Topics and Techniques for Forensic DNA Analysis Continuing Education Seminar

Y-STRs, mtDNA, and the Romanov Case

NYC OCME Dept of Forensic Biology

New York City, NY April 18, 2012





Dr. Michael D. Coble National Institute of Standards and Technology

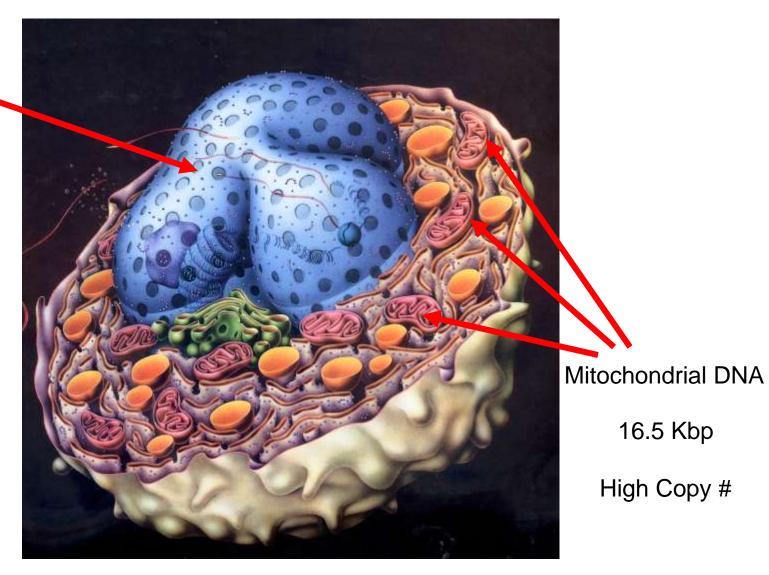
michael.coble@nist.gov

The Human DNA Genome

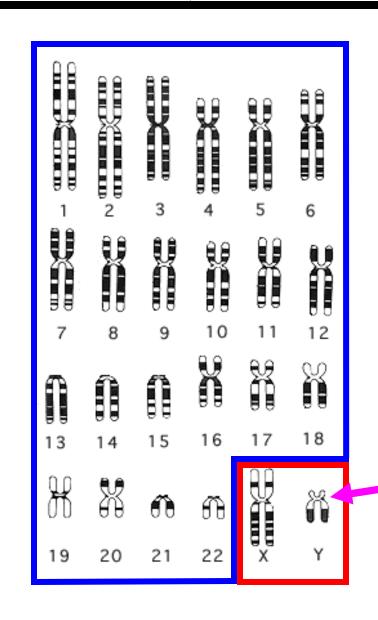
Nuclear DNA

~3.2 billion bp

High Power of Discrimination



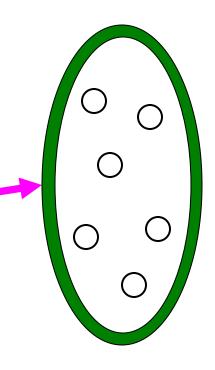
Cell Nucleus – 3.2 billion bp



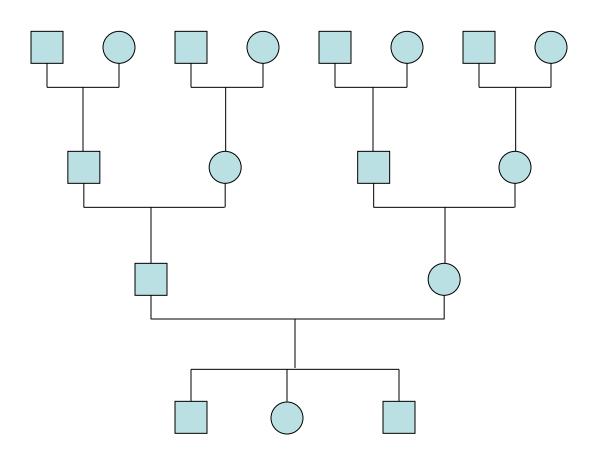
Autosomes – 22 pairs – 2 copies per cell

Sex Chromosomes (XX or XY)

mitochondria – in cell cytoplasm 100s of mtDNA copies per cell

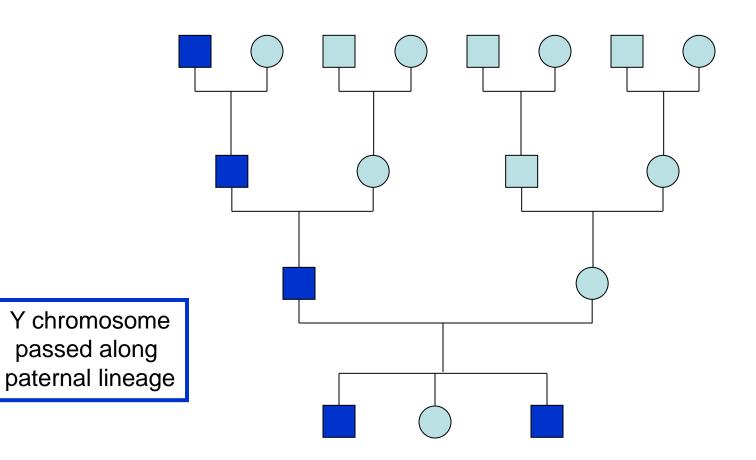


Lineage Markers



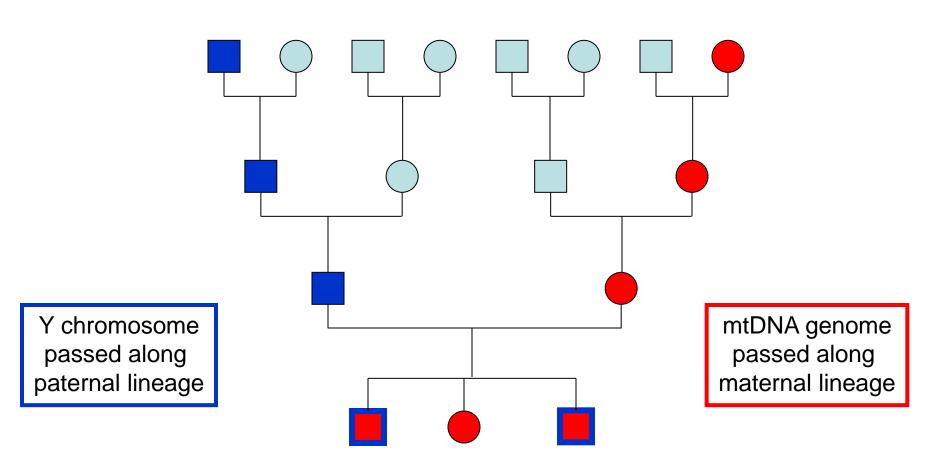
Autosomal DNA 1/8 from Great-grandparents

Lineage Markers



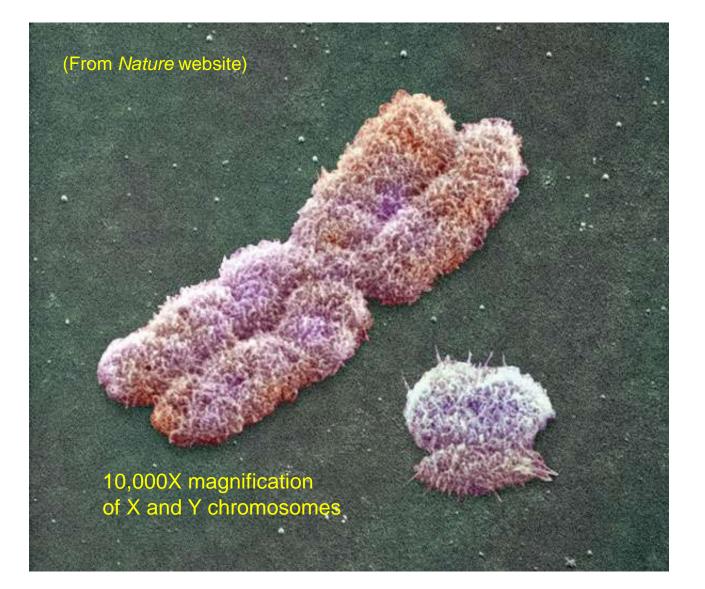
Autosomal DNA 1/8 from Great-grandparents

Lineage Markers



Autosomal DNA 1/8 from Great-grandparents

The Y-chromosome



Value of Y-Chromosome Markers

Application Advantage Forensic casework on Male-specific amplification (can avoid sexual assault evidence differential extraction to separate sperm and epithelial cells) Paternity Testing Male children can be tied to fathers in motherless paternity cases Patrilineal male relatives may be used for reference samples Missing Persons Investigations Human migration and Lack of recombination enables comparison of male individuals separated by large periods of time evolutionary studies Historical and Surnames are usually retained by males; can make links

Genealogical research

J.M. Butler (2005) *Forensic DNA Typing*, 2nd Edition; Table 9.1

where a paper trail is limited.

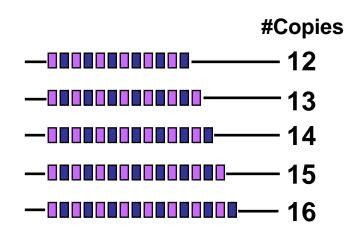
Disadvantages of the Y-Chromosome

- Loci are not independent of one another and therefore rare random match probabilities cannot be generated with the product rule; must use haplotypes (combination of alleles observed at all tested loci)
- Paternal lineages possess the same Y-STR haplotype (barring mutation) and thus fathers, sons, brothers, uncles, and paternal cousins cannot be distinguished from one another
- Not as informative as autosomal STR results
 - More like addition (10 + 10 + 10 = 30) than multiplication (10 x 10 x 10 = 1,000)

Various Types of Genetic Markers on the Human Y-Chromosome

Y-STRS Short Tandem Repeats

— GATAGATAGATAGATA —

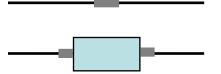


Y-SNPs

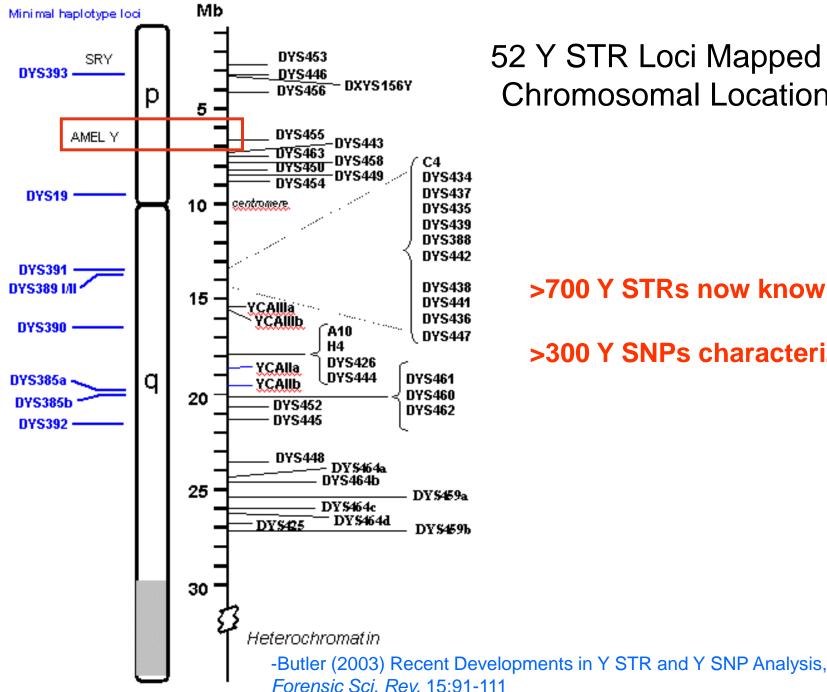
Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms

-CGATG--CGGTG-

Insertion/deletions (indels)



Multi-state charactersBinary charactersQuickly evolving (2 x 10-3/gen)Slowly evolving (~10-8/gen)High resolution haplotypesLow resolution haplogroups

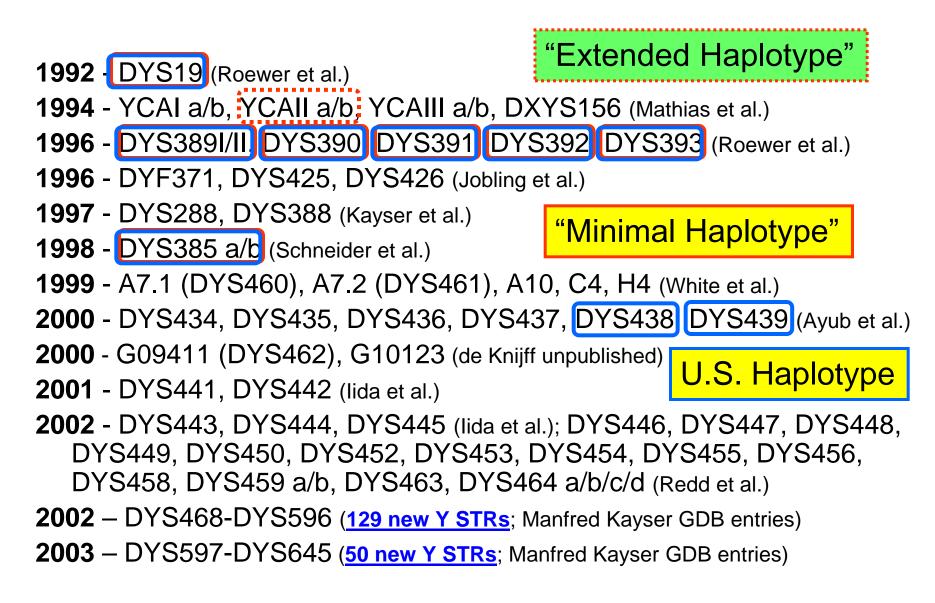


52 Y STR Loci Mapped to Chromosomal Locations

>700 Y STRs now known

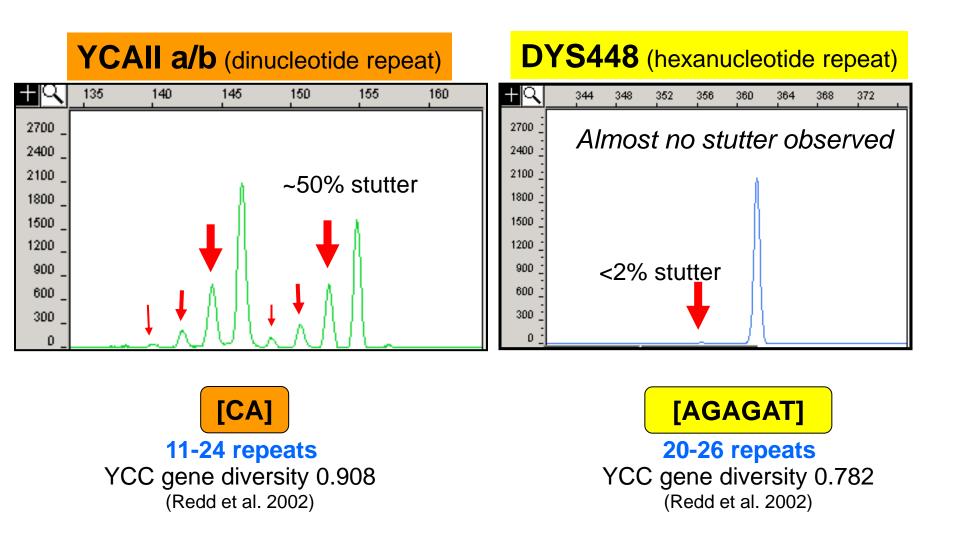
>300 Y SNPs characterized

History of Y-STR Marker Discovery



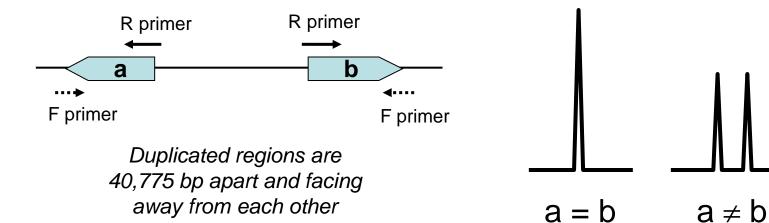
From J.M. Butler (2003) Recent developments in Y-STR and Y-SNP analysis. Forensic Sci. Rev. 15:91-111

