

Ivan Nasidze · Tamara Sarkisian · Azer Kerimov  
Mark Stoneking

## Testing hypotheses of language replacement in the Caucasus: evidence from the Y-chromosome

Received: 9 August 2002 / Accepted: 23 September 2002 / Published online: 14 December 2002  
© Springer-Verlag 2002

**Abstract** Autosomal DNA analysis of 100 individuals from the Caucasus region, including Armenians, Azerbaijanis, and Georgians, revealed a high degree of genetic homogeneity across the region. The results support the hypothesis of a recent population expansion from a common ancestor in the Caucasus region, consistent with the idea of language replacement. The Y-chromosome analysis of 100 individuals from the same region revealed a high degree of genetic heterogeneity, with the presence of multiple Y-chromosome haplogroups. The results support the hypothesis of a recent population expansion from a common ancestor in the Caucasus region, consistent with the idea of language replacement.

### Introduction

The Caucasus region is a major center of genetic diversity, with a high degree of genetic heterogeneity. The results of this study support the hypothesis of a recent population expansion from a common ancestor in the Caucasus region, consistent with the idea of language replacement.

I. Nasidze (✉), M. Stoneking  
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology  
Institute for Human Genetics, University of Vienna  
Tel.: +49-341-9952505, Fax: +49-341-9952555,  
E-mail: nasidze@ipg.mpg.de

I. Sarkisian  
Center for Molecular Genetics  
Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia  
5/1 Zeno Str., 375010, Tbilisi, Georgia

A. Kerimov  
Scientific Center for Genetic Research  
Azerbaijan Ministry of Health  
G. S. Str. 187, Baku, Azerbaijan

Supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant SBR-99-07549 (I. Nasidze) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant SBR-99-07549 (M. Stoneking).

The results of this study support the hypothesis of a recent population expansion from a common ancestor in the Caucasus region, consistent with the idea of language replacement. The Y-chromosome analysis of 100 individuals from the same region revealed a high degree of genetic heterogeneity, with the presence of multiple Y-chromosome haplogroups.

The results of this study support the hypothesis of a recent population expansion from a common ancestor in the Caucasus region, consistent with the idea of language replacement. The Y-chromosome analysis of 100 individuals from the same region revealed a high degree of genetic heterogeneity, with the presence of multiple Y-chromosome haplogroups.

mnt t mnn, v r r r n n y s s  
f - r m s m - m r r s n t s m s t f  
Cu s n u t n s r u s y n z f r m t D A  
H V 1 s q n r t n ( s z n S t n n g 2001).

Materials and methods

Subjects

At t f 389 s m s (289 v n 100  
s w s) f r m u n r t m n u s v r t n t f -  
v n g a t u t t n u s u t n s (F 1): G r n s (S u t  
C u s n s r s), A r m n n s (I n - E r n s r s), A z r -  
j n n s (u r s r s), n A z n n s, K r n n s, I n -  
s n s, C n n s, n D r n n s ( r t C u s n s -  
r s). D A f r m t s m s n u s r u s y f r  
n y s s f m t D A H V 1 s q n r t n n A u n s r t n  
y m r s m s ( s z n S t n n g 2001; s z t .  
2001); s w s f r m t n m s f r m A r m n n  
A z r j n v r t n r r t n r s t s m s z f r  
- r m s m s t s. I n f r m n s n t n n f r m t n u t  
t r t f t n r n t n r s r n t s n g n r -  
n t s v r t n f r m n r s. G n m D A f r m  
s m s v s t r t y u s n g n l s u D A t r t n t  
( - s r , B t , W s ., U S A ) r n n t n n -  
r f r m m t ( M n n t s t . 1982). D A f r m  
s w s v s t r t y u s n g n n t n s t n g u t r u r  
( M r t . 1988). u s - r m s m s n g u t  
y m r s m ( - S ) t f r m t S u t C u s v r u s  
f r m 25 S n s ( G r n ), 25 G r n s f r m K z g ( G r n ),  
12 L z g ( A z r j n ), n 17 S u t s t n s ( W s t . 2001).  
A t n u s t n 21 A z r j n n s n 47 A r m n n s  
( W s t . 2001), n 63 G r n s ( S m n t . 2000; W s t  
. 2001), n t f f r n n r s t f r m u r s m s ( t  
n t s v n ) n v r n t n u n t n y s s t v g t  
n g t r s t s t y n t s u t n s. u s - S  
t ( S m n t . 2000; W s t . 2001) f r E r n , r  
E s t m, n C n t r A s n u t n s v r s n u .

