

**SOME ASPECTS OF THE ANATOMICAL ADAPTATIONS IN THE
CATARRHINE AND PLATYRRHINE MONKEYS TO ARBOREALISM**

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A REVIEW PAPER IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF BSc - ANATOMY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
1985/86.

Summary.

Some aspects of the anatomical adaptations that enable Catarrhine and Platyrrhine monkeys to exploit the arboreal environment have been reviewed from several previous authors' studies. It is highlighted here that grasping hands and feet, prehensile tails, ischial callosities and improved visual apparatus, all coordinated by a well-developed brain are some of the major hall-marks in adaptations of the Old and New world monkeys to arborealism.

INTRODUCTION

The ability of an animal to move has been attributed to food acquisition and predator evasion (CAMPBELL, 1974; JENKINS, 1974). However, the more important relationship between locomotion and food acquisition is undeniable (ROSE, 1984). As NAPIER (1971) put it, "an animal must move to feed and feed to move". From this and the fact that in an arboreal environment food resources are mainly concentrated in the small branch setting (ROSE, 1974a, 1984), it is conceivable that many of the primate adaptations are mainly to enable them exploit this habitat (CAMPBELL, 1974) and that these appeared in the mid-miocene when there was a shift from insectivory to frugivory (NAPIER, 1969 - IN CAMPBELL, 1974). Therefore, though not all primates are arboreal, they all bear a phylogenetically arboreal ancestry (NAPIER, 1970; JENKINS, 1974; NAPIER and NAPIER, 1985). Hence most primates including the terrestrial ones like the baboons, patas and geladas are able to operate successfully within the small branch setting (CAMPBELL, 1974;