

Distribution of Genetic Markers in Tribal Populations from Maharashtra, India

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ABSTRACT Five tribal population (Hindu Mahadeo Koli, Vatankar, Madia Gond, Halbi, Pardhan) from different region of Maharashtra with a total of n = 534 male and female individuals were typed for four serum protein polymorphisms (HP, TF, GC, PI). In addition to this the Hindu Madadeo Koli samples could be also typed for the polymorphic blood group systems A1A2B0, MN and RHESUS as well as for the polymorphic red cell enzyme groups ACP1, ESD and PGM1 (subtypes). The results are compared with those observed in other tribal and non-tribal population from Maharashtra. The genetic variability among the Maharashtrian populations is considerable, which can be attributed to locally acting differentiation processes and which could be preserved because of the social and/or geographical isolation of the these populations from each other. Comparisons between the combined non-tribal and tribal groups of Maharashtra, which were performed concerning the polymorphic serum protein systems TF, GC and PI revealed clear differences between them. The reason for this can be attributed to the different origin and history of these two groups as well as to a long-standing genetic isolation between them.