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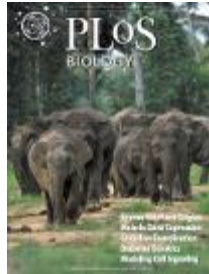
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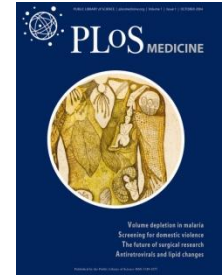


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RESEARCH ARTICLE



Complete Primate Skeleton from the Middle Eocene of Messel in Germany: Morphology and Paleobiology

Article

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Jens L. Franzen^{1,2}, Philip D. Gingerich³, Jörg Habersetzer¹, Jørn H. Hurum^{4*}, Wighart von Koenigswald⁵, B. Holly Smith⁶

1 Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt, Germany, **2** Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Basel, Switzerland, **3** Museum of Paleontology and Department of Geological Sciences, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States of America, **4** Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway, **5** Steinmann-Institut für Geologie, Mineralogie und Paläontologie, Universität Bonn, Bonn, Germany, **6** Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States of America

Abstract [Top](#)

Background

The best European locality for complete Eocene mammal skeletons is Grube Messel, near Darmstadt, Germany. Although the site was surrounded by a para-tropical rain forest in the Eocene, primates are remarkably rare there, and only eight fragmentary specimens were known until now. Messel has now yielded a full primate skeleton. The specimen has an unusual history: it was privately collected and sold in two parts, with only the lesser part previously known. The second part, which has just come to light, shows the skeleton to be

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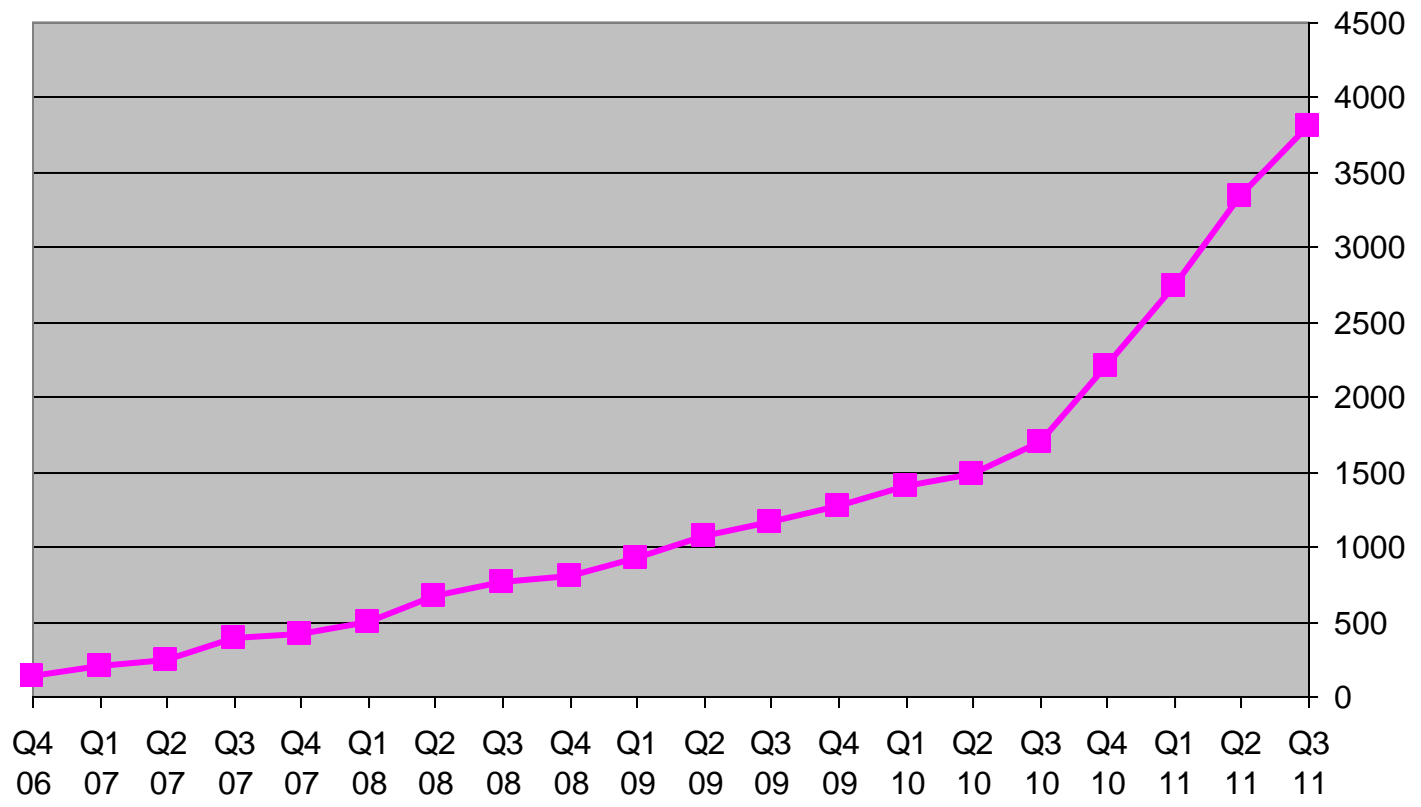




