for all tooth positions (SOM Table S3). Results of the CVA are similar to those of bgPCA (Figs. 2 and 3). The

EDJs of both maxillary and mandibular molars of each extant genus are equally correctly classified, but M1s and M2s show a greater taxonomic discriminatory power than M3s (SOM Tables S3 and S4). Correct classification for each group and overall classification resulting from the cv-bgPCA and CVA are reported in SOM Table S4. Collectively, bgPCA, cv-bgPCA, and CVA analyses are consistent with each other and confirm that the groups observed in the bgPCA and CVA are not spurious. In both the bgPCA and CVA, the first component separates taxa based on EDJ height (and in particular dentine horn elevation), with *Gorilla* showing the highest dentine horns, *Pongo* the lowest, and *Pan* being intermediate (Figs. 2 and 3). The second component tends to discriminate the more centrally-positioned dentine horns of *Pongo* and *Gorilla* from those of *Pan*.

The bgPCA and CVA plots show that the Miocene specimens are distributed in a distinct part of the morphospace, generally near *Pongo*, but sometimes intermediate between *Pongo* and *Pan*, and less frequently close to *Pan* (Figs. 2 and 3). In particular, the M²s of *Anoiapithecus* and *Pierolapithecus*, as well as some M²s and M₂s of *Hispanopithecus*, tend to be closer to the morphology of *Pan* than to that of the other extant great apes. This is supported by typicality probabilities, even if for a number of dryopithecine specimens, the highest value is lower than 0.05, indicating that they are outside the variation of the extant genera (Table 1). Despite the limited sample size of the Miocene hominids, the teeth belonging to the same genus tend to cluster together for most tooth positions (only for the M³, the range of *Hispanopithecus* specimens is relatively large, similar to that of *Pongo*). While the distribution of the various Miocene specimens does not exceed that of the extant great apes for the first molars (comparable to the extent of variation of *Pongo*), second and third molars are more widely scattered than they are in the extant great ape genera.

When investigating the Euclidian distances between specimens, the intrageneric variation of extant apes is limited to a similar range for each extant great ape genus in both the bgPCA (Fig. 4) and CVA (Fig. 5). *Gorilla* and *Pan* are generally less variable in EDJ shape than *Pongo*. *Hispanopithecus* M³ and M₂ EDJ vary the most among the fossil genera, but they are within a similar range to that of *Pongo* (Figs. 4C and 5C, E), except in the M₂ bgPCA morphospace, where *Hispanopithecus* shows a higher degree of variation than each extant genus (Fig. 4E). For the M² position, *Dryopithecus* appears to differ more from both *Anoiapithecus* and *Pierolapithecus* than the two latter genera from one another (Figs. 4B and 5B). *Pierolapithecus* M³ EDJ differs from that of the other Miocene genera due to the highly mesiodistally compressed crown morphology (Fortuny et al., 2021: Fig. 4C). ‘*Sivapithecus*’ *occidentalis* M₂ and M₃ EDJ differ more from *Hispanopithecus* than *Dryopithecus*.

Permutation tests based on the bgPCA and CVA scores confirm that the Miocene genera exhibit a degree of molar EDJ intrageneric variation that is generally not greater than that of extant great ape genera (Table 2). The only exceptions are the *Hispanopithecus* M³s (which vary more than those of *Gorilla* and *Pan* but not *Pongo*) and M₂s (which show variation even exceeding the range of the three extant great ape genera (except *Pongo* based on the bgPCA results). By contrast, when the permutation tests are repeated by mixing teeth of different Middle Miocene taxa, the results are somewhat different, as in multiple instances their variation exceeds that of one or more extant great ape genera (Table 3). Fossil samples including *Anoiapithecus*, *Dryopithecus*, and *Pierolapithecus* are only available for the upper molars. The M¹ variation only surpasses that of *Gorilla* based on the bgPCA results, but M³ variation exceeds that of both *Gorilla* and *Pan*, and M² variation exceeds that of all extant great ape genera. The results for the M³ might be explained by a high degree of variation (as in *Hispanopithecus*, see above) but those for the M² support the presence of more than a single genus in the Middle Miocene sample.

When intergeneric variation is evaluated by mixing two extinct genera at a time (Table 3), permutation tests indicate that the single-genus hypothesis can be rejected for *Anoiapithecus*–*Dryopithecus* based on the M^2 and for *Dryopithecus*–*Pierolapithecus* (and *Anoiapithecus*–*Pierolapithecus* except when compared with *Pongo* in the bgPCA results) based on the M^3 . Permutation tests based on lower molars are of less utility because they are unknown for *Pierolapithecus* and only the M_1 is available for *Anoiapithecus*, but they indicate that the variation of composite samples including *Dryopithecus* and ‘*S.*’ *occidentalis* do not exceed that of extant great ape genera for either the M_2 or the M_3 .

4. Discussion and conclusions

The taxonomic diversity of Iberian dryopithecines has been discussed frequently in the last decades, notably due to the increasing number of discoveries in the various localities of the Vallès-Penedès Basin (see review in Alba, 2012). There is a general consensus that the Middle Miocene genera *Pierolapithecus*, *Anoiapithecus*, and *Dryopithecus* differ from the Late Miocene *Hispanopithecus* and *Rudapithecus* (Moyà-Solà et al., 2009a; Begun, 2009; Alba, 2012; Almécija et al., 2021; Fortuny et al., 2021; Pugh, 2022), being classified into two distinct tribes (Dryopithecini and Hispanopithecini, respectively; Alba, 2012). However, the distinctiveness of the former three genera, which are roughly coeval (Casanovas-Vilar et al., 2011; Alba et al., 2017), has been questioned on several occasions, often based on arguments involving dental morphology (Begun, 2007, 2009, 2010; Begun et al., 2012). For example, *Pierolapithecus* and *Dryopithecus* were described as sharing the large canines, short premolars, partial cingulum of the molars, and smaller M_1 relative to M_2 , and *Anoiapithecus* was also regarded as sharing similar features (Begun, 2009; Begun et al., 2012). However, it is widely recognized that dryopithecines are dentally conservative and that the distinction among different genera is largely

based on cranial and postcranial features (e.g., Alba, 2012; Almécija et al., 2021), even though some dental differences have previously been noticed (Alba et al., 2013; Pérez de los Ríos et al., 2013). The overall degree of similarity within the Iberian dryopithecine genera is likely related to their short stratigraphic ranges. Specimens from Abocador de Can Mata span from ~12.4–11.9 Ma (Alba et al., 2017, 2022), and the *Hispanopithecus* remains range between ~10.5 and 9.5 Ma (Alba et al., 2018). These ranges are shorter than the molecular divergence dates of the extant species of *Pan* (~2 Myr; Prüfer et al., 2012), suggesting that temporal trends are unlikely to play a substantial role in inflating the variation of these previously recognized dryopithecine genera.

Previous analyses of the molar structural organization in the Iberian dryopithecines, including the detailed description of OES and EDJ morphology, as well as enamel thickness, supported the discrimination of *Pierolapithecus*, *Anoiapithecus*, *Dryopithecus*, and *Hispanopithecus* as distinct genera (Alba et al., 2010, 2013; Fortuny et al., 2021). Our results of the 3D geometric morphometric analyses of the EDJ are also in agreement with these former studies. As shown by the bgPCA, CVA, and Euclidian distance plots (Figs. 2–5), the distribution of the Iberian dryopithecine genera exceeds the variation of each extant great ape genus, especially for the M2 and M3 positions, while M1s tend to be less variable (both in fossil and extant genera). This is confirmed by the permutation tests based on the upper molars, which reject the single-genus hypothesis and rather support the distinctiveness of *Pierolapithecus* and *Anoiapithecus* from one another as well as when compared with *Dryopithecus*.

