

Biology of the Tribal Groups of Rajasthan, India:

4. Age Changes in Somatotype

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ABSTRACT The present study is based on a cross-sectional investigation on 2928 samples consisting of 1503 males and 1425 females belonging to both adolescent (8⁺ to 18⁺) and adult age groups (19 & above). The study was carried out on the Scheduled Tribes, namely Mina, Bhil, Sahariya, Garasia, Damor and Kathodi of Rajasthan. Samples are collected from the place of residence and schools. The data for somatotype were collected following the internationally accepted standards. The calculated somatotypes are plotted on somatochart triangle to determine their physique. Study of body physique reveals that in all the tribal groups ectomorphic component is dominant, which indicates their linear physique. This is also reflective of their overall poor conditions and undernutrition prevailing in the area. Both males and females of Bhils show least endomorphy rating i.e. lowest relative fatness and highest ectomorphy rating indicating linear physique than the other tribal groups. Distribution of somatotypes on somatochart indicates that values plotted, in all the age groups, lie in mesomorphic ectomorph or endomorphic ectomorph region, thus showing a greater linearity among the tribal groups.