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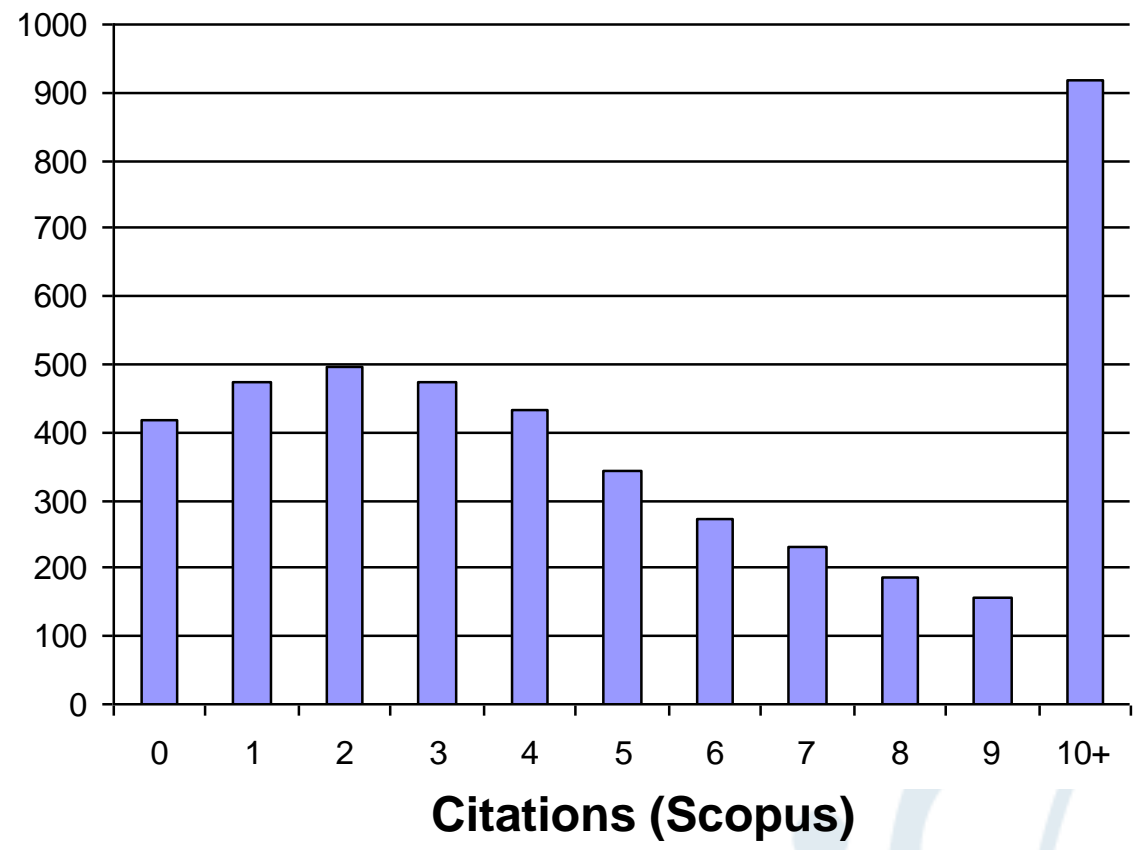


