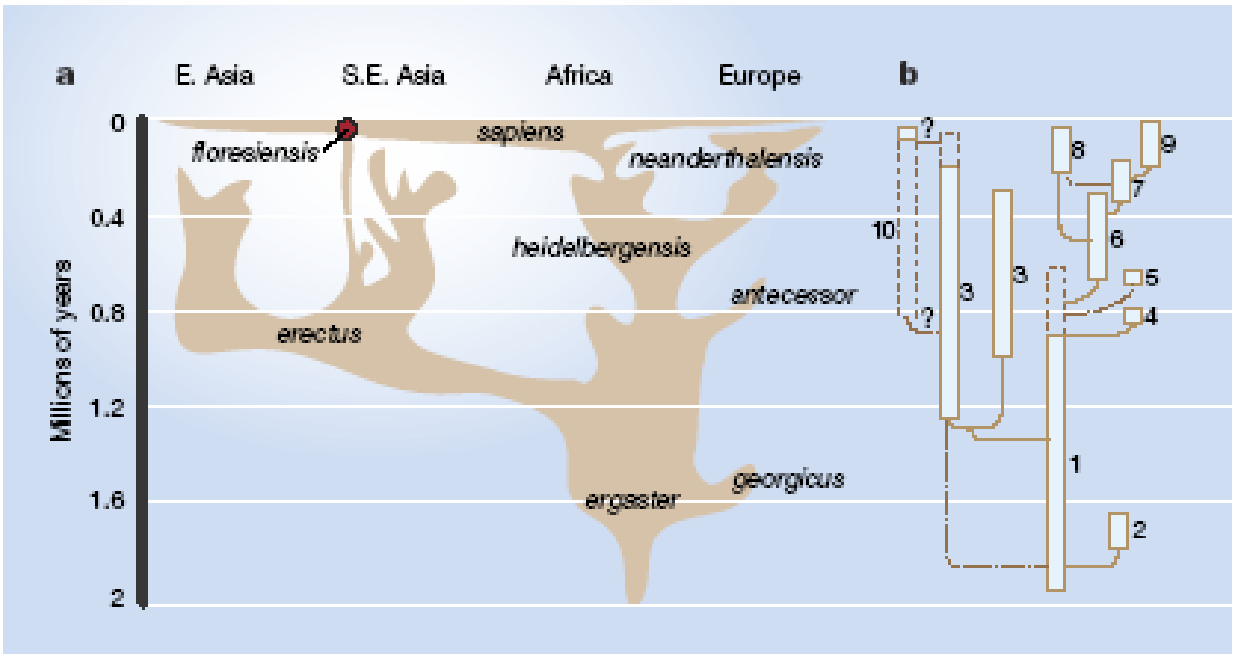
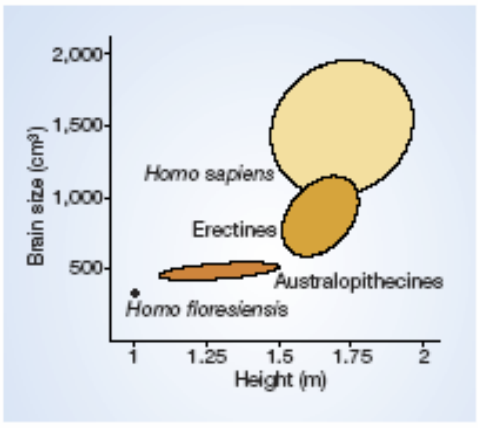


***Homo floresiensis* in the context of the evolution and dispersal of the genus *Homo*.**

a, The new species as part of the Asian dispersals of the descendants of *H. ergaster* and *H. erectus*, with an outline of the descent of other *Homo* species provided for context. b, The evolutionary history of *Homo* is becoming increasingly complex as new species are discovered. *Homo floresiensis* (left) is believed to be a long-term, isolated descendant of Javanese *H. erectus*, but it could be a recent divergence. 1, *H. ergaster*/African *erectus*; 2, *H. georgicus*; 3, Javanese and Chinese *erectus*; 4, *antecessor*; 5, H. *cepranensis*; 6, *H. heidelbergensis*; 7, *H. helmei*; 8, *H. neanderthalensis*; 9, *H. sapiens*; 10, *H. floresiensis*. Solid lines show probable evolutionary relationships; dashed lines, possible alternatives.



The relative brain and body size of *H. floresiensis*. The dimensions of the skull and skeleton (LB1) described by Brown *et al.* fall well outside the extremes seen in *H. sapiens* and the 'erectines' (a range of hominin species, of which *H. erectus* is the most familiar). LB1 is closer in size to, but even smaller than, the australopithecines, of which the best known example is Lucy. On various anatomical grounds, however, Brown *et al.* believe that LB1 represents a dwarfed *H. erectus*.

From Lahr and Foley 2004. Nature 431