

Cercopithecoid fossils from the later Pleistocene of Taung, South Africa. D.C. BROADFIELD and E. DELSON, Lehman College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York, New York, NY 10036, and S. ATSAI, CUNY Graduate Center.

The later Pliocene cercopithecoids from Taung, probably associated with the holotype of *Australopithecus africanus*, have long been known. In 1953, K. P. Oakley made a small collection of 50 isolated teeth and about a dozen postcranial fragments from local deposits labeled as "Hrdlicka's cave" and "Block C of the Buxton Limeworks". Morphological comparison and multivariate analysis of dental measurements indicate that the teeth are mainly *Cercopithecus* (C. cf. *aethiops*), with 6 representing a colobine about the size of *Colobus guereza* or *Procolobus badius*. The postcrania are all identifiable as *Papio hamadryas* subsp., mostly smaller than the South African *P. h. ursinus*. No other taxa are associated with this sample, and no precise estimate of their age is possible, but their apparently subfossilized state suggests placing them within the later Pleistocene.

The presence of colobines at Taung indicates that at some time during this interval, the local environment was less arid than it is today or than it probably was in the later Pliocene. We suggest that the area was comprised of savanna with (gallery?) forest parcels large enough to

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support at least a small population of colobines. This assumption is supported additionally by microwear analysis which indicates that the diet composition of these southern colobines was consistent with that of extant populations.

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