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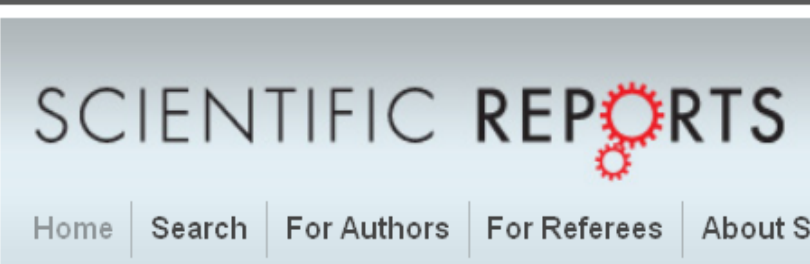
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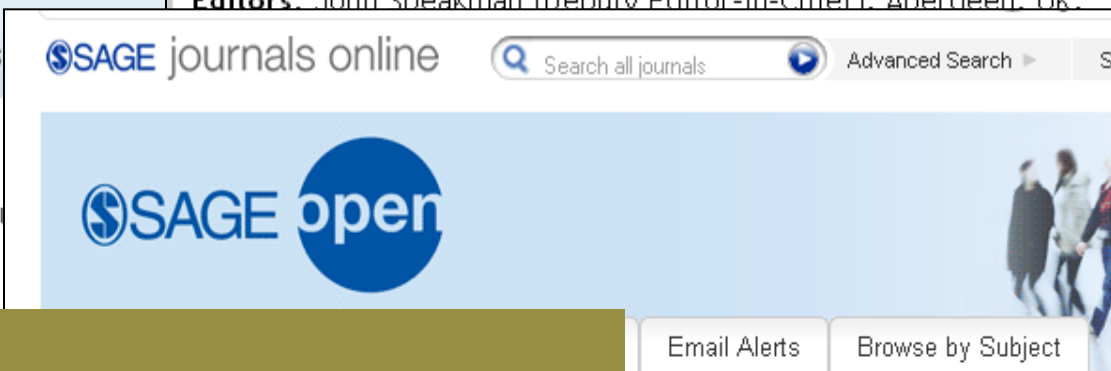
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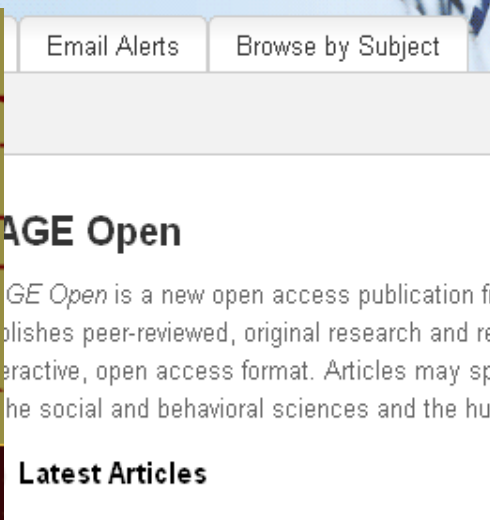


