

## Supplementary data:

# Genetic study of Dravidian castes of Tamil Nadu

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**Table 1a.** Dravidian caste populations, locations of sampling, population sample size (*N*) and anthropological information.

Caste (code)	Location of sampling	<i>N</i>	Anthropological information
Kongu Vellala Gounder (KG)	Karur, Erode	50	Middle class: agriculture and business
Kallar (KL)	Thanjavur, Madurai	54	Middle class: feudal warriors and agriculture
Maravar (MR)	Kamudi, Chennai	68	Middle class: wage labourer and agriculture
Parayan (PA)	Chennai, Cuddalore	50	Lower class: Settled cultivation
Reddiyar (RY)	Trichy	49	Middle class: wage labourer and agriculture
Gavara Naidu (GN)	Madurai, Virudunagar	33	Middle class: agriculture
Agamudaiyar (AR)	Mannargudi	47	Middle class: agriculture
Meenaver (MV)	Chennai	50	Lower class: marine fishing
Nadar Hindu (NH)	Tuticorin, Tirunelveli	50	Middle class: toddy-tapping and agriculture
Nadar Christian (NC)	Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli	46	Christian middle class: toddy-tapping and agriculture

**Table 1b.** Caste populations, locations of sampling, population sample size (*N*) and anthropological information of previous studied population (Majumder *et al.* 1999; Basu *et al.* 2003).

Caste (code)	Location of sampling	<i>N</i>	Anthropological information
Indo-Aryans (Majumder <i>et al.</i> 1999)			
Agharia (AGG)	Sundergarh, Orissa	46	Middle class: agriculture
Bagdi (BAG)	Hooghly, West Bengal		
	Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh	62	Lower class: agriculture and fishing
Brahmin-UP (UBR)	West Bengal	54	Traditionally priests
Brahmin-WB (WBR)	Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh	46	Traditionally priests
Chamer (CHA)	Sundergarh, Orissa	36	Leather workers
Gaud (GAU)	Hooghly, West Bengal	28	Middle class: agriculture
Mahishya (MAH)	Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh	68	Lower class: agriculture
Muslim (MUS)	Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh	50	Many are religious converts from lower social groups
Rajput (RAJ)	Sundergarh, Orissa	98	Middle class
Tanti (TAN)	Sundergarh, Orissa	28	Lower class: traditionally weavers
Dravidians - Tamil Nadu districts (Basu <i>et al.</i> 2003)			
Pallan (PLN)	Tiruchirapalli	50	Lower class: agriculture labour
Ambalakarar (AMB)	Dindigul	50	Middle class: agriculture
Vanniyar (VAN)	Cuddalore	50	Middle class: traditionally agriculture
Veerakodi Vellallar (VVL)	Thanjavur	50	Middle class: traditionally agriculture
Iyer (IYR)	Tiruchirapalli, Thanjavur	50	Upper class: traditionally priests
Iyengar (IYN)	Tiruchirapalli, Thanjavur	50	Upper class: traditionally priests

**Table 2.** Heterozygosity at individual loci and average heterozygosity based on nine loci in 10 caste populations of Tamil Nadu.

Population	<i>mtNUC</i>	<i>Alu ACE</i>	<i>Alu APO</i>	<i>Alu FXIII B</i>	<i>Alu D1</i>	<i>Alu CD4</i>	<i>Alu PLAT</i>	<i>Alu TPA25</i>	<i>Alu PV92</i>	All loci $\pm$ SE
KG	0.449	0.471	0.365	0.497	0.467	0.095	0.500	0.488	0.480	0.428 $\pm$ 0.044
PA	0.435	0.476	0.417	0.500	0.455	0.039	0.453	0.495	0.282	0.392 $\pm$ 0.054
RY	0.500	0.497	0.335	0.498	0.408	0.337	0.490	0.466	0.318	0.392 $\pm$ 0.054
KL	0.499	0.500	0.252	0.471	0.282	0.153	0.484	0.469	0.375	0.399 $\pm$ 0.050
MV	0.483	0.375	0.417	0.498	0.495	0.249	0.391	0.418	0.101	0.397 $\pm$ 0.044
AR	0.485	0.494	0.258	0.486	0.258	0.156	0.477	0.481	0.440	0.390 $\pm$ 0.038
NH	0.466	0.499	0.226	0.471	0.343	0.039	0.486	0.497	0.455	0.387 $\pm$ 0.044
NC	0.471	0.498	0.211	0.481	0.340	0.043	0.492	0.498	0.454	0.432 $\pm$ 0.026
GN	0.500	0.471	0.351	0.498	0.397	0.114	0.498	0.471	0.298	0.392 $\pm$ 0.044
MR	0.491	0.433	0.295	0.455	0.273	0.155	0.488	0.490	0.371	0.407 $\pm$ 0.044

SE, standard error.



**Figure 1.** District map of Tamil Nadu.