

## Dept. Of Anthropology

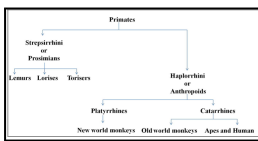
### Study Material

### BSc General (CBCS)

### Paper - DSC-2 (C2T)

## Q. Classification and features of anthropoid apes.

### Classification of Primates



Classification of primates is primarily based on the similarities and dissimilarities of external morphology, although phylogenetic classifications have also been done. Primates consist of two suborders: Strepsirrhini and Haplorrhini.

#### Platyrrhini (New World Monkeys)

- Flat nose with nostrils projecting sideways separated by a wide septum.
- Dental formula 2132 or 2133.
- Seen only in tropical forests of southern Mexico, central and south America.
- Exclusively arboreal and herbivore.
- Many members have a tail as a third hand.
- Includes 2 families: Cebidae and Callitricidae comprising 53 species
- Cebidae includes squirrel and Capuchin monkey, night and titi monkeys, Howler and spider monkeys, Uakaris and sakis.
- Callitricidae consist of Marmosets and tamarins.

#### Catarrhini (Old World monkeys, Apes and Human)

- Downward projecting nostrils with small narrow septum separating them.
- Inhabitants of south and east Asia, the Middle East and Africa.
- Comprises 7 species in two families, namely Cercopithecinae and Colobinae.

- Cercopithecines includes baboons, Mangabeys, Mandrills, guenons, patas monkeys and Macaques.
- Macaques are most successful by spreading all over the world and are mostly used for clinical research purposes.
- Colobines are also called as leaf-eating monkeys.
- They have sacculated stomach for better digestion of plant materials.

### **Apes and Humans:**

- Both are members of Superfamily Hominoidea and further divided into two families viz., Hylobatidae (Gibbons) and Hominidae (Orangutans, African apes {gorilla and chimpanzee} and Human).
- **Gibbons:**
  - Also called lesser apes.
  - They are excellent brachiators (suspensory climbing) and are monogamous.
- **Orangutans:**
  - Largest and rarest Asian apes.
  - Usually walks by quadrupedal.
  - Facing the danger of extinction.
- **African Apes:**
  - Gorilla – Largest Apes.
  - Possessing “quadrupedal knuckle walkers”.
  - As of 2011, only 786 gorillas in the world.
  - Chimpanzees – More closely resemble humans than a gorilla.
  - Quadrupedal knuckle walkers as a gorilla
  - Intelligent animals with generally pleasant personalities.
  - Their interactions can be quite noisy, violent, and sometimes fatal.
- **Bonobos:**
  - Close relatives of chimpanzees.
  - Sometimes referred to as pygmy chimpanzees.
- **Humans:**
  - Only living species – Homo sapiens.
  - Shows sexual dimorphism similar to that of other apes.
  - Humans and African apes have the same internal organs, same bones and some blood groups in common.
  - Erect posture and bipedalism due to modified pelvic bone and spinal column.
  - Humans and chimpanzees share 96% similarities in DNA base-pair sequences.
  - This shows that the two species had a common ancestor and got evolved into separated species 6-7 million years ago.