Lapita Skeletal Record

Near/Remote Oceania

Austronesian/Lapita Expansion

Lapita Cultural Complex

Polynesian Phenotype

Sundadonty

Lapita Skeletons

Post-Lapita Skeletons

Not Lapita
Watom Island, East New Britain, Papua New Guinea (500 B.C.)

Watom Island

Watom Island

Massau Island, New Ireland

4 sites: 1600 to 500 years B.C.

Teouma, Efate Island, Vanuatu (3100-3000 BP)

Koné, New Caledonia (c. 500 BC)

WKO-O13B, Koné, Foué Peninsula, New Caledonia c. 500 BC

Kone, New Caledonia Cranium

Kone, New Caledonia Teeth
Kone, New Caledonia Long Bones

Naitabale, Moturiki Island, Fiji (700 BC)

Site Y2-25, Waya Island, Fiji

Waya Y2-25-1 Cranium

Burial AK, Tongatapu, Tonga (Not Lapita Age)

Polynesian Features?

- relatively tall stature
- rocker jaw
- slight to moderate incisor shoveling
- oval-shaped foramen (Petrous head)
- marked costo-clavicular (interior medial clavicles)
- bowed long limb bones
- squating facets (tali &ibiae)

Non-Polynesian Features?

- small (microdont) tooth size
- slender and differently proportioned long limb bones
- short/broad mandibular bodies, divergent rami
- few definite conclusions

Analysis I

Analysis I
Lapita mandibles from the Bismarcks are biologically similar to those of the modern or near modern inhabitants of near Oceania and western Near Remote Oceania and most dissimilar to Polynesian mandibles.

Modern and near modern Polynesians are biologically closest to people living in Island Southeast Asia.

Little or not phenotypic evidence of an exchange of genes between Polynesian ancestors the indigenous peoples of Near Oceania.

Support models that posit intrusion and innovation.

Ancestral Polynesian homeland somewhere in Island Southeast Asia or Wallacea.