It has been argued that the I¹ and M³ of *Pierolapithecus* closely resemble those of *Dryopithecus* from La Grive (Begun, 2009; Begun et al., 2012). However, other authors have noted that the La Grive incisor differs in several respects from that of *Pierolapithecus* (and *Hispanopithecus*), whereas the upper molar (reinterpreted as a female M¹) more closely resembles *Dryopithecus* in crown height (Pérez de los Ríos et al., 2013). Regardless, the distance

separating the EDJ of the only available M³ of *Pierolapithecus* (IPS21350) from that of *Dryopithecus* (IPS35026) largely exceeds the intrageneric variation of the three extant great ape genera and, together with the permutation tests (Table 3), contradict the single-genus hypothesis. In addition, the *Dryopithecus* M² displays a more buccolingually compressed central basin relative to crown base and more lingually-placed hypocone than that of *Pierolapithecus* (Fig. 1A; see also Fortuny et al., 2021). *Anoiapithecus* and *Dryopithecus* M²s are also well distinguished and the distance between specimens exceeds the degree of variation displayed by the three extant great ape genera (Table 3), mostly due to the more asymmetric and higher EDJ in the former (Figs. 2–5). These quantitative analyses support the distinction of these two taxa at genus rank and are in contradiction with the hypothesis that they are congeneric (Begun, 2009). It has also been suggested that *Pierolapithecus* and *Anoiapithecus* are dentally very similar and may belong to the same genus (Begun, 2009; Begun et al., 2012). The differences between the EDJ of the molars of these two genera are more or less marked depending on tooth position. For the M², the EDJs of both taxa are morphologically quite similar, and the variation they express in the available sample does not exceed that of the extant great ape genera (Figs. 2–5). However, for the M¹ and M³, these two dryopithecine genera are relatively distant in both the bgPCA and CVA (Figs. 2 and 3). In fact, *Pierolapithecus* and *Anoiapithecus* M³ specimens are more distant from each other than the specimens of each extant hominid genus are in the bgPCA space (Fig. 4C), and their variation is only included within the intrageneric range of *Pongo* in the CVA (Fig. 5C), as indicated by the permutation tests (Table 3). In terms of morphology, as previously described (Fortuny et al., 2021), our results show that *Pierolapithecus* has more mesiodistal compressed EDJs (particularly for the M³), with shorter and slightly more peripherally-placed dentine horns than *Anoiapithecus*. Even if the distinction between *Pierolapithecus* and *Anoiapithecus* is not as striking as that between *Pierolapithecus* and *Dryopithecus*, or between *Anoiapithecus* and

Dryopithecus, the results of our geometric morphometric analyses of EDJ shape (in particular based on permutation tests for the M^3 ; Table 3) are consistent with the hypothesis that they represent different genera. These results are in further agreement with the previously described cranial differences between *Anoiapithecus* and *Pierolapithecus*, including prognathism (much more orthognathous facial profile in *Anoiapithecus*), presence vs. absence of a frontal sinus, thinner vs. thicker enamel, and more vs. less downward inclination of the zygomatic root (Moyà-Solà et al., 2009b; Fortuny et al., 2021).

The taxonomic status of the M_2 s and M_3 currently assigned to ‘*S.*’ *occidentalis* is also unclear as they have been suggested to belong to either *P. catalaunicus* or *A. brevirostris* (Alba et al., 2020). The permutation tests indicate that an attribution to *Dryopithecus* cannot be discounted (Table 3), but the lack of mandibular remains for *Pierolapithecus* and the fragmentary state of the *Anoiapithecus* specimen IPS43000 M_2 (and absence of M_3) preclude a more conclusive assessment. The EDJ shape analyses conducted here show that the three ‘*S.*’ *occidentalis* molars are closer to *Dryopithecus* than *Hispanopithecus* (IPS1826+1827 and IPS41734). These analyses also suggest that *Pierolapithecus* EDJ is closer to that of *Dryopithecus* for the M^1 and M^2 than *Anoiapithecus* is (Figs. 2A, B and 3A, B). However, the three ‘*S.*’ *occidentalis* molars exhibit thick enamel (3D relative enamel thickness [3D RET]: 17.16–20.63), overlapping with the range of *Pierolapithecus* (3D RET: 13.24–18.14), whereas both *Dryopithecus* (3D RET: 10.96–12.81) and *Anoiapithecus* show thin enamel (3D RET: 11.40–14.26; Fortuny et al., 2021). If IPS1826+1827 and IPS41734 belonged to one of the taxa recognized here, both signals of the EDJ and enamel thickness would suggest that they would more likely represent *Pierolapithecus* than *Anoiapithecus*. Nevertheless, no definitive attribution can be given to these fossils until more mandibular remains belonging to the latter two genera are recovered and analyzed.

The Late Miocene *Hispanopithecus* was considered as a junior subjective synonym of *Dryopithecus* for years (e.g., Harrison, 1991; Andrews et al., 1996), until the genus was resurrected (Begun, 2009; Moyà-Solà et al., 2009a) for both *Hispanopithecus laietanus* and *Hispanopithecus crusafonti*. The later species, which includes the samples from Can Ponsic 1 and Teuleria del Firal, is classified in *Hispanopithecus* based on dental morphology because it shows some derived features with *H. laietanus*, coupled with a number of autapomorphic traits such as buccolingually broader upper molars (Begun, 1992; Begun, 2002, Alba, 2012). In terms of morphology of the molar EDJ, the dentine horns of *Hispanopithecus* are more peripherally located than in *Dryopithecus* (Fig. 1; Fortuny et al., 2021). Shape analyses of the EDJ show that the specimens attributed to *Hispanopithecus* plot close to *Dryopithecus*, and to a lesser extent to *Anoiapithecus* (Figs. 2–5). The most surprising result of these analyses regards the high degree of variability of *Hispanopithecus* M2s. Even though two species are included in the genus (i.e., *H. crusafonti* and *H. laietanus*), they vary more than the extant great ape genera as represented in this study (Figs. 2E, 3E, 4E, and 5E), as confirmed by permutation tests (Table 2). We acknowledge that the comparative sample of extant hominids included in this study might underestimate the actual degree of variation of each genus, but the same is true for the fossil samples. In addition, despite its limited size, the sample extant great apes represents male and female individuals of different species of *Pan* and *Pongo* (and possibly of *Gorilla* too, even though there is no contextual information for some specimens). For these reasons, the extant hominid sample is assumed to be representative of each genus, even though it likely underestimates their real range of variation due to the limits of sample size. For example, at least for *Pongo* M2s, two species (*P. pygmaeus* and *P. abelii*) are represented (SOM Table S2) and they are much less variable than those of *Hispanopithecus*. The high variability of the latter genus is mostly driven by IPS1082, which falls farther from the other four *Hispanopithecus* M2s. This

could be interpreted in two different ways: 1) the M₂ of IPS1802 is an outlier in terms of morphology, but belongs to *Hispanopithecus*; 2) IPS1802 belongs to another genus, but is closely related to *Hispanopithecus*. The small dimensions of this specimen compared with the other *H. laietanus* lower molars (Alba et al., 2012c) could also indicate that it belongs to a female of *Hispanopithecus*, but it would mean that sexual dimorphism in molar shape (especially at the EDJ level) would be higher than in extant great apes and the other dryopithecines, which is unlikely. It is noteworthy that IPS1802 (a mandibular fragment with M₁–M₃) was planned to be the holotype of *Rahonapithecus sabadellensis*, a nomen dubium because Crusafont-Pairó and Hürzeler (1961, 1969) never described them (Fortuny et al., 2021, and references therein). Pickford (2012) considered this specimen (as well as the holotype of '*S.* *occidentalis*') to belong to *Neopithecus brancoi*, which is here considered a nomen dubium (see also Moyà-Solà et al., 2009a; Begun, 2015; Alba et al., 2020). Nevertheless, this specimen hints at the possibility that some of the Middle Miocene genera recorded at Abocador de Can Mata persisted into the Vallesian and co-occurred with *Hispanopithecus* at Can Llobateres.