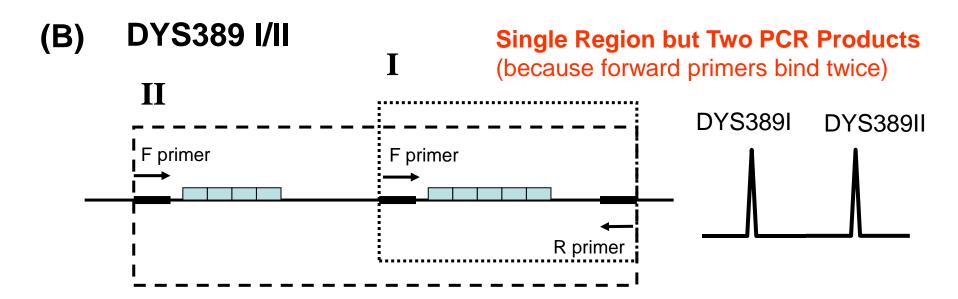
STR Markers with Low Stutter Products Benefit Forensic Analysis where Mixtures might be Present



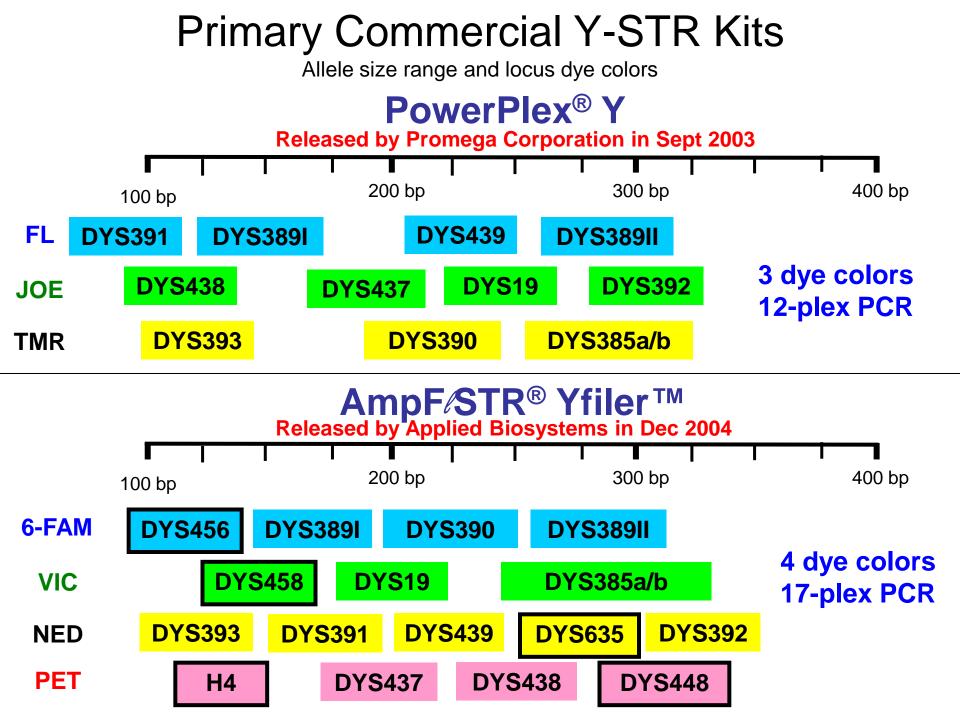
(A) DYS385 a/b

Multi-Copy (Duplicated) Marker

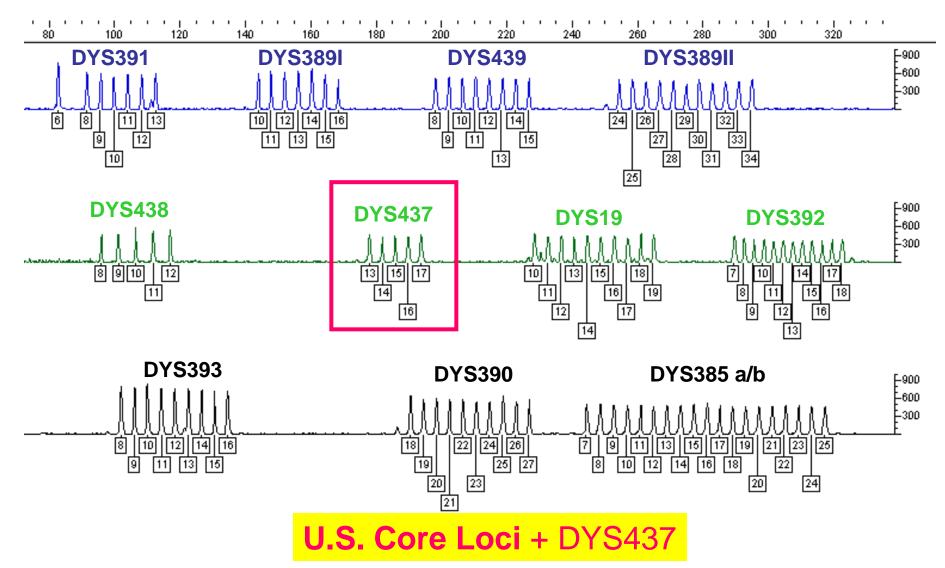




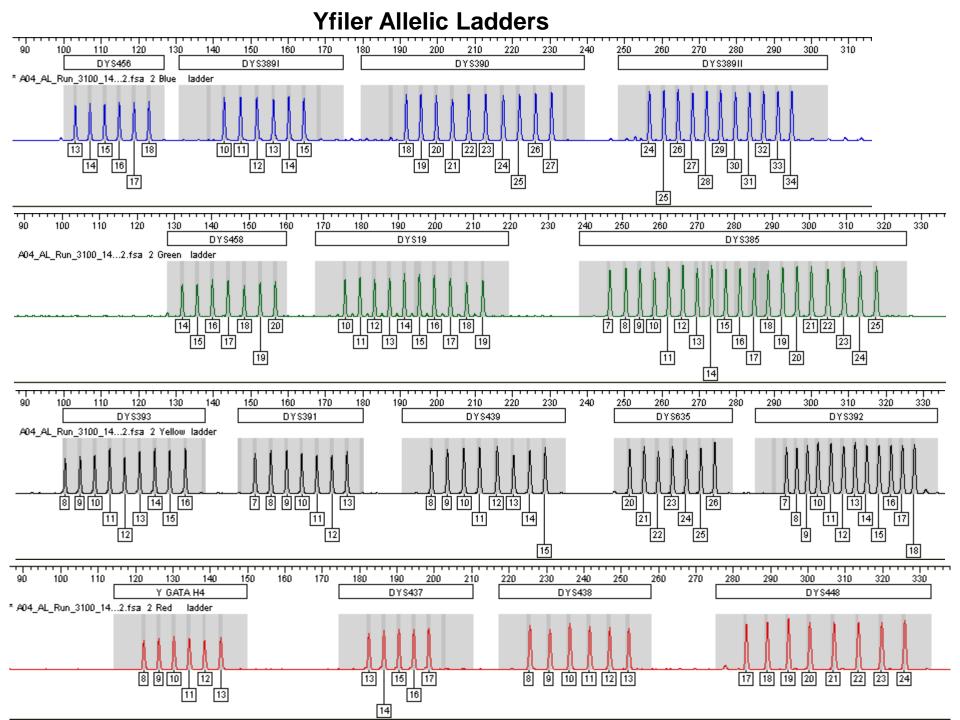
Butler, J.M. (2005) Forensic DNA Typing, 2nd Edition, Figure 9.5, ©Elsevier Science/Academic Press



Promega PowerPlex[®] Y Allelic Ladders

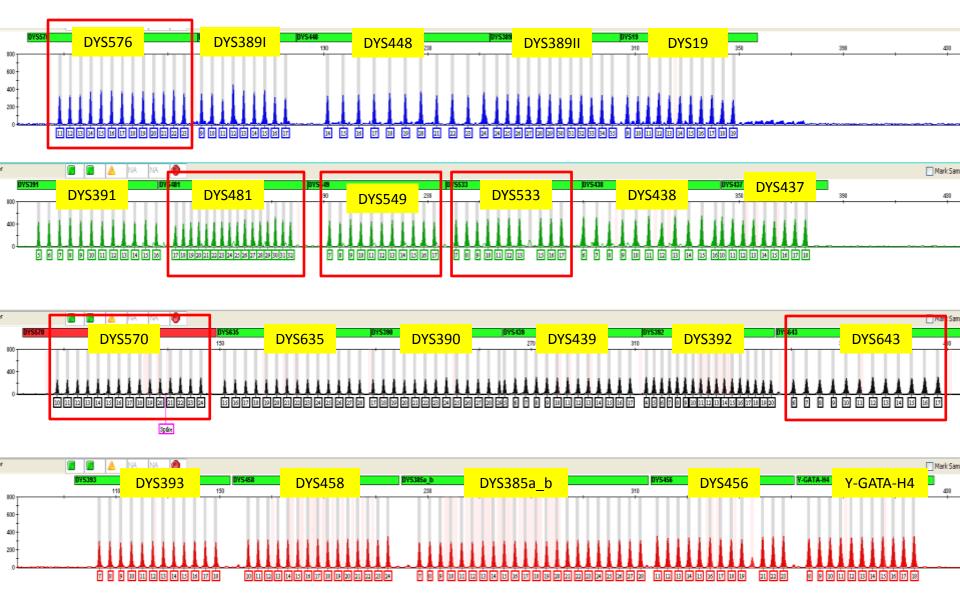


Single amplification; ladders contain 103 alleles

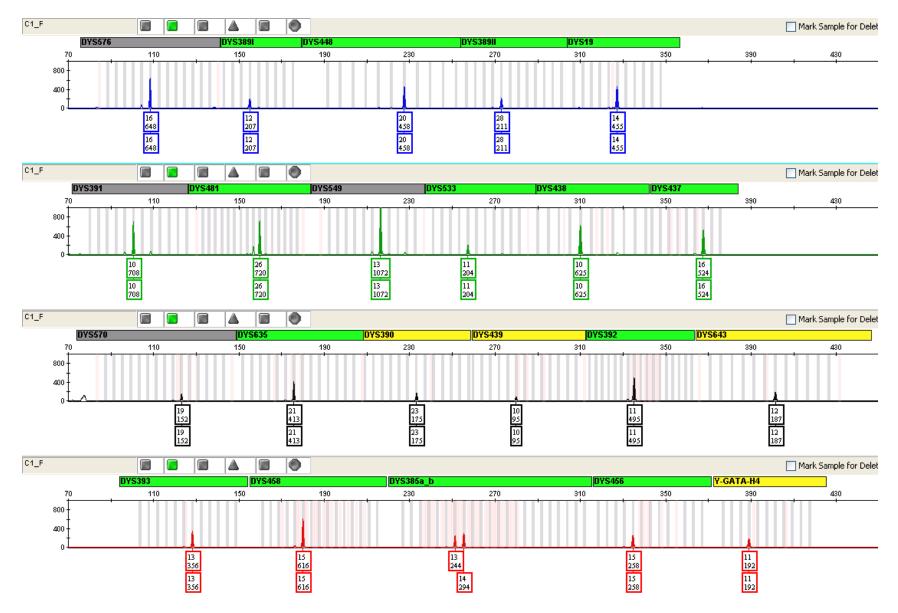


Coming Soon: PPY-23 from Promega

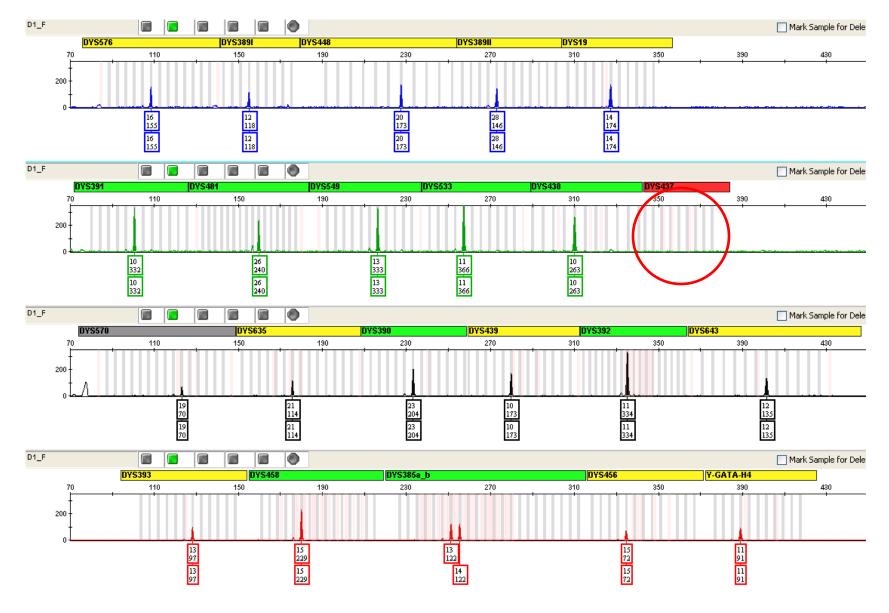
6 "New" Loci



Mixture of 125pg Male + 400ng Female



Mixture of 62.5pg Male + 400ng Female



The value of Y-SNPs

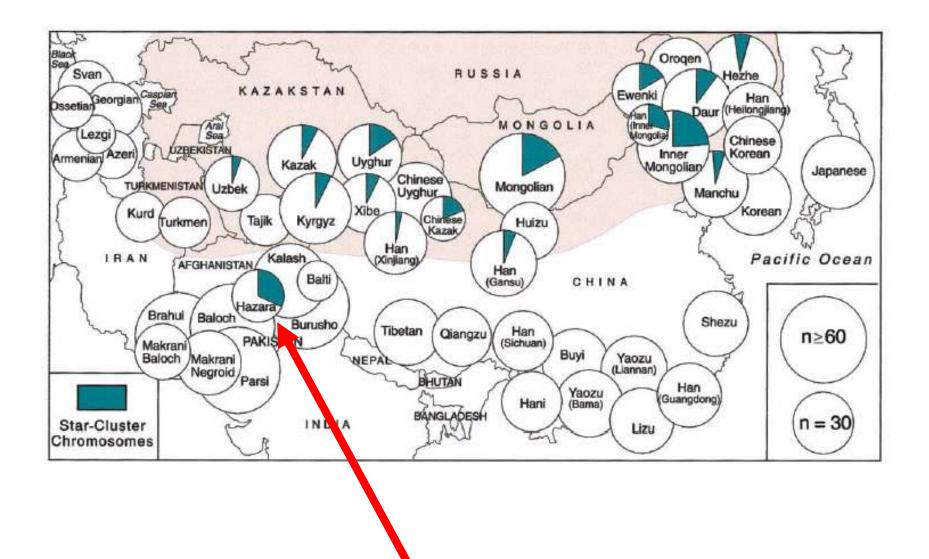
Report

The Genetic Legacy of the Mongols

Tatiana Zerjal,¹ Yali Xue,^{1,2} Giorgio Bertorelle,³ R. Spencer Wells,⁴ Weidong Bao,^{1,5} Suling Zhu,^{1,5} Raheel Qamar,^{1,6} Qasim Ayub,^{1,6} Aisha Mohyuddin,^{1,6} Songbin Fu,² Pu Li,² Nadira Yuldasheva,^{4,7} Ruslan Ruzibakiev,⁷ Jiujin Xu,⁵ Qunfang Shu,⁵ Ruofu Du,⁵ Huanming Yang,⁵ Matthew E. Hurles,⁸ Elizabeth Robinson,^{1,*} Tudevdagva Gerelsaikhan,^{1,+} Bumbein Dashnyam,⁹ S. Qasim Mehdi,⁵ and Chris Tyler-Smith¹



Chris Tyler-Smith



washingtonpost.com



Tom Robinson

DNA Shows Man a Descendant of Genghis Khan

By JILL LAWLESS The Associated Press Tuesday, June 6, 2006; 8:30 PM

LONDON -- Tom Robinson had long wondered about his family tree. He never suspected its roots might lie in the Mongolian steppe.

