EVALUATION OF 13 MICROSATELLITE LOCI IN A POPULATION SAMPLE FROM HONG KONG, CHINA

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The characterization of distinct populations that may have some level of isolation from more widely dispersed groups of people can provide valuable data on the genetic diversity that can be expected for genetic markers routinely used in human identification. Internationally, there is an ever growing need for DNA testing in forensic casework, parentage evaluation and other issues where an individual's identity or population affinity may be in question. This study was undertaken to provide microsatellite data on a population representative of the island of Hong Kong.

With the recent return of Hong Kong to Chinese rule from its former British affiliation, a surge of activity in parentage testing has occurred to settle issues of residency and permission to travel. Seven hundred and eighty individuals were screened for thirteen STR loci and evaluated with regard to Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium, linkage equilibrium and allele distribution. Comparisons are also made against Caucasian and African American databases to evaluate population structure.