



(photo: Àsikò)

Science's Very Own Adam and Eve

Mitochondrial DNA

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• Past studies have traced regions of Eastern, Southern, and Western Africa.

• Researchers call Makgadikgadi the homeland. Spektor says that Mitochondrial Eve and its descendants spent 30,000 years in the homeland before L0 split into its first subunit.

• Eve's male counterpart is believed to be on the opposite side of Africa. The male-inherited Y-chromosomes are found in West Africa, not the South.

• Eve and Y-chromosome Adam may have walked similar paths.

(photo: Waleo Moliere)

• Researchers are still creating new data to further discover where Adam came from.

• It's possible that humans may have had multiple homelands but as of now, it is too early to pinpoint the exact place of origin for all.

The Backstory:

• 200,000 years ago, our earliest common ancestors stood upon a green oasis in the middle of Africa's Kalahari Desert.

• This now extinct oasis is called the Makgadikgadi paleo wetland.

• After thousands of years, these people left due to climate change.

• The changes made surrounding environments greener and habitable. This lured the ancestors into areas where various indigenous people reside to this day.

• Passed down through mother's, L0 is an alignment of genes that is encrypted in the mitochondrial of its inhibitors.

• According to Spektor, the gene has survived in its initial form within some populations for hundreds of thousands of years.

• The L0 bloodline can be found in Khoisan people, the indigenous groups.

Our most recent common ancestor, Mitochondrial Eve lived only 50,000 to 60,000 years prior to present day.



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