Materials

! n S m r r s r u s y r r t t y m r n E r  
n t r E s t ( S m n t . 2000) v r y n s m s:  
S 4 ( M 130), M 9, M 89, M 124, M 45, M 173, M 17, M 201, M 170,  
n M 172 ( U n r t . 2000 n r f r n s t r n ); t A  
A u n s r t n y m r s m ( H m m r n H r 1995) v s s  
. F r S m r r s t M 130 ( S 4 ), / q m n ( A -  
B s y s t m s ) s s v s v r s n . r m r s n y -  
r s v r s n y u s n g r m r E r s s ( V r s n l f r M -  
n t s v r C; E B s y s t m s). r m r n r s q n s r  
s n n / l. t n m s v r r r r s s r r -  
u s y ( M r n t . 1999). M 130 v s y u s n g t  
m r s n r t n / r s t r t n f r m n t n g y m r s m  
r u r s r s v r ( K y s r t . 2000); v r s t  
A A u n s r t n v s s s r r u s y ( H m m r  
n H r 1995). A s m s v r f r m r s; n s -  
r n y v s f u n t v n t r r r r f m r s -  
s r y U n r t . (2000) n u r r s t s. / - S  
g r u n m n u r u s r s r n g t t r n t r m -  
m n t n s f t C r m s m C n s r u m (2002). / -  
n t r t n s f t - r m s m s, s -

Statistical analysis

H g r u r s n F s t u s v r u t v t A r q n  
2.000 ( S n r t . 2000), v v s s u s t r y u t  
M n t s t s f r r r t n s t v n m t r s. M t m n s n  
s n g ( M D S ) n y s s ( K i r s 1964) f t F s t u s v s r -  
r u t v t S / A / I S / I C A ( S t t S f t). r g r m s n H y L I 3.5  
( F s n s t n 1993) v r u s t n s t r t n g r - j n n g t r . 0256 / v ( A [ ]  
s t u s .



nt stn frt Sut n rt Cu s s s -  
 r t y, u t n t r v s s t t s t y s o n f n t ( r t Cu -  
 s : Z=0.331, P=0.133; Su t Cu s s : Z= 0.346, P=  
 0.65). M r r, t r F<sub>st</sub> u t v n Su t n  
 rt Cu s s y t n s ( u n g u t r s) v s  
 0.075, s m r t t t m n g r t Cu s s y t n s  
 (0.096) n t t m n g Su t Cu s s y t n s  
 (0.040). / r f r, t Cu s s M u n t n s r n t t  
 t t n f u n n t g n t s t r u r f  
 Cu s s y t n s; n s t , g n t r f t r t n g n  
 s m s t y t n s s m s t m n t t  
 g n t s t r u r f Cu s s y t n s.

C m, r s n f Cu s n, E r n,  
 n r E s t m y - g r u s

/ g r u s r s t n t Cu s s ( r g u :  
 0.797) s m s t s s t t n C n t r A s ( r g  
 u : 0.824) n t r E s t ( r g u : 0.769)  
 n s s o n f n t y g r ( t - t s t, P = 0.024) t n t  
 g r u s r s t n E r ( r g u : 0.633). A n  
 M D S t n n g r - j n n g r s n F<sub>st</sub> u s  
 ( F g 3 A, B) s t E r n y t n s n t W s t m n  
 E s t m g r u s, s s n s r r u s y ( S m n  
 t . 2000), v t C n t r A s n y t n s f n g n -  
 t v n t W s t m n E s t m E r n g r u s. /  
 Cu s s y t n s r n t m n g v t r E s t m  
 y t n s.  
 / s t t r n s f r t r n n f r m y t r -  
 v s F<sub>st</sub> m, r s n s; t m n r v s F<sub>st</sub> u f r t  
 Cu s s s E r s 0.254, v r s t m n F<sub>st</sub> u  
 f r t Cu s s s t r E s t s 0.079, v s s g  
 n f n t y v r ( t - t s t s n r g F<sub>st</sub> u s j -  
 n f r y t n s, P < 0.001). r g, Su t

