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The genetics behind early cattle keeping



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Degree project in biology, Master of science (2 years), 2010

Examensarbete i biologi 30 hp till masterexamen, 2010

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Abstract

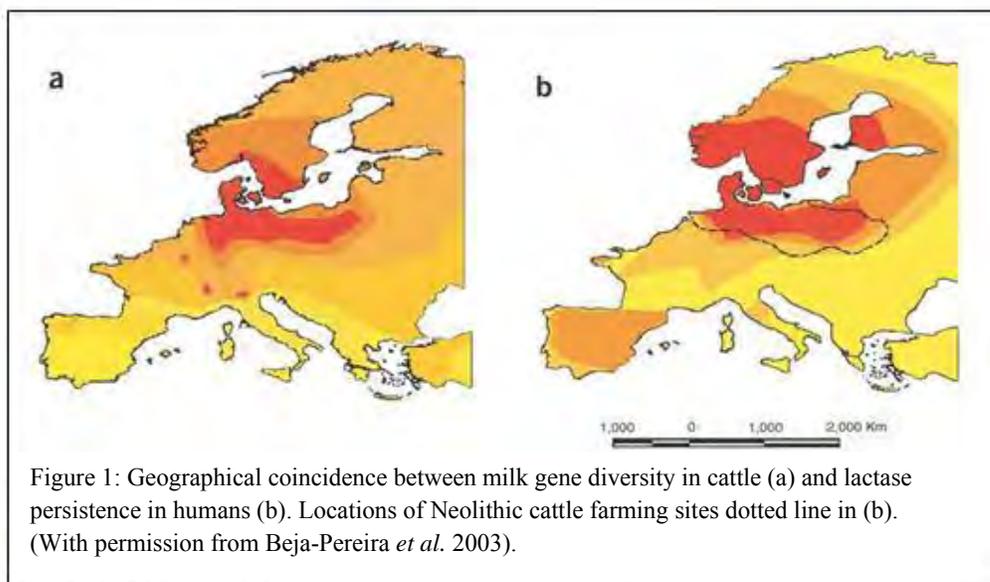
Ancient DNA can help us to infer evolutionary changes in selection processes, which can no longer be detected among modern populations. Cattle breeding has been an important process in human history, especially for the milk drinking populations in Europe, but when and where selection for traits of interest started in domesticated cattle is still not known. In this project I aim to investigate selection signatures in milk traits. By using SNP typing of coding nuclear genes in the casein region on chromosome 6, a region that harbours genetic variants with a large effect on both protein content and milk yield, it is possible to measure linkage disequilibrium, allele frequencies and infer haplotypes. Applying this technique to ancient cattle material from Hungary, no sign of selection was found neither in allele frequencies nor in haplotypes between aurochs and domesticates. A divergent LD map between the populations is the best indication that some selection occurred in the casein cluster during this time, although not detectable in my allele frequency data. Thus, SNP typing could be used as means to explore selective traces in domestication processes, but further studies with more animals is needed to test the hypothesis and provide proper support for or against it.

Introduction

The first genetic material recovered from an extinct species was published in 1984 on a member of the horse family (Higuchi *et al.* 1984). The field of ancient DNA (aDNA) has since then increased rapidly. In only a little more than two decades research has gone from retrieval of small fragments of mitochondria DNA to large-scale population genetic studies (Shapiro *et al.* 2004), phenotypically important loci (Svensson *et al.* 2007) and whole mitochondria sequences of extinct species (Cooper *et al.* 2001, Haddrath *et al.* 2001, Gilbert *et al.* 2007, Gilbert *et al.* 2008). In the very near future it is actually probable that complete ancient genomes will appear. Including ancient samples in population genetic studies allow us to investigate events from which signals are no longer present in modern day populations and thus help us to make better inferences of the past. Ancient work on European brown bears, for example, demonstrate that population genetic samples over large temporal scales are essential in order to understand past population dynamics and provide tools for reconstructing the evolutionary process (Valdiosera *et al.* 2007). In the future the field of ancient DNA will most likely impact our understanding of important evolutionary processes. Indeed, the understanding of demographic processes has already been affected by aDNA studies, e.g. in a study by Dalén *et al.* (2007) aDNA reveals lack of postglacial habitat tracking in the arctic fox providing new insights into how species respond to climate change. This study was only made possible by using ancient mitochondrial DNA. The development of new techniques, better suited for the recovery of aDNA, enables the analysis of nuclear markers, thus providing the

possibility to address questions about early breeding and selection in domestic animals (Jaenicke-Després *et al.* 2003, Svensson *et al.* 2007, Svensson *et al.* 2008, Ludwig *et al.* 2009).

Dairy is one of the most prominent agricultural sectors in Europe, particularly in the northern and western parts. Despite the fact that milk is produced in every European country there are strong geographical northwest / southeast clines in milk production and consumption. It can be postulated that this cline is an echo of two processes that occurred in European prehistory, the introduction of domestic animals from their centre of domestication in the Near East and selection for the ability to digest lactose as an adult. These two processes may have been intimately linked in time and space, as selection of the ability to digest milk co-evolved with increased production of fresh milk from dairy animals (Fig. 1).