The Florida accountant knew that his great, great-grandfather had come to the United States from England _ but beyond that his research drew a blank. So he turned to the burgeoning field of "bioarchaeology," having his DNA tested to see what it revealed about his origins.

"I haven't done any conquering, per se."

The New York Eimes

In the Body of an Accounting Professor, a Little Bit of the Mongol Hordes

By NICHOLAS WADE Published: June 6, 2006

> **Oxford Ancestors**, the world's foremost and leading company in ancestral DNA analysis has uncovered the first American descendent of the great warlord **Genghis Khan... Tom Robinson**, Associate Professor of Accountancy and professional investment consultant, of Miami, Florida, USA.

It turns out that **Dr Robinson** is a direct descendent of **Genghis**, and he is the first American to find this out through a genetic test. His Y-Chromosome bears an astonishing seven out of nine possible genetic markers identical to **Genghis Khan's** (as DNA mutates over generations, two altering DNA markers is a remarkably low number for a period stretching over 700 years).

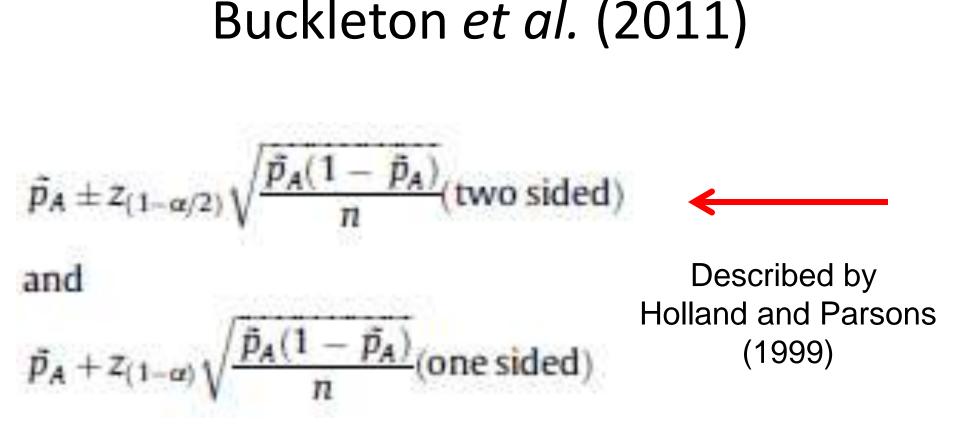
	Oxford	
	Ancestors	Mongolian
Marker	Robinson	Benchmark
DYS19	16	16
DYS390	25	25
DYS391	10	10
DYS392	11	11
DYS393	13	13
DYS389I	13	13
DYS389II	31	29
DYS425	12	12
DYS426	12	11

"It is a very precise match," Professor Sykes said.

Y A Ghengis Khan – is thought to have B belonged to the Asian YHg - C3 С RY M139 M145 M203 P0033736749743745765 F M18 P9 F * YCC52/53/ al TCC2 Additional testing by Family Tree DNA WILES! H found that Tom Robinson belonged to P19 M17 1006577 TOCH 7 rcc1 Y-haplogroup R1a (W. European) YCC54/4 P14 M89 10010 K N TCC47/48/ TCC49/50 1006676 M9 \cap "A match at 10 fast-mutating sites is outvoted by a discrepancy at one slow-mutating site." eta/3/1/1/2 101077121 R Dr. Chris Tyler-Smith 113172771376171

Recent Discussions with Y-STRs

STATS



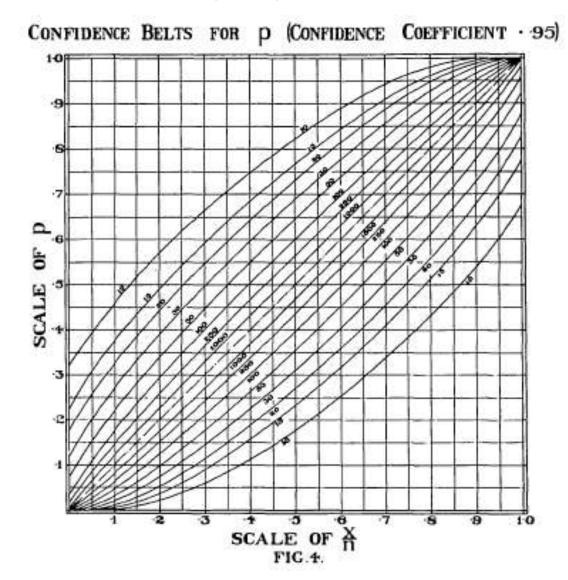
Normal Approximation of the 95% CI for the Binomial Distribution

Buckleton et al.

- The problem Y-STR haplotypes are not distributed as a normal approximation.
- For rare or limited types, the actual CI predicted by the normal approximation is at around 80-85% and not 95%.
- Clopper and Pearson determined the exact binomial distribution in the 1930s

THE USE OF CONFIDENCE OR FIDUCIAL LIMITS ILLUSTRATED IN THE CASE OF THE BINOMIAL.

BY C. J. CLOPPER, B.Sc., AND E. S. PEARSON, D.Sc.



The Issue...

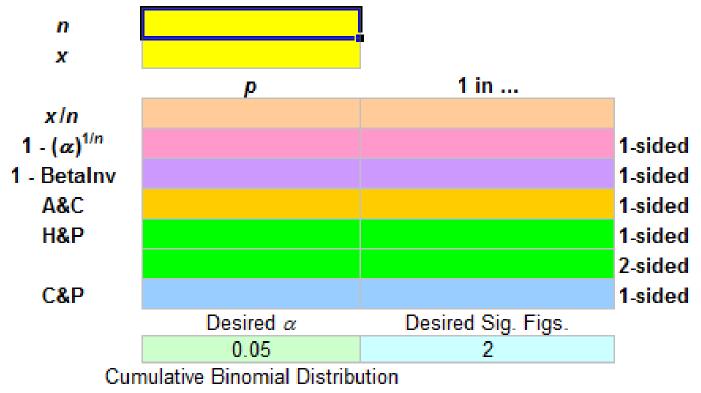
 Using the 95% Normal approximation is easy to calculate by hand...

• The Clopper Pearson – not so much.

$$\left\{ \left| \theta \right| P\left[\operatorname{Bin}\left(n;\theta\right) \le X \right] \ge \alpha/2 \right\} \bigcap \left\{ \left| \theta \right| P\left[\operatorname{Bin}\left(n;\theta\right) \ge X \right] \ge \alpha/2 \right\}$$

Steven Myers (Cal DOJ) Worksheet

HaploCALc Haplotype Statistics Worksheet



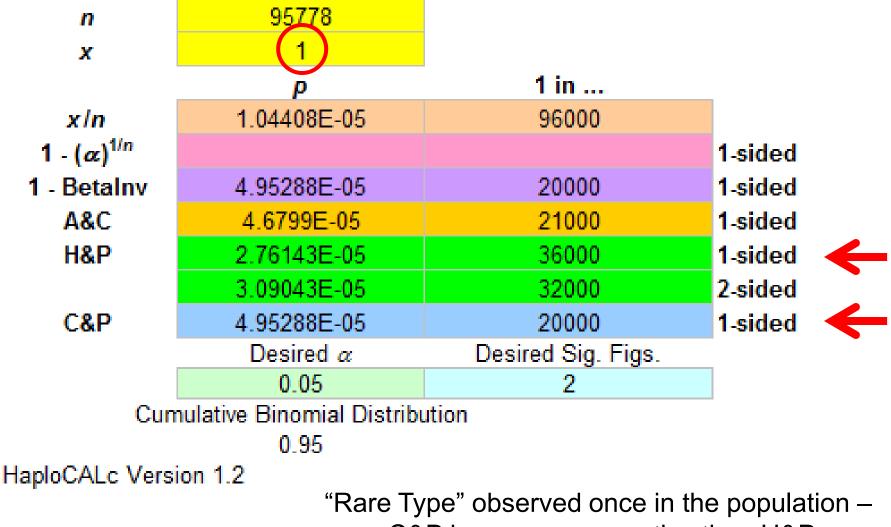
HaploCALc Version 1.2

HaploCALc Haplotype Statistics Worksheet



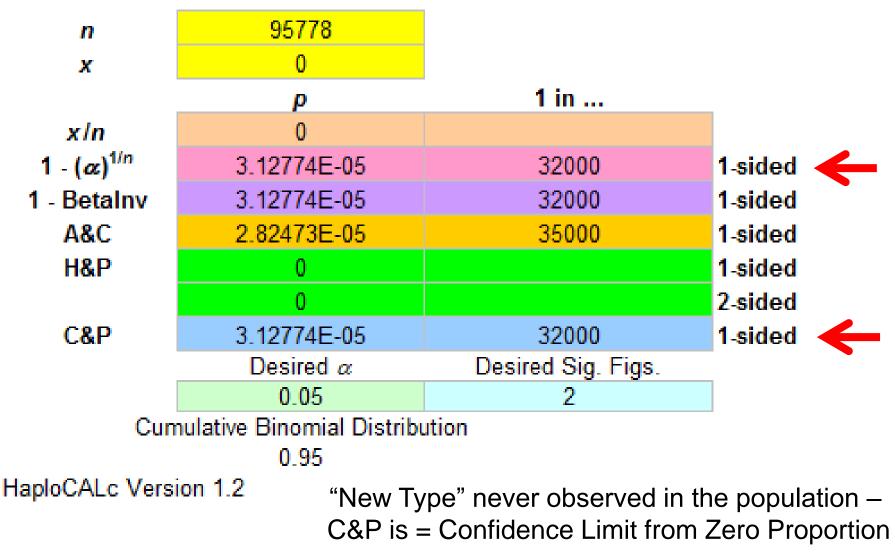
"Common Type" observed in the population – C&P ≈ 95% CI of H&P

HaploCALc Haplotype Statistics Worksheet



C&P is more conservative than H&P

HaploCALc Haplotype Statistics Worksheet

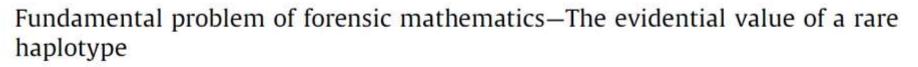




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Forensic Science International: Genetics

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig



Charles H. Brenner^{a,b,*}

^a School of Public Health, Forensic Science Group, U.C. Berkeley, Berkeley, CA United States ^b DNA-VIEW, 6801 Thornhill Drive, Oakland, CA 94611-1336, United States

"The fundamental question to decide the evidentiary significance of a trait linking suspect to crime is not one of frequency but of probability: What is the probability for such a match to happen by coincidence when the suspect is innocent?"

mtDNA

Summary – mtDNA Characteristics

- High copy number of mtDNA.
- Maternal inheritance of mtDNA.

• Lack of recombination.

High mutation rate compared to single copy nucDNA.

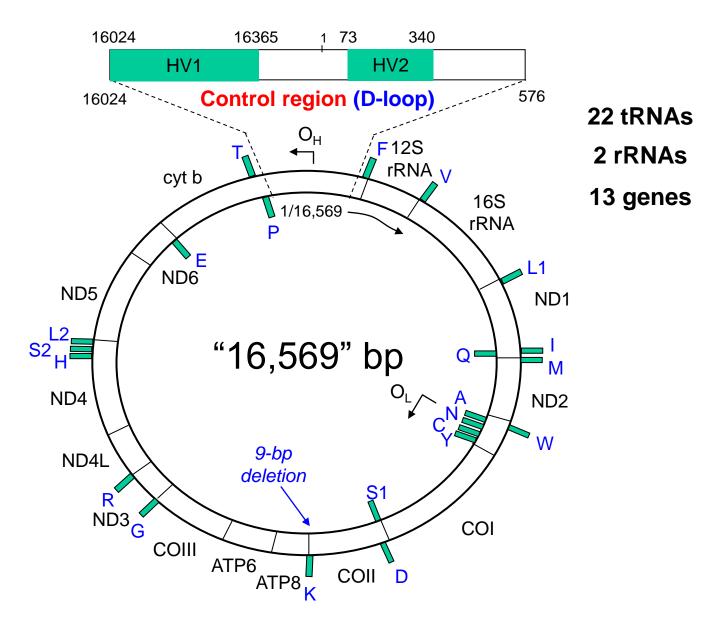
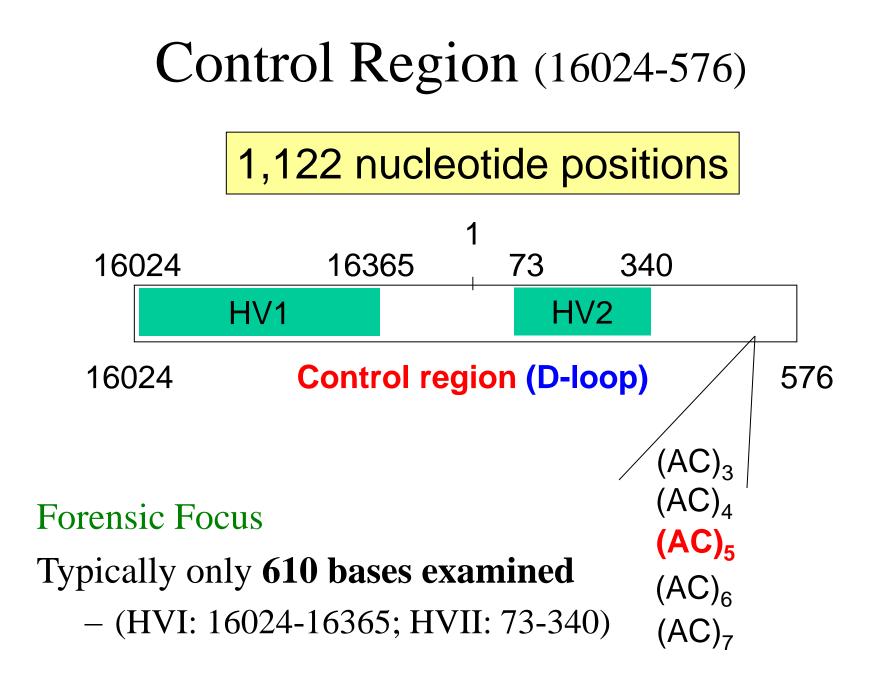


