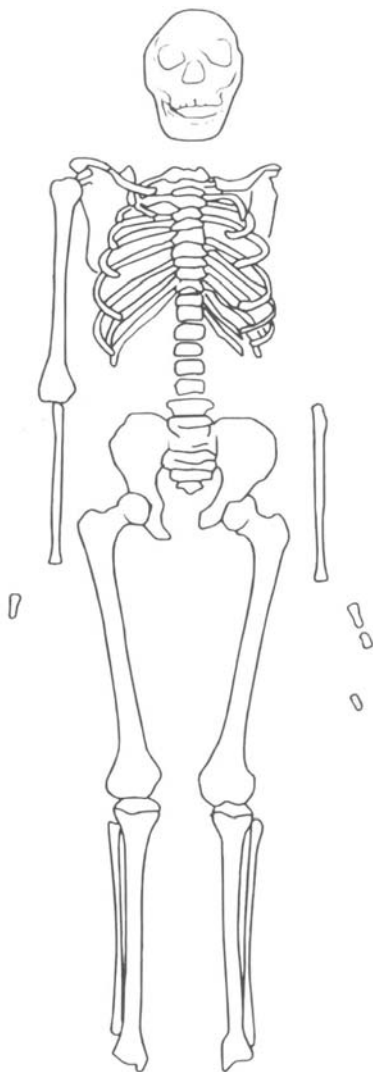


# eFOSSILS > Life Size Printout

## "Turkana Boy", Juvenile *Homo erectus*

Understanding the human skeleton is important for learning about human anatomy and human evolution. Some of the defining characteristics for modern humans include our height and our skeletal adaptations for bipedalism. Some of these adaptations can be seen in fossil hominins, which suggests they may be our early ancestors.

KNM-WT 15000, also known as "Turkana Boy" or "Nariokotome Boy", is a juvenile male between the ages of 9 and 12 years old, of the species *Homo ergaster* - an extinct species that may be ancestral to all later forms of *Homo*, including modern humans. He is important to the understanding of human evolution because he is 1.6 million years old and shows many features that are like a modern human. Turkana Boy is bipedal (i.e., walks on the ground on two legs) and has an enlarged cranial capacity at 880 cc. An earlier hominin, *Homo habilis*, is 2.6 million years old and has a relative brain size of 450 cc, and modern humans have a relative brain size over 1300 cc. This means that Turkana boy had a larger brain than some of the older human ancestors. KNM-WT 15000 also has characteristics that look very primitive, such as a distinct brow ridge and a long low skull profile. Modern humans have a rounded, high skull and a very subtle brow ridge.



This printout will help you become familiar with some of the important features of *Homo ergaster's* skeletal anatomy.

This document contains an outline of KNM-WT 15000's reconstructed skeleton, standing at 160 cm tall (5'3" tall) – his actual height. To compare to modern humans, most 9 year olds stand about 133 cm (4' 4") tall. The average height for a modern human adult female is 162 cm (or 5'3") tall. An adult male today usually stands about 175 cm (5'7") tall. What might this tell us about the growth rate for *Homo ergaster*?

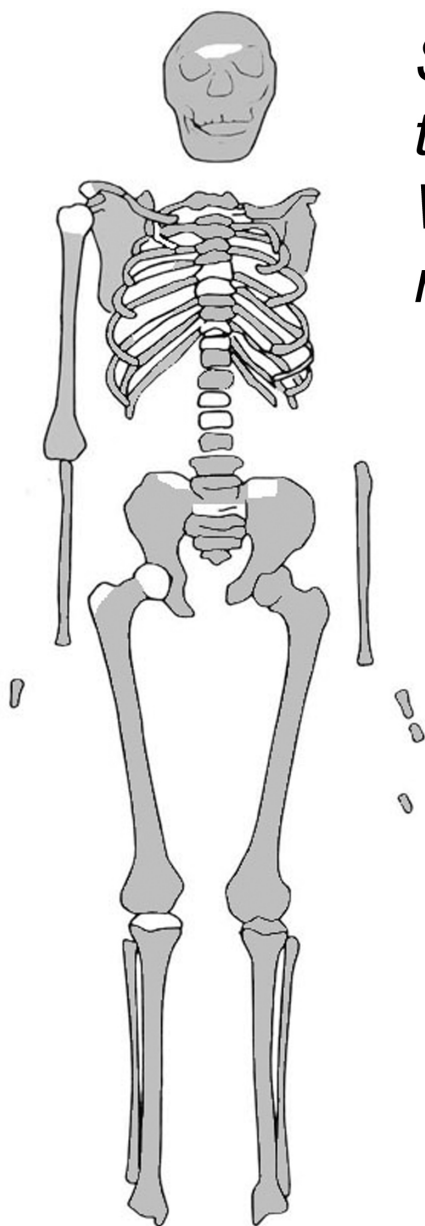
### Instructions for Printing Life Size Printout:

1. Print pages 2 through 23 of this document on standard 8 ½" x 11" pages (portrait). Note: using a higher printing resolution will improve the quality of the images.
2. Trimming the pages might help you align the pages better.
3. Assemble the full picture (as illustrated to the left) on the floor or by taping on the wall, chalkboard, etc.
4. Try to identify the different bones. Remember, most of the bones in the body are paired. This means the same bone will be found on each side of the body.
5. Compare the height of the skeleton on the printout with the printout of Lucy and your own height. Think about the differences between the skeletons.
6. Have fun and learn!

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[www.eFossils.org](http://www.eFossils.org) and [www.eLucy.org](http://www.eLucy.org)

Illustration drawn by R.A. Menegaz from Walker and Leakey 1993



*Shaded portions represent  
the recovered fossil material.  
White portions are  
reconstructed elements.*

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# **“Nariokotome Boy”**

KNM-WT 15000

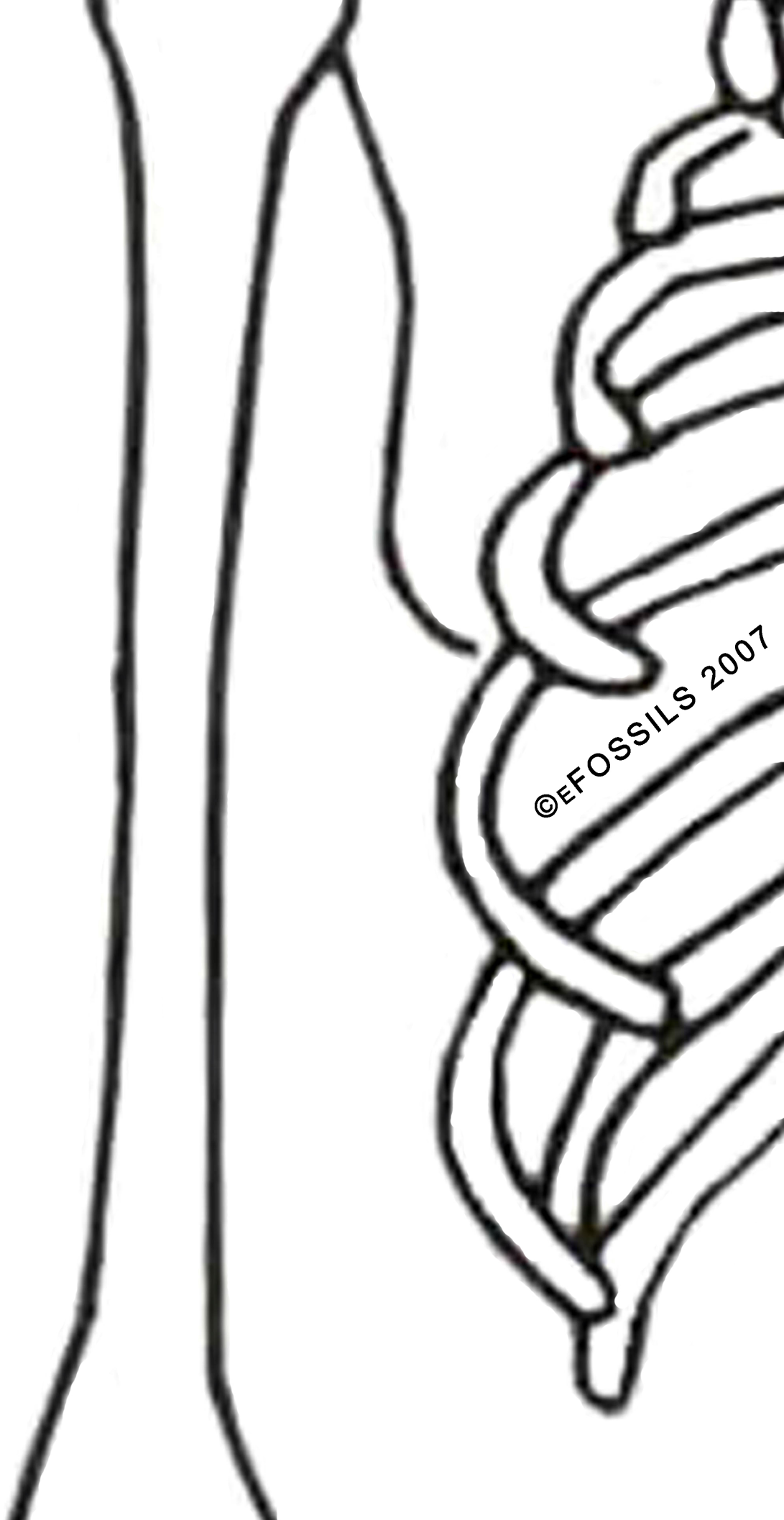
*Homo ergaster*

Juvenile: 9-12 years

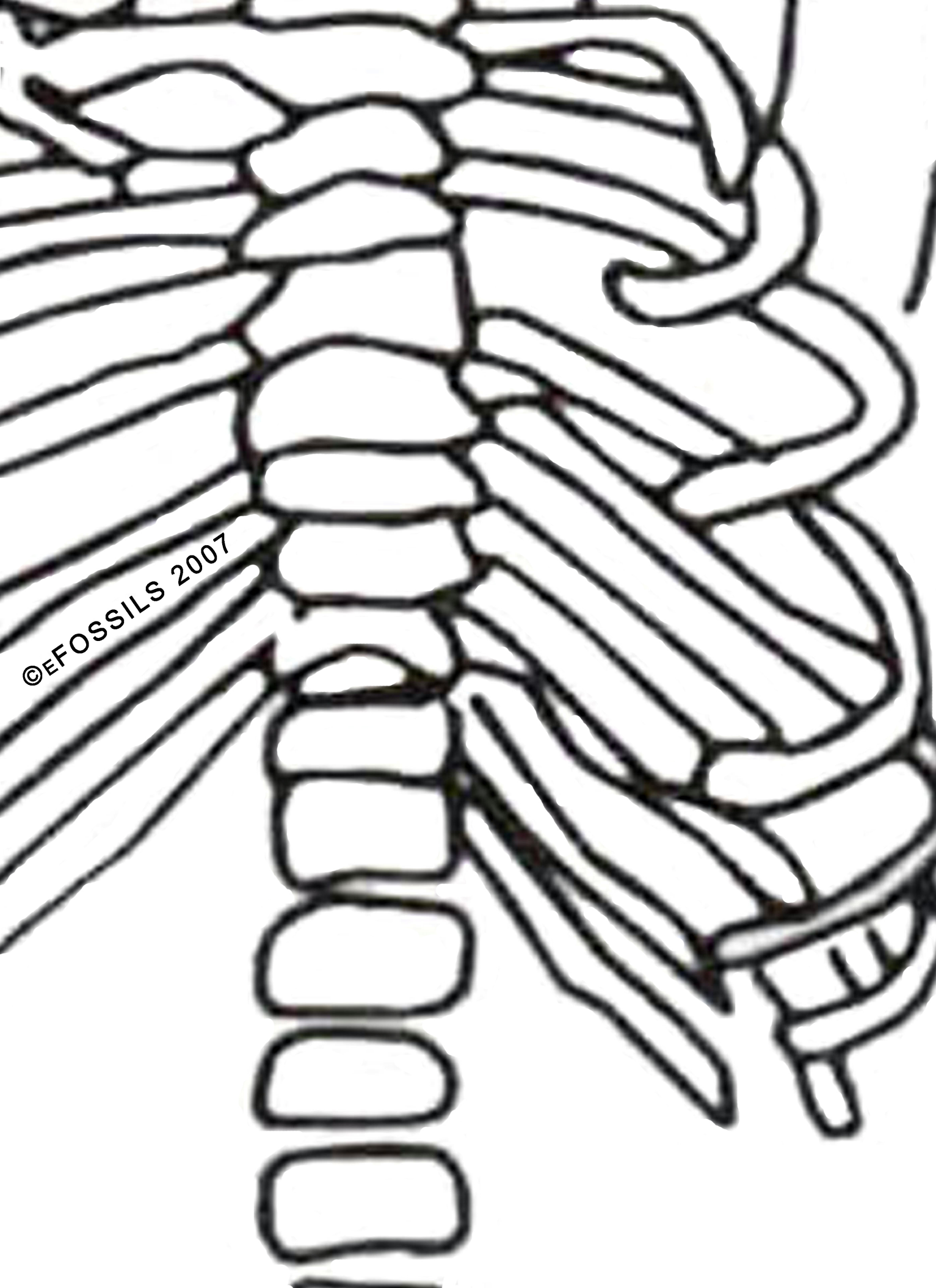
160 centimeters (5'3")