As domestic animals, capable of providing milk, were only introduced into Europe relatively recently, i.e. from 10,000 years ago, the rise of dairy farming and milk consumption must have conferred a massive selective advantage to explain the current high frequency of lactose persistence found in some areas of Europe (Fig. 1a). Some populations, particularly those of northwest European descent (Fig. 1b) can drink raw milk throughout life, being lactose tolerant. A variant of the lactase (LCT) gene, the T allele (actually a mutation upstream the gene), correlates with the known distribution of lactose tolerance in Europe, and is either under strong positive selection or linked to a mutation under strong positive selection, probably the single most advantageous genetic trait that has arisen in humans in the last 30,000 years. (Enattah *et al.* 2002, Bersaglieri *et al.* 2004). This selective advantage became

significant after the introduction of domesticated animals in Europe but when and where is still unknown.

If the place and time of dairying in the Neolithic economy could be understood in greater depth and detail we may be closer to understanding the wider significance of cattle to humans throughout history and thus the actual foundation of our lifestyle that the domestication brought with it. The most likely hypothesis, the Secondary product hypothesis, states that lactose tolerance became advantageous later in the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age when pastoral farming was more firmly established (Sherratt *et al.* 1981). However the hypothesis has been questioned, for example a study on organic residues preserved in archaeological pottery have provided direct evidence for the use of milk as early as the 7th millennium BC (Evershed *et al.* 2008), and Spangenberg *et al.* (2008) showed the existence of dairy farms in Europe by the 4th millennium BC. Other studies have shown selection for milk traits already during medieval time in Swedish cattle (Svensson *et al.* 2007) but the situation in central Europe is so far not studied at all. It is claimed that milk has been a valuable and widely used food source in Europe for over 8000 years (Beja-Pereira *et al.* 2004). Much more recently domesticated cattle have become highly specialized for milk production following strong artificial selection increasing the frequency of favorable alleles at the loci affecting milk production traits (Goddard *et al.* 2009, Choi *et al.* 2009).

The casein region on chromosome 6 in bovines has been shown to harbor genetic variants with a large effect on both protein content and milk yield, producing approximately 80 percent of the protein content of milk in cattle (Farrell *et al.* 2004). The region which is often picked up by scans for selection in modern cattle (e.g. Hayes *et al.* 2008, Flori *et al.* 2009) is composed of four genes; α s1-, β -, α s2-, k-casein (CSN1S1, CSN2, CSN1S2 and C2N3, respectively) (Fig. 2). Nilsen *et al.* (2009) constructed a SNP map for the region identifying haplotype structures and single SNPs associated with milk traits. The β -gene (represented by the following markers in this study, CSN2-BMC_9215 and CSN_67) is the most likely loci harbouring the underlying causative variation, with especially two alleles (CSN2-BMC_9215 G allele and CSN_67 C allele) associated with high protein and milk yields in Norwegian Red cattle (Nilsen *et al.* 2009).

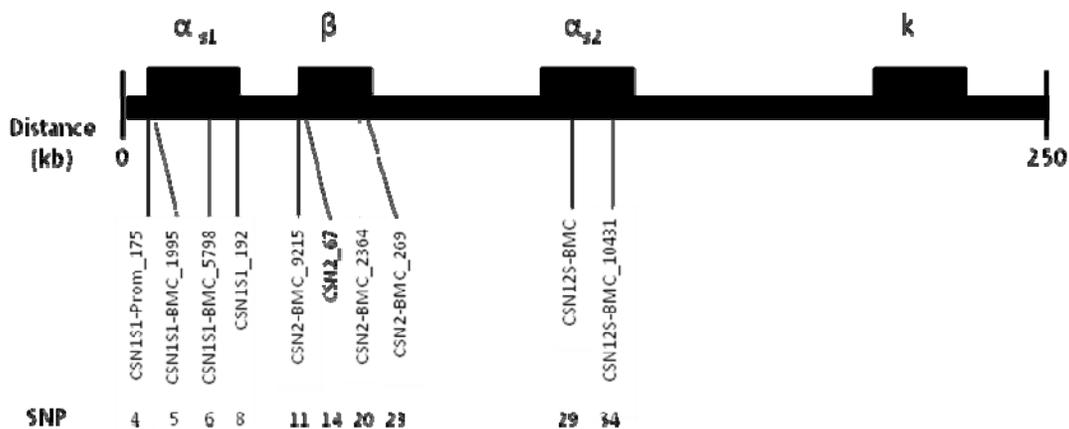


Figure 2. The bovine casein locus with positions of SNPs analyzed in this study marked. The SNPs are numbered according to Nilsen *et al.* 2009.

The aim of this project is to investigate if there are any signs of early selective breeding for milk traits in Europe early after domestication by looking at aurochs and domesticates from a Bronze Age site, Százhalombatta, in Hungary. By looking at haplotypes and allele frequencies from single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers in prehistoric aurochs and cattle, selection signatures may be identified. This is done by targeting 10 SNPs in the casein region on chromosome 6. To my knowledge, this is the first time a number of closely linked SNPs are gathered from a functionally important region in ancient material, and it will, for the first time, yield estimated levels of LD and inferred haplotypes in an ancient population.

