# GENETIC AND PHENOTYPIC VARIATION



### Evolution as a two-stage process:

- 1. variation among individuals in a population
- 2. changes in the proportion of variants from generation to generation



The increase in mean fitness due to natural selection is proportional to the additive genetic variance in fitness.

R.A. Fisher

1 Selffertilization







F. Galton

# Continuous And Discontinuous Variation



#### CVHS GCSE POWERPOINT SHARE

#### **Biometricians: continual variation**

many genes

often strong influence of environment

Sources of phenotypic variation:

differences in <u>genotype</u> differences in <u>environmental conditions</u> <u>maternal</u> influences (paternal influences)



#### Paradox:

for evolutionary biologists important to study phenotypes for geneticists easier to directly study molecules



#### Reginald C. Punnett: brachydactyly





Why don t we observe the 3:1 ratio in *populations*?





gene ... till now difficult to define/delimit locus ... here = gene or any other molecular trait

alleles = alternative forms of genes (now broader meaning – segment of DNA)

genome = set of all genes of an individual (nuclear, mitochondrial...)

genotype = set of alelles of one or more genes of an individual

haplotype (haploid genotype) = combination of alelles inherited together

#### **Genotype and allele frequencies**



Frequencies: genotype:  $P(f_{AA})$ ,  $Q(f_{Aa})$ ,  $R(f_{aa})$ allele (gene): p(A), q(a)

$$P + Q + R = 1$$
  
 $p + q = 1$ 

Evolution takes place in populations...

T. Dobzhansky, E. Mayr: population as a shared gene pool  $\approx$  set of shared alelles or gametes

local populations (subpopulations, demes)



es) global population, metapopulation

Evolution takes place in populations...



Local populations also share a system of mating

populations natural, experimental, agricultural, model

### **Model populations – Hardy-Weinberg population**

#### **Characteristics:**

diploid

sexual reproduction

discrete generations

2 alleles, "fair" segregation 1:1

same frequencies of alleles in both sexes



### **Model populations – Hardy-Weinberg population**

**Characteristics:** 

<u>random mating (panmixis)</u> non-random: assortative mating, inbreeding

very large (effectively infinite) size

no gene flow

no mutation

no selection

### Why don t we observe the Mendelian ratios in nature?

![](_page_12_Picture_1.jpeg)

R. C. Punnett

![](_page_12_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Picture_5.jpeg)

Godfrey Harold Hardy

# **HARDY-WEINBERG PRINCIPLE**

![](_page_13_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_2.jpeg)

Godfrey Harold Hardy (1877-1947)

Genotype frequencies in zygotes:

$$f'_{AA} = p^{2}$$

$$f'_{Aa} = pq + qp = 2pq$$

$$f'_{aa} = q^{2}$$

$$p^{2} + 2pq + q^{2} = 1$$

Wilhelm Weinberg (1862-1937)

# HARDY-WEINBERG PRINCIPLE

- Alelle frequencies stable across generations
   = Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE)
- 2. HWE achieved within a single generation of random mating

![](_page_14_Figure_3.jpeg)

#### **Frekvencies of rare alleles**

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

heterozygotes most frequent when p = q = 0,5

 $f_{Aa}$  decreases with 2pq $f_{aa}$  decreases with  $q^2 \Rightarrow f_{Aa}/f_{aa}$  increases  $\rightarrow$  rare allele "hidden" for selection in heterozygous state

#### Possible causes of HWE violation:

#### Methodic causes:

null alleles, allelic dropout

### Violation of some of the assumptions of the H-W population:

#### Heterozygote deficiency:

selection against heterozygotes nonrandom mating (inbreeding, assortative mating) structured populations (different allele frequencies, cf. Wahlund effect)

#### Heterozygote excess:

selection in favour of heterozygotes nonrandom mating (outbreeding, negative assortative mating) migration mutation

# GENETIC VARIATION IN POPULATIONS

Methods of the study of genetic variation:

![](_page_17_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Polymorfism:** 

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proportion of polymorphic loci (P)
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```
sample size usually finite \Rightarrow
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limit 5% ( $P_{0.05}$ ) or 1% ( $P_{0.01}$ )

number of alleles per locus (*A*; allele diversity, allele richness) mean observed heterozygosity ( $H_o$ ) mean expected heterozygosity ( $H_e$ ) = gene diversity

nucleotide polymorphism ( $\theta$ )

```
nucleotide diversity (\pi)
```

## GENETIC VARIATION IN NATURAL POPULATIONS

Issue of the extent of variation in natural populations:

![](_page_19_Picture_2.jpeg)

T.H. Morgan, H. Muller: "classical" model limited variability

![](_page_19_Picture_4.jpeg)

A. Sturtevant, T. Dobzhansky: "equilibrium" model variation widespread

![](_page_19_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_7.jpeg)

# GENETIC VARIATION IN NATURAL POPULATIONS

#### 1966: Harry Harris – humans; Richard Lewontin, John Hubby – D. pseudoobscura

![](_page_20_Figure_2.jpeg)

microsatellites, minisatellites  $\rightarrow$  high mutation rate, high variability question to what extent protein electrophoresis representative?

