

Study Shows Humans Are Evolving Faster Than Previously Thought

Source: [theguardian](https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/05/26/genetics-study-humans-evolving-faster)

Results of largest ever genetics study of a single population could also help refine dates for major events during human evolution



Although genetic Adam and Eve almost certainly never met, new research shows that they were alive at approximately the same time

Humans are evolving more rapidly than previously thought, according to the largest ever genetics study of a single population.

Scientists reached the conclusion after showing that almost every man alive can trace his origins to one common male ancestor who lived about 250,000 years ago. The discovery that

so-called “genetic Adam”, lived about 100,000 years more recently than previously understood suggests that humans must have been genetically diverging at a more rapid rate than thought.

Kári Stefánsson, of the company deCODE [Genetics](#) and senior author of the study, said: “It means we have evolved faster than we thought.”

The study also shows that the most recent common male ancestor was alive at around the same time as “mitochondrial Eve” – the last woman to whom all females alive today can trace their mitochondrial DNA.

Unlike their biblical counterparts, genetic Adam and Eve were by no means the only humans alive, and although they almost certainly never met, the latest estimate which gives a closer match between their dates makes more sense, according to the researchers.

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