The phylogenetic relationships of the Iberian Miocene dryopithecines are still debated (see review in Almécija et al., 2021). *Pierolapithecus*, *Anoiapithecus*, and *Dryopithecus* have been either considered as stem hominids (Moyà-Solà et al., 2004, 2009b; Pugh, 2022), stem pongines, (Pérez de los Ríos et al., 2012) or hominines (Begun, 2010). In turn, *Hispanopithecus* has been variably considered a stem pongine (Moyà-Solà and Köhler, 1995), a stem hominine (Begun et al., 2012), or a stem hominid (Moyà-Solà et al., 2009b). A recent cladistic analysis of Middle to Late Miocene hominoids based on 274 dental and skeletal traits found dryopithecines (excluding *Ouranopithecus*, *Graecopithecus*, and *Oreopithecus*) to be no more closely to hominines than to pongines and supported the Middle Miocene dryopithecines as being less derived than the Late Miocene hispanopithecines (Pugh, 2022). A study investigating the phylogenetic signal of the

inner ear morphology in primates indicated that the hispanopithecine genera *Hispanopithecus* and *Rudapithecus* show closest affinities in vestibular morphology with *Pan* but also with the inferred morphology for the last common ancestors of crown hominines and crown hominids, suggesting that such morphology is plesiomorphic (Urciuoli et al., 2021b). Another study based on the EDJ of primate M1s showed that this structure holds a very strong phylogenetic signal and can be used, in addition to the inner ear, to investigate evolutionary relationships (Zanolli et al., 2022b). Posterior probabilities computed for the dryopithecine specimens in the bgPCA and CVA of the present study indicate closer shape similarities with *Pongo* for most taxa and tooth positions, even if a few specimens are closer to *Pan* (Table 1). However, as in the case of the aforementioned inner ear similarities with *Pan*, the EDJ results cannot be taken as suggesting a closer phylogenetic link with pongines without a proper phylogenetic analysis evaluating the polarity of change so as to discern if these features are primitive for hominids or derived for pongines. The study of the EDJ in other European dryopithecine taxa, such as *Rudapithecus* and *Danuvius* (Begun, 2009, 2015; Böhme et al., 2019), or specimens of doubtful taxonomic allocation (such as the holotype of *N. branchoi*), will be required to better understand the evolution of this group during the Miocene.

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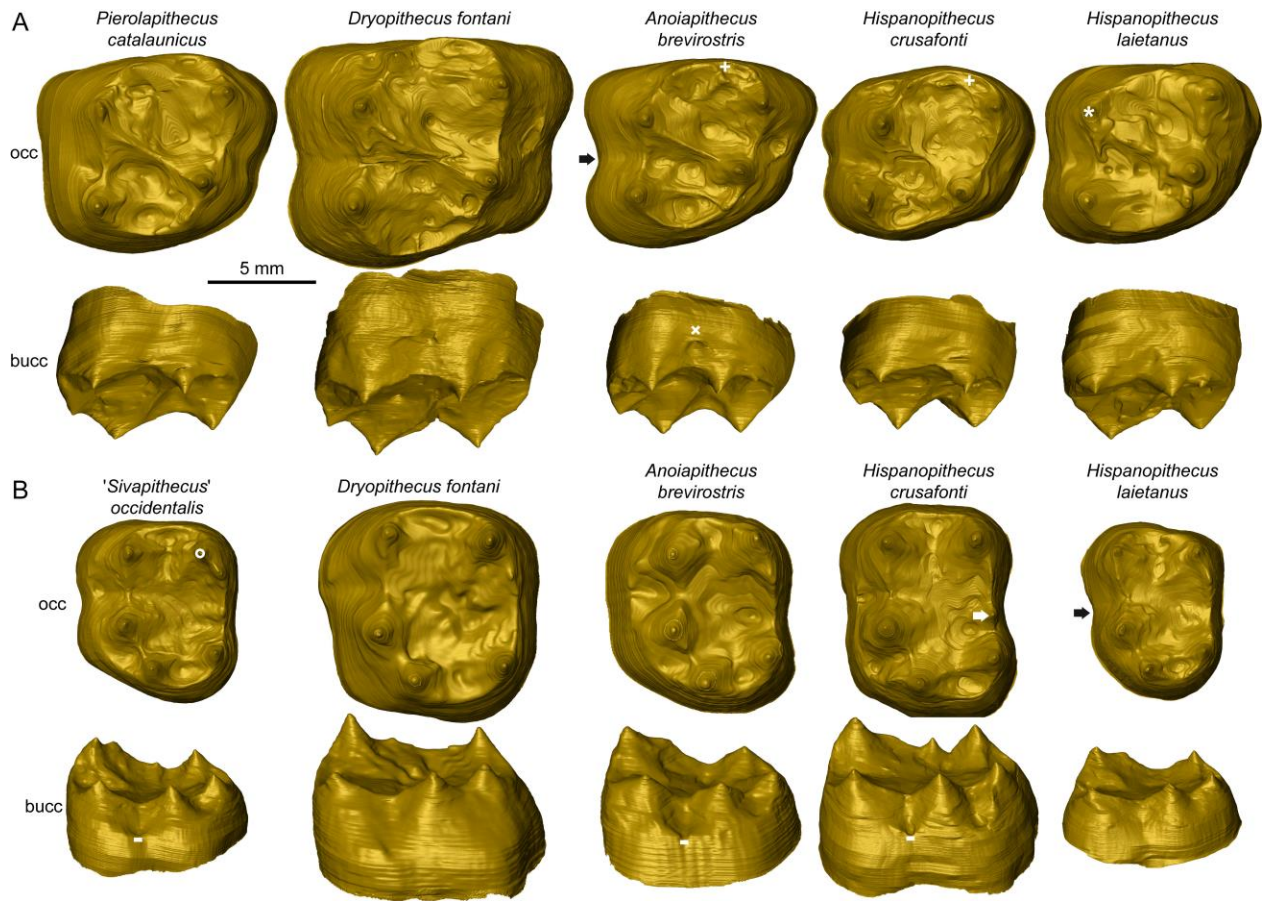


Figure 1. Main nonmetric features distinguishing between the Miocene dryopithecine genera at the enamel-dentine junction (EDJ) level of the maxillary (A) and mandibular (B) molars. The EDJ of molars of *Pierolapithecus catalaunicus* (M² IPS21350), *Dryopithecus fontani* (M²: IPS35026 and M₂ 2004.HARLE.46), *Anoiapithecus brevirostris* (M² and M¹ IPS43000), ‘*Sivapithecus*’ *occidentalis* (IPS 1826), *Hispanopithecus crusafonti* (M² IPS1820 and M₁ IPS1816), and *Hispanopithecus laietanus* (M² IPS18000.5 and M₂ IPS 1804) are illustrated in occlusal and buccal views. Symbols: black arrow = buccolingual constriction (waisting); plus = deep and well-delineated mesial fovea; cross = small lingual cingulum-like trait; asterisk = peripherally-placed protocone dentine horn; circle = internally-tilted metaconid dentine horn; minus = pit-like cingulum; white arrow = lingual accessory dentine horn.

