

## VERTEBRATE PALEOBIOLOGY AND PALEOANTHROPOLOGY SERIES

Eric Delson, Ross D.E. MacPhee

*Series Editors*

### The First Humans

Frederick E. Grine • John G. Fleagle • Richard E. Leakey

*Editors*

This volume addresses the origin of the human genus *Homo*, a major transition in human evolution and associated with major changes in brain size, locomotion, and culture, but one with many unanswered questions. How many different species of *Homo* were there, and how were they interrelated? Are stone tools a characteristic of early *Homo*? What was their function? How does the use of stone tools relate to changes in the dentition and brain size? Did adaptations for long distance running first appear with the origin of this genus? How does this relate to its diet and cultural abilities.

*"Of the three significant evolutionary events in human history--the origins of the human clade, the human genus, the human species--reconstructing the origin of our genus is the most challenging because there can be no genetic contribution, the fossil record hints at a complex population history, at least one group began making stone tools, and the quality of the record permits several plausible interpretations. This excellent book lays out clearly the nature of the evidence, its challenges and why a consensus is currently difficult to reach, and will be a "must" for all interested in the evolution of our species."* **David Pilbeam**, Henry Ford II Professor of Human Evolution, Harvard University

*"This book delivers exactly what its title promises -- an up-to-date, comprehensive synthesis of what we know about the origins and early evolution of the human genus."* **Richard Klein**, Professor of Biology and Anthropology, Stanford University, Stanford, California

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