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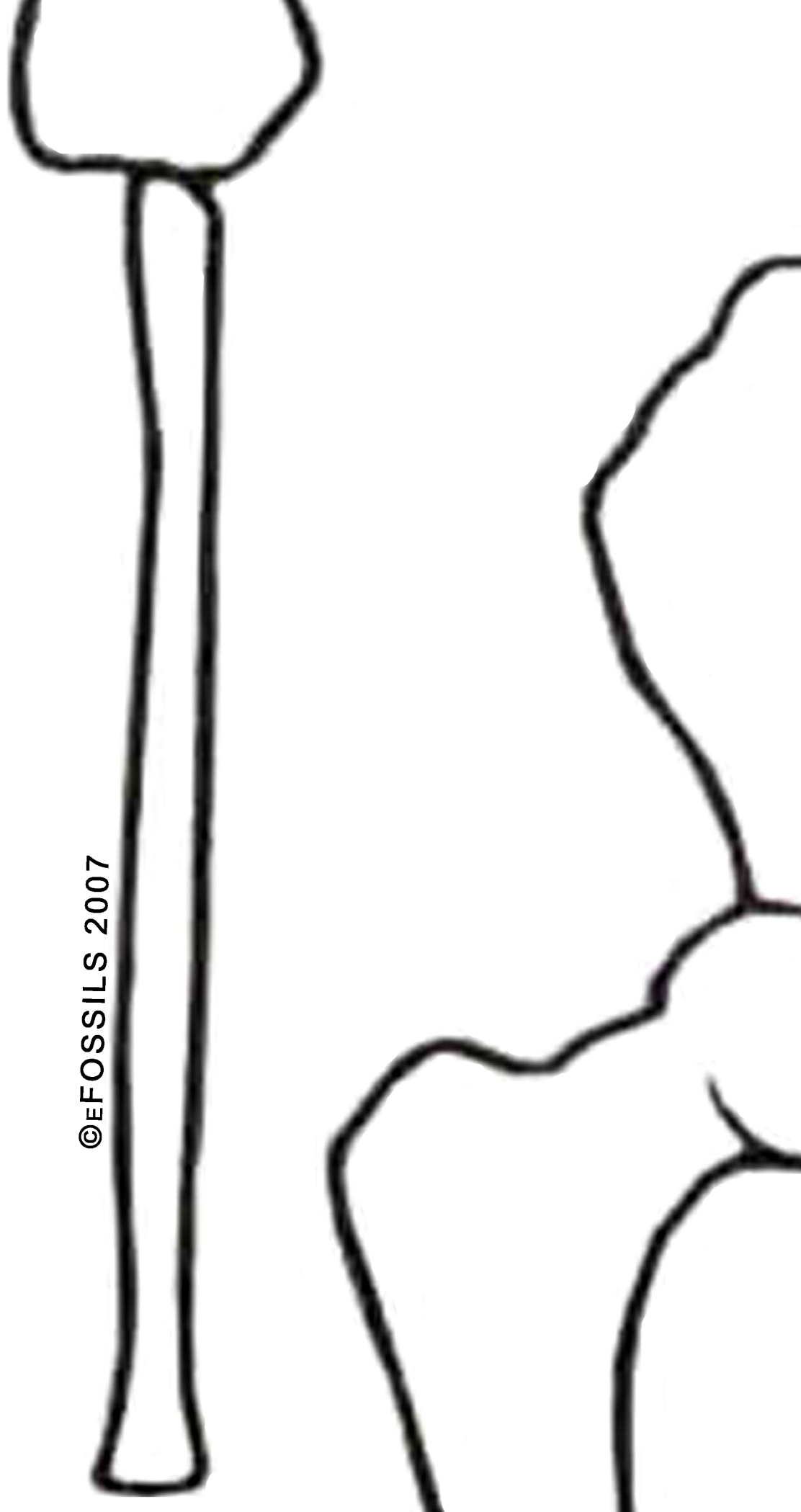
