

Palmar C-Line Polymorphism Among Rajaka of Andhra Pradesh

C. Parvatheesam¹ and B.V. Babu²

1. Department of Human Genetics, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam 530 003, Andhra Pradesh, India

2. Department of Anthropology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam 530 003, Andhra Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT The distribution of terminations of palmar C-line among Rajaka caste of Andhra Pradesh is reported.

INTRODUCTION

Rife (1968) and Plato (1970) have emphasised the importance of termination of C-line in population variation studies since it is one of best polymorphic traits in dermatoglyphics which exhibits qualitative as well as quantitative variation. The present study reports the variability of C-line terminations among Rajaka caste of Andhra Pradesh.

The Rajaka is Telugu speaking, endogamous caste population distributed all over the state of Andhra Pradesh. They belong to Sudra, the fourth class of the Hindu Varna system and are washermen by profession.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bilateral inked palm prints of 410 unrelated individuals (202 men and 208 women) of Rajaka caste living in Visakhapatnam city, Andhra Pradesh were collected. The prints were analysed for modal C-lines after Cummins and Midlo (1961) and were classified following Plato (1970).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The distribution of C-line terminations among males and females of the Rajaka is presented in table 1. In Rajaka males, the C-line terminates frequently on ulnar side (52.47%), while in females it does so on radial side (48.56%). Among four types of C-lines, proximal type recorded the lowest frequencies both among men (1.98%) and women (0.96%). The

Table 1 : Distribution of modal types of palmar C-line among Rajaka caste

Sex	Hand	C-line termination				
			Ulnar	Radial	Proximal	Absent
Male (n=202)	Right	No.	102	88	4	8
		%	50.50	43.56	1.98	3.96
	Left	No.	110	86	4	2
		%	54.46	42.57	1.98	0.99
Right + Left		No.	212	174	8	10
		%	52.47	43.07	1.98	2.48
Female (n=208)	Right	No.	96	100	2	10
		%	46.15	48.08	0.96	4.81
	Left	No.	96	102	2	8
		%	46.15	49.04	0.96	3.85
Right + Left		No.	192	202	4	18
		%	46.15	48.56	0.96	4.33

χ^2 for bilateral differences : Males (1.16), females (0.20)

χ^2 for bisexual differences : Right hand (0.86), Left hand (3.23), both hands (3.30).

For correspondence : B.V. Babu, Regional Medical Research Centre, Indian Council of Medical Research, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar 751 016, Orissa, India

absence of C-triradius is observed among both 2.48% men and 4.33% women. Both bilateral and bisexual differences were found to be sta-

tistically non-significant.

Earlier studies on the tribal population of this region (Babu and Naidu, 1992 and Kusuma et al., 1994) have shown similar results with slightly higher incidence of absence of *C*-triradius.

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