# **VARIATION AT MORE LOCI**

proximity of loci = linkage

valid H-W assumptions  $\Rightarrow$  formation of linkage equilibrium

this proces can be slow  $\Rightarrow$  linkage disequilibrium (LD) coefficient of LD: D

relation of *D* to recombination *r* :

![](_page_21_Figure_5.jpeg)

Causes of linkage disequilibrium:

absence of recombination (eg. inversion)

nonrandom mating

LD needn t exist only between loci on the same chromosome!

selection

recent mutation

sample is a mixture of 2 species with different allele frequencies

recent merging of 2 populations

random genetic drift

![](_page_23_Picture_0.jpeg)

= mating between relatives

eg. repeated autogamy (self-fertilization, self-pollination):

initial generation (HWE): 1/4 AA, 2/4 Aa, 1/4 aa

1. gen. of selfing:

2. gen. of selfing:

3. gen. of selfing:

3/8 AA, 2/8 Aa, 3/8 aa

7/16 AA, 2/16 Aa, 7/16 aa

15/16 AA, 2/32 Aa, 15/16 aa

![](_page_23_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_11.jpeg)

# **INBREEDING COEFFICIENTS**

1. Pedigree inbreeding, F:

= probability of autozygosity

![](_page_24_Figure_3.jpeg)

#### autozygosity:

alleles identical by descent (IBD), always homozygous

#### allozygosity:

either heterozygote or homozygote (alleles identical by state, IBS)

Inbred population = pop. in which the probability of autozygosity due to inbreeding > in panmictic population

F = probability that an individual inherited both alleles at a locus from the same ancestor (both alleles are IBD)

![](_page_25_Figure_2.jpeg)

Inbred population = pop. in which the probability of autozygosity due to inbreeding > in panmictic population

F = probability that an individual inherited both alleles at a locus from the same ancestor (both alleles are IBD)

![](_page_26_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_0.jpeg)

a) Amenhotep I. and Aahotep II.	25%
b) Aames	37.5%
c) Hatsheput	25%

d) Remaining in the pedigree are not inbred, ie F = 0

2. System-of-mating inbreeding,  $F_{IS}$ :

= deviation from HWE

$$F_{\rm IS} = (H_{\rm e} - H_{\rm o})/H_{\rm e}$$

$$-1 \le F_{IS} \le +1$$

 $H_{\rm o}$ = observed  $H_{\rm e}$ = expected heterozygosity

#### F and $F_{IS}$ don t measure the same thing!

![](_page_28_Picture_6.jpeg)

F is the <u>individual</u> measure,  $F_{IS}$  is the <u>group</u> measure

Př.: hutterites (anabaptists) of the Great Plains in USA and Canada:

in spite of respecting the incest taboo this is one of the most inbred human groups known (F = 0,0255)

caused by a small number of founders (Protestants from Tyrol and Carinthia, 16th century)

## Genetic effects of inbreeding:

inbreeding changes genotype frequencies (increase of homozygote freq.)

![](_page_29_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Phenotypic effects of inbreeding:

### inbreeding depresion

diseases, reduced fertility and/or viability

![](_page_30_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_4.jpeg)

Leavenworthia alabamica

![](_page_30_Picture_6.jpeg)

BUT! Not always must inbreeding be deleterious (eg. many species of embryophyte (land) plants are self-fertilising). Moreover, the inbreeding effects can differ within a single species depending on environment.

#### Inbreeding depression in humans:

the Amish: haemophilia B, anemia, myotonic dystrophy, Ellis-van Creveld syndrome (dwarfness, polydactyly), defects in nail development, dental defects

![](_page_31_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_4.jpeg)

Vadoma tribe, Zimbabwe (tzv. "Ostrich people"): ectrodactyly

Mormons of Hilldale (Utah) and Colorado City (Arizona)

Amazonia Indians

aristocratic dynasties

![](_page_31_Picture_9.jpeg)

Human inbreeding depression:

Charles II of Spain:

unnaturally big head, deformed mandible, weak body, difficulties with walking and other defects, mental and psychical defects, impotence, sterility

![](_page_32_Picture_3.jpeg)

Francis II:

in some children mental retardation, hydrocephaly, seizures, some unable of living without assistence

![](_page_32_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_0.jpeg)

Maria Theresa

![](_page_33_Picture_2.jpeg)

Francis I of Lorraine

![](_page_33_Picture_4.jpeg)

Figure 6. Cross pollination of two inbreds to produce a vigorous hybrid.

## hybrid vigour (heterosis)

# **ASSORTATIVE MATING**

= higher probability of mating between individuals with the same phenotype

can be caused by active mating preference but another causes can exist as well

- eg.: phytophagous insects individuals living at different host species can mature in different times  $\Rightarrow$  more frequent mating between individuals of the same phenotype (confinement to the host) <u>without active mating</u> <u>preference</u>
- $\Rightarrow$  this is only a positive <u>phenotypic correlation</u>

assortative mating causes deficit of heterozygotes

assortative mating causes linkage disequilibrium (LD)

#### Differences between inbreeding and assortative mating:

affects only locus (loci) connected with preferred phnotype inbreeding affects all loci

ass. mating is <u>a powerful evolutionary force</u> (strong LD at more loci) × inbreeding only strenghtens existing LD, and only in the case of selfing, in other cases recombination "more succesful"  $\rightarrow$  reduction of LD

# NEGATIVE ASSORTATIVE (DISASSORTATIVE) MATING

preference of mates with different phenotypes
 results in <u>intermediary allele frequencies</u>, <u>reduces LD</u>
 eg. preference of males with different MHC (mouse, man)

![](_page_36_Picture_2.jpeg)