

## **EVOLUTIONARY TRENDS IN THE EUROPEAN NEANDERTALS**

by  
**H. WOLPOFF \***

An understanding of the place of the Neandertals in European evolution depends on whether they were replaced by the post-Neandertal populations. While the relationship between these two samples can be examined through comparisons, a list of the similarities and differences does not necessarily provide insight into their causes. A complimentary approach is to examine the Neandertal sample for evolutionary trends connecting the earlier and later specimens. Trends in the direction of the post-Neandertal Europeans would help support the continuity model, while trends in other directions would help support the replacement model. In this paper, several independent skeletal systems with good sample sizes within the Neandertals are examined for evolutionary trends. Neandertals appear to have been evolving in the direction of the post-Neandertal populations, and in some features the evolutionary changes are not in the direction of decreasing robustness, as is often supposed. A replacement model, if tenable at all, must be more complex than is usually argued.

\* University of Michigan, Professor Anthropology, Ann Arbor MI 48109, U.S.A.