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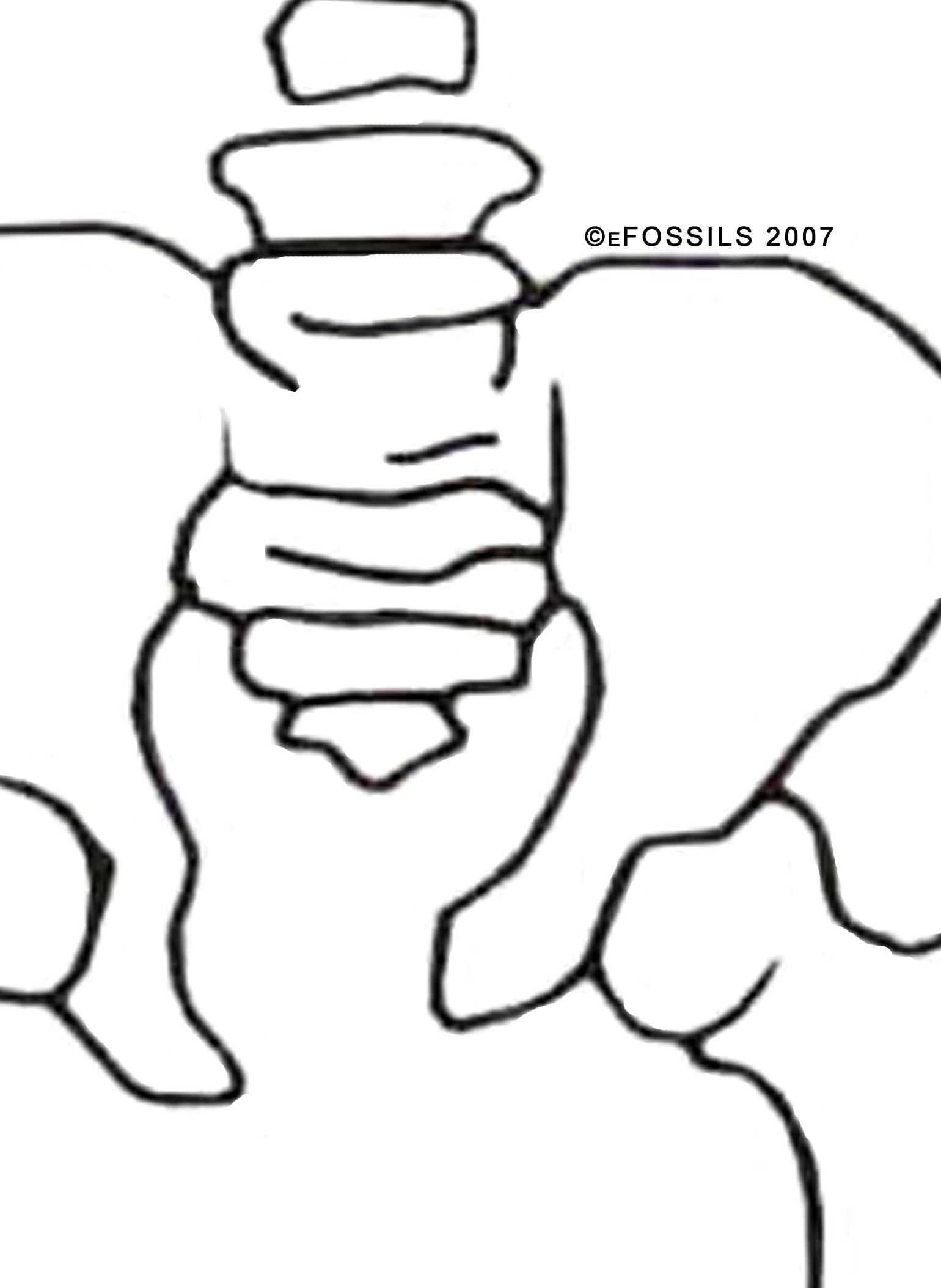


