

First on two legs

For the record, John Gribbin is wrong to suggest that he and Jeremy Cherfas were, in the early 1980s, the first to propose a bipedal ancestry for the chimpanzee (Letters, 26 April p 53).

Palaeoanthropologists and other palaeontologists have discussed the idea for at least 25 years. Bjorn Kurten, for example, argued in his 1972 book *Not from the Apes* (Victor Gollancz) that the African apes are derived from a *Homo*-like ancestral form.

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