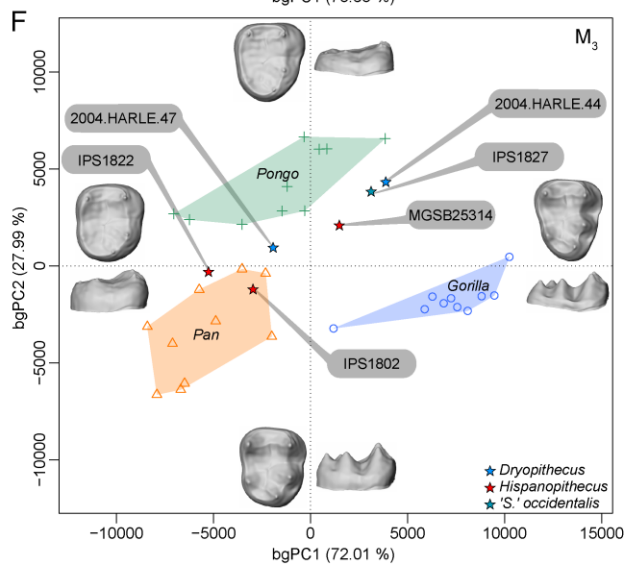
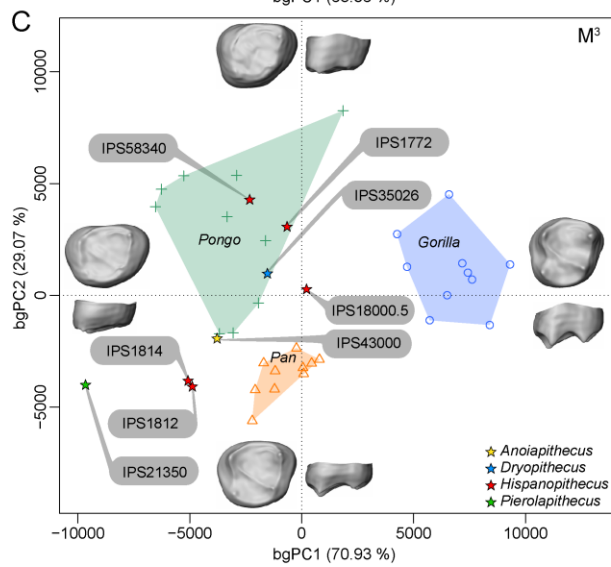
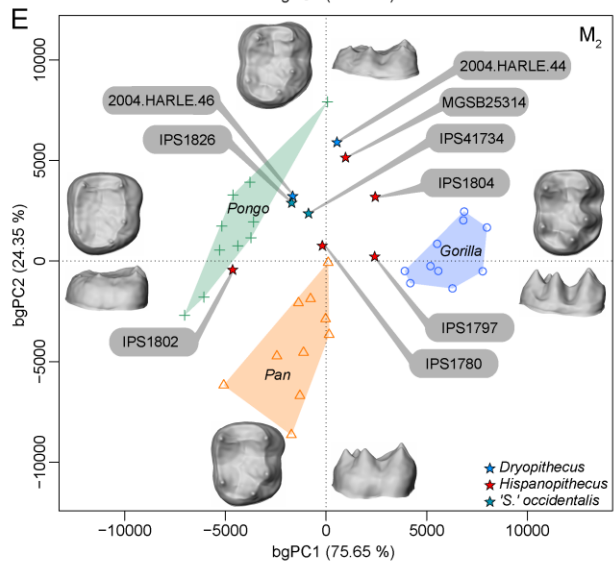
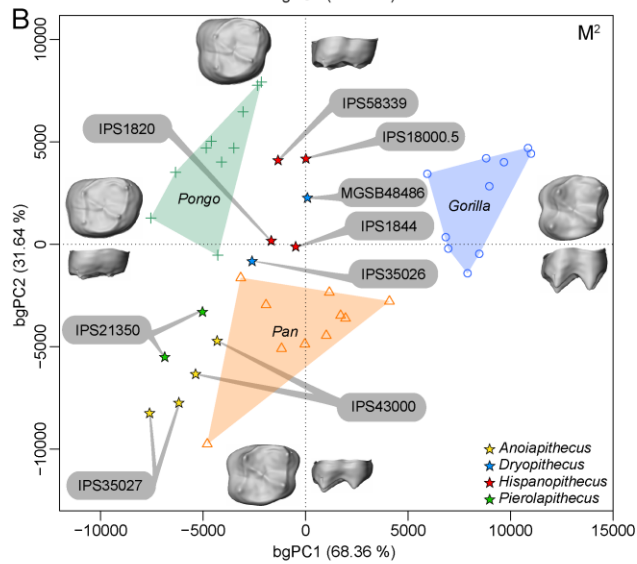
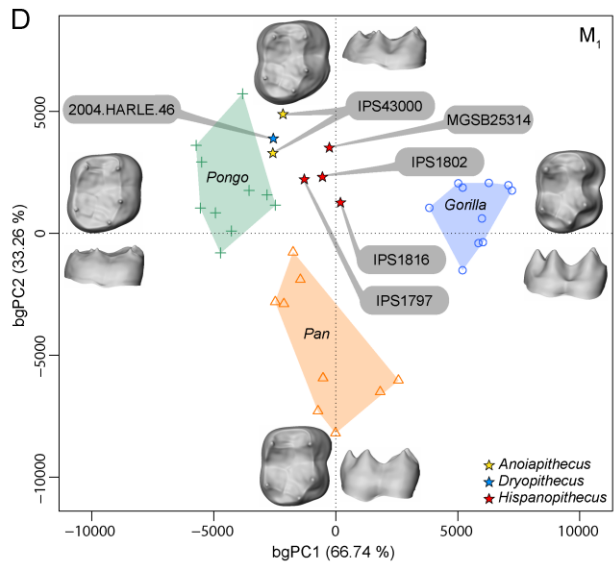
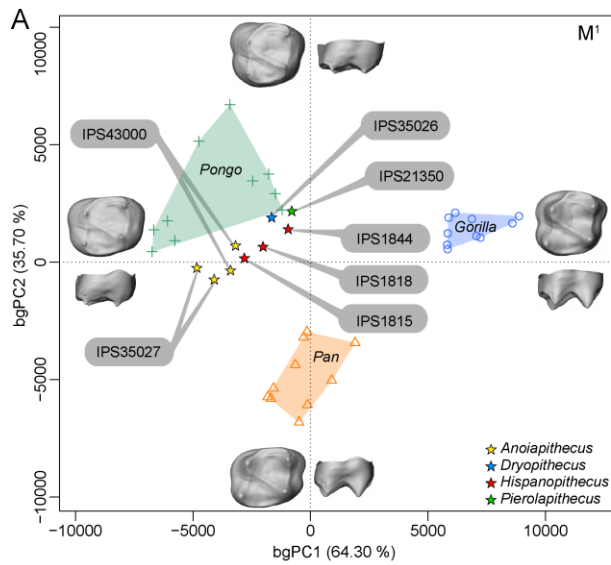


Figure 2. Bivariate plot of the between-group principal component 2 (bgPC2) against the between-group component 1 (bgPC1) based on the diffeomorphic surface matching analyses of the enamel-dentine junction of the M¹ (A), M² (B), M³ (C), M₁ (D), M₂ (E), and M₃ (F) of the Miocene dryopithecine genera compared with the extant great apes. Percentage of variance for each axis is provided within parentheses in the figure. The surfaces at the end of the axes illustrate the extreme shapes along each component.