Material and Method

(a) Samples and site information

The Hungarian material (Százhalombatta) consists of four aurochs and five domestic specimens dated to 3207- 3548 BP (Table 1). All aurochs were identified as male and all domesticates as female with molecular tools (as in Svensson *et al.* 2008, E Svensson unpublished data) as well as morphologically (M.Vretemark unpublished data).

Százhalombatta-Földvár is situated on the west bank of the Danube, thirty kilometers south of Budapest. The site consists of a large tell evolved during the Early and Middle Bronze Age (2000 – 1500 BC). The region represents the main east-west communication line during Bronze Age, forming a complex settlement system with specialized functions in production and trade. Thus the material has potential to show influences transmitted between the Black Sea and Scandinavia (<http://www.eoec.org/webpages/szazhalombatta/background.htm> Date visited 11 Jan 2010).

One aurochs, also identified as male (Svensson unpublished data), from the south coast of England was also included. For primer optimization post-mediaeval historic material from the harbor in Marstrand contextually dated to the 18th century was used. This material has previously been shown to be very well preserved (Malmström *et al.* 2007). In order to determine ancestral alleles 5 bison (*Bison bison*) and 8 zebu (*Bos indicus*) were genotyped.

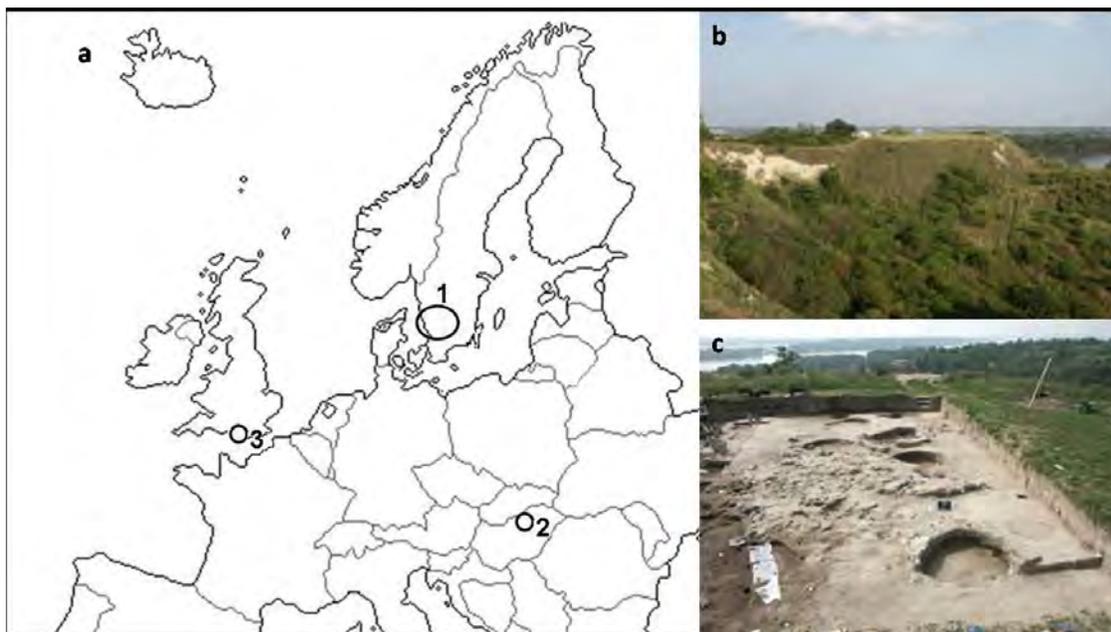


Figure 3. a) Site locations of where historic and prehistoric material was sampled. (1) Marstrand, (2) Százhalombatta, (3) English coast, Southampton. b) The tell in Százhalombatta and c) The excavation site. Figure b and c taken from <http://www.eoec.org/webpages/szazhalombatta/background.htm>

(b) Genetic analysis

Primers were designed for 15 SNPs covering approximately 120 kb in and around the casein region (nucleotide position 87903788-88470917 in Btau 4.0) for primer sequences see supplementary table S1. To increase amplification success very short amplicons (53 -88 bp) were designed.

(c) Sample extraction and amplification

All pre-PCR work on ancient samples was done in an isolated lab facility following strict routines, including daily cleaning with bleach and UV-irradiation in fume hoods at nights. Special lab clothing, including full bodysuits, face mask and gloves were used. Contamination was monitored with negative controls in the form of no-template blanks, both PCR and DNA

extraction blanks, which were given the same treatment and processed alongside the other samples. All extracts were screened for human contamination with a 70bp primer, designed to amplify both authentic ancient cattle mtDNA and contaminating human mtDNA. Five out of fifteen SNPs amplified in human DNA even after optimization and were thus withdrawn from further analysis. Positive PCR products were sequenced on a PSQTM 96MA (Biotage) using pyrosequencing TM technology and 25 μ l of PCR product. The SNPs were recognized using PSQTM 96MA and edited by the PSQTM 96MA SNP software. Two datasets were created from the obtained genotype data, one collecting all successfully typed samples and one with more strict routines. In the latter all samples in a PCR were withdrawn if a blank control was found contaminated. Only genotypes with a perfect hit with pyrosequencing technique, correct reference peaks and nucleotide levels were kept in this sample set. All statistical and data analyses were performed with the strict dataset. Accepted guidelines for aDNA research were followed (Gilbert & Willerslev 2006). For details on DNA extraction, PCR conditions and SNP typing, see the supplementary material.

