

Genetic Demography of the Central Pano and Kanamari Indians of Brazil

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ABSTRACT

Four populations of Brazilian Indians were studied demographically and genetically. Overall, their estimated average ages are low, but the Kanamari are somewhat older. Intermixture with non-Indians is small, and intertribal marriages are seen mostly among the Katukina. Migration to the Central Pano (Cashinawa + Katukina) communities occurred mainly from southern places located at an average distance of 150 km. Migration to the Kanamari can be characterized as centripetal, taking place from communities situated at a mean distance of 235 km. Fertility and mortality are high. These results were integrated with genetic marker data and three indices of population variability (one based on demographic variables and the other two on genetic factors) calculated for them and four other South American tribes. These indices showed no significant relationships among themselves. It is suggested that such comparisons should be extended to populations biologically more differentiated, in attempts to unravel the intricate connections that exist between population structure and genetic variability.

The relationship between population structure and genetic variability is complex and inadequately known. The frequency of a lethal or a semilethal allele will be influenced primarily by its effects, independently of the nature of the group in which it exists. But the prevalence of alleles that have just a slight effect on fitness may be strongly affected by characteristics of the population. Studies in humans can shed much light on these questions due to the fact that we know much more about the structure of our groups than of those of animals or plants. Therefore, since the pioneering efforts of Lasker (1952, 1954) attempts have been made to relate demographic and genetic factors (recent review in Ward and Weiss, 1976).

The present report can be viewed as an additional effort in this direction. During the summer of 1976 a multidisciplinary team of research worked among several Brazilian Indians living in the Amazon region. Reports about some of these investigations have already been described

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elsewhere (Gershowitz and Neel, 1978; Mohrenweiser et al. 1979; Lawrence et al. 1979; Salzano et al. 1979; Mestriner et al. 1979). The specific objectives of the study to be presented below were: (a) To characterize demographically four populations of three tribes: the Kanamari, Cashinawa and Katukina (the last two are often grouped with others under the general designation of Central Pano); (b) To compare the data thus obtained with those of other studies, and especially with the work of Johnston and colleagues among the Peruvian Cashinawa (references in Johnston and Kensinger, 1971); (c) To relate the demographic with the genetic results, trying to obtain inferences about the microevolutionary processes that are acting on these groups.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Many Indian tribes live in the western part of Brazil's large northern region, and among them we can find several that are classified as Pano. They are the descendants of populations that previously inhabited places situated in the eastern Andean slopes of what is now Ecuador. Due to many factors they had to migrate to the South, and at the end of the 17th century they could be found in a wide region delimited by the Marañon and Ucayali rivers. From there they went east, towards the upper Juruá and Purus rivers, in Brazilian territory. At that time a series of fissions occurred among these groups, giving rise to the present tribes. Two of those were studied in the present communication, the Cashinawa and Katukina.

The Cashinawa number about 2,000 persons, distributed along the high Embira river and its tributaries. Brief ethnographic information and bibliographic references about them and other Pano tribes can be found in Schultz and Chiara (1955) and Trujillo Ferrari (1960). The two populations studied, Cana Brava and Paredão, are closely interconnected, inhabitants of one having relatives in the other. They are located near a New Tribes mission, at the margins of the Embira river, eight kilometers downstream from the Brazilian town of Feijó. The other Pano community studied is called Morada Nova. Most of their inhabitants identify themselves as Katukina and their village is also situated at the margins of the Embira, two kilometers away from Feijó (Figure 1). These Indians, especially those of Morada Nova, have had a long history of contact with the outside world. Therefore, despite the fact that they have their own somewhat isolated communities, their way of living is basically similar to that of any northern rural Brazilian person. When convenient, these three



populations will be considered together under the general designation of Central Pano. This designation is often used to distinguish tribes of this general area from groups who live in the southwest and southeast.