Figure 10.1, J.M. Butler (2005) Forensic DNA Typing, 2nd Edition © 2005 Elsevier Academic Press



Maternal Inheritance of mtDNA

- Fertilizing sperm contributes only nuclear DNA
- Cellular components including the mitochondria in the cytoplasm come from the mother's ovum
- Any sperm mitochondria that may enter a fertilized egg are selectively destroyed due to a ubiquitin tag added during spermatogenesis
- Barring mutation, a mother passes her mtDNA type on to her children

Candidates for mtDNA Testing

- Shed hairs lacking root bulb or attached tissue
- Fragments of hair shafts
- Aged bones or teeth that have been subjected to long periods of exposure
- Crime scene stains or swabs that were unsuccessful for nuclear DNA testing
- Tissues (muscle, organ, skin) that were unsuccessful for nuclear DNA testing

Terry Melton – International Symposium on the Application of DNA Technologies in Analytical Sciences

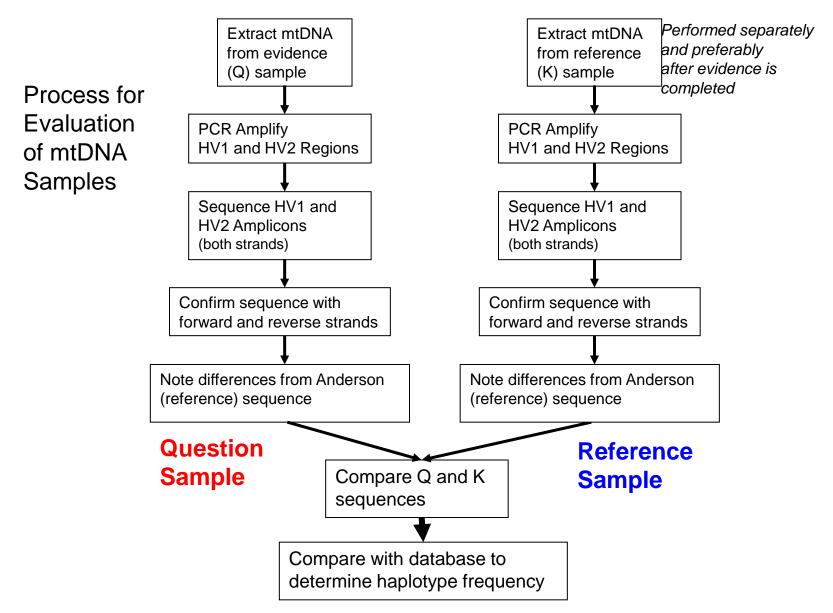
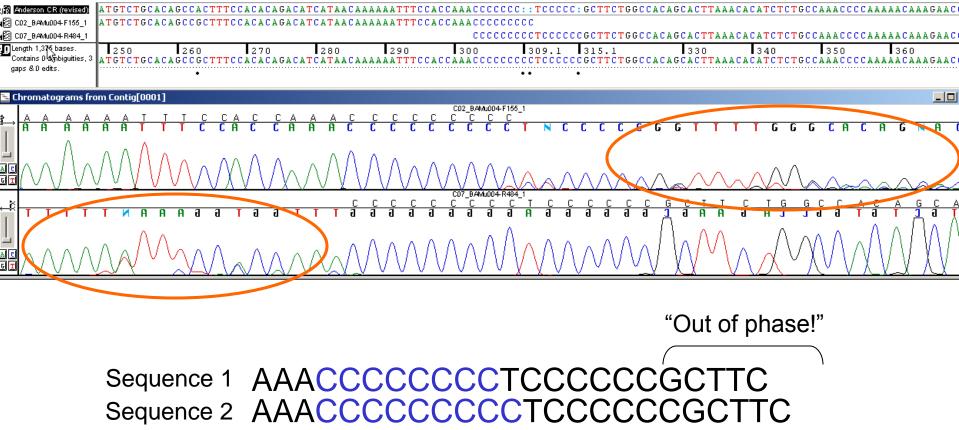


Figure 10.4, J.M. Butler (2005) Forensic DNA Typing, 2nd Edition © 2005 Elsevier Academic Press

Interpretational Issues - Heteroplasmy

- Heteroplasmy the presence of more than one mtDNA type in an individual
- Once thought to be rare, heteroplasmy exists (at some level) in all tissues
- Especially important in forensic mtDNA analysis of hair

HV2 Length Heteroplasmy



Point Heteroplasmy

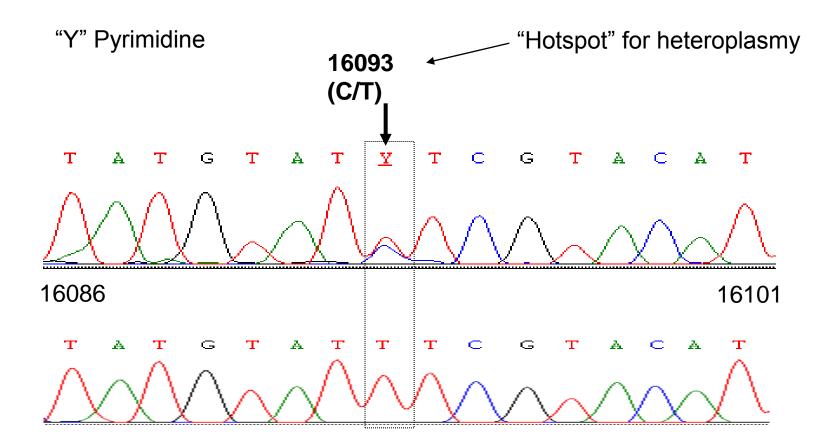
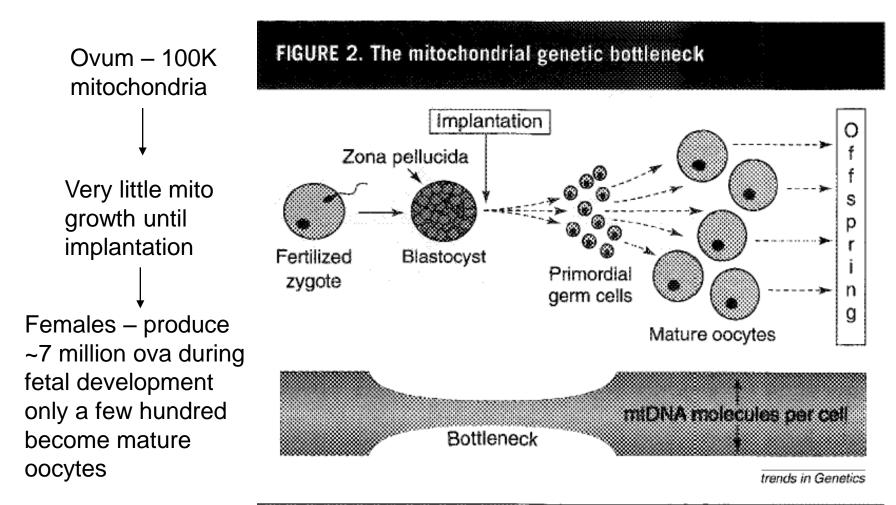


Figure 10.9, J.M. Butler (2005) Forensic DNA Typing, 2nd Edition © 2005 Elsevier Academic Press

Origination of Heteroplasmy

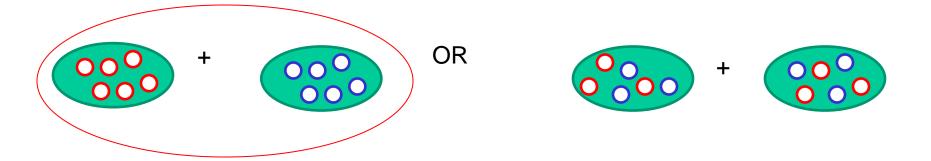


Chinnery et al. (2000) Trends in Genetics

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Single lymphocytes from two healthy individuals with mitochondrial point heteroplasmy are mainly homoplasmic

Sabine Lutz-Bonengel • Timo Sänger • Walther Parson • Helena Müller • Joachim W. Ellwart • Marie Follo • Bernhard Bonengel • Harald Niederstätter • Marielle Heinrich • Ulrike Schmidt



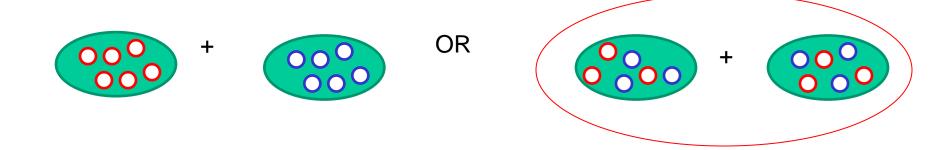


Detection of Heteroplasmic Mitochondrial DNA in Single Mitochondria

Joseph E. Reiner¹*, Rani B. Kishore¹, Barbara C. Levin², Thomas Albanetti³, Nicholas Boire³, Ashley Knipe³, Kristian Helmerson¹, Koren Holland Deckman³

1 Physical Measurement Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland, United States of America, 2 Material Measurement Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland, United States of America, 3 Department of Chemistry, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, United States of America

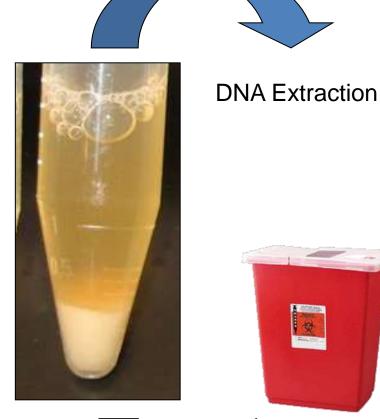
December 2010 | Volume 5 | Issue 12 | e14359



Improved extraction protocols for mtDNA testing

Current Extraction Protocols – Forensic mtDNA Labs









Demineralization protocol



- EDTA 0.5M, pH 8.5
- Detergent
- Proteinase K
- 1g powder



15ml extraction buffer

- •Organic extraction (phenol-chloroform)
- •Concentration and washes in filtration devices.

Casework SOP

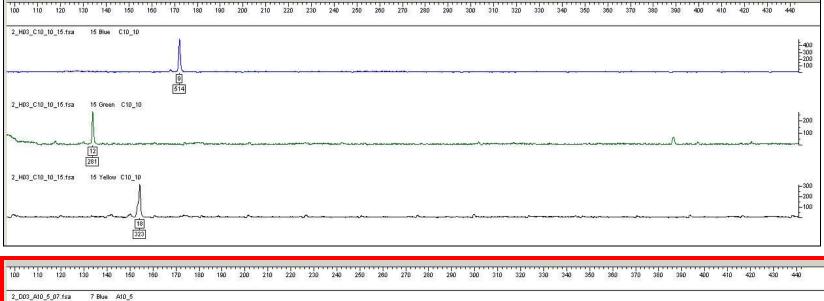
Demineralization protocol

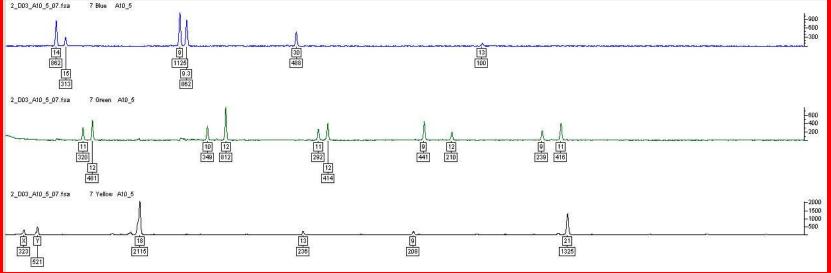


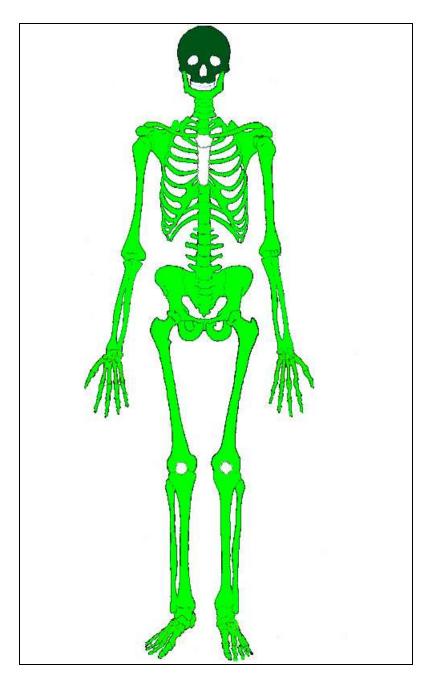


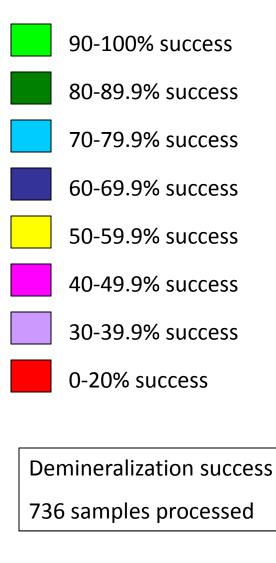
10mM Tris, pH 8.0, 100mM NaCl, 50mM EDTA, pH 8.0, 0.5% SDS; ProK

LCN-STR data-PP16

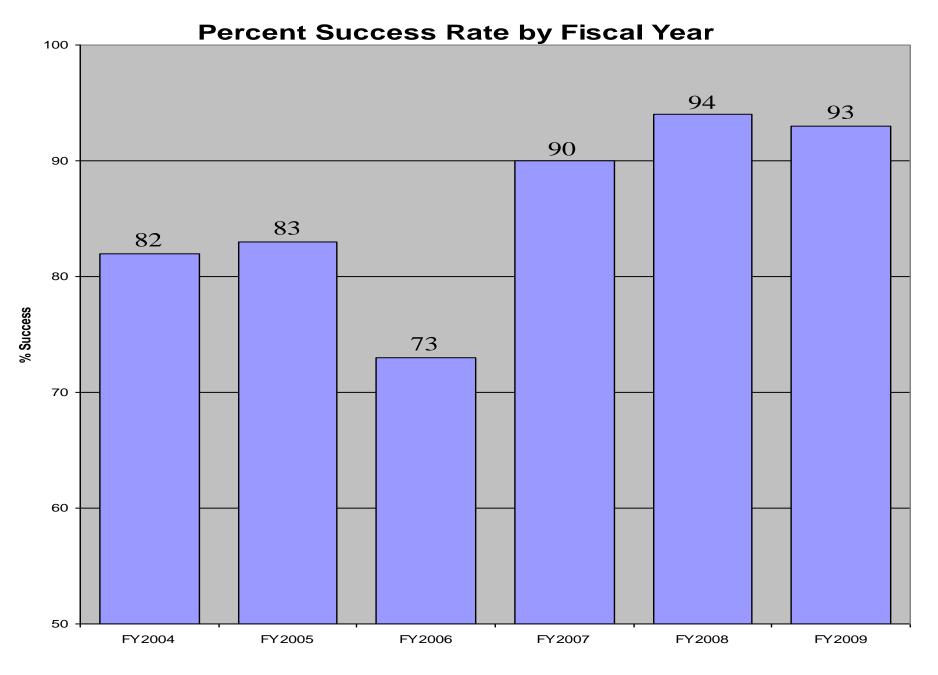








Courtesy of Suzie Barritt-Ross



Courtesy of Suzie Barritt-Ross



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com



FSI GENETICS

www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig

Forensic Science International: Genetics 1 (2007) 191-195

Short communication

High efficiency DNA extraction from bone by total demineralization $^{\texttt{\texttt{m}}}$

