# A Study of the Variation in the Two Hypervariable Regions I and II of Human mtDNA in the Galician Population. A Contribution to the Understanding of the Origin of European Populations

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Differences between human mitochondrial DNA sequences (mtDNA) constitute an important source of information concerning the history of human populations, its origins and migration patterns.

In this work, a sample of the Galician population (Northwestern Europe) has been analyzed for the two mtDNA hypervariable regions I and II. The study of the mtDNA variation in the Galician population, geographically situated in the western edge of Europe, provides us with important information related to the origin of European populations. Several genetic indexes confirm the low variability levels in comparison with the rest of the continental populations. By means of phylogenetical analysis of the Galician population, we can determine its historic origin. This fits in with the generalized theory about the European population during the Upper Paleolithic, which resulted in the replacement of the Neanderthal