Table 1. Description of ancient specimen included in the study. With ^{14}C and ^{13}C values as analyzed by Göran Possnert at Ångströmlaboratoriet, Uppsala

| Sample ID | Location | Classification | $\Delta^{13}\text{C}\text{‰}_{\text{pdb}}$ | ^{14}C age BP |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|--|------------------------|
| n2 | Százhalombatta | Domestic | -20,5 | 3296 \pm 33 |
| n3 | Százhalombatta | Domestic | | * |
| N4 | Százhalombatta | Domestic | -20,3 | 3513 \pm 35 |
| N5 | Százhalombatta | Domestic | | * |
| N6 | Százhalombatta | Domestic | -20 | 3368 \pm 36 |
| U1 | Százhalombatta | Auroch | -22,5 | 3241 \pm 34 |
| U7 | Százhalombatta | Auroch | -22,2 | 3365 \pm 31 |
| U8 | Százhalombatta | Auroch | | * |
| Uj | England | Auroch | -23,2 | 3325 \pm 35 |

*Samples come from the same context as the ^{14}C dated specimens.

(d) Data analysis and statistics

Allelic dropout was calculated for all markers as in Gagneaux *et al.* (1997). Logistic regression as implemented in STATISTICA 9 was used to test for correlation between fragment length and success rate. The allele frequency and heterozygosity was calculated by hand for all samples. Haploview (Barrett *et al.* 2005) was used for computation of linkage disequilibrium (LD) measured by r^2 in domesticates and aurochs.

(e) Haplotype reconstruction

At autosomal loci, the genetic material carried by a diploid individual can be thought of as being composed of two haplotypes, each containing the genetic information from one of the two homologous chromosomes. The common techniques for SNP typing do not provide the allele information separately from each of the two chromosomes, they just give genotype information. Given a set of genotypes, the problem of finding the corresponding two haplotypes for each genotype is called *phasing* the genotypes (Stephens *et al.* 2001). Knowledge about haplotypes carried by sampled individuals is very useful when mapping LD and analyzing population evolutionary history, since genetic inheritance operates through the transmission of chromosomal segments. Here we used the software PHASE (version 2.1.1) based on a Bayesian statistical model for haplotype reconstruction, using default settings and repeating the reconstruction 3 times with same results.

Results & Discussion

Five of the nine Hungarian bones were C14 dated to 3207 - 3548 BP, along with the English aurochs (Table 1). The amplification success rate of ancient DNA was generally high (44%), with short fragments (53-78bp) having a higher success rate (56%) than longer ones (84-88bp) (35%), $p = 0.02$ (Fig. 4). Small marker specific deviations may be due to primers with different quality scores. All samples were successfully typed more than once for every marker and all contained high proportion (on average 90, 5 % - 100%) of cattle mtDNA compared to human mtDNA, which is a strong support for authentic results (Table S3).

The risk of allelic dropout, a heterozygote not detected, in five PCR replicates was minimal ($p < 0,05$) for all markers. On average each genotype was confirmed by 7 replicates (Table S3). Even though the probability for a specific sample to suffer dropout in a specific locus is low, there is a risk of 65% that at least one of all the observations is suffering from dropout.