Odile M. Loreille^{*}, Toni M. Diegoli, Jodi A. Irwin, Michael D. Coble, Thomas J. Parsons¹

Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, 1413 Research Blvd., Bldg. 101, Rockville, MD 20850, United States Received 24 January 2007; accepted 3 February 2007

Demineralization Protocol II



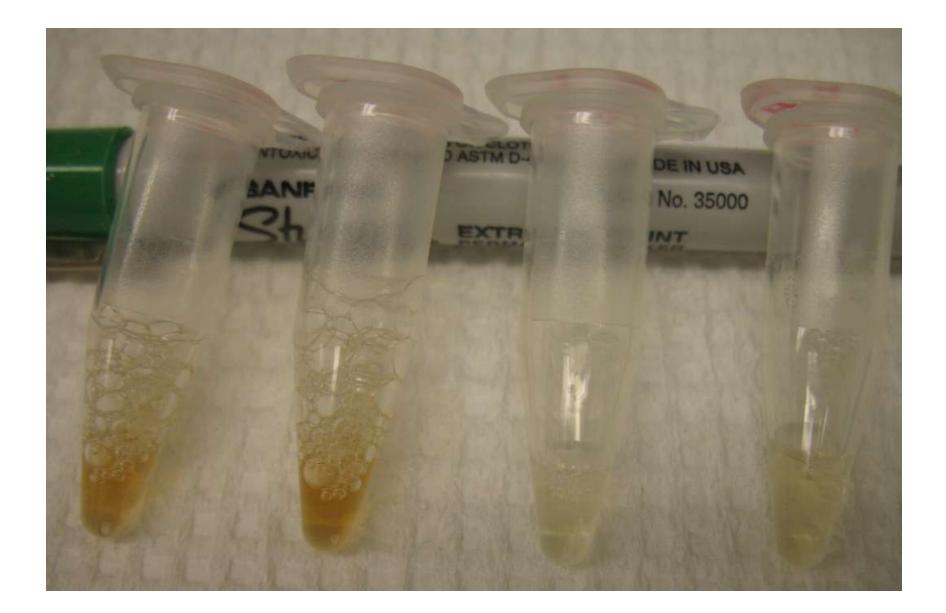




Demin. Buffer

Ultra 4

Qiagen Mini Elute



No Phenol

With Phenol



No Phenol

With Phenol

	CW-centricons 30	CW-ultra-4	RS + phenol	RS no phenol
Sample 01	8.866	7.722	10.344	7.472
Sample 02	0.425	0.834	1.257	1.092
Sample 03	0.05 (inhibited)	0.83	1.737	2.347
Sample 04	47	2.53 [*]	59.11	50.76
Sample 05	1.959	1.785	3.464	3.394
Sample 06	9.189	7.83	12.494	10.632
Sample 07	5.692	12.599	11.128	8.373
Sample 08	2.127	0.935	3.418	2.964
Sample 09	10.93	2.27*	10.7	8.96
Sample 10	8.439	7.029	6.324	10.072

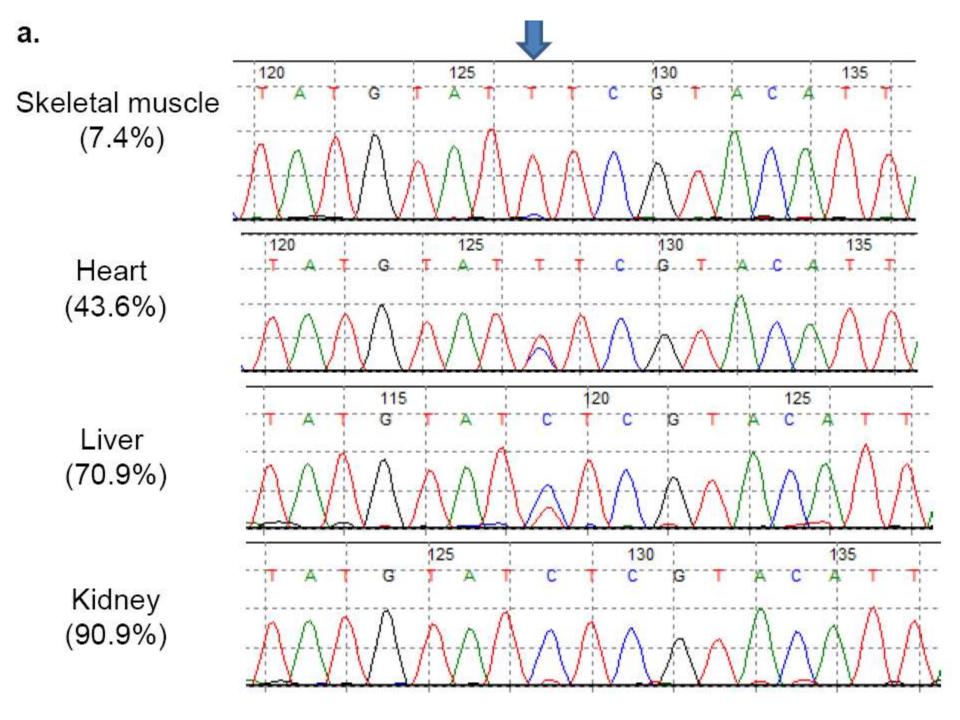
Recent Developments with mtDNA

Next Generation Sequencing

LETTERS

Heteroplasmic mitochondrial DNA mutations in normal and tumour cells

Yiping He¹, Jian Wu¹, Devin C. Dressman¹, Christine Iacobuzio-Donahue², Sanford D. Markowitz³, Victor E. Velculescu¹, Luis A. Diaz Jr¹, Kenneth W. Kinzler¹, Bert Vogelstein¹ & Nickolas Papadopoulos¹



Because mtDNA template molecules are so numerous in comparison with nuclear DNA template molecules, they are also useful for forensic applications. Previous studies have shown variations in the length of mononucleotide tracts in mtDNA from hair roots compared with blood^{29,30}. Our new results clearly show that heteroplasmies affect the entire mitochondrial genome, are common in normal individuals and vary markedly from tissue to tissue. Thus an individual, and perhaps even a single cell, does not have a single mtDNA genotype. Instead, tissues have a mixture of genotypes, a few of which may be maternally inherited and the remaining ones the result of somatic mutations. This suggests caution in excluding identity on the basis of a single or small number of mismatched alleles when the tissue in evidence (such as sperm) is not the same as the reference tissue of the suspect (such as blood or hair).

			Allele 1 frequency (%)												
Position	Allele 1	Allele 2	Cerebrum	Heart	Skeletal muscle	Lung	Kidney	Spleen	Liver	Pancreas	Colon	Cerebellum	No. of tissues with variant	Minimum (%)	Maximum (%)
60	С	Τ*	<0.35	<0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	2.16	< 0.35	1.96	< 0.35	<0.35	<0.35	2	< 0.35	2.16
64	А	C*	< 0.35	< 0.35	1.73	< 0.35	0.36	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	<0.35	1	< 0.35	1.73
72	С	Τ*	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	18.4	< 0.35	11.7	< 0.35	< 0.35	<0.35	2	< 0.35	18.4
73	G	A*	< 0.35	< 0.35	2.27	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	<0.35	1	< 0.35	2.27
74	G	Τ*	< 0.35	<0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	2.64	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	<0.35	1	< 0.35	2.64
189	G	A*	1.06	0.92	9.77	0.37	< 0.35	< 0.35	0.91	0.39	< 0.35	<0.35	1	< 0.35	9.77
408	A	Τ*	< 0.35	< 0.35	3.64	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	<0.35	1	< 0.35	3.64
1983	С	Τ*	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	1.76	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	<0.35	1	< 0.35	1.76
6078	С	A*	0.52	0.49	0.82	1.23	0.44	1.10	2.99	0.92	0.54	1.60	2	0.44	2.99
8021	G	A*	0.37	< 0.35	< 0.35	1.42	< 0.35	1.87	< 0.35	0.78	0.39	0.83	1	< 0.35	1.87
11090	С	A*	0.88	0.67	1.63	1.12	1.04	1.65	1.46	1.62	1.02	1.24	3	0.67	1.65
14274	С	A*	0.54	1.6	0.41	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	0.92	0.61	1.18	0.84	1	< 0.35	1.60
16092	С	Τ*	0.60	0.53	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	< 0.35	0.54	2.83	1	< 0.35	2.83
16093	С	T^*	67.4	43.6	7.44	73.0	90.9	81.6	70.9	63.8	62.2	60.1	10	7.44	90.9
Total nu	nber of		1	2	6	1	4	4	4	2	1	3	-	-	-
heteropla	asmic va	riants													

Table 2 | Heteroplasmic variants in different organs of the same individual (patient 11, 59 years old)

* The reference allele. Allele 1 frequencies of 1.6% or more are shown in bold.

	Position	Allele 1	Allele 2	Skeletal muscle	Lung
	60	С	Τ*	< 0.35	< 0.35
	64	А	C*	1.73	< 0.35 N.D. by Sanger Sequencing
	72	С	Τ*	< 0.35	< 0.35
	73	G	A*	2.27	< 0.35 N.D. by Sanger Sequencing
	74	G	Τ*	< 0.35	< 0.35
\rightarrow	189	G	A*	9.77	0.37
	408	А	\top^*	3.64	< 0.35 N.D. by Sanger Sequencing
	1983	С	\top^*	< 0.35	< 0.35
	6078	С	A*	0.82	1.23
	8021	G	A*	< 0.35	1.42
	11090	С	A*	1.63	1.12 N.D. by Sanger Sequencing
	14274	С	A*	0.41	< 0.35
	16092	С	\top^*	< 0.35	< 0.35
\rightarrow	16093	С	Τ*	7.44	73.0
	Total nun	nber of		6	1
	heteropla	ismic va	riants		

Patient #	Age	Position	Allele 1	Allele 2
1	66	60	С	Т*
1	66	72	С	Т*
1	66	94	А	G*
2	77	60	С	Т*
2	77	72	С	Т*
2	77	94	А	G*
4	50	72	С	Т*
5	35	72	С	Т*
6	53	72	С	Т*
6	53	94	А	G*
8	64	72	С	Т*
9	42	60	С	Т*
9	42	72	С	Т*
9	42	94	А	G*
10	59	60	С	Т*
10	59	72	С	Т*

60, 72, 94 (Artifacts?)

FSI-Genetics, 6(1): 143-145

Short communication

Current Next Generation Sequencing technology may not meet forensic standards

Hans-Jürgen Bandelt^{a,b,*}, Antonio Salas^{a,b}

^a Department of Mathematics, University of Hamburg, 20146 Hamburg, Germany

^b Unidade de Xenética, Instituto de Medicina Legal, Facultade de Medicina, and Departamento de Anatomía Patolóxica e Ciencias Forenses, Facultade de Medicina, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, 15782 Galicia, Spain

Patient 4

709 1888

4917 8697 10463 13368 14905 15607 15928

16294

				4	7028	С	Т
				4	8860	А	G
4	72	Т	С	4	9117	Т	C
4	73	Α	G	4	11251		G
				4	11719	G	Α
4	200		G	4	11764	А	G
4	263	А	G	4	11812	А	G
4	709	G	Α	4	12741	С	Т
4	750	А	G	4	13368		А
4	1420		С	4	14233	A	G
				4	14687	А	G
4	1438	А	G	4	14766		Т
4	1888	G	Α	4	14905	G	А
4	2141	Т	С	4	15452	С	А
4	4769	۸	G	4	16126	Т	С
				4	16296	С	Т
4	6249	G	А	4	16324		С
4	6524	Т	С	4	16519		С
				4	10726	G	А

Table 1Deficiencies in the mtDNA sequences reported by He et al. [6].

Sample	HG ^a	Missed mutations (characterizing haplogroup) ^b
Patient 1	J1c3a1	15326 (H2a2), 2706 (H), 4216 (R2'JT), 3010 ^c (J1), 13934 (J1c3)
Patient 2	J1b1a	15326 (H2a2), 2706 (H), 4216 (R2'JT), 3010 ^c (J1), 16222 (J1b),
		16261 ^c (J1b), 5460 ^c (J1b1)
Patient 3	J1c or J1c3a	15326 (H2a2), either 2706 (H) or 13934 (J1c3), 4216 (R2'JT),
		3010 ^c (J1)
Patient 4	T2a1b1	15326 (H2a2), 2706 (H), 4216 (R2'JT), 4917 (T), 8697 (T),
		10463 (T), 15607 (T), 15928 (T), 16294 ^c (T), 13965 (T2a),
		13966 (T2a1b1)
Patient 5	N22	15326 (H2a2), 2706 (H), 16223 ^c (R), 942 (N22), 16249 ^c (N22)
Patient 6	U5a1	15326 (H2a2), 2706 (H), 13617 (U5), 16270 (U5), 16256 ^c (U5a)
Patient 7	X2a2	15326 (H2a2), 2706 (H), 7028 (H), 16223 ^c (R), 153 (X),
		13966 (X), 16278 ^c (X),
		1719 ^c (X2), 12397 (X2a'j), 8913 (X2a), 16213 (X2a)
Patient 8	J1c3a	15326 (H2a2), 2706 (H), 4216 (R2'JT), 3010 ^c (J1), 13934 (J1c3)
Patient 9	J1c	15326 (H2a2), 2706 (H), 4216 (R2'JT), 3010 ^c (J1), 185 ^c (J1c)
Patient 10	H7c	15326 (H2a2), 4793 (H7)
CEPH 45 ♀	T2b3	15326 (H2a2), 1438 (H2), 14905 (T)
CEPH 45ೆ	H1	15326 (H2a2), 1438 (H2)
CEPH1377♀	T1	15326 (H2a2), 1438 (H2), 14905 (T)
CEPH1377 _്	K1b1a	15326 (H2a2), 1438 (H2), 152 ^c (K1b1a)

FSI-Genetics, 6(1): 143-145

Short communication

Current Next Generation Sequencing technology may not meet forensic standards

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^a Department of Mathematics, University of Hamburg, 20146 Hamburg, Germany ^b Unidade de Xenética, Instituto de Medicina Legal, Facultade de Medicina, and Departamento de Anatomía Patolóxica e Ciencias Forenses, Facultade de Medicina, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, 15782 Galicia, Spain

"Before one can really set out to access to entire mtDNA genome data with relative ease for forensic purposes, one needs careful calibration studies under strict forensic conditions—or might have to wait for another generation."

The Identification of the two missing Romanov Children by DNA Testing

Michael D. Coble¹, Odile M. Loreille¹, Mark J. Wadhams¹, Suni M. Edson¹, Kerry Maynard¹, Carna E. Meyer¹, Harald Niederstätter², Cordula Berger², Burkhard Berger², Anthony B. Falsetti³, Peter Gill^{4,5}, Walther Parson², Louis N. Finelli¹

¹Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Rockville, Maryland, ²Institute of Legal Medicine, Innsbruck Medical University, Innsbruck, Austria, ³University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, ⁴University of Strathclyde, Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Glasgow, United Kingdom, ⁵Institute of Forensic Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway.



