

Professor R. R. Gates, F.R.S. The method followed was that given by Kolmer and Boener in *Approved Laboratory Technic*. Blood was taken from patients belonging to seventeen different communities; 300 blood samples were tested by the writer and 300 by Dr. Menon. The data for some important castes already reveal characteristics of sufficient interest to be recorded now, although we hope to obtain more. The data for a small sample of Tamils, which were obtained from various non-Brahmin castes are also given in the following table for comparison with the West Coast people:—

TABLE I.
Cochin Blood Groups by Castes (1935).

Caste and No. of subjects	Numbers belonging to groups			
	O	A	B	AB
Naiars—121	47 (38.8%)	43 (35.5%)	27 (22.4%)	4 (3.3%)
Syrian Christians—140	51 (36.4%)	37 (26.4%)	40 (28.6%)	12 (8.6%)
Izhuvans—132	77 (58.3%)	32 (24.2%)	16 (12.2%)	7 (5.3%)
Pre-Dravidian Tribes—50	26 (48%)	13 (30%)	6 (9%)	5 (12%)
Tamil Non-Brahmins—50 (Madras)	21 (42%)	14 (28%)	12 (24%)	3 (6%)

The Naiars are a mixed race from an original Dravidian (Melanid) stock now intermixed with Nambuthiri Brahmin genes.¹ They are a matriarchal community and high caste Naiars often have Brahmin fathers. The Syrian Christians are descended from Brahmins and Naiars who were converted to Christianity early in the Christian Era, perhaps about 300 A.D. These data show a higher proportion of B, the group of North India, among them than among the Naiars. Although this may be due to the size of the samples it will only be possible to judge the relative heterozygosity of these two communities after sufficient data have been obtained from Nambuthiris for comparison. The Dravidian group A is well represented in them both.

The Izhuvans are a Dravidian caste who probably came to the Malabar Coast from Ceylon,² and they show a very low percentage

of group B. A sample of only twenty-five of the Dravidian fisherman caste, Valans, indicates that they also have very little B. The Dravidian data from both coasts, although from small samples, are of interest because of the strong resemblance they bear to those of Heydon and Murphey for Melanesian Papuans (53.7% O, 26.8% A, 16.3% B, 3.2% AB),² as well as those of Bijlmer² for some tribes of the Halmaheira Islands of the Moluccas; a similarity that warrants further investigation. The consistently high proportion of Group I that we find among the lowest castes of Cochin indicates that they belong to a very ancient stock. The proportion of Group B is lower in the high caste non-Brahmins of Cochin than it is further north where B exceeds A. This is probably due to the original scarcity of agglutinin B among the Pre-Dravidian and Dravidian people in South India.

Only fifty members of Pre-Dravidian tribes have been examined at Ernakulam. The data for these agree with those of other workers for primitive races in showing a low percentage of B, fairly high A and about half the population in Group O lacking both agglutinogens.

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Madras,
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¹ Ayyar, L. K. Ananthakrishna, *The Cochin Tribes and Castes*, Ernakulam.

² Bijlmer, H. J. T., *Journ. Roy. Anth. Inst.*, 1935, 65, 123-131.

Chromosome Numbers in *Millingtonia hortensis*, Linn. f. (Family: Bignoniaceae).

Millingtonia hortensis, the Indian cork tree, a native of Burma and Malay Archipelago, is extensively planted in avenues and gardens in India. The chromosome numbers have been, for the first time, determined by the author. Several counts were made in the metaphase plates of somatic and meiotic mitosis. The $2n$ number of chromosomes is 30 and the n number is 15.

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