

Was IDA Our Ancestor?

In May of 2009, the news was filled with stories about a missing link called Ida (*Darwinius masillae*). There was a great deal of media hype about her. For example: “The search for a direct connection between humans and the rest of the animal kingdom has taken 200 years, but it was presented to the world today at a special news conference in New York.”¹

Are you ready for some facts about IDA?

- Ida’s fossil was found in two parts by amateur fossil hunters in 1983 and was purchased by a group of scientists from a fossil dealership.
- Well-preserved fossil includes fur and is dated (by evolutionists) at 47 million years old.
- Fossil is the size of a raccoon and has a long tail and resembles skeleton of a lemur—a small primate that likes to climb trees.
- Ida has opposable thumbs (just like lemurs today).



IDA’s fossil is the size of a raccoon, has a long tail and resembles a lemur skeleton²

Yet despite all the hype which included a new book, a movie and TV specials, not all scientists—even evolutionists—agree that Ida is a missing link. Here is what Chris Beard, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, said about Ida:

“Beard said he applauded the push to get the public excited about science. But he disagreed with some of the outlandish claims researchers made during the press conference, such as the suggestion that Ida represents a “missing link” between early primates and humans. ‘It’s not a missing link, it’s not even a terribly close relative to monkeys, apes and humans, which is the point they’re trying to make.’”³

I’ll bet you didn’t see that quote in the news! From the Creationist perspective, IDA was simply a lemur with some unique characteristics. This is consistent with what we see today: wide variation within each created “kind.” Once again we must look beyond the media hype to determine the truth—lemurs have always been lemurs and humans have always been humans.

Recommended Resource: [A Pocket Guide to Apemen: Separating Fact from Fiction](#), Answers in Genesis-USA, 2010

References

¹ Watts, Alex. “Scientists Unveil Missing Link in Evolution.” Sky News Online, 19 May 2009. Web. 8 Aug. 2014

² Photo source: Atlantic Productions / www.revealingthelink.com

³ Moskowitz, Clara. “Amid Media Circus, Scientists Doubt ‘Ida’ Is Your Ancestor.” Live Science., 20 May 2009. Web. 8 August 2014.