

Genetic Characterization of the Biates of Saipung Village of Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya

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ABSTRACT Genetic variation in the Biates of Saipung village was studied with the help of markers ABO and RH(D) blood groups, Phenylthiocarbamide (PTC) taste sensitivity and colour blindness. A total of 162 individuals were tested of which 81 were males and 81 females. It was found that the present population is in genetic equilibrium with respect to the ABO blood group system. Out of 162 individuals tested, only two subjects (1.23%) were RH-negative. The frequency of colour blindness was 2.47%. The low frequency of Rh-negative blood group and colour blind individuals in Biate seems to be similar to other neighboring populations of Northeast India. In case of PTC taste sensitivity trait the frequencies for taster (*T*) and the non-taster (*t*) alleles was calculated as 0.7278 ± 0.0014 and 0.2722 ± 0.0014 , respectively. Biates when compared with the other population groups for the genetic markers observed for the present study fall nearer to the other neighbouring populations of north-east India.