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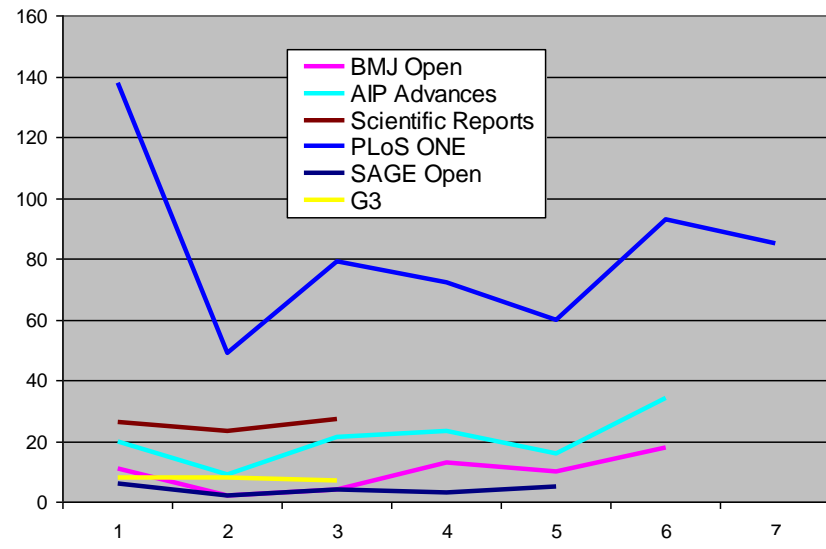
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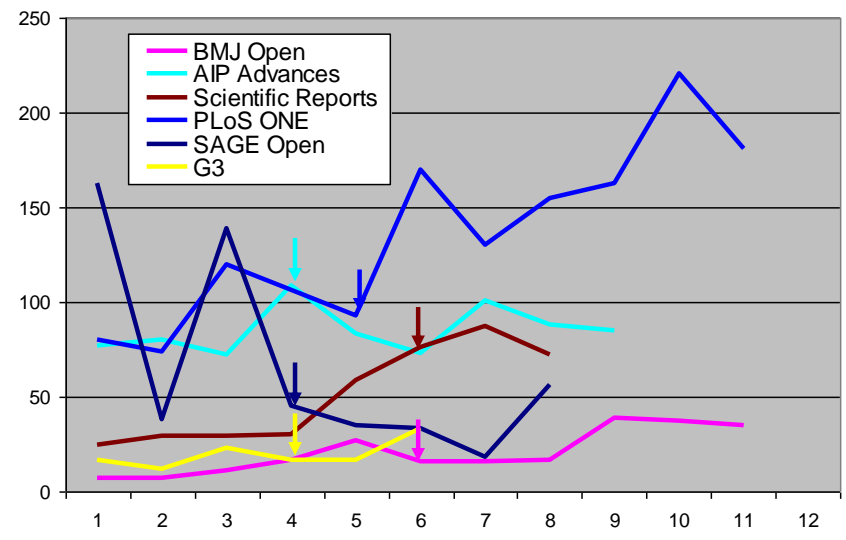
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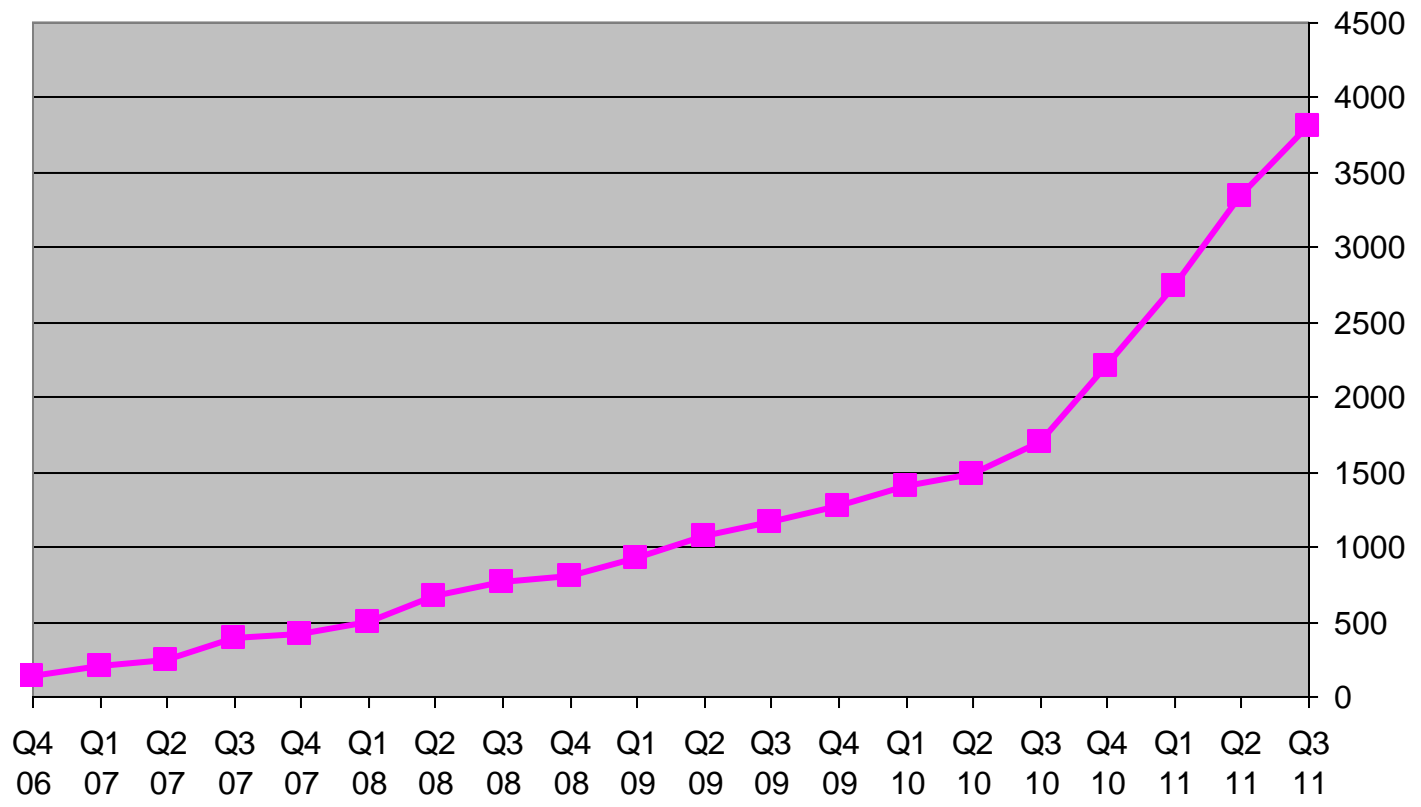
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Order in Spontaneous Behavior