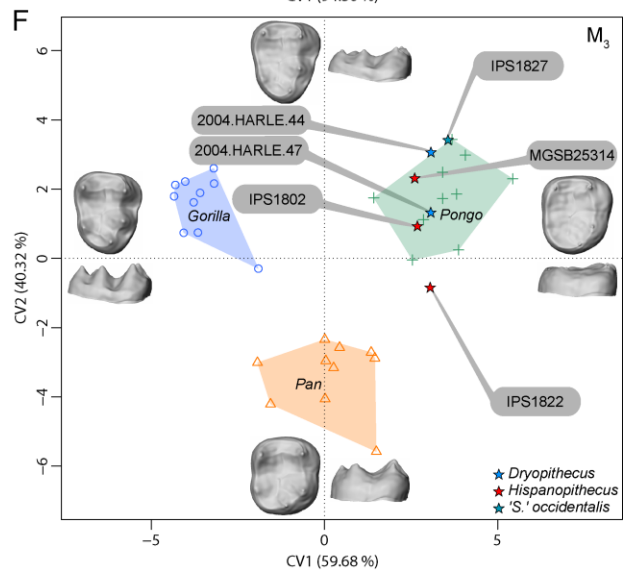
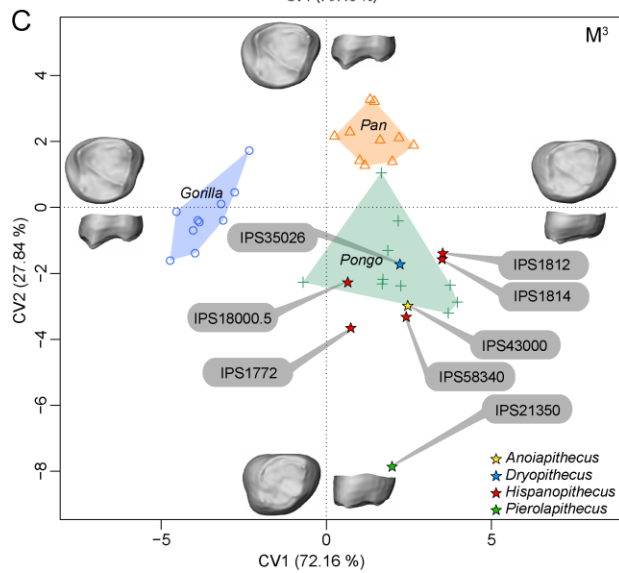
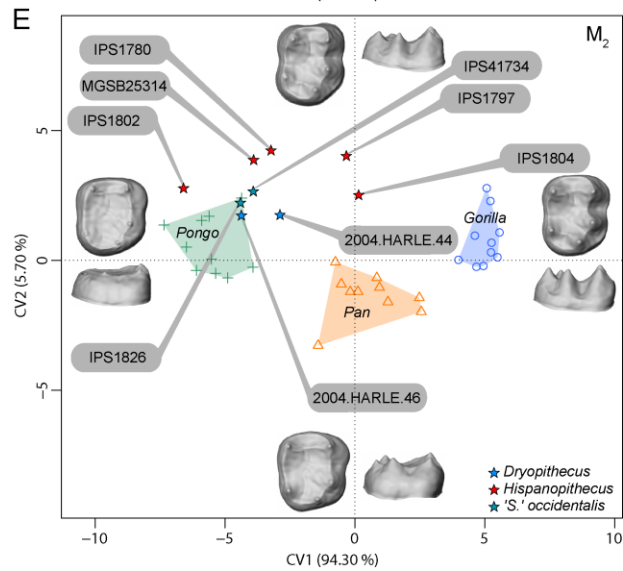
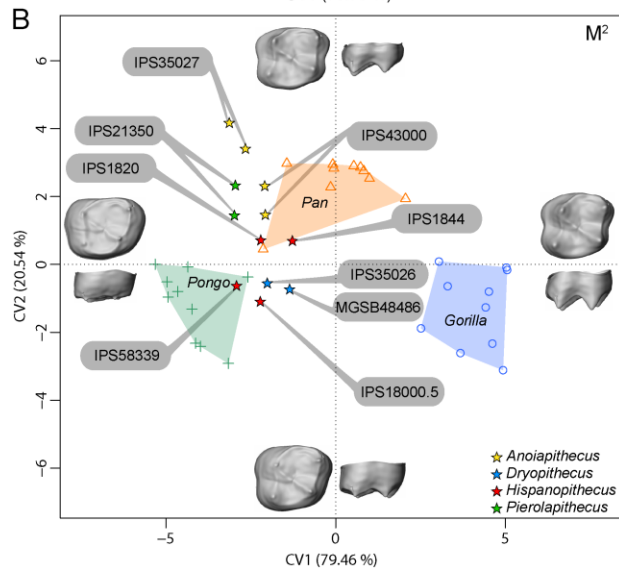
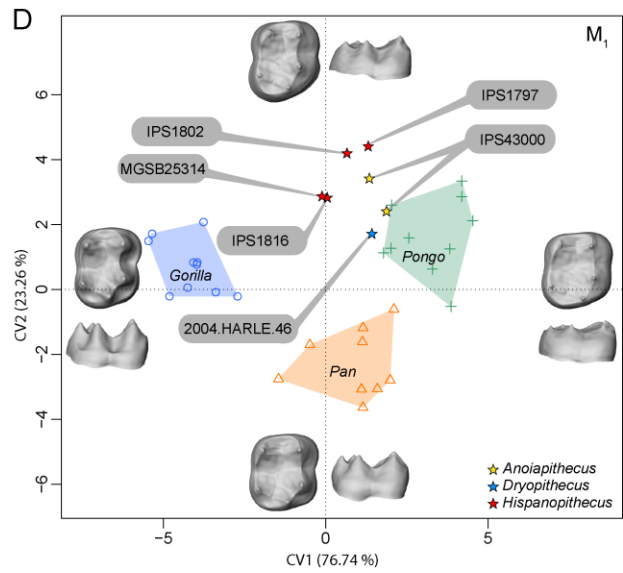
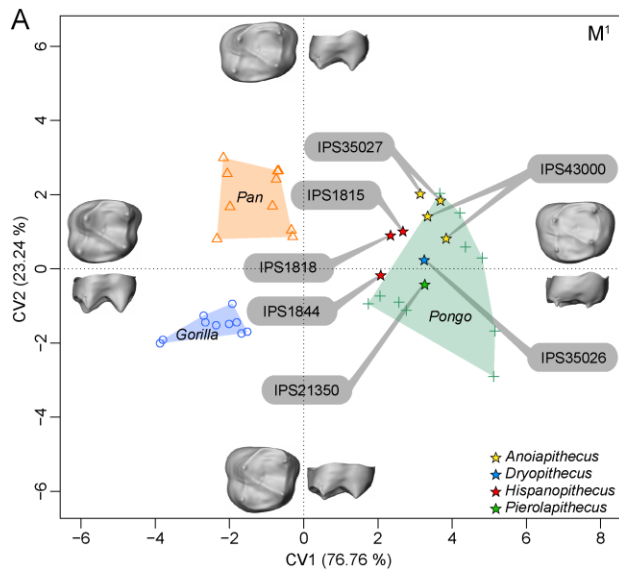


Figure 3. Bivariate plot of the between-group principal component 2 (bgPC2) against the between-group component 1 (bgPC1) based on the diffeomorphic surface matching analyses of the enamel-dentine junction of the M₁ (A), M₂ (B), M₃ (C) , M₁ (D), M₂ (E), and M₃ (F) of the Miocene dryopithecine genera compared with the extant great apes. Percentage of variance for each axis is provided within parentheses in the figure. The surfaces at the end of the axes illustrate the extreme shapes along each component.