Opinion

Assessing ancient DNA studies

M. Thomas P. Gilbert¹, Hans-Jürgen Bandelt², Michael Hofreiter³ and Ian Barnes⁴

¹Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, The University of Arizona, 1041 E. Lowell St, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA

²Department of Mathematics, University of Hamburg, Bundesstr. 55, 20146 Hamburg, Germany

³Department of Evolutionary Genetics, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Deutscher Platz 6, 04103 Leipzig, Germany

⁴The Center for Genetic Anthropology, Department of Biology, Darwin Building, University College London, Gower Street, London, UK, WC1E 6BT

- Isolation of work areas: to separate samples and extracted DNA from PCR amplified products.

- Negative control extractions and amplifications: to screen for contaminants entering the process at any stage.

- Appropriate molecular behaviour: owing to DNA degradation, the successful amplification of large DNA fragments in ancient DNA studies should be treated with caution.

- Reproducibility: multiple PCR and extractions should yield consistent results.

- Independent replication: the generation of consistent results by independent research groups.

- Associated remains: are associated remains equally well preserved, and do they show evidence of contamination?

























The Romanovs – Russia's Royal Family (1913)

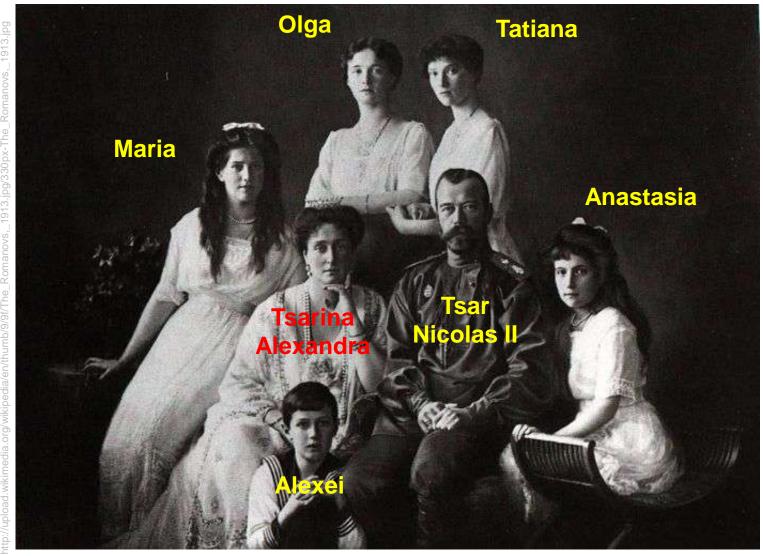


Photo taken commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the Romanov Dynasty

Historical Background

• After spending several months in Tobolsk, the family is finally exiled to Siberia (Ekaterinburg).

The Romanovs in Tobolsk, Russia



The Romanov Family in captivity (left to right Tatiana, Tsarvitch Alexei, Maria (standing) Tsar Nickolas II, Anastasia, Olga)

Historical Background

- After spending several months in Tobolsk, the family is finally exiled to Siberia (Ekaterinburg).
- "I would go anywhere at all, only not to the Urals." - Tsar Nicholas II





Anna Demidova



Alexei Trupp



Dr. Eugene Botkin



Ivan Kharitinov

Ipatiev House in Ekaterinburg



From the Sokolov collection at Harvard

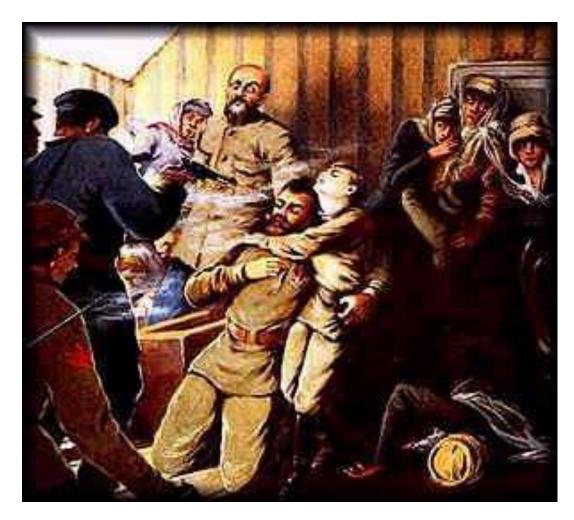


The Romanov family was kept in Ekaterinburg under house arrest by the Bolsheviks from the end of April 1918 until their murder on July 17, 1918.

From the Sokolov collection at Harvard



Yakov Yurovsky Chief Executioner



'Exécution du Tsar à Ekatérinenbourg le 17 juillet 1918' by the french painter *Sarmat*



1976 photo by Dr. Alexander Avdonin





Truck used to transport the remains

Koptiaki Road in July



Excerpt from the Yurovsky Report

"Here (we) ignited a fire, and while the grave was being prepared, we cremated two corpses: Alexei and by mistake, instead of Alexandra Fedorovna, (we) cremated, apparently, Demidova. At the cremation site (we) dug a pit, laid down the bones, leveled it, again lit a large fire and with the ashes concealed any traces."

Excerpt from the Yurovsky Report

"Before laying down the other corpses, we doused sulfuric acid over them, filled the pit, sealed it with sleepers, the empty lorry drove over, (and) somewhat packed down the sleepers and (then we) finished. At 5-6 o'clock in the morning, (I) gathered every one and having declared to them the importance of the completed matter, having warned (them), that everyone must forget about what they saw and never talk about it with anybody."

Investigator Nikolay Sokolov 1919

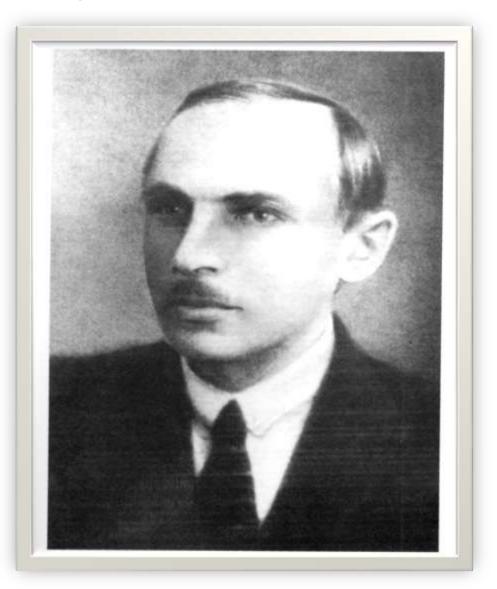


Photo from Dr. Alexander Avdonin

Basement Room of the Ipatiev House where the Russian Imperial family was murdered on July 17, 1918 by members of the Ural Soviet



From the Sokolov collection at Harvard



1919 Site Excavation at Four Brother's Mine Shaft



1919 photo taken by Sokolov of the small bridge at Pig's Meadow



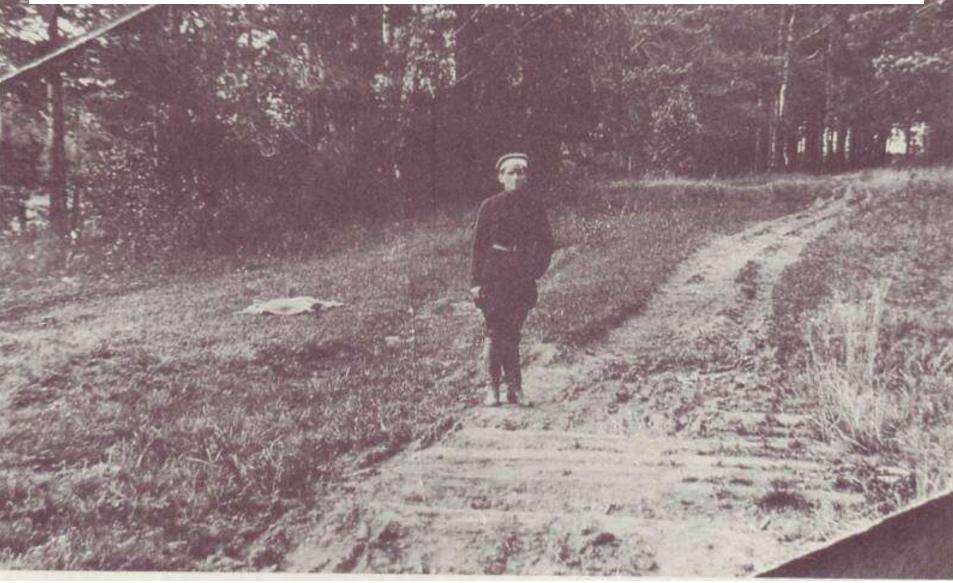
From the Sokolov collection at Harvard

Sokolov's photo of the Koptiaki Road standing on the wooden bridge



From the Sokolov collection at Harvard

1920 photo of Peter Ermakov standing on the bridge

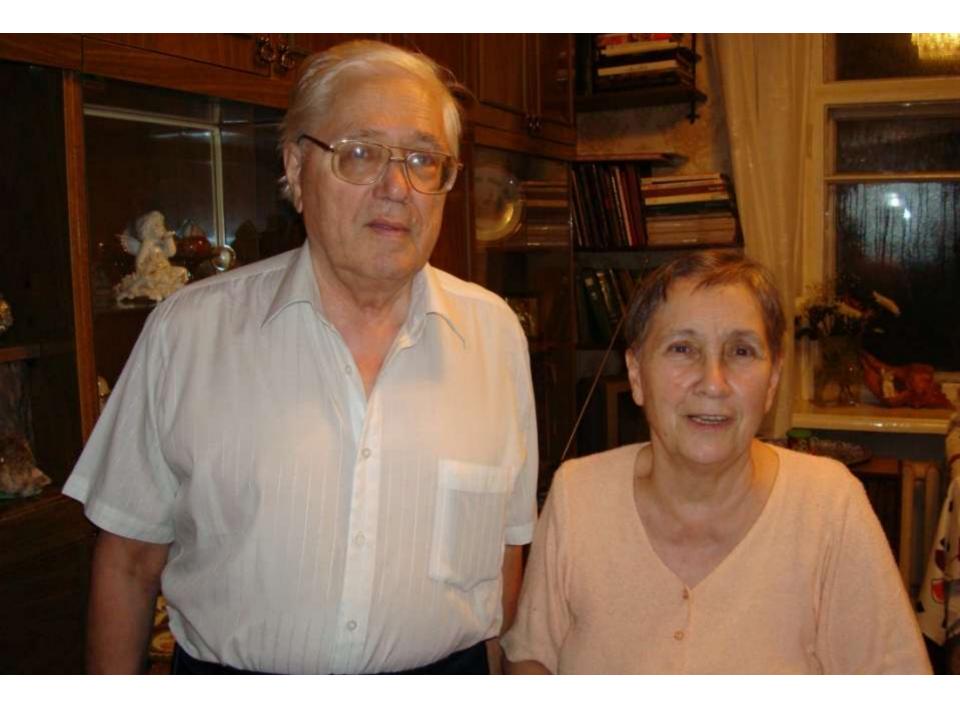




1978- Dr. Avdonin and his group discover the mass grave in Pig's Meadow

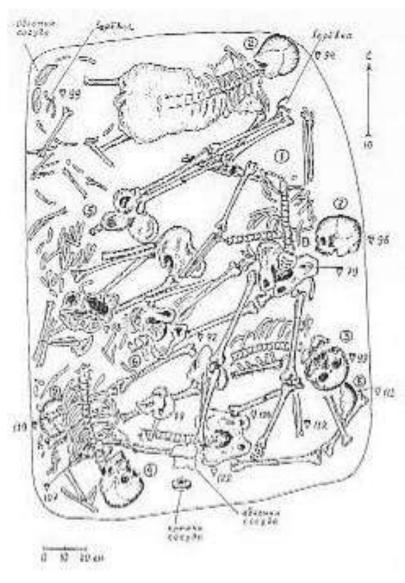


1979- Dr. Avdonin and his group planted bushes to hide their find





1991 – Official discovery of the mass grave and excavation of the remains.



Identifications results comparison of Russian (Abramov) and U.S. (Maples) teams

Skeleton #	Sex	Age	Size	Abramov conclusion	Maples conclusion
1	F	40-50	161-168	Demidova	
2	М	50-60	171-177	Botkin	
3	F	20-24	158-165	Olga	
4	М	45-55	165-170	Nikolai	
5	F	~20	166-171	Tatiana	Maria
6	F	~20	162-171	Anastasia	Tatiana
7	F	45-50	163-168	Aleksandra	
8	M?	40-50	?	Kharitonov	
9	М	+60	172-181	Trupp	
	Μ	Alexei and Maria	Alexei and Anastasia		

http://www.romanov-memorial.com/Final_Chapter.htm

Previous DNA Testing of the 1991 Remains

Identification of the remains of the Romanov family by DNA analysis

Peter Gill¹, Pavel L. Ivanov², Colin Kimpton¹, Romelle Piercy¹, Nicola Benson¹, Gillian Tully¹, Ian Evett¹, Erika Hagelberg³ & Kevin Sullivan¹

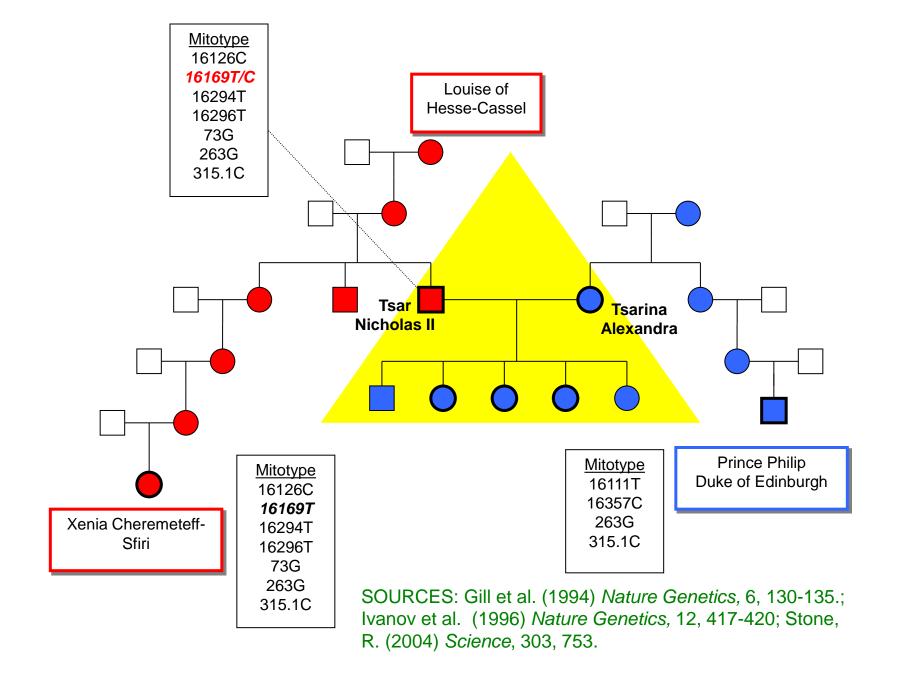
Nature Genetics – Feb. 1994

Skeleton	HUMVWA/31	HUMTH01	HUMF13A1	HUMFES/FPS	HUMACTBP2
1 (servant)	14,20	9,10	6,16	10,11	ND
2 (doctor)	17,17	6,10	5,7	10,11	11,30
3 (child)	15,16	8,10	5,7	12,13	11,32
4 (Tsar)	15,16	7,10	7,7	12,12	11,32
5 (child)	15,16	7,8	5,7	12,13	11,36
6 (child)	15,16	8,10	3,7	12,13	32,36
7 (Tsarina)	15,16	8,8	3,5	12,13	32,36
8 (servant)	15,17	6,9	5,7	8,10	ND
9 (servant)	16,17	6,6	6,7	11,12	ND

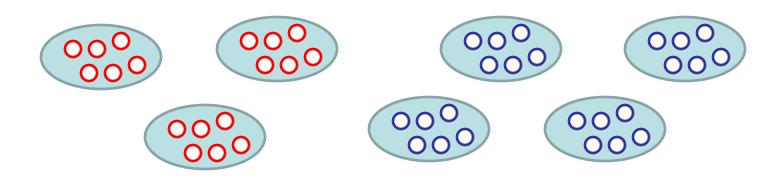
*Allele designation for all loci except HUMACTBP2 is based on the number of repeat units (determined by sequencing of specific alleles — data not shown). The allele designation for HUMACTBP2 is based on an arbitrary scale identical to that of Kimpton *et al.*².

