

## **Genetic Profile of Jenu Kuruba, Betta Kuruba and Soliga Tribes of Southern Karnataka and Their Phylogenetic Relationships**

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**ABSTRACT** The genetic affinity of the three tribes, two belonging to Kuruba/Kurumba cluster (viz. Jenu Kuruba and Betta Kuruba) and the third (viz. Soliga tribe)- immediate neighbor of the first two but not the part of Kuruba/Kurumba cluster has been studied using ten polymorphic genetic markers. To investigate, whether all the Kuruba/Kurumba groups are related to the Pallava dynasty and are the off shoots of the same stock as suggested in many ethnographic studies. The distribution of the allele frequencies of ten polymorphic loci, and population genetic models calculated there upon; do not support the relationships of the Kuruba cluster for the Jenu Kuruba and Betta Kuruba. However the studied three tribes show a low genetic distance suggesting a recent divergence or low degree of genetic isolation.