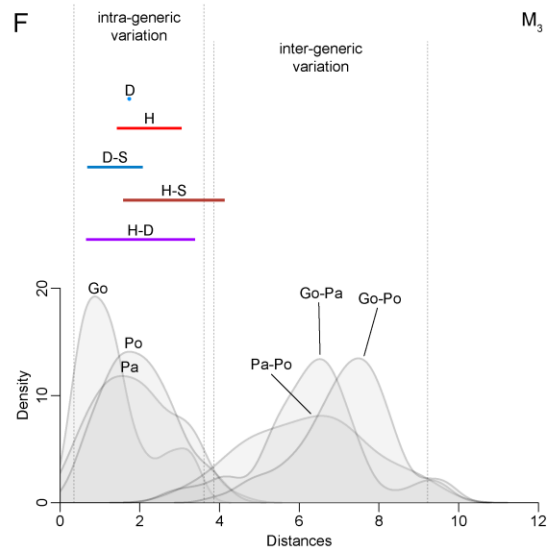
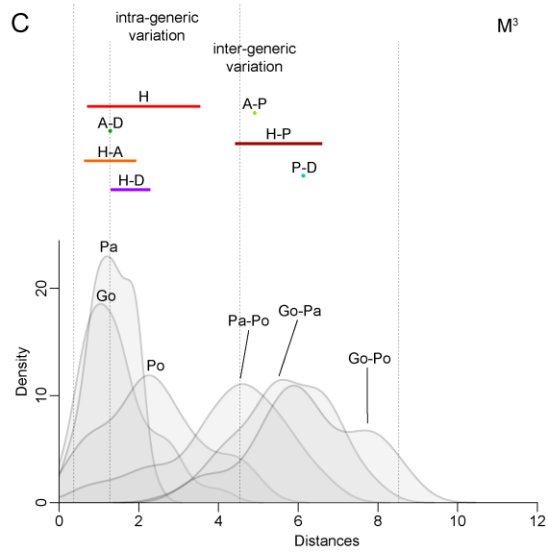
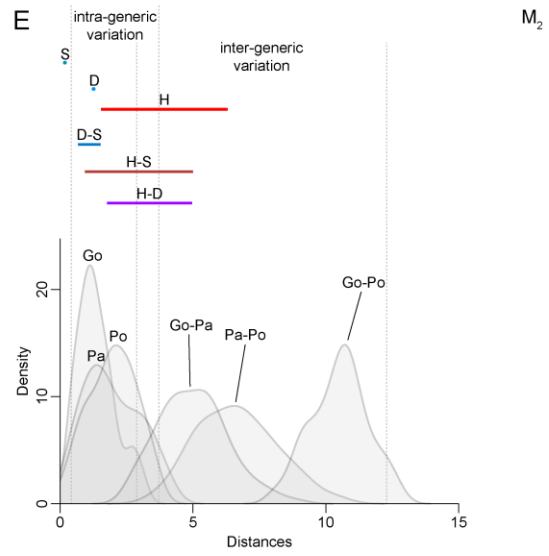
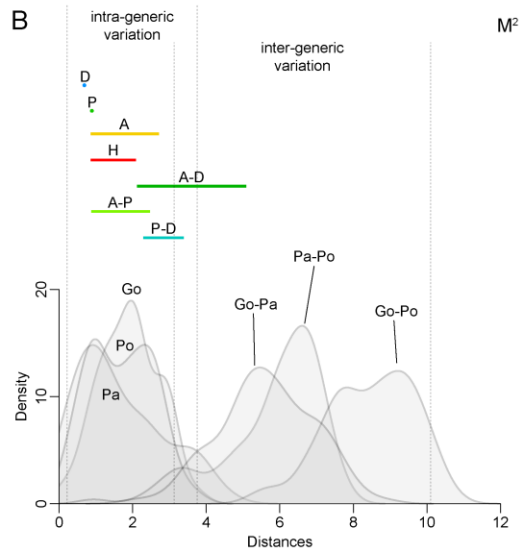
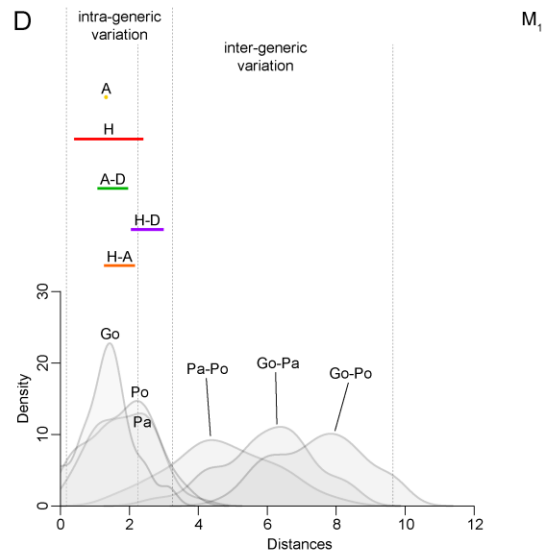
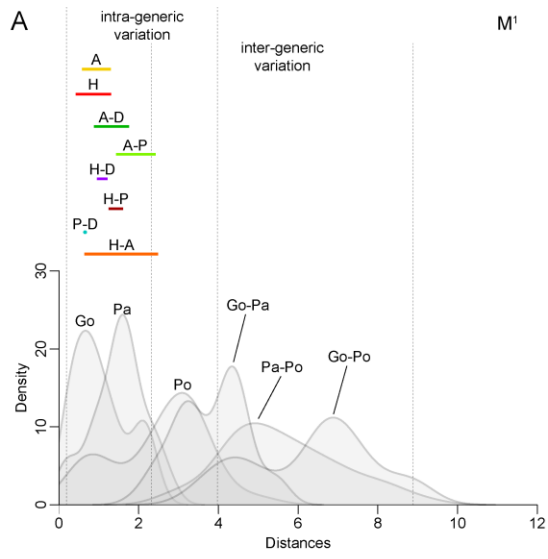


Figure 4. Plots of the Euclidian distances between specimens of the Miocene dryopithecines (upper part of each panel) and between extant great apes based on the between-group principal components computed for the M^1 (A), M^2 (B), M^3 (C), M_1 (D), M_2 (E), and M_3 (F). For both intra- and intergeneric variations, minimum (5%) and maximum (95%) limits are represented by vertical dotted lines. Abbreviations: A = *Anoiapithecus*; H = *Hispanopithecus*; D = *Dryopithecus*; P = *Pierolapithecus*; S = ‘*Sivapithecus*’ *occidentalis*; A-D = distance between *Anoiapithecus* and *Dryopithecus* specimens; A-P = distance between *Anoiapithecus* and *Pierolapithecus* specimens; H-D = distance between *Hispanopithecus* and *Dryopithecus* specimens; H-P = distance between *Hispanopithecus* and *Pierolapithecus* specimens; H-A = distance between *Hispanopithecus* and *Anoiapithecus* specimens; H-S = distance between *Hispanopithecus* and ‘*Sivapithecus*’ *occidentalis* specimens; P-D = distance between *Pierolapithecus* and *Dryopithecus* specimens; D-S = distance between *Dryopithecus* and ‘*Sivapithecus*’ *occidentalis* specimens.