9 unique DNA profiles – Skeletons 4 (Tsar) and 7 (Tsarina) are consistent with being parents of skeletons 3, 5, and 6.

NOTE: STRs were used as a sorting tool here

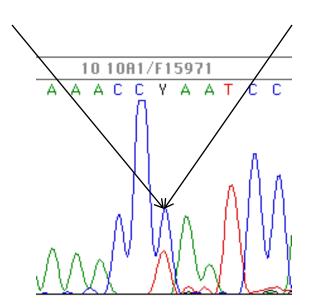


Heteroplasmy

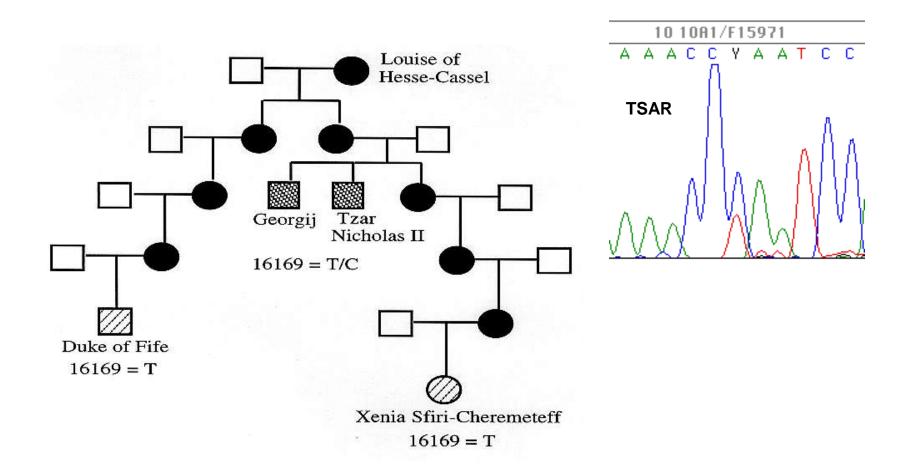


16169 T

16169 C



AFDIL – Confirmation of FSS



Dr. Tom Parsons

Concerns About the 1st DNA Testing

- Heteroplasmy not well understood at the time.
 We now know that it is quite common.
- Relatively low statistical power mtDNA database size of 200-300 individuals (LR = 70).
- STRs in their infancy only 5 markers were examined.

Despite the concerns – the evidence was overwhelming

http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,294360,00.html Remains of Czar Nicholas II's Son May Have Been Found

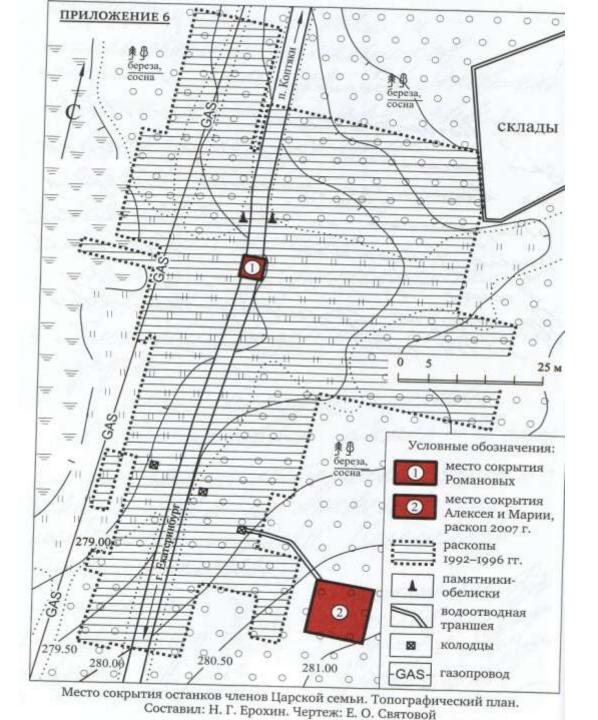


FRIDAY, **AUGUST 24, 2007**

MOSCOW — The remains of the last czar's hemophiliac son and heir to the Russian throne, missing since the royal family was gunned down nine decades ago by Bolsheviks in a basement room, may have been found, an archaeologist said Thursday.

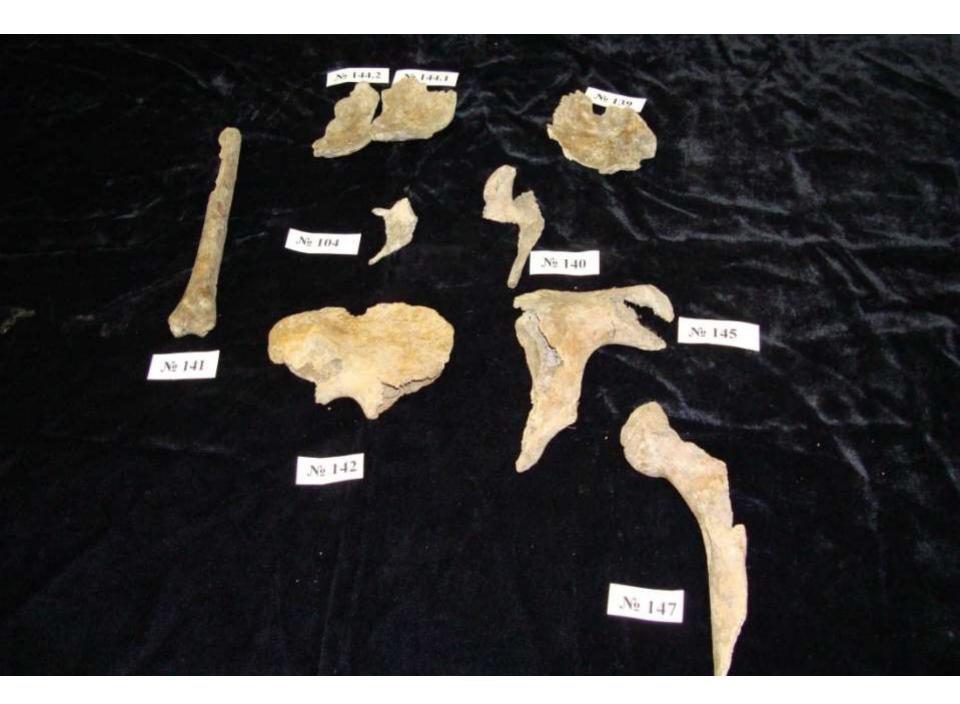
Prince Alexei, aged 8 or 9, in a detail from an official Russian royal-family photograph taken in 1913. His sister Grand Duchess Anastasia's hand drapes over his shoulder.

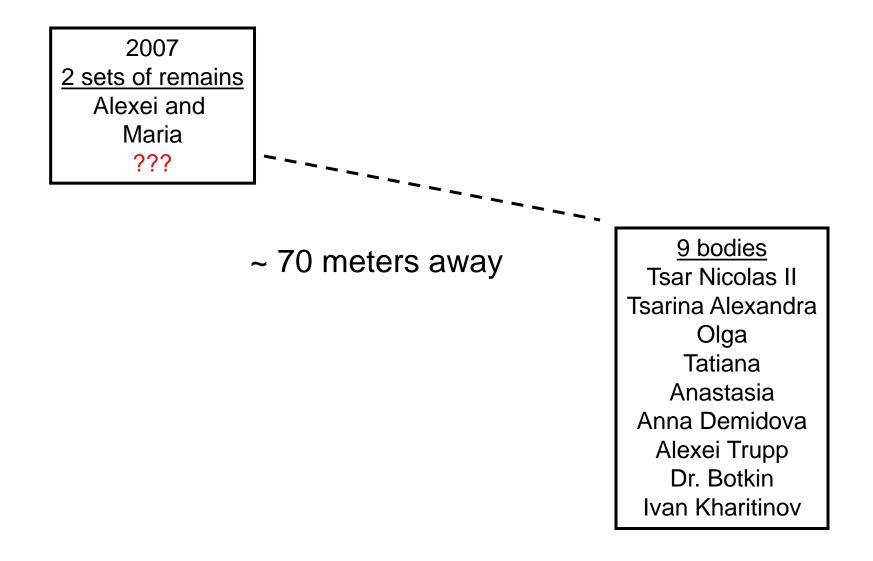


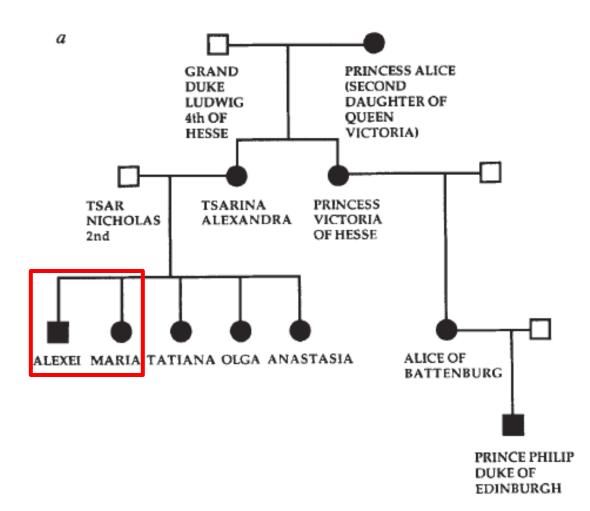












mtDNA Analysis

16111 C-T 16357 T-C 263 A-G 315.1 C

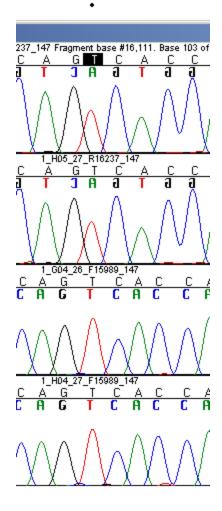
Gill et al. (1994)





ACTGCCAGTCACCATGAATAT: ACTGCCAGTCACCATGAATAT: ACTGCCAGTCACCATGAATAT: ACTGCCAGTCACCATGAATAT: ACTGCCAGCCACCATGAATAT:

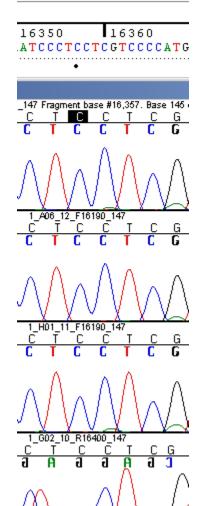
100	16110	1612
ACTGCCAC	G <mark>TCACCAT</mark> GA <i>I</i>	ATAT:



16111 C-T

16357 T-C

ATCCCTCCTCGTCCCCATG ATCCCTCCTCGTCCCCATG ATCCCTCCTCGTCCCCATG ATCCCTCCTCGTCCCCATG ATCCCTCCTCGTCCCCATG ATCCCTTCTCGTCCCCATG



Sample 147

Bone	Russian $\#$	Region Sequenced	Sequence
Right humerus	141	16024-16391 and 35-369	16111T, 16357C, 263G, 315.1C
Occipital fragment	139	no results	-
Occipital fragment	144.1	16024-576	16111T, 16357C, 16519C, 263G, 315.1C, 524.1A; 524.2C
Right os coxae-♀	145	16024-16391 and 35-369	16111T, 16357C, 263G, 315.1C
Left femur	146.1*	16024-576	16111T, 16357C, 16519C, 263G, 315.1C, 524.1A; 524.2C
Right femur - ្	147*	16024-576	16111T, 16357C, 16519C, 263G, 315.1C, 524.1A; 524.2C
Right scapula	140	16024-16391 and 35-369	16111T, 16357C, 263G, 315.1C
Cranial fragment	143	16024-16391 and 35-369	16111T, 16357C, 263G, 315.1C
Left ilium	142	no results	-

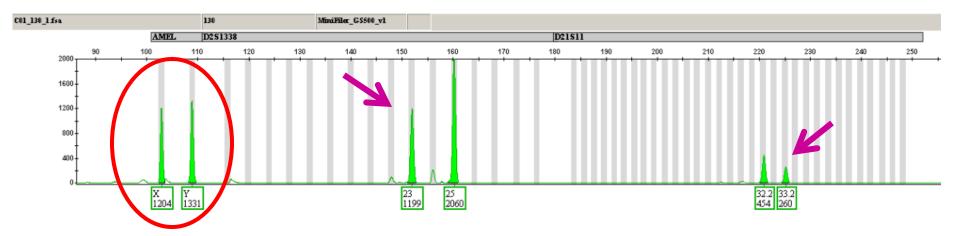
Samples marked with an asterisk (*) were tested by AFDIL and GMI. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0004838.t001

The "Tsarina" mtDNA Sequence

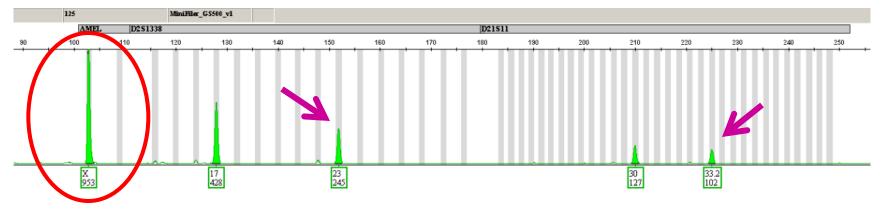
- Has not been observed in a database of 21,546 individuals (4,839 individuals in the US FBI mtDNA database and 16,707 individuals from an internal AFDIL Research Section database).
- mtDNA results agree with previous sequence data from Gill *et al.* 1994

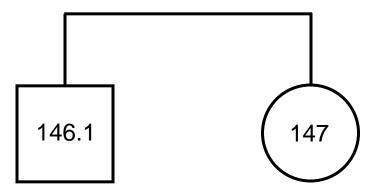
nuclear DNA (STR) Testing

Sample 146.1



Sample 147





Scenario: Samples 146.1 and 147 as Sibs

 $LR = \frac{Pr(E | H_1)}{Pr(E | H_2)}$

(The samples are siblings)

(The samples are NOT siblings)

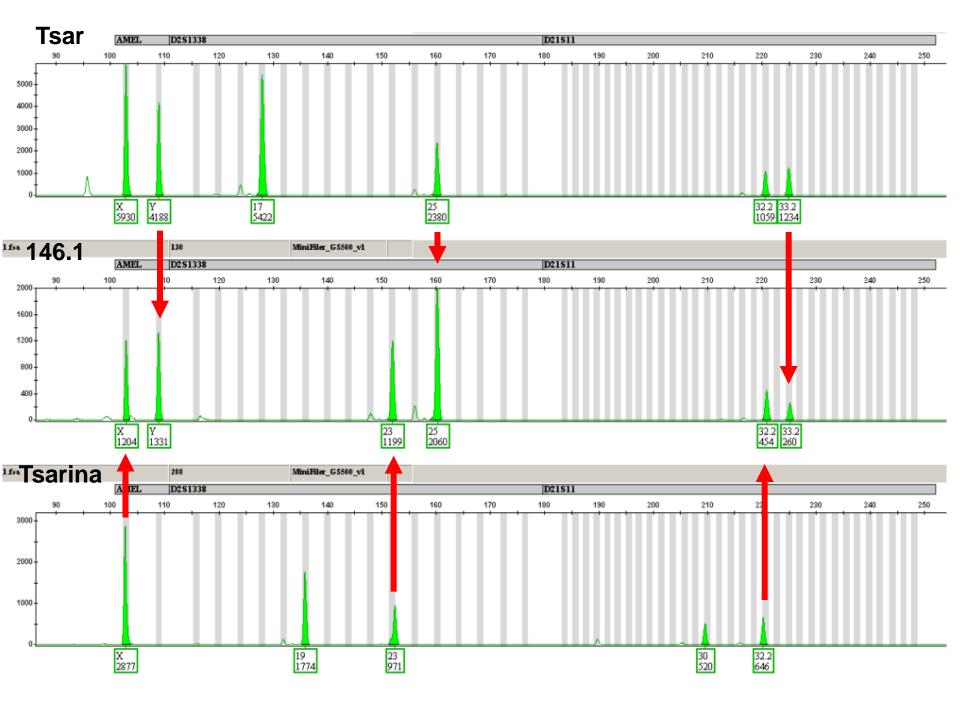
Cumulative LR = **5.63** Million

Can These Remains be Children of Tsar Nicholas II and Tsarina Alexandra?

