Links with Eastern Africa: Genetic evidence

Mark Stoneking on behalf of the KBA geneticists

Kalahari Basin Area Endangered Language & Population History Research

Outline



mtDNA: maternal history



Y chromosome: paternal history



Genome-wide data: the other 99.5% of our ancestry



Lactase persistence





Unraveling the Complex Maternal History of Southern African Khoisan Populations

Chiara Barbieri,¹* Tom Güldemann,^{2,3} Christfried Naumann,^{2,3} Linda Gerlach,¹ Falko Berthold,¹ Hirosi Nakagawa,⁴ Sununguko W. Mpoloka,⁵ Mark Stoneking,⁶ and Brigitte Pakendorf¹*

- potential signals of eastern African mtDNAs hampered by paucity of data from eastern Africa
- best candidate: haplogroup L5
 - found in Tanzania (including Sandawe), Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, Sudan
 - (but also found in Central African Pygmies)







- another candidate: haplogroup L3d
 - mostly West African, but also occurs in Ethiopia





Y-chromosome

Y-chromosomal evidence of a pastoralist migration through Tanzania to southern Africa

Brenna M. Henn⁺⁺, Christopher Gignoux^{+§}, Alice A. Lin¹¹, Peter J. Oefner[|], Peidong Shen⁺⁺, Rosaria Scozzari⁺⁺, Fulvio Cruciani⁺⁺, Sarah A. Tishkoff^{§§}, Joanna L. Mountain^{§1}, and Peter A. Underhill¹¹



Khwe: 31% !Kung: 11% HGDP Bantu: 13%





Genome-wide data

Ancient west Eurasian ancestry in southern and eastern Africa

Joseph K. Pickrell^{a,1,2}, Nick Patterson^b, Po-Ru Loh^c, Mark Lipson^c, Bonnie Berger^{b,c}, Mark Stoneking^d, Brigitte Pakendorf^{e,1}, and David Reich^{a,b,f,1}

- showed that southern African populations harbor Eurasian ancestry that is relatively old (~900-1800 years) and related to a signal of Eurasian ancestry in eastern Africa that is even older (~2700-3300 years)
- used this Eurasian ancestry to estimate east African ancestry in southern African populations

"East African" ancestry





Lactase persistence

Tracing Pastoralist Migrations to Southern Africa with Lactase Persistence Alleles

Enrico Machokit,¹ Vera Lede,¹ Chiara Barbieri,^{1,5} Sununguko W. Mpoloka,² Hua Chen,³ Montgomery Slatkin,³ Brigitte Pakendorf,^{4,*} and Mark Stoneking^{1,*}

Brief Communication: New Insights into the History of the C-14010 Lactase Persistence Variant in Eastern and Southern Africa

Enrico Macholdt,¹ Montgomery Slatkin,² Brigitte Pakendorf,^{3*} and Mark Stoneking^{1*}

Lactase Persistence Alleles Reveal Partial East African Ancestry of Southern African Khoe Pastoralists

Gwenna Breton,^{1,2,6} Carina M. Schlebusch,^{1,6,*} Marlize Lombard,³ Per Sjödin,¹ Himla Soodyall,⁴ and Mattias Jakobsson^{1,5,*}



Lactase persistence

- ability to digest milk into adulthood (lactase persistence or lactose tolerance) is conferred by several mutations which show geographic specificity and have been subject to positive selection in pastoralist populations
- one particular mutation (C-14010) that originated in eastern Africa is prevalent in southern Africa



C-14010 frequency















- Y-chromosome, genome-wide, and lactase persistence data all show a strong signal of a migration from eastern to southern Africa that had the strongest influence on Khoe speakers
- mtDNA data are more equivocal
- whether this is due to a lack of sufficient comparative mtDNA data from eastern Africa, or rather indicates that the migration was primarily male-mediated, remains to be seen