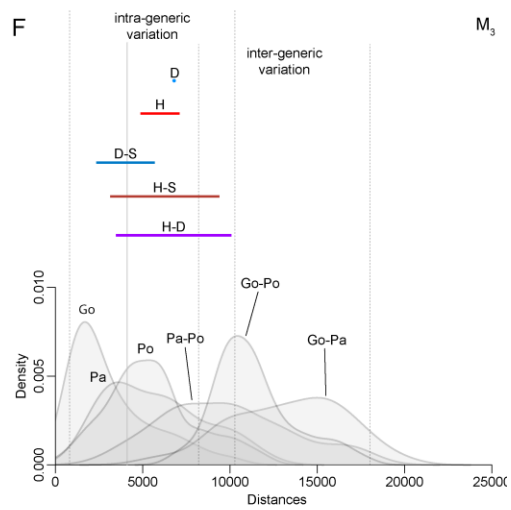
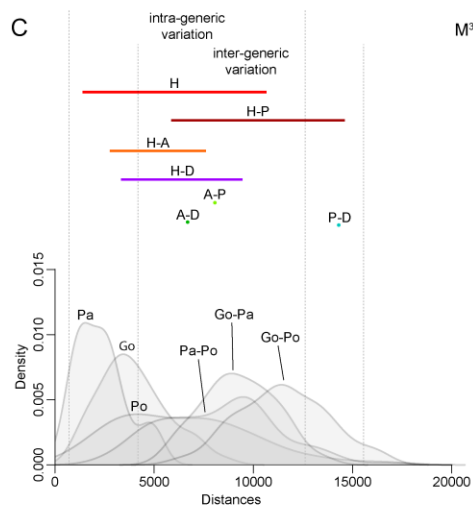
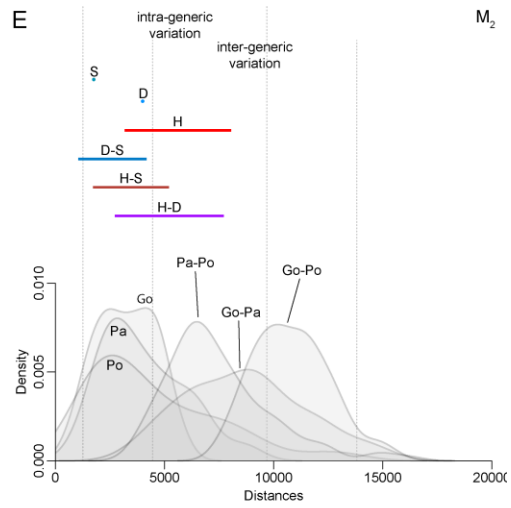
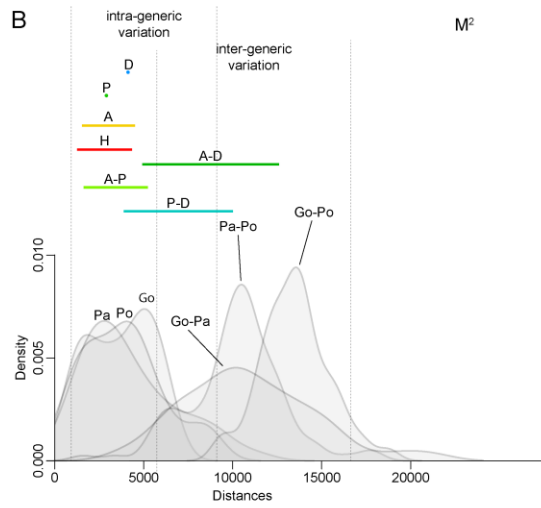
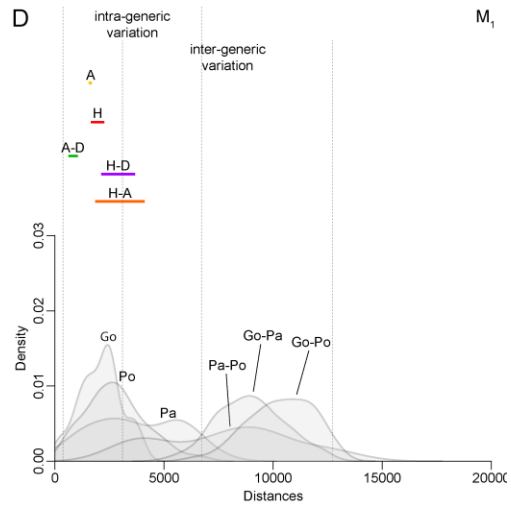
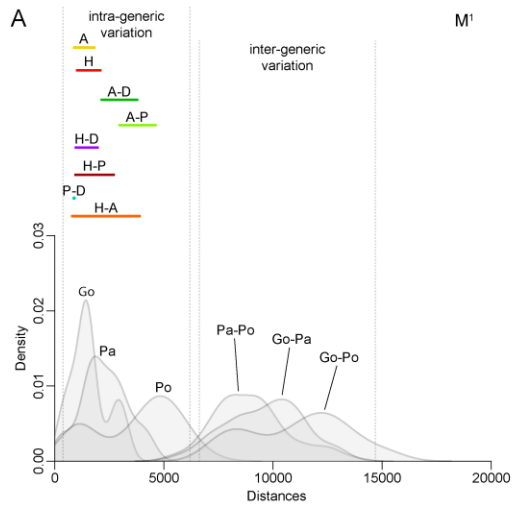


Figure 5. Plots of the Euclidian distances between specimens of the Miocene dryopithecines (upper part of each panel) and between extant great apes based on the canonical variates computed for the M¹ (A), M² (B), M³ (C), M₁ (D), M₂ (E), and M₃ (F). For both intra- and inter-generic variations, minimum (5%) and maximum (95%) limits are represented by vertical dotted lines. Abbreviations: A = *Anoiapithecus*; H = *Hispanopithecus*; D = *Dryopithecus*; P = *Pierolapithecus*; S = '*Sivapithecus*' *occidentalis*; A-D = distance between *Anoiapithecus* and *Dryopithecus* specimens; A-P = distance between *Anoiapithecus* and *Pierolapithecus* specimens; H-D = distance between *Hispanopithecus* and *Dryopithecus* specimens; H-P = distance between *Hispanopithecus* and *Pierolapithecus* specimens; H-A = distance between *Hispanopithecus* and *Anoiapithecus* specimens; H-S = distance between *Hispanopithecus* and '*Sivapithecus*' *occidentalis* specimens; P-D = distance between *Pierolapithecus* and *Dryopithecus* specimens; D-S = distance between *Dryopithecus* and '*Sivapithecus*' *occidentalis* specimens.

Table 1

Typicality probabilities of the investigated dryopithecine specimens with respect to the extant great apes based on the between-group principal component analysis (bgPCA) and canonical variate analysis (CVA).^a

Miocene genus	Catalog No.	Tooth	<i>p</i> (bgPCA)			<i>p</i> (CVA)		
			<i>Gorilla</i>	<i>Pan</i>	<i>Pongo</i>	<i>Gorilla</i>	<i>Pan</i>	<i>Pongo</i>
A	IPS35027	M ¹ L	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.05
A	IPS35027	M ¹ R	<0.01	<0.01	0.02	<0.01	<0.01	0.08
A	IPS43000	M ¹ L	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.18
A	IPS43000	M ¹ R	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.48
D	IPS35026	M ¹	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.75
H	IPS1815	M ¹	<0.01	<0.01	0.04	<0.01	<0.01	0.24
H	IPS1818	M ¹	<0.01	<0.01	0.03	<0.01	<0.01	0.19
H	IPS1844	M ¹	<0.01	<0.01	0.03	<0.01	<0.01	0.28
P	IPS21350	M ¹	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.93
A	IPS35027	M ² L	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
A	IPS35027	M ² R	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.01	<0.01
A	IPS43000	M ² L	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.06	<0.01
A	IPS43000	M ² R	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.09	<0.01
D	IPS35026	M ²	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.07
D	MGSB48486	M ²	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.02
H	IPS1820	M ²	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.02	0.02

