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## Testing hypotheses of language replacement in the Caucasus: evidence from the Y-chromosome

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**Abstract** A study of the Y-chromosome DNA variation in the Caucasus region, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, was conducted. The results show that the majority of the Y-chromosome haplotypes in the Caucasus are of European origin, supporting the hypothesis of language replacement in the region. The study also identified several unique haplotypes that are not found in other populations, suggesting a local genetic history. The findings are consistent with the idea that the current languages of the Caucasus were introduced by immigrants from the West, rather than being the result of in situ evolution.

### Introduction

The Caucasus region is a crossroads of different languages and cultures. The genetic diversity in this area is high, reflecting its complex history. This study aims to investigate the genetic relationships between the populations of the Caucasus and other groups in the region.

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mnt t mnn, v r r r n n y s s  
f - r m s m - m r r s n t s m s t f  
Cu s n u t n s r u s y n z f r m t D A  
H V 1 s q n r t n ( s z n S t n n g 2001).

Materials and methods

Subjects

At t f 389 s m s (289 v n 100  
s w s) f r m u n r t m n u s v r t n t f -  
v n g a t u t t n u s u t n s (F 1): G r n s (S u t  
C u s n s r s), A r m n n s (I n - E r n s r s), A z r -  
j n n s (u r s r s), n A z n n s, K r n n s, I n -  
s n s, C n n s, n D r n n s ( r t C u s n s -  
r s). D A f r m t s m s n u s r u s y f r  
n y s s f m t D A H V 1 s q n r t n n A u n s r t n  
y m r s m s ( s z n S t n n g 2001; s z t .  
2001); s w s f r m t n m s f r m A r m n n  
A z r j n v r t n r r t n r s t s m s z f r  
- r m s m a t s. I n f r m n s n t n n f r m t n u t  
t r t f t n r n t n r s r n t s n g n r -  
n t s v r t n f r m n r s. G n m D A f r m  
s m s v s t r t y u s n g n l s u D A t r t n t  
( - s r , B t , W s ., U S A) r n n t n n -  
r f r m t ( M n n t s t . 1982). D A f r m  
s w s v s t r t y u s n g n n t n s t n g u t r u r  
( M r t . 1988). u s - r m s m s n g u t  
y m r s m ( - S ) t f r m t S u t C u s v r u s  
f r m 25 S n s ( G r n ), 25 G r n s f r m K z g ( G r n ),  
12 L z g ( A z r j n ), n 17 S u t s t n s ( W s t . 2001).  
A t n u s t n 21 A z r j n n s n 47 A r m n n s  
( W s t . 2001), n 63 G r n s ( S m n t . 2000; W s t  
. 2001), n t f f r n n r s t f r m u r s m s ( t  
n t s v n) n v r n t n u n t n y s s t v g a -  
n g t r a t s t y n t s u t n s. u s - S  
t ( S m n t . 2000; W s t . 2001) f r E r n , r  
E s t m, n C n t r A s n u t n s v r s n u .

Materials

! n S m r r s r u s y r r t t y m r n E r  
n t r E s t ( S m n t . 2000) v r y n s m s:  
S 4 ( M 130), M 9, M 89, M 124, M 45, M 173, M 17, M 201, M 170,  
n M 172 ( U n r t . 2000 n r f r n s t r n ); t A  
A u n s r t n y m r s m ( H m m r n H r 1995) v s s  
. F r S m r r s t M 130 ( S 4 ), / q m n ( A -  
B s y s t m s) s s v s v r s n . r m r s n y -  
r s v r s n y u s n g r m r E r s s ( V r s n l f r M -  
n t s v r C; E B s y s t m s). r m r n r s q n s r  
s n n / l. t n m s v r r r r s s r r -  
u s y ( M r n t . 1999). M 130 v s y u s n g t  
m r s n r t n / r s t r t n f r m n t n g y m r s m  
r u r s r s v r ( K y s r t . 2000); v r s t  
A A u n s r t n v s s s r r u s y ( H m m r  
n H r 1995). A s m s v r f r m r s; n s -  
r n y v s f u n t v n t r r r r f m r s -  
s r y U n r t . (2000) n u r r a t s. / - S  
g r u n m n u r u s r s r n g t t r n t r m -  
m n t n s f t C r m s m C n s r u m (2002). / -  
a n t r t n s f t - r m s m s, s -

Statistical analysis

H g r u r s n F s t u s v r u t v t A r q n  
2.000 ( S n r t . 2000), v v s s u s t r y u t  
M n t t s t s f r r r t n s t v n m t r s. M t m n s n  
s n g ( M D S) n y s s ( K i r s 1964) f t F s t u s v s r -  
r u t v t S / A / I S / I C A ( S t t S f t). r g r m s n H y L I 3.5  
( F s n s t n 1993) v r u s t n s t r t n g r - j n n g t r . 0256 / v ( A [ ]  
s t u s .



nt stn frt Sut n rt Cu s s s -  
 rt y, utn t r v s st t st y s n f nt ( rt Cu -  
 s : Z=0.331, P=0.133; Sut Cu s : Z= 0.346, P=  
 0.65). Mr r, t r F<sub>st</sub> u tv n Sut n  
 rt Cu s s y t ns ( u n g u t rs) v s  
 0.075, sm rt t t m n g rt Cu s s y t ns  
 (0.096) n t t m n g Sut Cu s s y t ns  
 (0.040). / r f r, t Cu s s Mu nt ns r n t t  
 t t n f n n t g n t s t r u r f  
 Cu s s y t ns; n s t , g n t r f t r t n g n  
 sm s t y t ns s m s t m n t t  
 g n t s t r u r f Cu s s y t ns.

