

Genetic Diversity among the Six Mongoloid Populations of North Eastern India

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ABSTRACT A study of five genetic markers namely, A₁A₂BO, Rhesus, MN, haemoglobin and G-6-PD has been carried out in the six Mongoloid populations of North Eastern India. The study reveals genetic heterogeneity between the populations of Assam (Ahoms and Kacharis) and Arunachal Pradesh (Nishis, Apatanis and Adis) and Nagaland (Nagas). Genetic proximity between the populations of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland suggests their common ethnic origin, whereas, the Ahoms and Kacharis exhibit the admixture of gene pools. High prevalence of G-6-PD deficiency and abnormal haemoglobin E genes probably provide some selective advantage against the malaria endemic bioenvironment in the North Eastern region of India.