



General Characteristics of Lower Primates

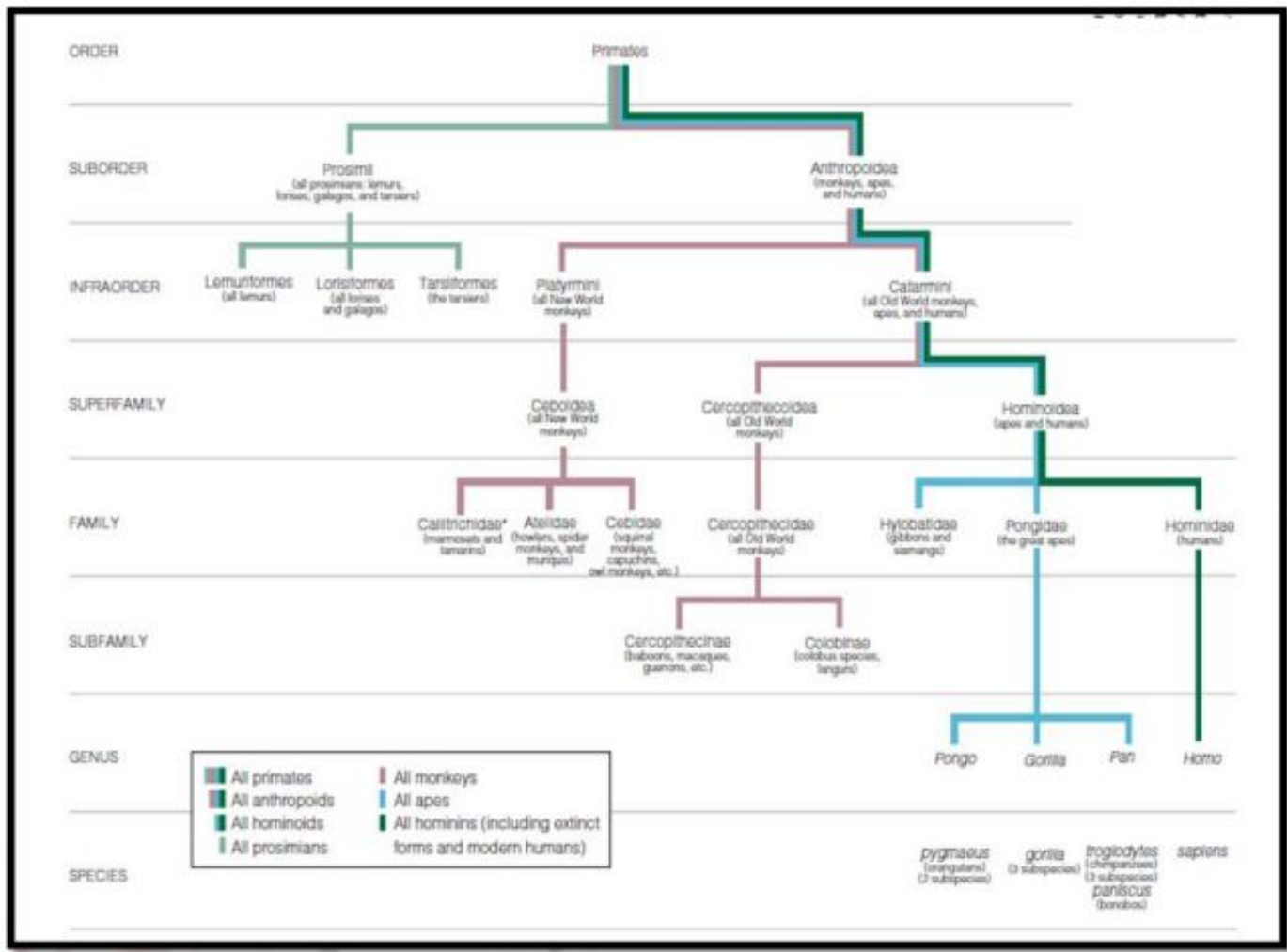
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Content

General Characteristics of

- Tree Shrews
- Lemur
- Tarsiers



Tree Shrews

- Infra Order - Tupaiiformes
 - Family - Tupaiidae
- It is most primitive form of living primates.
- They are small with long feathery tail.
- Mostly distributed in all over southeast asia(India, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar etc)
- They are Arboreal inhabited.
- Brain is quite complex

Tree Shrews



Tree Shrews

- Pollex(thumb) and hallux(big toe) are opposable to some extent.
- They have primitive type of dentition
- Dental Formula
 - Upper Jaw - 2:1:3:3
 - Lower Jaw - 3:1:3:3
- Molars and premolars are simple.
- Incisors of lower jaw is similar to mammalian dentition.
- Hand and feet resemble with primates.
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Tarsiers

- They are found in Southeast Asia, mostly in east Indian Archipelago and Sumatra.
- Tiny animals with long tail and very long hind limbs.
- They have frog like appearances.
- Furry covering on the body.
- Eyes are directed forward and eye orbit is very large.
- Eyes have startling appearance.
- They can rotate their heads 180 degrees.

