

A Study of Numerical Taxonomy and Group Divergence in Five Mongoloid Population Groups of Assam

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ABSTRACT Anthropometric characters of five Mongoloid populations, namely, the Ahom, Chutia, Deuri, Mishing and Moran of Upper Assam have been examined to study the numerical taxonomy and group divergence using the methodology of Penrose (1947, 1954) and Rao (1952). The study reveals three distinct clusters, viz., cluster I: formed by the Deuri and Chutia, cluster II: formed by the Mishing and Moran and cluster III: formed by the Ahom alone. It appears that the first two clusters maintain a short distance (that is, distance between I and II is 1.5297), whereas the third cluster stands far apart from the former two (that is, distance of cluster II from I is 4.1134 and distance of cluster III from II is 3.6332).