

# THE PRIMATE ORDER

(only major species groups are included in this table) <sup>1</sup>

Suborder	Infraorder	Superfamily	Family	Subfamily	Common Names	Distribution		
<b>Prosimii</b> <sup>2</sup> (prosimians)	<b>Lemuriformes</b>	<b>Lemuroidea</b>	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			
	<b>Lorisoidea</b>	Loridae		lorises, pottos, and angwantibos	lorises--India and Southeast Asia; others--Africa			
		Galagonidae		galagos (or bush babies)	sub-Saharan Africa and Zanzibar			
<b>Tarsiformes</b> <sup>3</sup>		Tarsiidae		tarsiers	Philippines, Borneo, Celebes Islands, and Sumatra			
<b>Anthropoidea</b> (anthropoids)	<b>Platyrrhini</b> (New World monkeys)	Ceboidea	<b>Callitricidae</b>	Calitricinae	marmosets and tamarins	Panama and north and eastern South America		
			<b>Cebidae</b> <sup>4</sup>	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				
	<b>Catarrhini</b> (Old World monkeys, apes and humans)	<b>Cercopithecoidea</b> (Old World monkeys)	Cercopithecoidea	<b>Cercopithecidae</b>	<b>Cercopithecinae</b>	guenons, vervets, baboons, macaques, etc.	guenons and baboons--Africa; macaques--northwest Africa, Gibraltar, South and East Asia	
					<b>Colobinae</b>	colobuses, langurs, and proboscis monkeys	colobuses--Central Africa; langurs--India and Southeast Asia; proboscis monkeys--Borneo	
		<b>Hominoidea</b> (apes and humans)	Hominoidea	Hominidae <sup>5</sup> (hominids)	<b>Hylobatidae</b>		gibbons and siamangs	Southeast Asia
					<b>Homininae</b>	<b>Ponginae</b>	orangutans	Sumatra and Borneo
						<b>Gorillinae</b>	gorillas	Central and West Africa
						Homininae	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.