

Copilot

The **Ardi** skeleton, also known as ARA-VP-6/500, represents the fossilized remains of an early human-like female anthropoid. Ardi is estimated to be **4.4 million years old** and is the most complete early hominid specimen discovered to date. Here are some key details about Ardi:

1. Discovery:

- Ardi was found in **Aramis**, an arid region near the Awash River in **Ethiopia**, in **1994**.
- The discovery was made by a team of scientists led by UC Berkeley anthropologist **Tim D. White**.
- A college student named **Yohannes Haile-Selassie** uncovered a partial piece of a hand bone, leading to the subsequent excavation of Ardi's remains.

2. Description:

- Ardi weighed approximately **50 kg (110 lb)** and stood up to **120 cm (3.9 ft)** tall.
- She exhibited both bipedal and arboreal adaptations:
 - **Bipedality**: Ardi could walk upright on the ground.
 - **Arboreal Adaptations**: She had opposable big toes and thumbs, allowing her to climb trees.
- Her unique combination of traits makes her significant in the study of human evolution.
- Debate continues regarding whether Ardi was fully bipedal or primarily quadrupedal when moving around trees.

3. Etymology:

- The name "Ardi" comes from the Afar language, where it means "ground floor."
- The term "ramid" means "root," suggesting that Ardi represents the root of the family tree of humanity.

In summary, Ardi's discovery provides valuable insights into our evolutionary history and challenges our understanding of early hominids' locomotion and adaptations. She predates the famous *Australopithecus afarensis* specimen "Lucy" by **1.2 million years**. If you'd like to learn more, you can explore the detailed articles published in the journal *Science* in **2009**. 🌱 🐾 🌳