C m, r s n f Cu s n, E r , n,  
 n r E s t m y - g r u s

/ g r u s r s t n t Cu s s ( r g u :  
 0.797) s m s t s s t t n C n t r A s ( r g  
 u : 0.824) n t r E s t ( r g u : 0.769)  
 n s s n f n t y g r ( t - t s t, P = 0.024) t n t  
 g r u s r s t n E r ( r g u : 0.633). A n  
 M D S t n n g r - j n n g t r s n F<sub>st</sub> u s  
 ( F g 3 A, B) s t E r n y t ns n t W s t m n  
 E s t m g r u s, s s n s r r u s y ( S m n  
 t . 2000), v t C n t r A s n y t ns f n g n -  
 t v n t W s t m n E s t m E r n g r u s. /  
 Cu s s y t ns r n t m n g v t r E s t m  
 y t ns.  
 / s t t r n s f r t r n n f m y t r -  
 v s F<sub>st</sub> m, r s n s; t m n r v s F<sub>st</sub> u f r t  
 Cu s s s E r s 0.254, v r s t m n F<sub>st</sub> u  
 f r t Cu s s s t r E s t s 0.079, v s s g  
 n f n t y v r ( t - t s t s n r g F<sub>st</sub> u s j -  
 n f r y t ns, P < 0.001). r g, S u t

Cu s n y t ns r m r s m r t t r E s t -  
 m n E r n y t ns ( r g F<sub>st</sub> = 0.038 n  
 0.222, r s t y) t n r r t Cu s n y t ns  
 ( r g F<sub>st</sub> = 0.097 n 0.303); v r, t t S u t  
 Cu s s n t r t Cu s s r m r s m r t t  
 r E s t t n t E r v t r s, t t y - S -  
 g r u s.

/ M D S n F<sub>st</sub> n y s s n u s m g r u s f r m  
 W s t . ( 2001) n v t M 201 m r r, v s -  
 t n g s s g r u G\* f r m g r u F\* ( F g 2),  
 v s n t n y z ( / 2). I n t n y s s, t s  
 n u s v r s s f s g r u F\*, t u g  
 s m u n n v n r r t n u g r u G\*. /  
 t r m n v t r t s n y t s t n g s t v n  
 g r u s F\* n G\* f r s m g r u s n f n t  
 r s t s f t M D S n F<sub>st</sub> n y s s, v s s f  
 g r u G\* n u s s g r u F\* n r t  
 t n y s s. / r s t s ( n t s v n) v r s s n t y  
 n t ; t u s, t n y t s t n g s t v n  
 g r u s F\* n G\* n s m g r u s s n t n f n  
 u r n u s n s.

I n r r t u n y s s s n u r n u -  
 s n s u s y t s m s z f t s m s f r m s m  
 f t g r u s, v r t n y s s f t r u n g  
 g r u s v t s m s z s s t n 25 ( s / 2). A  
 n u s n s r m n t s m ( t n t s v n).