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Alexander Maye¹, Chih-hao Hsieh², George Sugihara², Björn Brembs^{3*}

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Abstract [Top](#)

Brains are usually described as input/output systems: they transform sensory input into motor output. However, the motor output of brains (behavior) is notoriously variable, even under identical sensory conditions. The question of whether this behavioral variability merely reflects residual deviations due to extrinsic random **1** noise in such otherwise deterministic systems or an intrinsic, adaptive indeterminacy trait is central for the basic understanding of brain function. Instead of random noise, we find a fractal order (resembling **1** Lévy flights) in the temporal structure of spontaneous flight maneuvers in tethered *Drosophila* fruit flies. Lévy-like probabilistic behavior patterns are evolutionarily conserved, suggesting a general neural mechanism underlying spontaneous behavior. *Drosophila* can produce these patterns endogenously, without any external cues. The fly's behavior is controlled by brain circuits which operate as a **1** nonlinear system with unstable dynamics far from equilibrium. These findings suggest that both general models of brain function and autonomous agents ought to include biologically relevant nonlinear, endogenous behavior-initiating mechanisms if they strive to realistically simulate biological brains or out-compete other agents.

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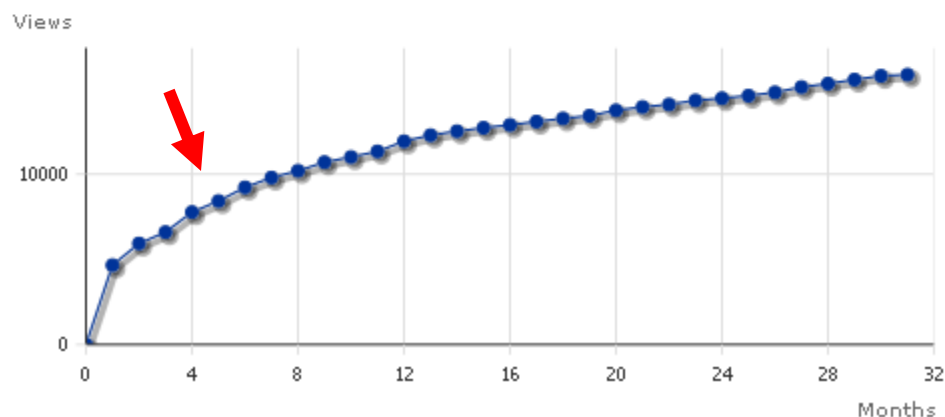
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Abbreviations: df, degree of freedom; DWI, Dirty War Index; UXO, unexploded ordnance

* To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: MJHHicks@aol.com

Madelyn Hsiao-Rei Hicks is an Honorary Lecturer with the Sections of Community Mental Health and Cultural Psychiatry, Health Service and Population Research Department, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, Denmark Hill, London, United Kingdom. Michael Spagat is a Professor in the Department of

“The Dirty War Index (DWI) method has been adapted for use in NATO military environments to monitor civilian, woman and child casualties. This version of the DWI is called a ‘Civilian Battle Damage Assessment Ratio’ (CBDAR).