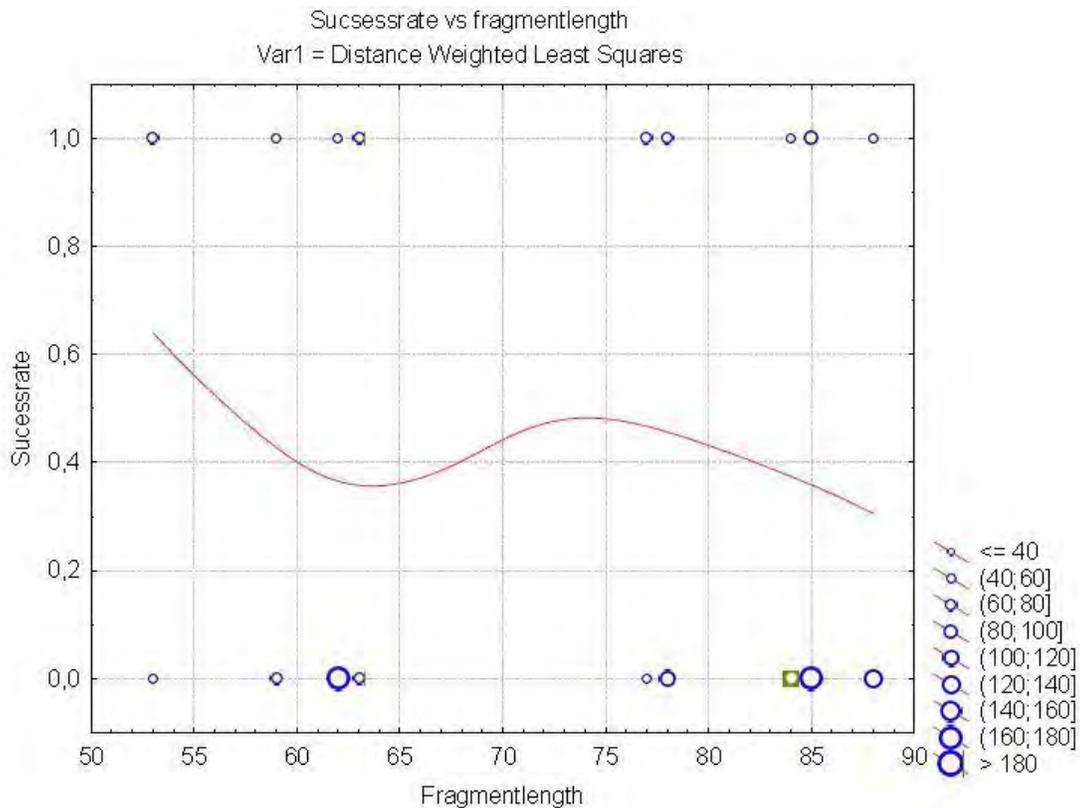


Figure 4. Success rate over fragment size. Overall there was a significant correlation between the length of the PCR product and the genotyping success.

a) Allele frequencies and casein haplotypes

The observed heterozygosity (H_o) was overall low, especially for the aurochs population. A bottleneck or genetic drift are possible scenarios but the small sample size ($n=3$) may also affect H_o . Allele frequencies for each SNP were compared between the three groups, aurochs, domesticates and Norwegian Red cattle (modern). There was no difference in allele frequencies for SNP 4, 5, 8, 11, 20, 23 or 34 (Fig. 5). Both aurochs and domesticate allele frequencies for SNP 6 (CSN1S1-BMC_5798), 14 (CSN2_67), 20 (CSN2-BMC_2364) and 29 (CSN1S2-BMC) differed slightly from modern Norwegian cattle population.

The results give no indication that selective breeding for milk had started during Bronze Age, but more animals must be typed to verify this. The bison ancestral allele could be determined for 6 of the SNPs, in the other 4 SNPs the bison was polymorphic.

Table 2. Ancestral allele, observed heterozygosity (H₀) and allele frequencies among samples.

| SNP | Ancestral allele | Aurochs Hungary | | Domesticated Hungary | | Cattle Norway ^a | Bison | Zebu |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | H ₀ | Allele frequency | H ₀ | Allele frequency | Allele frequency | Allele frequency | Allele frequency |
| CSN1S1-Prom_175 | G | 0 | 1,0 (A) | 0,15 | 0,8 (A) | 0,876(A) | 0(A) | 0,714(A) |
| CSN1S1-BMC_1995 | - | 0 | 1,0 (G) | 0,17 | 0,9 (G) | 0,969(G) | 0,8(G) | 0,714(G) |
| CSN1S1-BMC_5798 | C | 0 | 0,375 (T) | 0,2 | 0,3 (T) | 0,589(T) | 0(T) | 0,143 (T) |
| CSN1S1_192 | G | 0 | 1,0 (A) | 0,09 | 0,8 (A) | 0,873(A) | 0(A) | 0,429(A) |
| CSN2-BMC_9215 | - | 0,11 | 0,625 (T) | 0,15 | 0,4 (T) | 0,599(T) | 0,5(T) | 0,857(T) |
| CSN2_67 | C | 0,07 | 0,5 (C) | 0,07 | 0,4 (C) | 0,6(C) | 1,0(C) | 0,857 (C) |
| CSN2-BMC_2364 | G | 0,19 | 0,375 (A) | 0,2 | 0,4 (A) | 0,552(A) | 0(A) | 0,071(A) |
| CSN2-BMC_269 | - | 0,15 | 0,875 (T) | 0,03 | 0,9 (T) | 0,919(T) | - | 0,750(T) |
| CSN1S2-BMC | - | 0,09 | 0,5 (G) | 0,03 | 0,4 (G) | 0,634(G) | 0,1(G) | 0,8(G) |
| CSN1S2-BMC_10431 | A | 0 | 1,0 (A) | 0,05 | 0,9 (A) | 0,955(A) | 1,0 (A) | 0,786 (A) |

^a Published data (Nilsen *et al.* 2009)