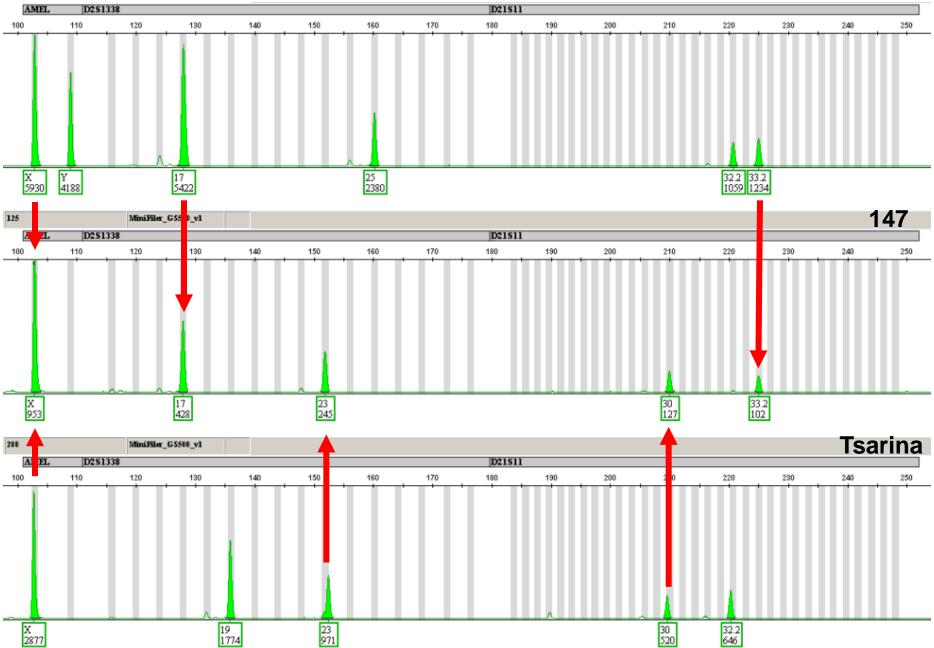
Table 2. Samples recovered from "Grave #1" in the early 1990s and tested in this study.

Skeleton	Attribution	Samples	Bone/Teeth
# 3	Olga	3.46*	Fragment of a left femur
		3.4	Partial tooth
#4	Nicholas	4.29	Fragment of a rib
		4.51*	Fragment of a calcaneus
		4a*	Partial tooth
		4.44	Fragment of a pelvis
#5	Tatiana	5.21*	Fragment of a left femur
		5.29	Fragment calcaneus
#6	Anastasia	6.14*	Fragment of the diaphyse of a left femur
		6.16*	Fragment of the diaphyse of a left tibia
#7	Alexandra	7.48	Fragment of a pelvis
		7.49*	Fragment of the diaphyse of a left tibia
		7a	Partial tooth
		7.40	Fragment of the diaphyse of a left femur
Coble	<i>et al.</i> (20	09)	



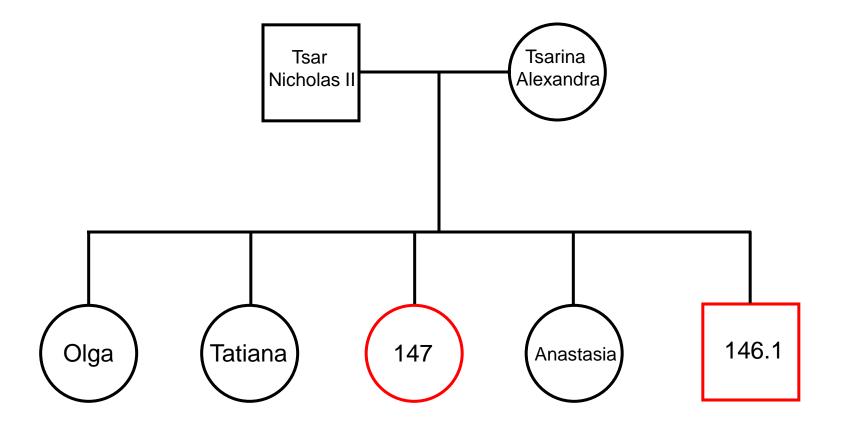


Tsar



	Sample 4.3 Tsar	Sample 7.4	Sample 3.46	Sample 5.21	Sample 6.14	Sample 147	Sample 146.1
Marker	Nicolas II	Tsarina Alexandra	Olga	Tatiana	Anastasia	Maria	Alexei
Amelog	Χ, Υ	Χ, Χ	Χ, Χ	X, X	X, X	X, X	Χ, Υ
D3S1358	14, 17	16, 18	17, 18	17, 18	16, 17	17, 18	14, 18
TH01	7, 9.3	8, 8	8, 9.3	7, 8	8, 9.3	7, 8	8, 9.3
D21S11	32.2, 33.2	30, 32.2	30, 33.2	32.2, 33.2	30, 33.2	30, 33.2	32.2, 33.2
D18S51	12, 17	12, 13	12, 12	12, 12	13, 17	12, 17	12, 17
D5S818	12, 12	12, 12	12, 12	12, 12	12, 12	12, 12	12, 12
D13S317	11, 12	11, 11	11, 11	11, 11	11, 11	11, 11	11, 12
D7S820	12, 12	10, 12	12, 12	10, 12	12, 12	10, 12	12, 12
D16S539	11, 14	9, 11	11, 11	11, 11	11, 14	9, 11	11, 14
CSF1PO	10, 12	11, 12	11, 12	11, 12	10, 11	10, 12	10, 12
D2S1338	17, 25	19, 23	17, 19	23, 25	17, 19	17, 23	23, 25
vWA	15, 16	15, 16	15, 16	15, 16	15, 16	15, 16	15, 16
D8S1179	13, 15	16, 16	13, 16	15, 16	13, 16	15, 16	15, 16
ΤΡΟΧ	8, 8	8, 8	8, 8	8, 8	8, 8	8, 8	8, 8
FGA	20, 22	20, 20	20, 22	20, 20	20, 22	20, 22	20, 22
D19S433	13, 13.2	13, 16.2	13.2, 16.2	13.2, 16.2	13, 16.2	13, 13	13, 13.2

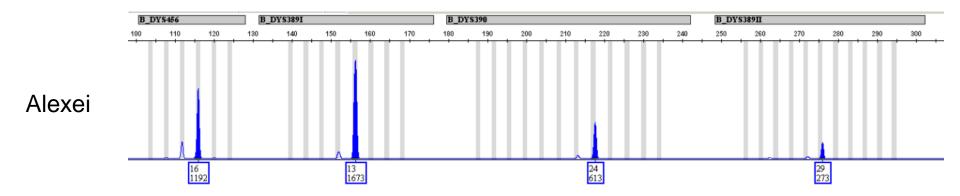
Coble *et al.* (2009)



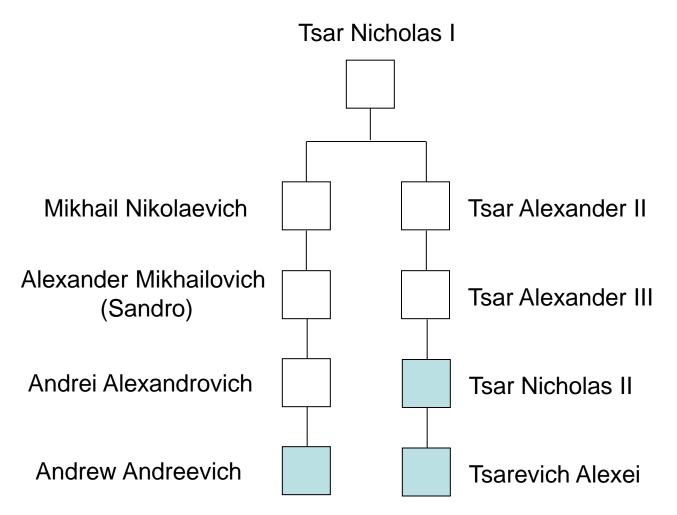
Scenario: Samples 146 and 147 are members of the Romanov Family

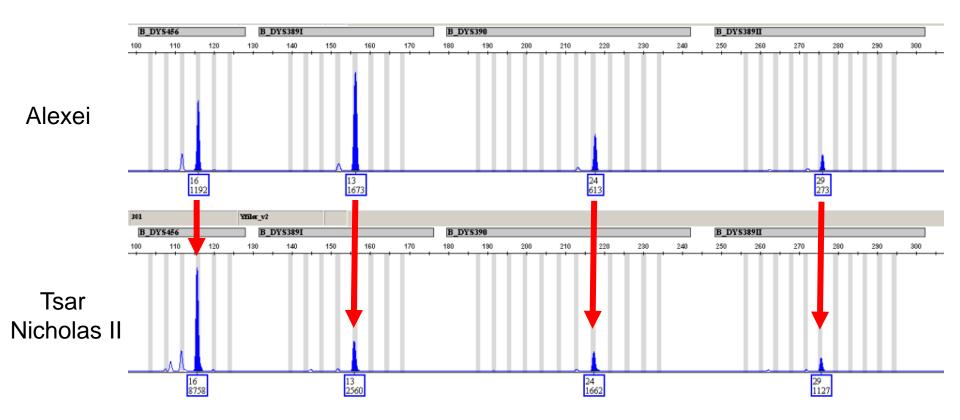
Cumulative LR = 4.36 Trillion to 80 Trillion

Y-chromosome DNA (Y-STR) Testing









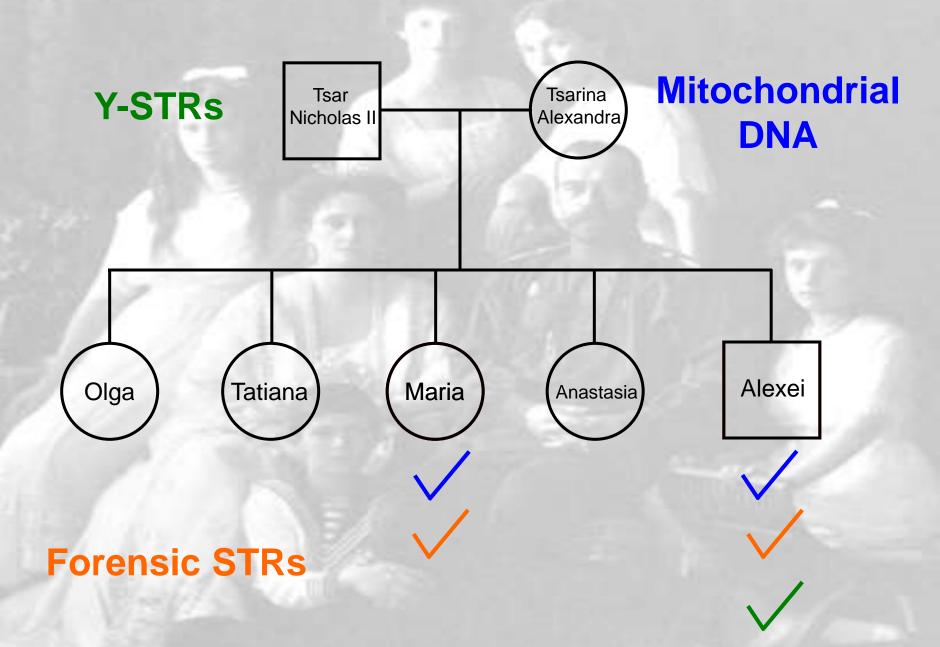
The "Romanov" Y-STR Type

- Has not been observed in a database of 20,000+ individuals.
- (http://www.yhrd.org)

Table 4. Y-STR haplotype for Nicholas, Alexei and Andrew Romanov.

DYS19	DYS389I	DYS389II	DYS390	DYS391	DYS392	DYS393	DYS385a/b
14	13	29	24	10	13	13	11, 14
DYS438	DYS439	DYS437	DYS448	DYS456	DYS458	DYS635	YGATAH4
12	11	15	19	16	17	24	12
doi:10.1	371/journa	al.pone.000	4838.t004				

Coble *et al.* (2009)



The Imposters



Anna Anderson Manahan

Establishing the identity of Anna Anderson Manahan

Peter Gill, Colin Kimpton, Rosemary Aliston-Greiner, Kevin Sullivan, Mark Stoneking, Terry Melton, Julian Nott, Suzanne Barrit, Rhonda Roby, Mitchell Holland & LTC Victor Weedn

Nature Genetics 9, 9-10 (1994)

FSS Penn State University AFDIL

Table 1 Short tandem repeat STR results						
·······	VWA	TH01	F13A1	FES/FPS	ACTBP2	AMELOGENIN
Tsar (Skeleton 4)ª Tsarina (Skeleton 7)ª	15,16 15,16	7,9,3⁵ 8,8	7,7 3.2°,5	12,12 12,13	11,32 32,36	X,Y X,X
Anna Anderson (intestine sample)	14,16	7,9.3	3.2,7	11,12	15,18	X,X

Origin of sample	DNA source	Length sequenced (bp)	Position within the non-coding region (ref. 11								
			16111	16126	16266	16294	16304	16357			
Reference sequence	-	-	C	Т	С	С	Т	Т			
Duke of Edinburgh											
(Great nephew of Tsarina)	Blood sample	403	Т					C			
Anna Anderson	Intestine sample	403	-	С	Т	Т	С				
Anna Anderson	Hair sample	344-362 (3 hairs)	•	С	Т	Т	С				
C. Maucher (Great nephew											
of Schanzkowska	Blood sample	380	1	C	Т	Т	С				

Total number of "Russian imperial children" claimants since 1918:





Joseph Veres

28 claimants Olga: Tatiana: 33 claimants Maria: 53 claimants Anastasia: 33 claimants Alexei: 81 claimants Heino Tamme





Magdalen Veres

All of the Romanovs were executed in the early morning of July 17, 1918

Alexei Poutziato

For more information...





Mystery Solved: The Identification of the Two Missing Romanov Children Using DNA Analysis

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