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- **Systematics within *Gyps* vultures: a clade at risk**

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Molecular and Microscopical Investigation of the Microflora Inhabiting a Deteriorated Italian Manuscript Dated from the Thirteenth Century

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²Institute of Applied Microbiology, Department of Biotechnology, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Muthgasse 18, 1190 Vienna, Austria

³Laboratorio di Biologia, Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali, ICPAL - Istituto Centrale per il Restauro e la Conservazione del Patrimonio Archivistico e Librario, Via Milano, 76, 00184 Rome, Italy

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Abstract


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This case study shows the application of nontraditional diagnostic methods to investigate the microbial consortia inhabiting an ancient manuscript. The manuscript was suspected to be biologically deteriorated and SEM observations showed the presence of fungal spores attached to fibers, but classic culturing methods did not succeed in isolating microbial contaminants. Therefore, molecular methods, including PCR, denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE), and clone libraries, were used as a sensitive alternative to conventional cultivation techniques. DGGE fingerprints revealed a high biodiversity of both bacteria and fungi inhabiting the manuscript. DNA sequence analysis confirmed the existence of fungi and bacteria in manuscript samples. A number of fungal clones identified on the manuscript showed similarity to fungal species inhabiting dry or saline environments, suggesting that the manuscript environment selects for osmophilic or xerophilic fungal species. Most of the bacterial sequences retrieved

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I included the Gyps paper because it concerns phylogeny, genetic diversity and species distinctiveness of three

critically endangered vulture species with important ecological roles as scavengers. They have experienced extremely rapid population declines in the past decade, and the analyses presented can help inform conservation practices. The phylogenetic analyses supports recognition of *Gyps tenuirostris* as a distinctive species, rather than a subspecies, worthy of listing for protection.

David Mindell

Species in This Article

- *Aegypius monachus*
- *Gypohierax angolensis*
- *Gyps bengalensis*
- *Gyps indicus indicus*
- *Gyps indicus tenuirostris*
- *Gyps coprotheres*

BMC Evol Biol. 2006; 6: 65.

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Systematics within *Gyps* vultures: a clade at risk

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Abstract

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Background

Populations of the Oriental White-backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) have declined by over 95% within the past decade. This decline is largely due to incidental consumption of the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory veterinary pharmaceutical diclofenac, commonly used to treat domestic livestock. The conservation status of other *Gyps* vultures in southern Asia is also of immediate concern, given the lack of knowledge regarding status of their populations and the continuing existence of taxonomic uncertainties. In this study, we assess phylogenetic relationships for all recognized species and the majority of subspecies within the genus *Gyps*. The continuing veterinary use of diclofenac is an unknown but potential risk to related species with similar feeding habits to *Gyps*

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Aegypius monachus

Taxonomic Hierarchy

Domain : Eukaryota > Kingdom : Animalia > Subkingdom : Eumetazoa > no rank : Bilateria > Superphylum : Deuterostomia > Phylum : Chordata > Subphylum : Vertebrata > Superclass : Tetrapoda > Class : Aves > Order : Falconiformes > Family : Accipitridae > Genus : Aegypius

Images



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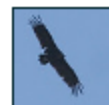
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Description

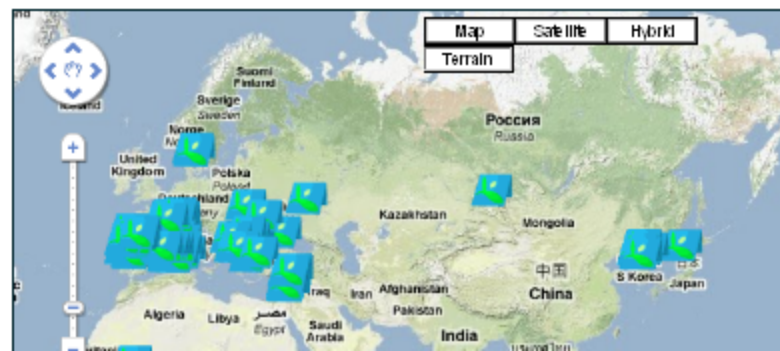
The **Chereons Vulture** (*Aegypius monachus*) is also known as the **Black Vulture**, **Monk Vulture**, or **Eurasian Black Vulture**. It is a member of the family **Accipitridae**, which also includes many other diurnal raptors such as hawks, buzzards and kites. This bird is an Old World vulture, and is only distantly related to the New World vultures, which are in a separate family, **Cathartidae**, of the order **Ciconiiformes**. It is therefore not directly related to the American Black Vulture despite the similar name and coloration. It breeds across southern Europe and Asia from Spain to Korea, but is endangered throughout its European range. It is resident except in those parts of its range where hard winters cause limited movement. The Chereons Vulture is perhaps the largest of the birds of prey in the world, though nearly equalled by the Himalayan Griffon Vulture. The Andean Condor, slightly larger, is now generally considered related to the true Falconiformes. This huge bird is 96–120 cm (39–47 in) long with a 270–310 cm (99–119 in) wingspan and a weight of 7–14 kg (15.5–31 lbs), and is thus one of the world's heaviest flying birds. It breeds in high mountains and large forests, nesting in...