In total, 6 different haplotypes were constructed in the aurochs and domesticated population by the software PHASE(2.1.1). Two were unique and could not be found among the modern haplotypes. An overall decrease in haplotype frequency from (0.81) in ancient to (0.74) in modern population could be observed. The loss of unique haplotypes and alleles could be due to breeding, since a higher diversity is expected in a region closer to the domesticating centre. Of the remaining 4 haplotypes, one was aurochs specific and three domesticated specific in my Hungarian dataset (Table 2). The probability for each haplotype was in general high (1.0) for n2, u1 and uj. (0.938) for n3, (0.981) for n4, (0.913) for n5, (0.854) for n8. But lower for haplotype n6 (0.156) and u7 (0.4156). Since only 10 of 38 SNPs used to construct the haplotypes for modern cattle in the region were typed and analyzed, comparison with modern haplotypes must be speculative. Also analysis on modern specimen for these 10 SNPs would be needed to exclude more unique haplotypes and assure difference between domesticated and aurochs. No particular divergence could be found only looking at haplotypes between the populations since both cluster into same haplogroups associated with both reduced and increased milk and protein content.

If looking at individual haplotypes a major decrease in frequency could be seen for haplotype 1 from ancient to modern population. Looking at the populations separately demonstrate that the aurochs are mainly responsible for this high frequency in Bronze Age population, with a frequency of (0.5) compared to domesticated (0.36). This is interesting since the study on modern breeds detected four haplotypes that associate with reduced milk and protein

production; all of these contain, as in haplotype 1, the A-allele of CSN2_67 in addition to the G-allele of CSN2-BMC_9215 (Nilsen et al. 2009). Looking at the other SNPs show an increase in modern cattle for haplotype 3,4 and 6, all containing the milk yielding CSN2-BMC_9215 T- allele in addition to the CSN2-67 C - allele. Also this time the aurochs population is responsible for the pattern, having lower haplotype frequencies than domesticates.

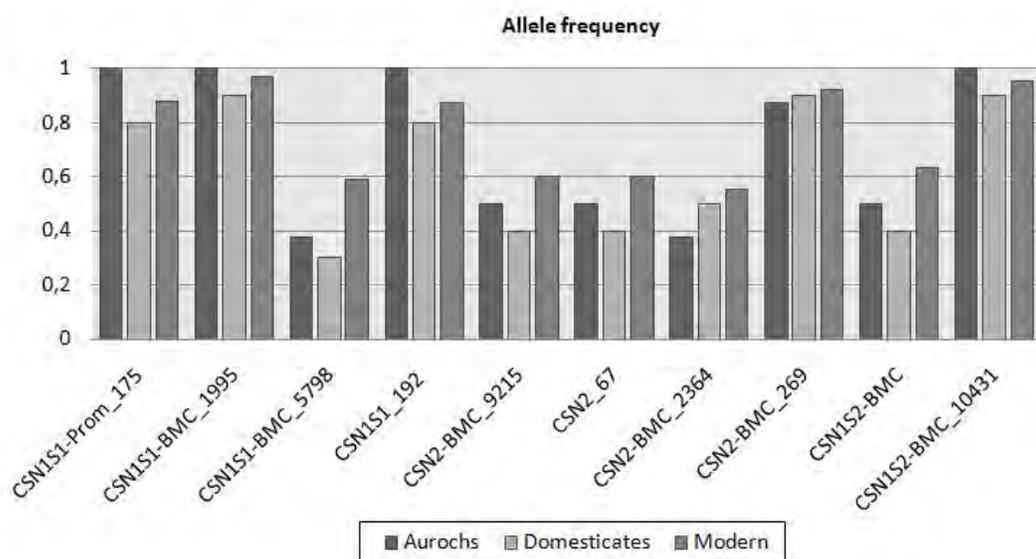


Figure 5. Variation in allele frequencies (major allele) in the 10 SNPs among ancient domesticates, aurochs and modern specimen (20th century). Data for the modern cattle from Nilsen *et al.* 2009.

Table 3. Casein haplotypes in five domestic cattle (n2-n6) and four aurochsen (u1, u7, u8, uj) constructed by software PHASE.

| Haplotype | Specimen | Freq (%) | Marker | | | | | | | | | | Haplotype Nilsen ^a |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------|--------|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------------------------|
| | | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 14 | 20 | 23 | 29 | 34 | |
| 1 | n2, n3, n5, n6 u1, uj | 0,445 | A | G | C | A | G | A | G | T | A | A | 3/6 (0,16) |
| 2 | n3 | 0,052 | A | G | T | A | T | C | A | T | A | A | - |
| 3 | n4, u7, u8 | 0,178 | A | G | T | A | T | C | A | T | G | A | 1/5 (0,39) |
| 4 | n4,n5 | 0,104 | G | G | C | G | T | C | A | T | G | A | 4 (0,13) |
| 5 | n6 | 0,009 | A | C | T | A | G | A | G | C | G | G | - |
| 6 | u7 | 0,021 | A | G | C | A | T | C | G | C | G | A | 8/12 (0,04) |

b) Extent of LD

Linkage disequilibrium (LD) was calculated with phased haplotypes between pair of loci in the two populations using Haploview (Barrett *et al.* 2005). LD between pairs of loci varied from complete disequilibrium to no disequilibrium. The aurochs population generates a different LD pattern than domesticates with LD between different loci and in a limited region (Fig 6). The domesticated population gives rise to LD in three blocks with possible recombination between them (Fig. 7). Both populations show complete LD between the milk associated markers 11 (CSN2-BMC_9215) and 14 (CSN2_67) which is also confirmed by the study on modern breeds (Nilsen *et al.* 2009). The disparate pattern between the populations could suggest that there have been selection for breeding in domesticated specimens during this time. But the small sample size (n=8 chromosomes for aurochs and n= 10 chromosomes for domesticates) could also be responsible for the pattern seen. An LD map from Zebu specimen (*Bos indicus*) was generated showing overall low LD values, apart from SNP 11 and 14 where LD was complete (Fig S1). This is true for all datasets and indicates the importance of these two markers in the casein region.