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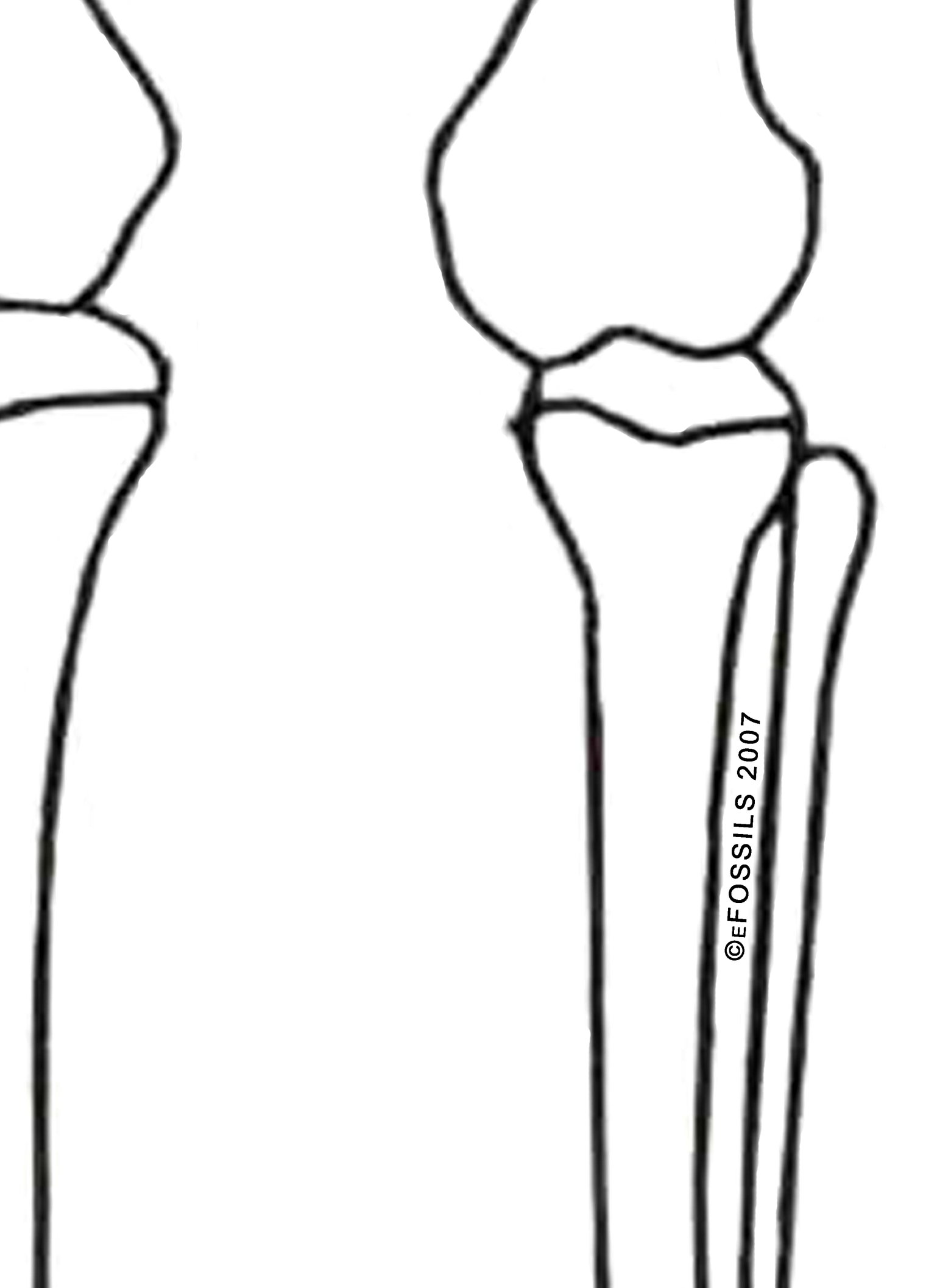