Read the entire article on Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index:AmFouRKH-201635>

Gene Sequences

NCBI Taxonomy ID : [8959](#)

Specimens



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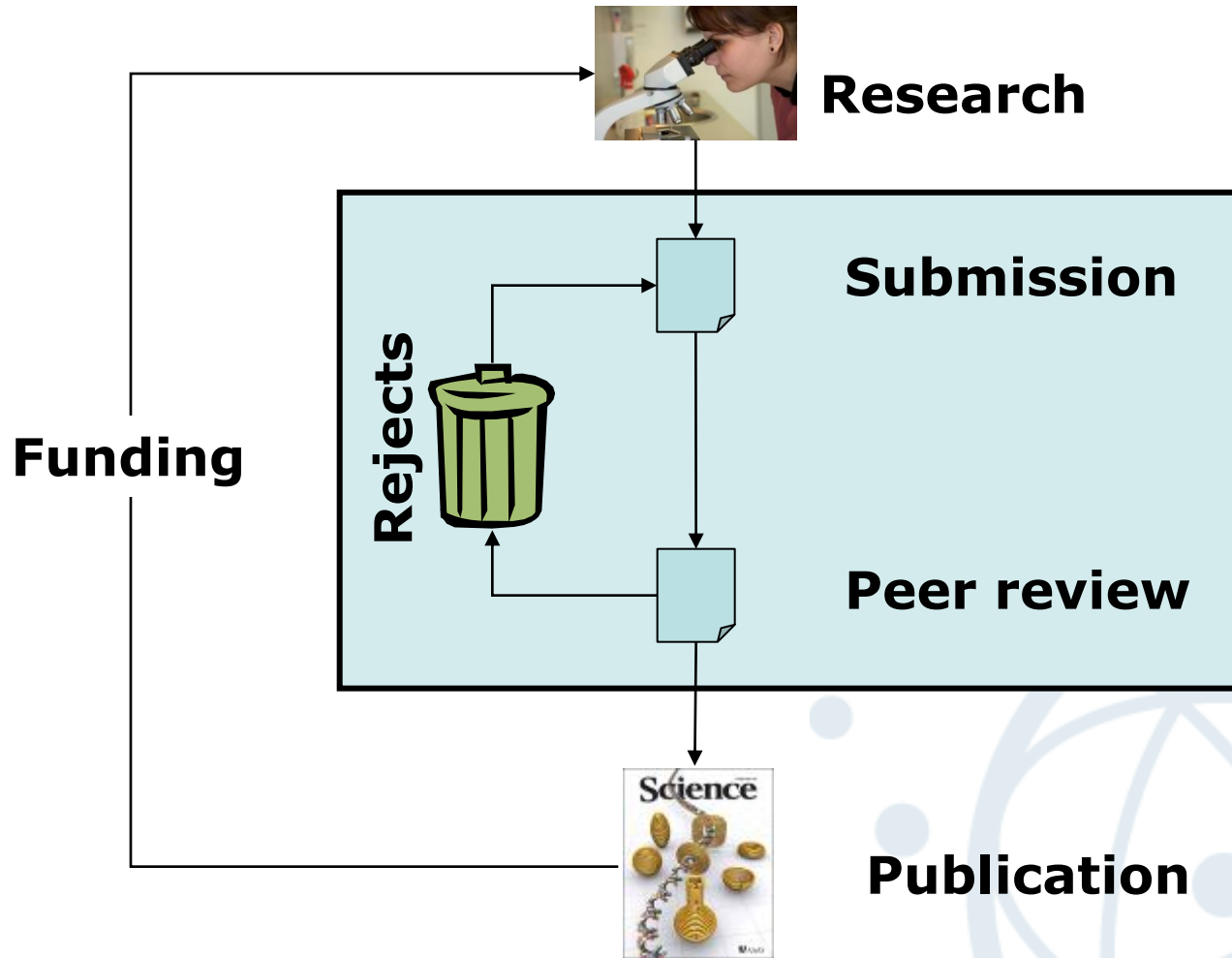
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Next steps for PLoS Hubs