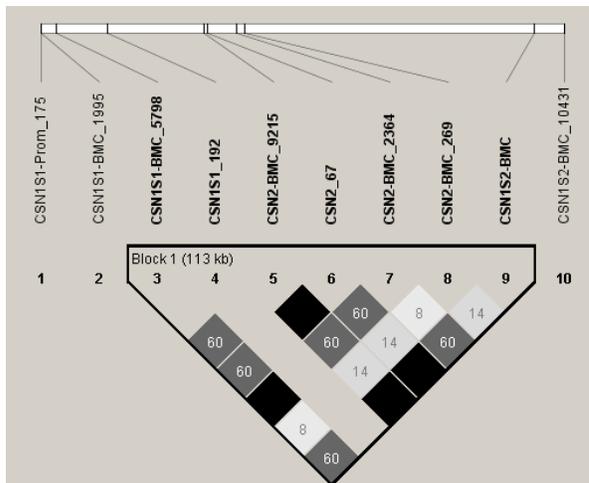


Figure 6. LD across the casein segment in aurochs. Each square contains the level of LD measured by r^2 between the markers specified; dark tones correspond to increasing levels of r^2 ; triangles indicate division by loci.

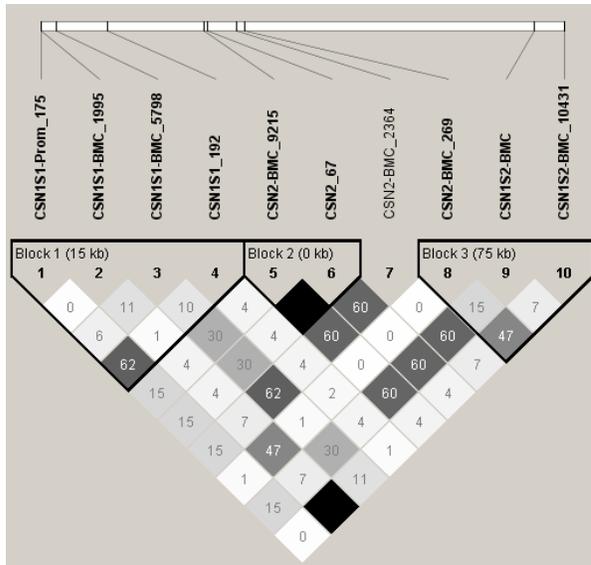


Figure 7. LD across the casein segment in domesticates. Each square contains the level of LD measured by r^2 between the markers specified; dark tones correspond to increasing levels of r^2 ; triangles indicate division by loci.

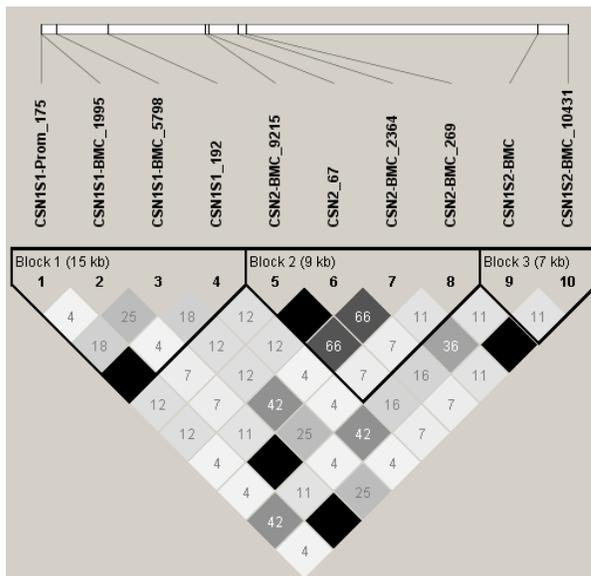


Figure 8. LD across the casein segment in all ancient animals. Each square contains the level of LD measured by r^2 between the markers specified; dark tones correspond to increasing levels of r^2 ; triangles indicate division by loci.

(c) Conclusions and future perspectives

The results show no differences in allele frequencies at individual SNPs or haplogroups associated with milk traits between aurochs and domesticates. However, change in haplotype frequencies between ancient and modern population confirm an increase among domesticates in haplotypes containing the milk producing alleles C and T at marker 11 and 14, with aurochs having a higher frequency of haplotypes containing the milk reducing alleles A and G at the same markers. The small sample size may be unable to detect changes in allele frequencies and haplotype structure, but the result could also just reflect the small sample size in itself. Perhaps is haplotype data more informative than allele data in studies of population differences with ancient DNA data of small samples sizes.