Tarsiers



Tarsiers

- They are Arboreal and nocturnal habit.
- Nostrils are widely separated.
- Foramen and magnum are placed further at the front of the base of skull like other prosimians, this phenomenon can be equated with expansion of brain.
- Tibia and fibula are fused together at lower end.
- Tarsus bone of the foot is elongated.
- Dental Formula
 - Upper Jaw : 2:1:3:3
 - Lower Jaw : 1:1:3:3
 - Tooth combs are not present.
- The crowns of upper molars are tri-tubercular(three cusps)

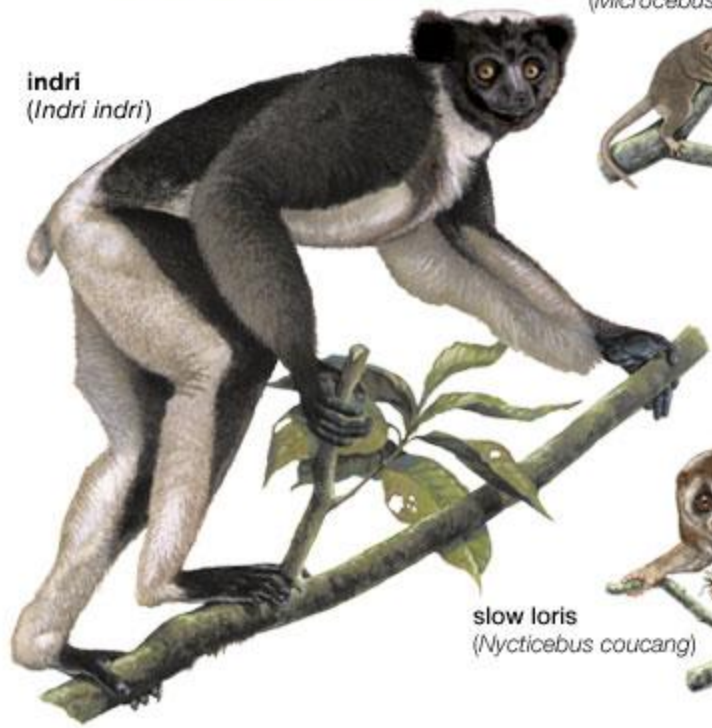
Tarsiers

- They sleep most of days clinging on vertical branches of tree.
- Wake up at twilight, and hop fro tree to tree in search of food.
- Their food consists of insects, lizards, etc.
- Sensitive pads are present below the digits, which help them cling on smooth vertical surface of the stem and branches and glass sheets.
- Second and third digit of the foot show claws like nails(most prosimians have single claws).

Lemur

- Infraorder - Lemuriformes
- Families
 - Lemuridae - Lemur
 - Indriidae - Indrises
 - Daubentoniidae - Aye Aye
- They are found in island of Madagascar, near southwest coast of Africa.
- They are occupied in bushes, trees.
- Mouse Lemurs(Microsebus) are smallest.
- Lemurs are smallest living primates.

30 cm
12 inches



indri
(*Indri indri*)

gray mouse lemur
(*Microcebus murinus*)



aye-aye
(*Daubentonia madagascariensis*)



ring-tailed lemur
(*Lemur catta*)

Sulawesi, or spectral, tarsier
(*Tarsius tarsier*)



slow loris
(*Nycticebus coucang*)



Lemur

- They are diurnal and have prehensile hand and feet.
- They have 5 well developed digits.
- Second digit is develop as a grooming claws.
- Body is covered with thick coat of fur.
- Tail is busy in nature, but not prehensile, which helps in balancing.
- Eyes are laterally placed and have binocular vision.
- Dental Formula
 - 2:1:3:3
- The first premolar resembles the canine.
- The incisors and canines are set in the form of tooth comb.
- They are omnivorous.