

## **On the False Fact of 98.5 % Sequence Identity of Chimp and Human DNA**

*“False facts are highly injurious to the progress of science, for they often endure long;”*<sup>1</sup>

**Charles Darwin**

See <https://www.weloennig.de/HumanEvolution.pdf>, p. 41 on the assertion of 98.5 % sequence identity of chimp and human DNA (just a reminder):

**“This is a widely proclaimed but definitely “false fact”.** Richard Buggs, Professor of Evolutionary Genomics at Queen Mary University of London, recently commented: “What does the data say today in 2018, and how can it be described to the public in an adequate manner?” Key answer: “The total percentage of the human genome that I can know for sure has one-to-one orthology with the chimp genome is **84.4%**” [“our minimum lower bound”], *i.e. more than 450 million differences (15% of 3 billion bp = 450 million)*. Similar numbers have independently been obtained by Jeffrey Tomkins, former faculty member in the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry at Clemson directing the Clemson University Genomics Institute for 5 years.”<sup>2</sup>

See also <https://www.weloennig.de/HaushundDiskussion.pdf>, p. 6, Table 1. Individual chromosome similarities for chimpanzee compared to human using optimized sequence slices and the BLASTN algorithm.

### **Latest Discussion (Summer 2025):**

#### **Casey Luskin: “Fact Check: New “Complete” Chimp Genome Shows 14.9 Percent Difference from Human Genome”**

“A groundbreaking paper in *Nature* reports the “Complete sequencing of ape genomes,” including the genomes for chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, Bornean orangutans, Sumatran orangutans, and siamangs. I noted this in an [article here yesterday](#), reporting that an evolutionary icon — *the famous “1 percent difference” between the human and chimp genomes, touted across the breadth of popular and other scientific writing and teaching — has fallen*. The

<sup>1</sup> Full quotation: “False facts are highly injurious to the progress of science, for they often long endure; but false views, if supported by some evidence, do little harm, as every one takes a salutary pleasure in proving their falseness; and when this is done, one path towards error is closed and the road to truth is often at the same time opened.” Darwin, C. R. 1871. *The descent of man, and selection in relation to sex*. London: John Murray. Volume 2. 1st edition. See: <https://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?itemID=F937.2&viewtype=text&pageseq=1>

<sup>2</sup> See references in the link given above (p. 64).

researchers, for whatever reason — I’m not a mind reader — chose to bury that remarkable finding in technical jargon in their Supplementary Data section.”

See the detailed article by Casey Luskin here:  
<https://scienceandculture.com/2025/05/fact-check-new-complete-chimp-genome-shows-14-9-percent-difference-from-human-genome/>

*Cf.* please also the following articles by the same author:

<https://scienceandculture.com/2025/05/bombshell-new-research-overturms-claim-that-humans-and-chimps-differ-by-only-1-percent-of-dna/>

<https://scienceandculture.com/2025/05/genetic-differences-between-humans-and-chimps-represent-functional-dna/>

<https://scienceandculture.com/2025/05/whats-the-best-explanation-for-human-chimp-genetic-differences/>

<https://scienceandculture.com/2025/05/additional-method-of-analysis-confirms-human-chimp-genomes-are-about-15-percent-different/>

<https://scienceandculture.com/2025/05/letter-to-the-smithsonian-correct-your-signage-on-human-chimp-genetic-similarity/>



National Museum of Natural History

Photo by Blake Patterson:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Museum\\_of\\_Natural\\_History#/media/File:National\\_Museum\\_of\\_Natural\\_History\\_Rotunda\\_pano.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum_of_Natural_History#/media/File:National_Museum_of_Natural_History_Rotunda_pano.jpg)

<https://scienceandculture.com/2025/06/critics-struggle-with-evidence-that-humans-and-chimps-are-15-genetically-different/>

<https://scienceandculture.com/2025/06/do-large-genetic-differences-between-humans-and-chimps-represent-mere-technical-failures/>

Or with a view on the entire series: **Chimps and Critics**

<https://scienceandculture.com/tag/chimps-and-critics-series/>

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