

Palmar C-Line Variation Among The Great Andamanese of Strait Island, India

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KEY WORDS C-Line. Great Andamanese. Strait Island.

ABSTRACT Palmar C-Line variation among the Great Andamanese is reported.

INTRODUCTION

The polymorphism of C-Line palmar dermatoglyphics has usually been reported to elucidate ethnic variation. The aim of the present study is, however, to report bi-manual and bi-sexual differences among the Great Andamanese, a negrito tribe of Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Fourteen male and sixteen female Great Andamanese were living at Strait Island, India during data collection in September, 1990. Of these, palm prints of 11 male and 13 female Great Andamanese could be collected following techniques of Cummins and Midlo (1961). A female baby was excluded because of her rather young age (8 months). Palm print of left hand of an adult male could not be collected as it was burnt during childhood. Palm prints were analysed after Plato's classification of C-Line terminations (1970).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The distribution of C-Line modal types in right and left hands of Great Andamanese are shown in table 1. All four modal types were observed on left hand, of which the ulnar (U) type was more frequent (69.57%) followed by radial (R) type, absent (x) types (13.04% each) and proximal (PX) type (4.35%). The ulnar type was found on right hand whereas other modal types were absent.

The frequency of ulnar (U) type of C-Line termination in males (80.95%) was somewhat

less than in females (88.46%). For radial (R) type, males (9.52%) had a higher incidence than females (3.85%). The proximal (Px) type was not found in females whereas it was observed in males with frequency of 4.76%. Absence of C-Line was recorded to be slightly more in females (7.69%) compared to males (4.76%).

Table 1: Frequency distribution of palmar C-line modal types among the Great Andamanese

Sex	Num- ber of Palms	Side	Ulnar (U)	Radial (R)	Proxi- mal (Px)	Absent (x)
Male	21	Right	10 (47.62)	0	0	0
		Left	7 (33.33)	2 (9.52)	1 (4.76)	1 (4.76)
		Total	17 (80.95)	2 (9.52)	1 (4.76)	1 (4.76)
Female	26	Right	14 (53.85)	0	0	0
		Left	9 (34.61)	1 (3.85)	0	2 (7.69)
		Total	23 (88.46)	1 (3.85)	0	2 (7.69)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage

This dermatoglyphic study, therefore does not suggest any significant bi-sexual or bi-manual differences in the distribution of C-line terminations in the Great Andamanese.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are grateful to Dr. K.S. Singh, former Director General, Anthropological Survey of India for providing facilities at Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair in undertaking this work.

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