- Enhance and automate content enrichment
- Develop Hubs community
- Extend literature sources beyond PubMed Central
- Make Hubs easy to replicate

Research communication

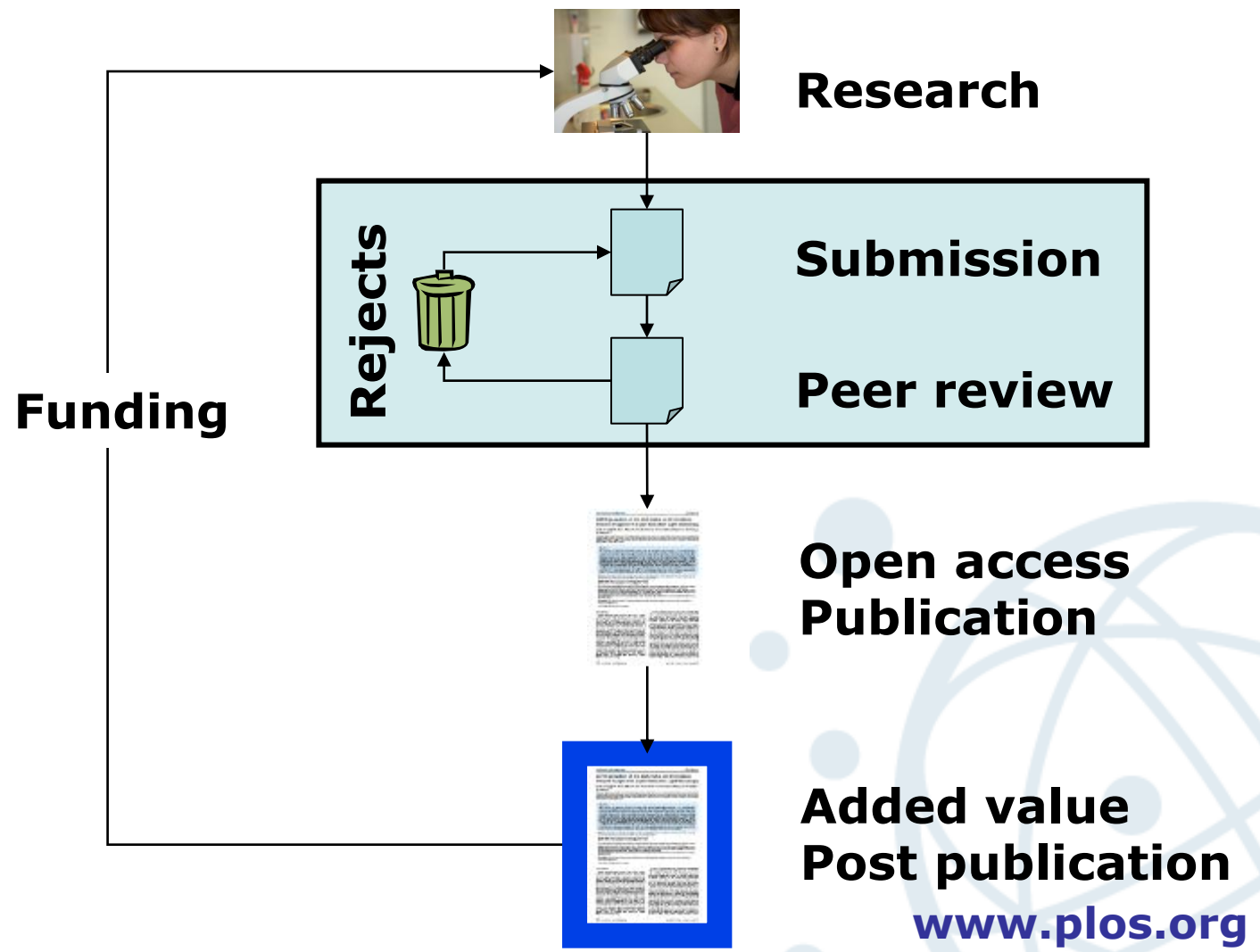




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New models of research communication





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Summary

- Impact and technical assessment can be separated
- Post-publication mechanisms can be used to enhance content
- Research communication and research itself can both be accelerated