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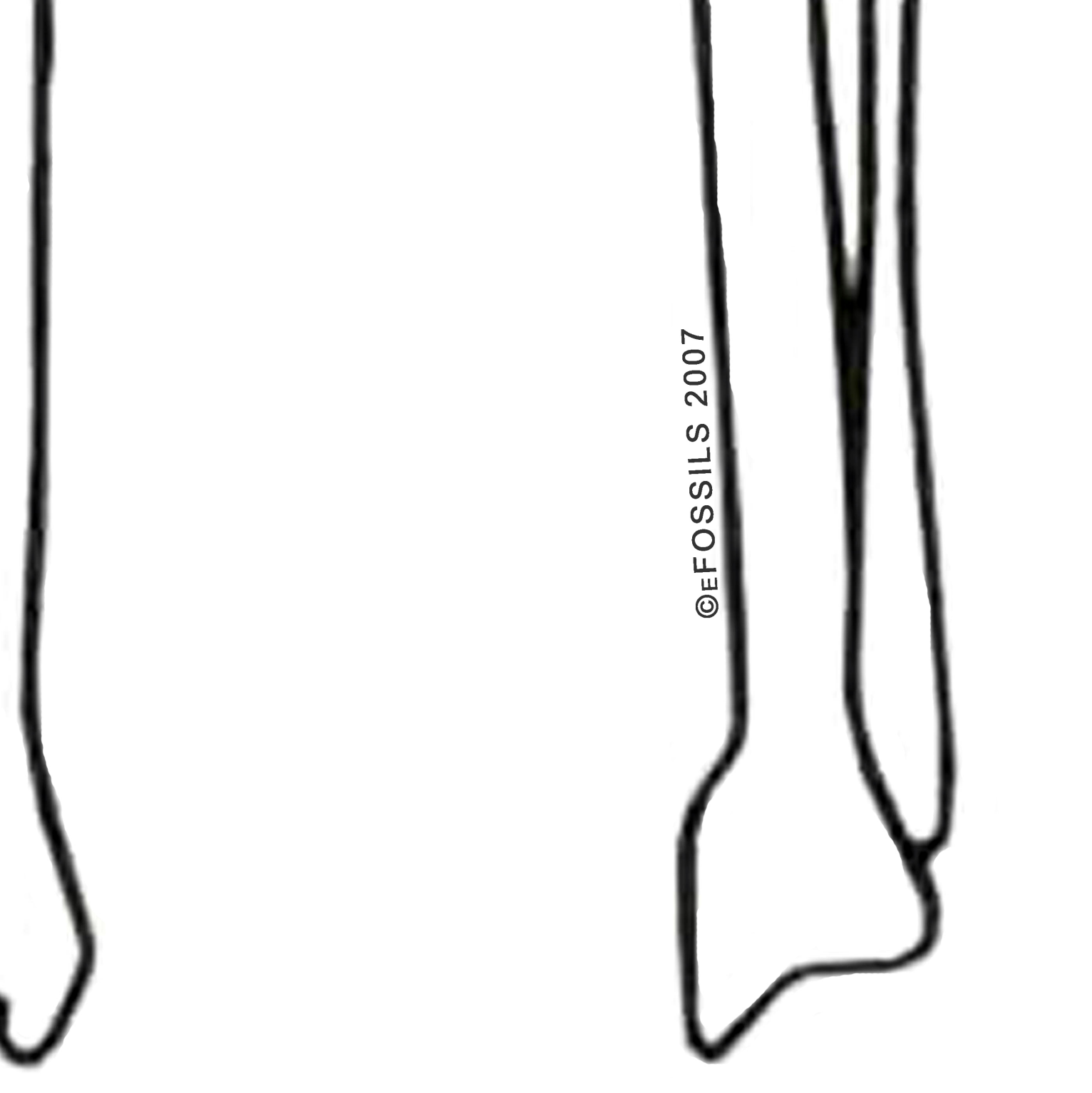
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