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Anthropologist Special Issue No. 3: 385-392 (2007)

Molecular Genetic Perspective of Indian Populations: A Y-Chromosome Scenario

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KEYWORDS Y-Chromosome. Indian Populations. Tribes. Castes. Genetic Diversity. Gene Flow. Origin and Antiquity.

ABSTRACT An overall view of the results and findings of the recent Y-chromosome studies among 200 populations, representing castes and tribes inhabiting different geographical regions, have been highlighted. While these studies support the earlier findings based on anthropological and classical genetic markers about the biological implications of castes and tribes; it further gives some clarity about their antiquity and possible origin. However a better understanding of the antiquity of the Indian populations and affinity between castes and tribes is expected to emerge from the future studies with better sampling strategy and representation of more ethnic groups. The molecular genetic studies have the potential to reveal the variation with regard to health and disease aspects among the regional populations.