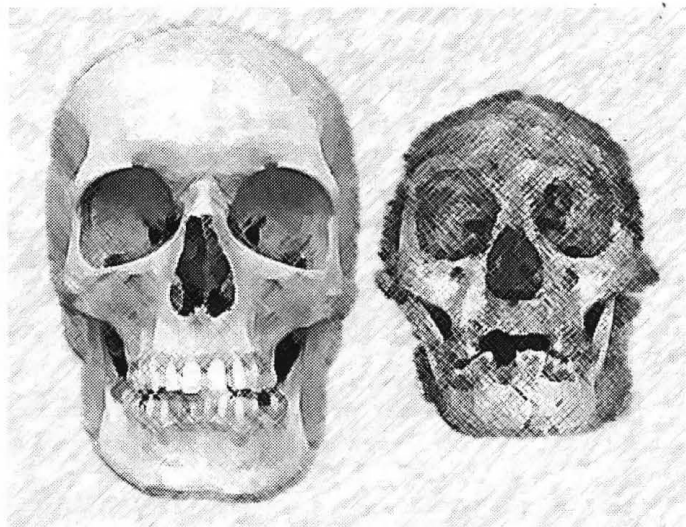


# ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

## Another Human Species Discovered

It is widely believed that modern humans evolved during millions of years of trial and error. Some scientists speculate that during that time more than one species may have co-existed. There have been discoveries that lend support to this theory, the newest was recently found on the Indonesian island of Flores. A team of Australian/Indonesian scientists have made a discovery that has led to an addition in the human family tree. When archaeologists unearthed the first bones of this discovery, they marveled at a small skull that would have held a chimp-size brain. Thomas Sutikna of the Indonesian Centre for Archaeology told *NewScientist Weekly* that they "thought the skull and the mandible was from a child." After further study of the skull and teeth, it became evident that the skeleton they found was in fact an adult; a small adult. Standing only one meter tall, the tiny hominid has been named *Homo floresiensis*, and probably evolved from *Homo erectus* to such a small stature as a result of the limited resources on Flores Island. The remains, dubbed "the Hobbit," have been dated to 18,000 years old, with other fossils recovered from the site as old as 38,000 years. Other finds suggests that *Homo floresiensis* could have inhabited the island from 95,000 and 13,000 years ago. This means that the Hobbit race would have lived during the same time as Cro-Magnon. Peter Brown, a paleoanthropologist at the University of New England in New South Wales, Australia, told *National Geographic News* that "To find that as recently as perhaps 13,000 years ago, there was another upright, bipedal — although small-brained — creature walking the planet at the same time as modern humans is as exciting as it was unexpected." The current inhabitants of Flores Island, have old legends and folk stories of a race of little people called *Ebu Gogo*. They are described as one meter tall, hairy and used a murmuring type of language. Perhaps this discovery has brought some truth to the myths.



Modern human skull (left) compared to small *Homo erectus*-like skull of *Homo floresiensis* (right)

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**Sandy Grant.**