

HYPERTRICHOSIS PINNAE AURIS, DARWIN'S TUBERCLE AND PALMARIS LONGUS AMONG KHATRIS AND BANIYAS OF PATIALA, INDIA

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Hypertrichosis pinnae auris, Darwin's point and tubercle, and muscle Palmaris Longus have been examined in 425 adult subjects from two endogamous groups of Patiala, Hindu Khatri (230) and Baniyas (195). No significant differences between the two groups were found for any of the three traits.

A sample of 230 Hindu Khatri (100 M and 130 F) and of 195 Baniyas (86 M and 109 F), drawn from the various educational institutions of Patiala city and above 18 years of age, was examined for the traits: hypertrichosis pinnae auris, Darwin's point and tubercle, and muscle Palmaris Longus. Caution was taken not to include any blood relatives. As shown in Table 1, hypertrichosis is present in a minority of subjects, with a higher frequency in the Baniya (18.91%) than in the Khatri males (12.00%). Similar results were obtained for the populations of India (11.00%: Chattopadhyay 1962), of Orissa (14.50%: Dronamraju 1963), and of West Bengal (16.00%: Dronamraju 1963;

10.61%: Sarkar and Ghosh 1963); the lowest frequency having been reported for Barot males (3.80%: Sikka 1969). A peculiar finding of the present study is the complete absence of the trait in the females of both the Khatri and Baniya group, in contrast with a frequency of 3.04% reported for female Kanets from Barot (Sikka 1969) and of 2.30% for Khatri females from Chandigarh (Anand 1970). The results for Darwin's point and tubercle and for Palmaris Longus are shown by Tables 2 and 3, respectively. No significant differences between Khatri and Baniyas were found for any of the three traits considered.

Table 1. *Hypertrichosis among Khatri and Baniyas (% frequencies)*

		N	Absent	Present						
				Rim cavity lobe	Rim cavity	Cavity lobe	Rim lobe	Rim	Lobe	Cavity
Khatri	M	100	88.00	6.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	1.00
	F	130	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baniya	M	86	72.09	3.49	5.81	2.33	—	9.30	2.33	4.65
	F	109	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

$\chi^2 = 3.525, ns.$

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Table 2. *Darwin's point and tubercle among Khatri and Baniyas* (% frequencies)

		N	Absent	Present					
				Point			Tubercle		Point, Tubercle
				Both sides	Right	Left	Right	Left	
Khatri	M	100	40.00	7.00	6.00	2.00	26.00	7.00	12.00
	F	130	30.77	14.62	9.23	5.38	22.31	3.85	13.84
Baniya	M	86	34.88	16.28	5.81	3.49	18.60	9.30	11.63
	F	109	34.86	15.59	1.83	6.40	17.50	7.33	16.50

$\chi^2_1 = 0.0421$, *ns.*

Table 3. *Palmaris Longus among Khatri and Baniyas* (% frequencies)

		N	Absent	Present		
				Right	Left	Both sides
Khatri	M	100	4.00	9.00	21.00	66.00
	F	130	13.08	14.62	16.15	56.15
Baniya	M	86	6.98	17.44	11.63	63.95
	F	109	15.59	6.42	16.52	61.47

$\chi^2_1 = 0.2710$, *ns.*

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