Cu s n y t n s r m r s m r t t r E s t -  
 m n E r n y t n s ( r g F<sub>st</sub> = 0.038 n  
 0.222, r s t y) t n r r t Cu s n y t n s  
 ( r g F<sub>st</sub> = 0.097 n 0.303); v r, t t Su t  
 Cu s s n t r t Cu s s r m r s m r t t  
 r E s t t n t E r v t r s, t t y - S -  
 g r u s.

/ M D S n F<sub>st</sub> n y s s n u s m g r u s f r m  
 W s t . ( 2001) n v t M 201 m r r, v s -  
 t n g s s g r u G\* f r m g r u F\* ( F g 2),  
 v s n t n y z ( / 2). I n t n y s s, t s  
 n u s v r s s f s g r u F\*, t u g  
 s m u n n v n r r t n u g r u G\*. /  
 t r m n v t r t s n y t s t n g s t v n  
 g r u s F\* n G\* f r s m g r u s n f u n t  
 r s t s f t M D S n F<sub>st</sub> n y s s, v s s f  
 g r u G\* n u s s g r u F\* n r t  
 t n y s s. / r s t s ( n t s v n) v r s s n t y  
 n t ; t u s, t n y t s t n g s t v n  
 g r u s F\* n G\* n s m g r u s s n t n f u n  
 u r n u s n s.

I n r r t u n y s s s n u r n u -  
 s n s u s y t s m s z f t s m s f r m s m  
 f t g r u s, v r t n y s s f t r u n g  
 g r u s v t s m s z s s t n 25 ( s / 2). A  
 n u s n s r m n t s m ( t n t s v n).

