

Chromosomal Q-Heterochromatin Regions in Individuals of Various Age Groups

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ABSTRACT The quantitative content of chromosomal Q-heterochromatin regions was studied in individuals of different age groups taking into account their racial and ethnic affiliation. It was shown that chromosomal Q-HRs are most numerous in the genome of neonates, while they are the least numerous in the genome of elderly subjects (aged 60 years and older) regardless of the ethnic features of the individuals studied. It is supposed that the lesser amount of Q-HRs in the genome of elderly subjects is due to the selective advantage in their survival to old age. The possible selective value of chromosomal Q-HRs is discussed.