H	IPS1844	M ²	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.08	<0.01
H	IPS58339	M ²	<0.01	<0.01	0.10	<0.01	<0.01	0.36
H	IPS180005	M ²	<0.01	<0.01	0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.13
P	IPS21350	M ² L	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.02
P	IPS21350	M ² R	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
A	IPS43000	M ³	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.50
D	IPS35026	M ³	<0.01	<0.01	0.53	<0.01	<0.01	0.99
H	IPS1812	M ³	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.38
H	IPS1814	M ³	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.42
H	IPS1772	M ³	<0.01	<0.01	0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.06
H	IPS58340	M ³	<0.01	<0.01	0.03	<0.01	<0.01	0.32
H	IPS180005	M ³	<0.01	<0.01	0.02	<0.01	<0.01	0.27
P	IPS21350	M ³	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
A	IPS43000	M ₁ L	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.04
A	IPS43000	M ₁ R	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.30
D	HARLE 46	M ₁	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.19
H	MGSB25314	M ₁	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
H	IPS1797	M ₁	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
H	IPS1802	M ₁	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
H	IPS1816	M ₁	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
D	HARLE 44	M ₂	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.01
D	HARLE 46	M ₂	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.25

H	MGSB25314	M ₂	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
H	IPS1780	M ₂	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
H	IPS1797	M ₂	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
H	IPS1802	M ₂	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.05
H	IPS1804	M ₂	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
So	IPS1826	M ₂	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.13
So	IPS41734	M ₂	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.03
D	HARLE44	M ₃	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.41
D	HARLE47	M ₃	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.84
H	MGSB25314	M ₃	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.61
H	IPS1802	M ₃	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.52
H	IPS1822	M ₃	<0.01	<0.01	0.04	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.03
So	IPS1827	M ₃	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.26

Abbreviations: L = left; R = right; A = *Anoiapithecus*; D = *Dryopithecus*; P = *Pierolapithecus*; So = ‘*Sivapithecus*’ *occidentalis* species inquirenda.

^a These probabilities denote the likelihood that the score of each fossil specimen fits with a particular group, not the likelihood of group membership in each of the a priori defined groups given a particular score. The highest probabilities (above statistical threshold of 0.05) are highlighted in bold for each fossil specimen.

Table 2

Results of permutation tests, given as both probabilities (interpreted as p -values) and frequencies (within parentheses), based on the between-group principal component analysis (bgPCA) and canonical variate analysis (CVA) comparing the intrageneric variation of dryopithecine genera with that of extant great apes.^a

Miocene genus	Tooth	n	bgPCA			CVA		
			<i>Gorilla</i>	<i>Pan</i>	<i>Pongo</i>	<i>Gorilla</i>	<i>Pan</i>	<i>Pongo</i>
A	M ¹	4	0.67 (140/210)	0.98 (206/210)	0.99 (208/210)	0.67 (141/210)	0.99 (208/210)	1 (209/210)
H	M ¹	3	0.48 (58/120)	0.88 (106/120)	0.93 (112/120)	0.54 (65/120)	0.94 (113/120)	0.97 (116/120)
D	M ²	2	0.47 (21/45)	0.40 (18/45)	0.47 (21/45)	0.96 (43/45)	0.76 (34/45)	0.87 (39/45)
H	M ²	4	0.76 (159/210)	0.71 (148/210)	0.69 (145/210)	0.86 (180/210)	0.50 (105/210)	0.64 (135/210)
P	M ²	2	0.64 (29/45)	0.62 (28/45)	0.62 (28/45)	0.87 (39/45)	0.71 (32/45)	0.80 (36/45)
H	M ³	5	0 (0/252)	0 (0/252)	0.39 (97/252)	0 (0/252)	0 (0/252)	0.65 (164/252)
A	M ₁	2	0.80 (36/45)	0.80 (36/45)	0.82 (37/45)	0.73 (33/45)	0.73 (33/45)	0.87 (39/45)
H	M ₁	3	0.93 (112/120)	0.98 (118/120)	0.98 (117/120)	0.52 (62/120)	0.65 (78/120)	0.84 (101/120)
D	M ₂	2	0.22 (10/45)	0.49 (22/45)	0.49 (22/45)	0.38 (17/45)	0.58 (26/45)	0.64 (29/45)
H	M ₂	6	0 (0/210)	0.02 (5/210)	0.33 (69/210)	0 (0/210)	0 (0/210)	0 (0/210)
So	M ₂	2	0.93 (42/45)	0.96 (43/45)	0.93 (42/45)	0.82 (37/45)	0.89 (40/45)	0.93 (42/45)
D	M ₃	2	0.09 (4/45)	0.11 (5/45)	0.22 (10/45)	0.24 (11/45)	0.53 (24/45)	0.53 (24/45)
H	M ₃	3	0.18 (21/120)	0.28 (33/120)	0.45 (54/120)	0.23 (27/120)	0.47 (56/120)	0.43 (51/120)

Abbreviations: A = *Anoiapithecus*; D = *Dryopithecus*; P = *Pierolapithecus*; So = '*Sivapithecus*' *occidentalis* species inquirenda.

^a Variation in dryopithecines exceeds that seen in extant apes when $p < 0.05$. Probabilities lower than 0.05 are bolded.

Table 3

Results of permutation tests, given as both probabilities (interpreted as p -values) and frequencies (within parentheses), based on the between-group principal component analysis (bgPCA) and canonical variate analysis (CVA) comparing the variation of combined dryopithecine samples with the intrageneric variation of extant great apes. ^a

Miocene genera	Tooth	n	bgPCA			CVA		
			<i>Gorilla</i>	<i>Pan</i>	<i>Pongo</i>	<i>Gorilla</i>	<i>Pan</i>	<i>Pongo</i>
A + D + P	M ¹	6	0 (0/210)	0.31 (65/210)	1 (210/210)	0.33 (70/210)	0.91 (190/210)	0.15 (31/210)
A + D	M ¹	5	0.48 (12/252)	0.80 (201/252)	1 (252/252)	0.68 (172/252)	0.96 (243/252)	1 (252/252)
A + P	M ¹	5	0 (0/252)	0.47 (118/252)	0.99 (250/252)	0.14 (36/252)	0.82 (206/252)	1 (252/252)
D + P	M ¹	2	0.78 (35/45)	0.89 (40/45)	0.91 (41/45)	0.67 (30/45)	0.89 (40/45)	0.91 (41/45)
A + D + P	M ²	8	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)
A + D	M ²	6	0 (0/210)	0 (0/210)	0 (0/210)	0 (0/210)	0 (0/210)	0 (0/210)
A + P	M ²	6	0.98 (205/210)	0.90 (1895/210)	0.90 (188/210)	0.98 (205/210)	0.61 (141/210)	0.75 (158/210)
D + P	M ²	4	0 (0/210)	0.20 (41/210)	0.03 (6/210)	0.22 (46/210)	0.23 (48/210)	0.11 (23/210)
A + D + P	M ³	3	0 (0/120)	0 (0/120)	0.19 (23/120)	0 (0/120)	0 (0/120)	0.25 (30/120)
A + D	M ³	2	0.27 (12/45)	0.04 (2/45)	0.67 (30/45)	0.56 (25/45)	0.51 (23/45)	0.78 (35/45)
A + P	M ³	2	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)	0.42 (19/45)	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)
D + P	M ³	2	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)	0 (0/45)
A + D	M ₁	3	0.98 (117/120)	0.98 (118/120)	0.98 (118/120)	0.66 (79/20)	0.75 (90/120)	0.88 (105/120)
D + So	M ₂	4	0.76 (160/210)	0.92 (193/210)	0.83 (175/210)	0.74 (155/210)	0.95 (199/210)	0.98 (206/210)
D + So	M ₃	3	0.22 (26/120)	0.46 (55/120)	0.52 (62/120)	0.33 (40/120)	0.71 (85/120)	0.79 (95/120)

Abbreviations: A = *Anoiapithecus*; D = *Dryopithecus*; P = *Pierolapithecus*; So = '*Sivapithecus*' *occidentalis* species inquirenda.

^a Variation in dryopithecines exceeds that seen in extant apes when $p < 0.05$. Probabilities lower than 0.05 are bolded.