G n t r t n s y t v n B s q s n Cu s n s

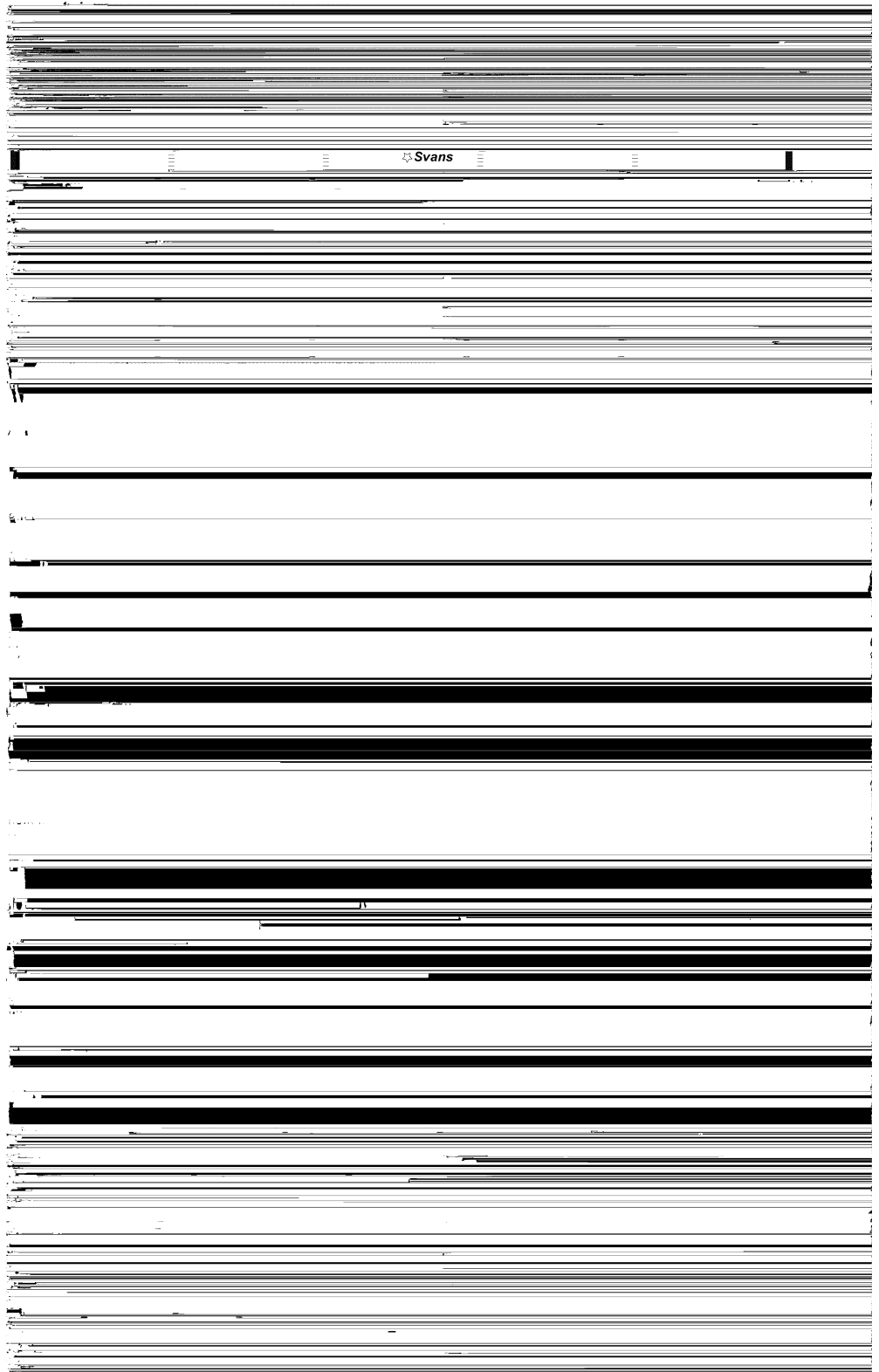
A m m n r g n f Cu s n n B s q s, r s s

r  $F_{st}$  u  $F_{st}$  n B sq s n Cu s n  
 ru s s m r ( $F_{st} = 0.563$ ) t n t t t n  
 B sq s n In -E r n ru s ( $F_{st} = 0.311$ ). / Cu -  
 s ru s n B sq s r n t u s t r t a t r n -  
 t r t n s r-j n n r t MDS t (Fig. 3A, B).  
 / s r s r n r m n t v t r u s s s s  
 n s s m r r s n m t D A HV1 s q n t  
 (B r t r t . 1995; s z n S t n n g 2001).

L n g r m n t s n a n t r t n s s  
 n t Cu s s

/ r s n , n t Cu s s, f ru s v s a -  
 r n r s r n t t r n g s t n r s v s  
 u s t r s s t q s t n s t v t t r n s t  
 a n t r t n s s f t s ru s: a r r n-

Fig. 3A, B / y g n t  
 r t ns f r m s m  
 ru s, s n 10  
 s n t A m r r.  
 A MDS t s n r y s  
 F<sub>st</sub> u s, s v n r t n-  
 s s m n t C u s s, E -  
 r n, r E st m, n C n r  
 tr As n u t ns (open  
 stars v t f t u -  
 t n n m s C u s s r u s,  
 closed circles E r n u -  
 t ns, open squares C n r  
 As n r u s, closed diamonds  
 r E st m u t ns). /  
 str ss u f r t MDS t  
 s 0.134. B g r-j n n g  
 tr s n r v s F<sub>st</sub> -  
 u s f r t s m u t ns  
 (boldface C u s s r u s)



u r ru s, r s, t y. / s m y s t r f t n t n t r s n t r u s. C r r n t y, t r r r m t y  
 m n n s n r, s r s m y t r n In - E - 8 m n A z r j n ns n 3.5 m n A r m n ns, t-  
 r n/u r m r n t r u s v r y s m n / r t s t n t t r m r r t f t s n g s f t s;  
 n t m t ns y v t t r s n t r u s. In n y s r s s f t s v u t m s y  
 n t, t m r n t r u s n g g n t m t u u r r t r t n m r y g m ns.

H ψ r, t λ- ru s ntr st s r, ψ t t