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Early Pleistocene route to Sangiran opened to Javanese Homo erectus

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The chronology of the arrival of *Homo erectus* on the island of Java is a cornerstone of paleoanthropology. Understanding the dispersal routes of *Homo erectus*, but also of other hominin lineages in Asia and across Southeast Asia, depends on this timing. Their dispersal across Sundaland, in particular, is challenged by an extremely transient climatic and geological environment during Early Pleistocene. Furthermore, ages of first appearance of Javanese *H. erectus* remain controversial. New age constraints based on cosmogenic nuclides ^{10}Be and ^{26}Al produced *in situ* indicate that *H. erectus* reached Java and dwelled at Sangiran at least ~1.4 Ma ago and more probably around 1.8 Ma. During this period, Java was just emerging from the sea while the adjacent Sundaland was a vast and continuous expanse of climatically and environmentally hospitable land connecting Java to mainland Asia, which facilitated the prior dispersal of hominins and terrestrial faunas to the edge of Java. This ancient age makes *H. erectus* the contemporary of the earliest members of the genus *Homo* in Africa and Asia, and rejuvenates the question of dispersal and evolutionary pathways across Eurasia and Sundaland.