

Peer Review

Review of: "A Uniformitarian Solution to the Appearance of Small-Bodied Hominins, Dwarfs, Pathologies, and Self-Domestication: Theories of New Discoveries"

Hany Akeel Al-hussaniy¹

1. University of Baghdad, Iraq

The review article “A Uniformitarian Solution to the Appearance of Small-Bodied Hominins, Dwarfs, Pathologies, and Self-Domestication: Theories of New Discoveries” presents an ambitious interdisciplinary synthesis exploring alternative explanations for the emergence of small-bodied hominins, integrating paleoanthropology, pathology, evolutionary theory, and cultural anthropology. The manuscript demonstrates strong scholarly breadth, incorporating extensive literature coverage and presenting an original hypothesis linking developmental anomalies in small-bodied hominins to infectious or pathological agents, which represents a thought-provoking contribution to ongoing debates regarding species classification and evolutionary interpretation. However, the article exhibits several weaknesses, including heavy reliance on speculative arguments without sufficient empirical or genetic evidence, occasional logical leaps connecting widely separated fossil findings through single causative mechanisms, and limited methodological structure expected in systematic review frameworks. The manuscript would benefit from clearer hypothesis testing criteria, stronger integration of molecular, genomic, and paleopathological data, and improved distinction between established evidence and speculative anthropological interpretations. Additionally, greater clarity in organizing competing theories using structured comparative tables and stronger critical evaluation of conflicting evidence would improve readability and scientific rigor.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.