Indians who speak the Katukina *language* (not to be confounded with the Katukina tribe just mentioned), on the other hand, occupied large portions of this general area, until they were displaced to the margins of the Juruá and Purus rivers. One tribe of this group that was studied by us is called Kanamari. They number about 800 persons, who have been in contact with non-Indians for a long time. At present, however, there is a tendency to return to their cultural origins. Our studies among them were

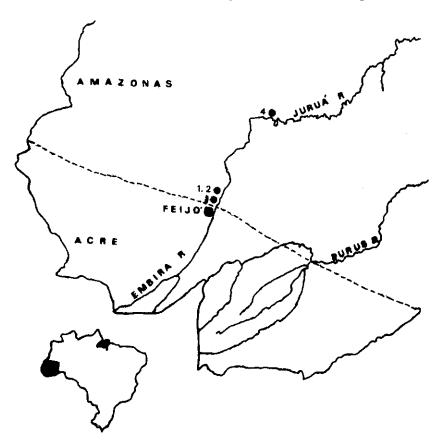


Fig. 1. Location of the populations studied. Small map of Brazil (lower left) and enlarged map of the Brazilian State of Acre, as well as part of Amazonas. The numbers indicate the sequence in which the localities are listed in Tables 1, 2, 5 and 6.



carried out at the New Tribes station of Três Unidos on the Mamoré Creek, a tributary of the Juruá (Figure 1).

The Indians were interviewed in family groups, the questions being submitted in Portuguese to one or both spouses. Most of these persons are bilingual, but we always recruited the cooperation of local chiefs to clarify any doubts. These chiefs were also responsible for assembling the Indians. Questions were asked about: (1) name, age and ethnic group of the spouses; (2) birthplace; (3) parents' names and ages; (4) names and sex of the sibs living in the community; (5) number of children alive and dead; (6) stillbirths; (7) names, sex and ages of the living children; (9) information about those who left the community; (10) other marriages of one or both spouses; (11) other persons living with the family; (12) in marriages without children, number of years of cohabitation. The ages of all subjects were estimated by visual inspection, comparisons between the figures for parents and children being also performed to arrive at the final decision. After the interviews blood samples were collected and processed as described in Mohrenweiser et al. (1979).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 presents the results on the age and sex distributions of the four populations studied. Overall, the estimated average ages are low (around 22 years, with 47% of the persons in the 0-14 age interval). But the Kanamari are somewhat older, their mean (24 years), being significantly higher than that of the two Cashinawa communities combined (20 years; t: 1.96; p at the 5% level). The sex ratio shows large fluctuations in these four groups; when all of them are considered together the figure obtained is 111.

Despite the many years of contact with non-Indians, the number of persons of mixed or no Indian ancestry living in these communities is generally small, the exception being Morada Nova (Table 2). Moreover, the genetic data available (partially published in Gershowitz and Neel, 1978, and Mohrenweiser et al. 1979) give no indication of non-Indian markers in putative "full-blood" individuals. As for the intertribal marriages (Table 3) they do not appear in Paredão or Três Unidos and only two of them were observed in Cana Brava. But several types of intertribal hybrids occur in Morada Nova, involving the Cashinawa, Katukina and Iaminawa.

It should be emphasized that all these communities have been established recently. As a consequence, persons born there have not yet



Table 1.

Age and Sex Distribution in Four Populations of Brazilian Indians

			Age Interval			
Population and Sex	0~14	15-30	31 and More	Unknown	Total	Estimated Average Age (M ± SD)
CASHINAWA						
Cana Brava						
Males	40	12	13	1	66	17.1 ± 17.9
Females	15	13	12	4	44	25.1 ± 19.0
Total	55	25	25	5	110	20.2 ± 18.7
Per cent	52	24	24	_	_	_
Sex ratio <i>Paredão</i>	267	92	108	*****	150	_
Males	10	7	5	1	23	20.9 ± 19.0
Females	19	8	6	0	33	18.5 ± 18.6
Total	29	15	11	1	56	19.4 ± 18.7
Per cent	53	27	20	_	_	
Sex ratio	53	88	83	_	70	
KATUKINA Morada Nova						
Males	23	13	12	20	68	21.0 ± 18.4
Females	17	14	11	13	55	20.3 ± 15.4
Total	40	27	23	33	123	20.7 ± 17.0
Per cent	44	30	26	_		
Sex ratio	135	93	109	154	124	_
KANAMARI Três Unidos						
Males	26	20	20	2	68	24.8 ± 19.0
Females	28	21	18	3	70	23.7 ± 18.7
Total	54	41	38	5	138	24.2 ± 18.8
Per cent	41	31	28	_	_	
Sex ratio	93	95	111	_	97	· —
All populations						
Males	99	52	50	24	225	21.0 ± 18.7
Females	79	56	47	20	202	22.3 ± 18.1
Total	178	108	97	44	427	21.6 ± 18.4
Per cent	47	28	25	_	_	
Sex ratio	125	93	106	120	111	_



Table 2.

