Human Positive Selection



Europeans

Lactase

a mutation in a regulatory region near the gene for lactase (LCT) that allows lactose tolerance to persist into adulthood. This particular variant was apparently selected in parts of Europe after the domestication of cattle. Frequency of the C/T-13910 allele in Lactase



The *LCT* region appears to have undergone a selective sweep 2000–20,000 years ago (4), coinciding with the domestication of cattle.

The high selection coefficient (between 0.014 and 0.15) distinguishes *LCT* as one of the most strongly selected loci in the human genome.



Figure 3

Locations of transcription factor-binding sites and predicted adaptive alleles upstream of *LCT*, the lactase gene. Three alleles were identified as potentially causal alleles in the African pastoral populations, whereas C/T-13910 was predicted to be the causal allele in Northern Europeans. Additionally, the T/G-13915 allele is correlated with lactase persistence in the Saudi Arabian population. The transcription factors and the sequence they bind in a supershift assay (48) are: HNF-4 α (-13854 to -13830), HNF-3 α and FOX (-13872 to -13848), Oct-1 and GAGA (-13933 to -13909), and Cdx-2 (-14040 to -14016).

SLC24A5: skin color





SLC24A5 involved in skin color. A111T.

SLC45A2: Also, an L374F substitution is at 100% frequency in the European sample, but absent in the Asian and African samples.

EDAR: Hair thickness



Asian b



Asian

EDAR and EDA2R

Hair morphology

have a central role in generation of the primary hair follicle

A mutation encoding a V370A substitution in *EDAR* is near fixation in Asia and absent in Europe and Africa

100% in Pima Indians and in parts of China, and 73% in Japan

Fig. 1. Time scales for the signatures of selection.



Proportion of functional changes

- Positive selection may favor many alleles, not just one
- This can be detected by a large number of coding changes relative to neutral changes in the gene.

FOXP2: a transcription factor involved in human speech

Adaptively evolving along human lineage.

Highly conserved, but has recent human-specific changes

Mutations of FOXP2 cause a severe speech and language disorder



Foxp2 gene Has high functional differences. Bars represent nucleotide changes. Grey bars indicate amino-acid changes



Replaced mouse FOXP2 with human FOXP2 Found gain-of-function changes in brain and behavior

Foxp2^{hum} Increases the Length of Dendritic Trees



Foxp2^{hum} Affects the Structure of Pup Isolation Calls



Lower Genetic Diversity Heterozygosity (lower)/rare alleles (higher)

Selective sweep reduces genetic diversity at linked alleles.

If rare alleles are linked to the selected mutation, they increase in frequency by hitchhiking. So their frequency rises.

High Frequency Derived Alleles

Most new alleles are at low frequency

One way for a derived allele to become high frequency is to by linked to an allele undergoing positive selection

Excess of high-frequency derived alleles at the Duffy red cell antigen (FY) gene Resistance to malaria.



Red – derived. Gray – ancestral (Chimp)

P C Sabeti et al. Science 2006;312:1614-1620



Differences between populations

Different populations may have different selective pressures (domestication of cattle, resistance to malaria etc.)

Different alleles may be selected in different populations.



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Long Haplotype





Figure 1

Long haplotype surrounding the lactase persistence allele.



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African American

Hemoglobin-B

Duffy antigen (FY)

-target of selection for malaria resistance

LARGE

DMD

- resistance to Lassa fever.