

Analysis of Distribution of Haplogroup T (ex K2)

(Ted Kandell – 8 november 2009 - edited)

Let us first look at the periphery of the map:

The eastern periphery in the Indian Subcontinent is easy to take care of. That's the result of seaborne trade from the Gulf, with Arabs playing a major part, but which could also be the result of pre-Islamic Persian traders, etc. That's particularly true of Tamil Nadu ("Madras Muslims"), Bengal (Muslims) and Sindh ("Barygaza").

Have a look here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Periplus_Maris_Erythraei

I think the concentration in Somalia is the result of Persian Gulf Arab colonization or even Egyptian and perhaps Gulf voyages to the "Land of Punt":

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_of_Punt. The region of the Horn of Africa was one of the main sources for luxury goods for the ancient world.

In the west, particularly in Spain and the Balearic Islands, haplogroup T comes from a combination of Jews (particularly the islands) and Arabs. Descendants of the Arab speaking Southern Iraqi Lakhmids settled in Tunisia and Spain: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakhmids> (they produced the Abadi, Ubadi and Bani Bahr dynasties in Spain).

Old Castille : the Jews of Muslim Spain fled to Christian Spain from the fanatical Almohades who demanded their conversion to Islam on pain of death in 1147-1152.

If T were Phoenician, we'd see more T in Sardinia.

T in northern Tunisia is easily explained by settlement during the Arab Conquest, and later settlement by Egyptians under the Fatmids.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kairouan>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahdiya>

T in Sicily will also be a combination of Sicilian Jews and "Saracens" (Sicilian Arabs). Did you know that even some Persians settled in "Balarm" (Palermo) during the Emirate of Sicily?

The Emirate of Sicily was actually a part of the Fatimid Caliphate of Egypt. Again, some Lakhmid Arabs and especially Egyptians settled there:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emirate_of_Sicily

The more northerly concentrations of T are harder to explain. Like G2a3, I propose that the high concentration in Switzerland is right there because this was the main "gap" in the Roman frontier, the "Limes Germanicus" which filled the gap between the Rhine and the Danube: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limes_Germanicus

<http://bibliothecagermanica.de/media/GermaniaCamps1c02.gif>

Some of the T in the northwest will also be due to the Roman Empire.

A very difficult one to explain is the high concentration of T in the Balkans. I suspect this mirrors the extremely high concentration of E1b1b1a (a3?) among the Kosovar Albanians,

as high as 45%. This probably has something to do with the Illyrians. or better, the "White Croats" and Serbs, who had an Indo-Iranian (Scythian) nobility. (The Slavic word "pan" meaning "lord, noble" is of Scythian origin.) Notice that T around the Black and Caspian Seas, and to the east, mirrors the distribution of some of the Scythian tribes. In 512 BCE, according to Herodotus, Darius defeated the Scythians in Transoxania (Uzbekistan) and then encountered the very same Scythians in Thrace (Bulgaria).

These would not of course have been the majority of Scythians (almost certainly R1a1), but rather a smaller group "along for the ride".

Southeast Italy however would be connected to the Messapians, who were said to be a branch of the Illyrians. Corisica and Northern Italy is a bit difficult to explain, but clearly Corisica is connected to Northern Italian colonization. Northern Sardinia is connected to the Aragonese colonization of the area and the complete replacement of the local population of Alghero in 1372: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algherese>

That takes care of the **periphery**, which leaves us with the **core regions** of Egypt, Iraq and Persia, the Gulf, and Azerbaijan, as well as Crete and Cyprus.

Something tells me that there are two very separate early sub-haplogroups of T, one in Egypt and the other in "Persia." The Omanis could very well have originated as Persians or Mesopotamians. The Azerbaijanis and Daghestanis might be Medeans, but this depends on who in the Caucasus actually is T, and whether these include any of the Northeast Caucasian speakers. The area after all was known as "Sakasene" but these wouldn't quite be the same sort of "Sakas" / Scythians of the usual variety, but maybe some Persianized group from further south.

Cyprus and Crete could be due to Anatolian or Egyptian settlement at any time (for example both were under the rule of the Ptolemies). Lasithi Prefecture in Crete - a bit of a tough one, but like Cyprus these might be Egyptian in origin, even in the Minoan Era. Do we have haplotypes from there? The Cypriots could very well be Arab Cypriots (including Christians) who migrated there in large numbers in the Middle Ages. The same might be true of Crete.

We also don't quite know if the Egyptian Ts are close to the Balkan ones or not. Maybe the Egyptian Ts are Macedonians who were a Dorian tribe, or maybe the spread went in the opposite direction (as I suspect it did).

T is likely to be very old and diverse, so what we have to do is divide up the Ts into clades and see who connects with whom. The Jewish Ts should be relatively easy to place, since the Jews have some tight discrete T clades (or one clade).

Basically, I can get T back to the Near East and Egypt but I can't get a higher resolution than that without sorting out the clades.

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