Proportion of Non-Indian Ancestry in Four Populations of Brazilian Indians

	Ind	ians	Mi	No Indian Mixed Ancestry			
Tribe and Locality	N	%	N	%	N	%	Total
CASHINAWA	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			·			
Cana Brava	104	94	5	5	1	1	110
Paredão	56	100		_	_		56
KATUKINA							
Morada Nova	101	82	7	6	15	12	123
KANAMARI							
Três Unidos	135	98	3	2	_		138

reached adulthood. Table 4 furnishes information about the birthplaces of individuals with offspring living in these four villages. The main source of migrants to Cana Brava and Paredão is Porto Rubin, a locality situated some 160km from both. The most important contributors to Morada Nova are the communities of Rio Tarauacá and Rio Embira, located respectively 140 km and 90 km away. Migrants to Três Unidos are more diversified in

Table 3.

Intra and Intertribal Marriages in Four Populations of Brazilian Indians

	Localities					
Type of Marriage	Cana Brava	Paredão	Morada Nova	Três Unidos		
Cashinawa × Cashinawa	16	12	3	0		
Cashinawa × Cash/Jaminawa	2	0	0	0		
Cashinawa × Katukina	0	0	1	0		
Katukina × Katukina	0	0	6	0		
Katukina × Jaminawa	0	0	1	0		
Katukina × Kat/Jaminawa	0	0	1	0		
Katukina × Cash/Jaminawa	0	0	1	0		
Jaminawa × Kat/Jaminawa	0	0	1	0		
Kanamari × Kanamari	0	0	0	28		



Table 4.

Back Stochastic Migration Matrix for Four Populations of Brazilian Indians

	Progeny living in					
Parents born in	Cana Brava	Paredão	Morada Nova	Três Unidos	Total	
Porto Rubim	71	47	8	0	126	
Nova Olinda	41	15	4	0	60	
Rio Tarauacá	16	7	37	8	68	
Rio Murú	11	0	11	0	22	
Feijó	2	0	0	0	2	
Rio Embira	0	7	39	0	46	
Rio Paraná	0	6	0	0	6	
Rio Purús	0	0	0	91	91	
Rio Juruá	0	0	0	35	35	
Rio Itacuai	0	0	0	13	13	
Eirunepé	0	0	0	10	10	
Rio Curuçá	0	0	0	2	2	
Igarapé Branco	0	0	0	2	2	
Rio Jutai	0	0	0	I	1	
Total	141	82	99	162	484	

relation to their source than those of the other populations studied (eight different places, compared with five for those mentioned previously). Rio Purús, about 300 km away, furnished the largest number.

Additional information can be gathered examining the geographical location of the places listed in Table 4. Migration to the Central Pano communities of Cana Brava, Paradão and Morada Nova occurred mostly from places situated more southerly, and the mean distance between them and the groups studied was 150 km. Migration to Três Unidos, on the other hand, can be characterized as centripetal, the contributing populations forming something like a circle around this place. They are further away, also (average distance 235 km). The Cashinawa Indians studied by Johnston et al. (1968 and later) live in villages along the Curanja river some 270 km from Cana Brava and Paredão, in Peru.

Fertility and mortality data are presented in Tables 5 and 6. Due to the small sizes of the communities studied eventual differences among localities have to be disregarded. Roughly, the mean number of liveborn offspring per couple is five if we consider all families and seven in those which presumably have completed reproduction (females with age 40 or



Table 5.

Number of Liveborn Offspring in Four Populations of Brazilian Indians

	All F	amilies	Completed Families		
Localities	No. of Females	Mean no. LB ± SE	No. of Females	Mean no. LB ± SE	
CASHINAWA					
Cana Brava	19	6.0 ± 0.9	8	6.9 ± 1.6	
Paredão	12	5.8 ± 1.0	4	9.0 ± 1.5	
KATUKINA	•				
Morada Nova	16	$4.8 \pm\ 1.0$	3	10.0 ± 1.5	
KANAMARI					
Três Unidos	30	3.8 ± 0.5	10	6.4 ± 0.8	
All villages	77	4.9 ± 0.4	25	7.4 ± 0.7	

LB = Livebirths; SE = standard error of the mean.

Table 6.