G n t r t ns y t v n B s q s n Cu s ns

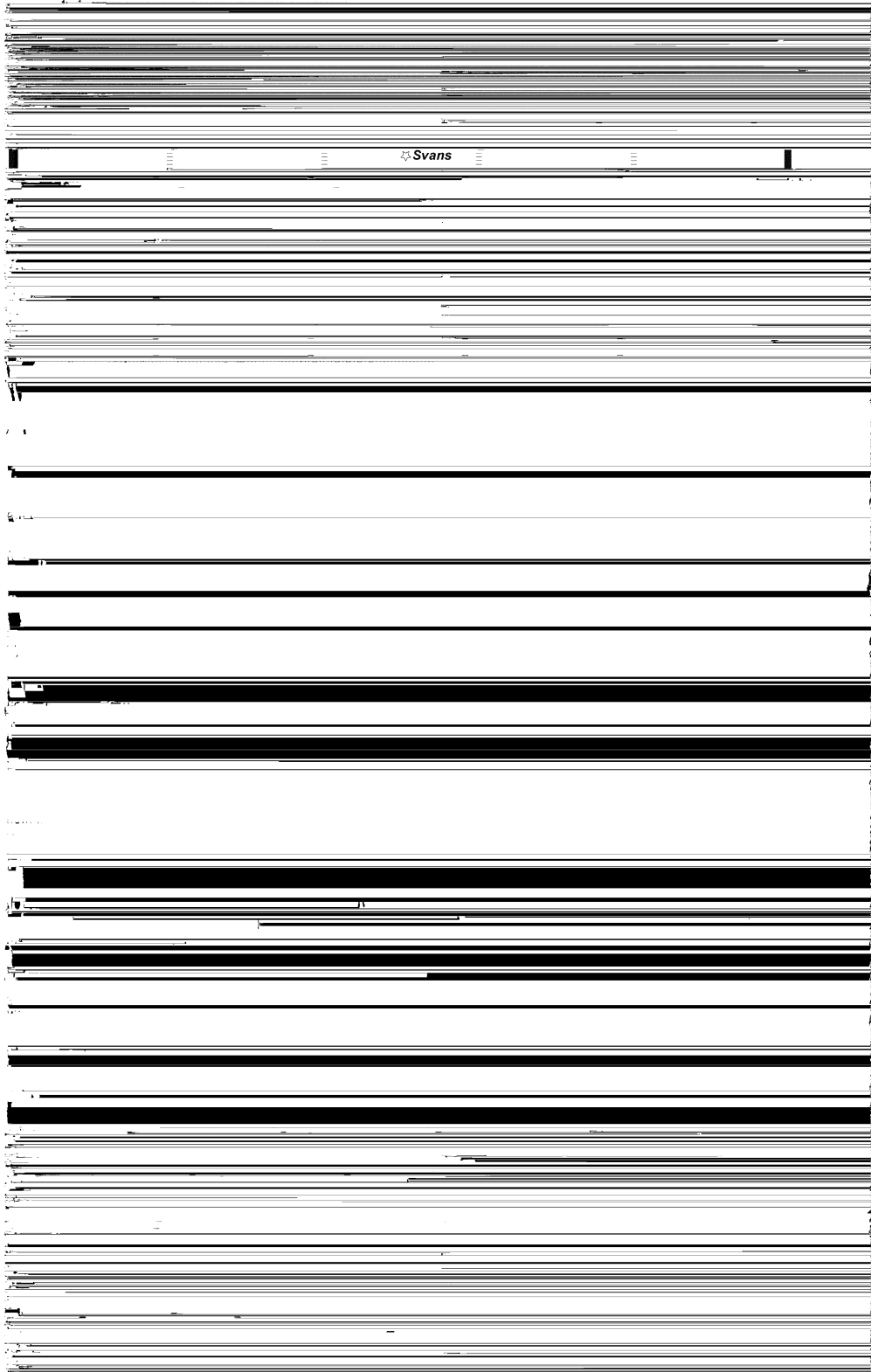
A m m n r g n f Cu s n n B s q s, r s s

r  $F_{st}$  u  $F_{st}$  n B sq s n Cu s n  
 ru s s m r ( $F_{st} = 0.563$ ) t n t t t n  
 B sq s n In -E r n ru s ( $F_{st} = 0.311$ ). / Cu -  
 s ru s n B sq s r n t u s t r t a t r n -  
 t r t n s r-j n n r t MDS t (Fig. 3A, B).  
 / s r s t s r n r m n t v t r u s s t s s  
 n s s m r r s n m t D A HV1 s q n t  
 (B r t r t . 1995; s z n S t n n g 2001).

L n g r m n t s n a n t r t n s  
 n t Cu s s

/ r s n , n t Cu s s, f r u s v s a -  
 r n r s r n t t r n g s t n r s v s  
 u s t r s s t q s t n s t v t t r n s t  
 a n t r t n s s f t s r u s: a r r n-

Fig. 3A, B / y g n t  
 r t ns f r m s m  
 ru s, s n 10  
 s n t A m r r.  
 A MDS t s n r y s  
 F<sub>st</sub> u s, s v n r t n -  
 s s m n t C u s s, E -  
 r n, r E st m, n C n r  
 tr As n u t ns (open  
 stars v t f t u -  
 t n n m s C u s s r u s,  
 closed circles E r n u -  
 t ns, open squares C n r  
 As n r u s, closed diamonds  
 r E st m u t ns). /  
 str ss u f r t MDS t  
 s 0.134. B g r - j n n g  
 tr s n r v s F<sub>st</sub> -  
 u s f r t s m u t ns  
 (boldface C u s s r u s)



u r ru s, r s, t y. / s m y s t r f t n t n t r s n t r u s. C r r n t y, t r r r m t y  
 m n n s n r, s r s m y t r n In - E - 8 m n A z r j n ns n 3.5 m n A r m n ns, t -  
 r n / u r m r n t r u s v r y s m n / r t s t n t t r m r r t f t s n g s f t s;  
 n t m t ns y v t t r s n t r u s. In n y s r s s f t s v u t m s y  
 n t, t m r n t r u s n g g n t m t u u r r t r t n m r y g m ns.

H ψ r, t λ- ru s ntr st s r, ψ t t