

THE PRIMATE ORDER

(only major species groups are included in this table) ¹

Suborder	Infraorder	Superfamily	Family	Subfamily	Common Names	Distribution			
Prosimii ² (prosimians)	Lemuriformes	Lemuroidea	Lemuridae (true lemurs)		ring-tailed, and ruffed lemurs	Madagascar and Comoro Islands (for some species)			
			Lepilemuridae		sportive lemurs				
			Cheirogaleidae (dwarf lemurs)		dwarf and mouse lemurs				
			Indriidae		indris, avahis, and sifakas				
		Daubentoniidae		aye-ayes	Madagascar				
	Lorisoidea	Loridae		lorises, pottos, and angwantibos	lorises--India and Southeast Asia; others--Africa				
		Galagonidae		galagos (or bush babies)	sub-Saharan Africa and Zanzibar				
Tarsiformes ³		Tarsiidae		tarsiers	Philippines, Borneo, Celebes Islands, and Sumatra				
Anthropoidea (anthropoids)	Platyrrhini (New World monkeys)	Ceboidea	Callitricidae	Calitricinae	marmosets and tamarins	Panama and north and eastern South America			
			Cebidae ⁴	Cebinae	squirrel and capuchin monkeys	forested areas of Central America and/or north and eastern South America			
				Aotinae	night and titi monkeys				
				Atelinae	howler and spider monkeys				
			Pitheciinae	uakaris and sakis					
	Catarrhini (Old World monkeys, apes and humans)	Cercopithecoidea (Old World monkeys)	Cercopithecoidea		Cercopithecinae	guenons, vervets, baboons, macaques, etc.	guenons and baboons--Africa; macaques--northwest Africa, Gibraltar, South and East Asia		
					Colobinae	colobuses, langurs, and proboscis monkeys	colobuses--Central Africa; langurs--India and Southeast Asia; proboscis monkeys--Borneo		
		Hominoidea (apes and humans)			Hominidae ⁵ (hominids)	Hylobatidae		gibbons and siamangs	Southeast Asia
						Homininae	Ponginae	orangutans	Sumatra and Borneo
							Gorillinae	gorillas	Central and West Africa
								chimpanzees and bonobos	Central and West Africa
							humans	originally only tropical and subtropical regions of Africa	

- 1 Some researchers prefer an alternate classification that divides the primates into 2 suborders: Strepsirhini (lemurs and lorises) and Haplorhini (tarsiers, monkeys, apes, and humans). The strepsirhines have moist noses and the haplorhines do not. To see what this classification system looks like [click here](#).
- 2 The taxonomy of the Primate Order is likely to be modified over the next few years as a result of the discovery of new species and the use of DNA sequencing data. At present, there are differences of opinion as to the placement of some species. Several of these differences are referred to in footnotes 3-5 below.
- 3 Some taxonomists consider tarsiers to be a distinct suborder, the Tarsiioidea.
- 4 Some taxonomists consider the spider and howler monkeys to be in a separate family, the Atelidae.
- 5 There is an on-going debate as to how close Humans are to the African apes. Some taxonomists consider them to be in a separate family, the Pongidae. This would leave humans in their own family, the Hominidae. In the taxonomic system shown above, humans are combined with the great apes but are separated from them at a lower classification category--the tribe. Humans are assigned to the tribe Hominini while chimpanzees and bonobos are relegated to the tribe Panini. This reflects a growing consensus among primatologists.