Surviving Offspring per Female who Had at Least One Liveborn Child in Four Populations of Brazilian Indians

		All Families			Completed Families		
Localities	No. of Females	Mean no. SO ± SE	Decrease as % LB	No. of Females	Mean no. SO ± SE	Decrease as % LB	
CASHINAWA							
Cana Brava	18	4.1 ± 0.5	32	8	4.4 ± 1.1	36	
Paredão	12	$3.5 \pm\ 0.6$	40	4	5.0 ± 0.9	44	
KATUKINA Morada Nova	15	3.5 ± 0.7	27	3	5.7 ± 1.9	43	
KANAMARI							
Três Unidos	25	3.0 ± 0.3	21	10	3.8 ± 0.6	41	
All villages	70	3.5 ± 0.3	29	25	4.4 ± 0.5	41	

SO = Surviving offspring; SE = standard error of the mean; LB = Livebirths.



older). The respective numbers for the surviving offspring are three and four, indicating that about 40% of the children born in these communities would die before reproduction. These values are not very different from those we have been obtaining in tribes with similar sociocultural conditions (see, for instance, Salzano, 1972), but mean family sizes are higher than those observed by Johnston et al. (1969a) among the Peruvian Cashinawa. No case of sterility was observed by us.

In what way can these demographic results be related to the genetic ones? We first examined our largely unpublished information on genetic markers, comparing the Cashinawa studied by us with those tested by Johnston et al. (1968, 1969b). A total of 18 alleles related to blood group and serum protein systems could be considered (ABO: I°; Kell: k; MNSs: L^{MS} , L^{MS} , L^{NS} , L^{NS} ; P: P^1 ; Rh: R^1 , R^2 , R^2 , R^0 ; Duffy: Fy^a ; Kidd: Jk^a ; Diego: Di^a ; Haptoglobin: Hp^1 ; Ge: Gc^2 ; Transferrin: Tf^C ; Albumin: Al^A) and in only four (L^{MS}, Jk^a, Di^a) and Gc^2 were the differences higher than five per cent. The average difference in a subset of 16 gene markers known to vary among South American Indians (excluding I^0 and k) was four per cent. Dissimilarities between the Cashinawa and Katukina tested by us can be examined to place the above results in proper perspective. As was shown by Mohrenweiser et al. (1979) the Central Pano tribes are not as much differentiated linguistically as other tribes of our continent. But considering 24 alleles that are polymorphic in at least two South American Indian tribes (the 16 previously indicated plus: Lewis: Le; Ceruloplasmin: Cp^{B} ; Gm: Gm^{ag} ; Km: Km^{1} ; Phosphoglucomutase: PGM_{1}^{1} ; Acid phosphatase: ACPA; Galactose-1-phosphate uridyltransferase: $GALT^1$; Esterase D: ESD^1) we found that seven of them $(L^{Ms}, L^{NS}, Jk^a,$ Le, Gc^2 , Km^1 and ESD^1) showed differences higher than 10% in the two tribes, the average being 8% (two times as high as the Cashinawa intratribal difference). We conclude that the Brazilian and Peruvian Cashinawa tested so far can be grouped in a common gene pool.

Further results are presented in Tables 7 and 8. Deviations from the expected proportion of heterozygotes at a given locus can be ascribed to many causes (Neel and Ward, 1972). A convenient way of quantifying these departures is Wright's (1921, 1969) fixation index. Harpending et al. (1973) noted that if a population is not highly endogamous, this estimate will be negative as a result of the effects of migration alone; this is exactly what we observed among the Kanamari and Central Pano, in good agreement with the demographic data presented above. The average F considering 11 loci is -0.025 for the Central Pano and -0.015 for the Kanamari.

In Table 8 information related to this index is compared with that of



Table 7. F^a Values Derived from Heterozygote Proportions in Codominant Systems

		Centra (N =	•	Kanamari $(N = 100)$	
Genetic Systems	Alleles	F	X ²	F	X^2
MNSs	$L^{\mathrm{M}}, L^{\mathrm{N}}$ $L^{\mathrm{S}}, L^{\mathrm{S}}$	0.024 0.117	0.08 1.82	-0.095 0.111	0.90 1.23
Rh	C, c E, e	-0.234 -0.022	7.28** 0.06	-0.068 0.017	0.46 0.03
Duffy	Fy ^a , Fy ^b	-0.022	0.06	0.128	1.64
Hp	Hp^1 , Hp^2	0.014	0.02	-0.060	0.36
Ge	Gc^1 , Gc^2	-0.086	0.98	-0.214	4.58*
Acid Phosph.	P^{A}, P^{B}	0.217	6.26*	0.046	0.21
PGM ₁	PGM_1^1 , PGM_1^2	-0.039	0.20	0.223	4.97*
EST D	ESD^1 , ESD^2	-0.097	1.30	-0.148	1.71
Km	Km^1 , Km^2	-0.147	2.87	-0.104	1.08
Average		-0.025		-0.015	

