

Y-DNA HAPLOGROUP R1A AND THE URALIC LANGUAGE FAMILY

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Abstract

My paper examines the issue of the geographic origins of the Uralic language family in the scope of the presence of Y-DNA haplo groups in the human population.

The analysis of genetic statistics on the geographic and demographic distribution of Y-DNA haplo groups has recently become an innovative component in tracking down prehistoric migrations and thus, in solving the puzzle of the geographic origins of different language families.

The conventional view on the geographical origins of the Uralic languages puts their origin in the subarctic regions alongside the Ural Mountains, and spread largely within the subarctic forest belt. Genetic traits, however, show evidence of large-scale Bronze Age migrations to most of the traditional Uralic language areas from the south, from the continental steppe and forest steppe belts. The mainstream approach views such events as mere incursions by Indo-Europeans. Genetic and archeological evidence, however, both indicate that these migrations reached further, both in magnitude and geographic range, than could have been plausible without the entire Uralic language family being erased and replaced by Indo-European languages. This suggests that the origins of the language family may lie in these migrations from the south, mostly marked by the dominance of the haplo group R1a. My research aims to analyze if there is a synchrony between the internal genealogical structure of the Uralic language family and such a scenario.

Keywords: Uralic Language, Y-DNA, Bronze Age
