Mesopithecus sivalensis from the Late Miocene of the Siwaliks.

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Fossil cercopithecids were first reported from the Middle Siwaliks in 1878, when Lydekker described a partial maxilla of *Macacus sivalensis*. Pilgrim termed additional specimens *Semnopithecus asnoti* in 1910, but later (1915) transferred the material to *Cercopithecus*. Remane (1965) and Simons (1970) correctly recognized that Pilgrim's specimens were colobine and termed them ?*Presbytis asnoti*. Szalay & Delson (1979) combined all the fossils into ?*Presbytis sivalensis* and noted that they differed little from western Eurasian *Mesopithecus*. Additional unpublished specimens have been recovered by Pilbeam, working with the GSP. We here review the entire sample from the "Dhok Pathan" faunal assemblage, dated ~7-5 Ma.

Most of the Middle Siwalik cercopithecid specimens can be referred to a single species of colobine, which differs from extant taxa in its unique combination of features: relatively large high-crowned canines, small size differential between upper and lower M1 and M2, lower M3 relatively large, molars with low cusps and relatively marked buccolingual flare. Comparisons with fossil colobines show that the Miocene Siwalik cercopithecid is most similar to *Mesopithecus monspessulanus* from the Pliocene of Europe and western Asia, but it differs in having narrower molars with lower cusps, and probably larger canines. We provisionally attribute this Siwalik colobine to *Mesopithecus sivalensis*.

Previous workers have postulated a zoogeographic barrier between the Siwaliks and the southwest Asian faunal province, which led Szalay & Delson to conclude that the Indo-Pakistan fossils should not be linked with *Mesopithecus*. However, recent studies downplay the significance of this barrier, and our results support that reinterpretation.