Sources: Mohrenweiser et al. (1979); Mestriner et al. (1979); and unpublished data of H. Gershowitz, J. V. Neel and coworkers.

two other (D—departure from the maximum degree of heterozygosity and I—index of potential selection); data from four other South American tribes besides those studied here are available for consideration. The index of potential selection usefully incorporates fertility and mortality results in a single measure. It was devised by Crow (1958) and it should be mentioned that the high value presented for the Yanomama (4.24) may be due to the fact that in this case the calculation was done by an alternative method developed by Neel and Weiss (1975). The other numbers are distributed in a relatively narrow interval between the extremes of 0.57 (found among the Wapishana) and 1.03 (observed in the Central Pano).

 $^{^{}a}F = 1$ -H/2pq, where H is the observed proportion of heterozygotes and p and q are the allele frequencies at that locus. This variable was called the fixation index by Wright (1921, 1969).

^{*}p < 0.05; **p < 0.01.



Table 8.

Comparison of a Demographic Index with Two Measures of Genetic Variability

Tribe	Index of Potential Selection (I) ^a	Average Departure from Maximum Degree of Heterozygosity (D)b	Average Fixation Index (F)°
Central Pano	1.03	0.327	-0.025
Kanamari	1.01	0.341	-0.015
Wapishana	0.57	0.165	0.025
Cayapo	0.82	0.132	0.016
Krahó	0.73	0.222	0.022
Yanomama	4.24	0.316	0.024

 $^{{}^}aI = Im + If/ps$, where Im = pd/ps; pd = premature deaths and ps = proportion surviving or 1 - pd. If $= Vf/\bar{x}^2$; Vf = variance in offspring number in completed sibships; $\bar{x} = mean$ number of livebirths per woman who completed her reproduction. See Crow (1958).

The latter show an index that is almost identical with that of the Kanamari (1.01) or with the one calculated by Johnston and Kensinger (1971) among the Peruvian Cashinawa (0.98).

Spuhler (1963) devised an index to measure the departure from the maximum degree of heterozygosity possible at a given locus. Averaging for the six loci indicated in Table 8 furnishes values that range from 0.132 to 0.341 in the six tribes studied. It should be emphasized that the indices calculated for the Central Pano (0.327) and Kanamari (0.341) are nearly identical. Due to the higher number of intertribal marriages observed among the first we could have expected a larger difference; but it should be remembered that the Kanamari migrants came from places located further away and were more diversified than those of the Central Pano. These two factors, therefore, may have cancelled out possible divergences. The fixation indices, on the other hand, vary from -0.025 to 0.024.

 $^{^{}b}D=k(\sum_{i}x_{i}^{2}-1/k)/(k-1)$, where k= number of alleles and x= frequency of each allele.

See Spuhler (1963). Loci used for the calculation: MNSs, Ph, P, Duffy, Hp and Gc.

^eThe loci considered are those listed in Table 7. A list of primary publications from which data for the calculation of these values were extracted is available on request.



Can we find significant relationships among these three measures of population variability? To answer that, we used a test of rank correlation, that yielded non-significant results. The coefficient of concordance (Kendall, 1970) is equal to 0.25; s=39.5 and p>0.05. Spearman's correlation coefficients calculated for each of the three possible two-by-two comparisons also furnished non-significant numbers.

What is the meaning of these results? Theoretically D and F should have varied in the same direction. But the F values are not significantly different from zero and they provide just an indication of larger isolation for the four tribes that were compared with the Kanamari and Central Pano. The largest D average, on the other hand, is 2.6 times higher than the smallest, but no significant differences were observed in the ranks of heterozygosity considering the six loci studied in these six tribes. These largely negative findings should not discourage us in the search for the key relationships between genetic variation and population structure. New approaches with other gene markers and populations biologically more differentiated may provide better clues.

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