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Genetic Structure Among Nine Population Groups of Jammu and Kashmir, India

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ABSTRACT Heterozygosity values show that the different caste groups of Dogras, and Gujjars from Jammu and region are more heterozygous than the population group of Kashmir and Ladakh regions. But nevertheless, among the nine population groups of Jammu and Kashmir, only a small fraction of the total gene diversity accounts for the interpopulational genetic variation whereas the major portion of the total diversity is due to intrapopulational variation. In the dendrogram constructed using genetic distance (D) matrix the two distinct clusters are formed – the Tibetans, Bodhs and Baltis with Mongoloid affinities forming one, whereas the population groups of Kashmir and Jammu regions who are having Caucasoid elements forming the other. The differentiation of the two tribal groups – Bodhs, Baltis, and Tibetans of Ladakh from the population groups of Kashmir and Jammu, could well be due to their Mongoloid affinities as demonstrated by several genetic marker systems (high frequencies of *Ms, CDe* and EsD^2; and low frequencies of *cde,* P^a, ADA^2, AK^2 and GLO^1).