GENETIC ANALYSIS OF ADMIXTURE BETWEEN BAYASH ROMA FROM NORTHWESTERN CROATIA AND THE GENERAL CROATIAN POPULATION

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The Roma are a minority group that do not share a common homeland, speak different languages and consist of individuals of various religions. Population-genetic studies of Roma as a transnational isolate have mostly sought to compare their genetic affinities with proposed parental populations. The aim of this study is to assess the genetic structure of the Bayash Roma population from northwestern Croatia, and of the general Croatian population, and to investigate the extent of admixture between them. Population differentiation and structure were analyzed using a set of genetic microsatellite data from two original studies (100 Bayash Roma from northwestern Croatia and 195 individuals from the general Croatian population). Results demonstrated that two population clusters best explain the genetic structure. Most individuals of the Bayash Roma population were assigned to a single genetic cluster and most individuals of the general Croatian population were assigned to a single genetic structure higher than the percentage of non-Croatian individuals in the general Croatian population. Higher percentages of admixed and non-Croatian individuals found in the general Croatian population and lower percentages of admixed and non-Roma individuals found in the Bayash Roma population are in line with the presence of ethnomimicry in Roma.

Key words: population substructure; admixture; Bayash Roma, ethnomimicry

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POSSIBLY THE FIRST CASE OF AGENESIS OF SECOND AND THIRD MOLARS IN HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS FROM KENDIRCI HELLENISTIC PERIOD GRAVES, TURKEY

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Human dental studies spanning the period from the Paleolithic to the present revealed an extremely high variation in the occurrence of agenesis in different populations. The aim of the present study is to study agenesis in the ancient population of Kendirci, Izmir, Turkey. The site is located on the western coast of the country – the Aegean region – and dates to the Hellenistic Period. Nineteen graves with 11 adult skeletons (7 males and 4 females)were excavated. Images of mandibles were obtained using a Planmeca ProMax(®)

3D Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) unit (Planmeca Oy, Helsinki, Finland). Results revealed skeletal lesions including joint and infectious diseases, and mild and severe lesions of jaws and teeth. Possibly the first case of the agenesis of eight molars (congenitally missing four second molars and four third molars) was recorded in an adult male. Congenitally missing teeth other than the third molars are rarely observed in ancient human skeletal remains. Our results contribute an additional information on this rare trait in western Anatolians during the Hellenistic Period.

Key words: human skeletal remains, agenesis, Hellenistic Period, Anatolia

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AN ANALYSIS OF PATRILATERAL KIN INVESTMENT BIASES IN TWO PATRILOCAL KIPCHAK TURK POPULATIONS FROM KIRGIZSTAN AND BASHKORTOSTAN

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Kinship network structures are an important part of the human family and of nepotistic helping behavior. Matrilineal kinship links are universally stronger than patrilineal ones, at least in urban or modernized societies. In Sociobiology, the higher kin caregiving by matrilateral relatives, especially by the maternal grandmother and maternal aunts, is explained by the kin selection theory in combination with the paternity certainty hypothesis. A mother always knows that her child is genetically related to her, whereas in the male family line there is uncertainty of genetic relatedness and therefore more reluctance in child-care. Nevertheless, in some traditional societies (e.g., rural mainland Greece), patrilateral kin caregiving seems to be stronger than matrilateral one. This cannot be explained by the paternity certainty hypothesis; however, it might be a result of son-biased child investment. We focus on two Kipchak Turk populations, which are both patrilocal and assumed to still have a more or less traditional patriarchal family structure, in order to test the universality of kin caregiving structures and its evolutionary interpretation. In Kirgizstan, we found very strong patrilateral and patrilineal kin caregiving ties, in keeping with the patrilineal structure of the society. In Bashkortostan, by contrast, both matri- and patrilateral tendencies existed side by side. Overall, Bashkirs appear to be at an intermediate modernization level, characterized by stronger matrilineal family ties and matrilineal child-care.

Key words: asymmetric kin caregiving, kin selection, paternity certainty, matrilineal investment, patrilateral bias, Kirgizstan, Bashkortostan

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