The most notable pattern in the study can be seen within the LD map, with a divergent pattern of LD between pair of loci among aurochs and domesticates. An indication of differences in selection pattern among domesticates and aurochs during Bronze Age. However, the data set is small and this conclusion should be viewed as a hypothesis in need of further testing with more individuals, more typing to confirm genotypes in some SNPs and test with a neutral marker to out rule other demographic events

Future studies will involve coalescent simulation by the software COMPASS (Jakobsson 2009) in order to investigate possible different demographic histories, caused by selection, for some alleles associated with milk traits of interest. We will also be able to estimate effective population size using LD. On the whole my study demonstrates that it is possible to amplify and analyze ancient nuclear DNA with both authenticity and high success rate, indicating what a tremendous potential aDNA studies have in the future for studying selection signatures through time.

Acknowledgements

The material from Hungary and Marstrand was kindly provided by Dr. Maria Vretemark. The English specimen was provided by Dr. Jaco Weinstock. The samples from Clad Hallan were extracted by Simon McGrory. Thanks to Emma Svensson and Anders Götherström for their encouragement, advice and helpful comments and of course, making this study possible.

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SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL & METHODS

DNA extraction

Bones from each specimen was decontaminated with 1 J/m² irradiation in a UV-crosslinker (Techtum Lab) before extraction. An automated drill (Dremmel) was used to generate approximately 100mg bone powder from the specimen. The powder were subsequently incubated at 38° C in 1 ml buffer containing 0.5 M EDTA, 1 M urea and 100 µg/ml proteinase K over the night. The sample was then centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 5 min and the supernatant transferred to an Amicon Ultra-15 centrifugal filter (Millipore, MA, USA) which was then spun at 4000g for 10 to 15 minutes until it was concentrated down to 100ul. The extract was then purified using QIAquick™ silicabased spin columns (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) based on the method by Yang and others (1997). The extract was added to a spin column together with 500µl of PB buffer, following centrifugation at 13 000 rpm for 1 minute. Then 750 µl PE buffer was added and the column was centrifuged twice, until all liquid was gone. DNA was then eluded by adding 50 µl EB buffer to the column membrane and centrifuging for 1 minute at 13 000 rpm. 5µl sample was used in an 55µl PCR with a 70bp primer amplifying authentic ancient cattle DNA. Samples from Cladh Hallan (Scotland) were also genotyped but due to lack of material and problems with instrument not enough data for conclusive results were obtained.

DNA Amplification and genotyping

DNA was amplified with a 70bp primer, to screen for proportion authentic ancient cattle mtDNA in samples, as well as primers targeting 10 different SNPs on the casein region on chromosome 6. The PCR was in 30 µl volumes with 1x reaction buffer (Naxo, Estonia), 2,5 mM MgCl₂, 0,2 mM of each dNTP, 0,18 µM of each primer, 1U Smart-Taq DNA polymerase (Naxo), 1-2 µl extract and ddH₂O to a final volume of 30 µl. Rat serum albumin (RSA) was used (10g/L) to improve amplification success. Contamination was monitored with blank controls for every 8 reactions. Reactions were run on a PTC-225 DNA engine tetrad (MJ Research, Waltham, USA) with an initial 7 minute activation step at 94° C, then 37 -48 cycles of 94° C for 1 min, 50 / 52 / 55 or 58° C for 1 minute and 72° C for 1 minute. The program also included a final extension step at 72° C for 7 minutes. Positive PCR products were genotyped on a PSQ™ 96MA (Biotage) using pyrosequencing technology (Ronaghi et al. 2009) and 30 – 50ul of PCR product.

Table S1. PCR and sequencing primers for the 10 markers used in study and their optimal annealing temperature.

| Gene | Name | Sequence 5' - 3' | Annealing temp (°C) |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| CSN1S1-Prom_175 | CSN1S1_175F | Ccattccatttctgtataatgag ^a | 50 |
| | CSN1S1_175Rbio | tctaaggagaggtttacaacaaaga | |
| | pyroCSN1S1_175 | tccatttctgtataatgag | |
| CSN1S1-BMC_1995 | CSN1S1-BMC_1995Fbio | taaactctccttagaatttctgg | 55 |
| | CSN1S1-BMC_1995R | cacataggaatcaatgttctgtt | |
| | pyroCSN1S1-BMC_1995 | aatcaatgttctgttcag | |
| CSN1S1-BMC_5798 | CSN1S1 BMC 5798F-bio | ttcgtgagggtgaatatcttcaa | 55 |
| | CSN1S1 BMC 5798R | agtccaaatgcccttctctaa | |
| | pyroCSN1S1 5798 BMC | tctaaaagggttgtgaga | |
| CSN1S1_192 | CSN1S1 F-bio | ccccatcattctctgacatcc | 55 |
| | CSN1S1 R | ttaccaccacagtgcatagtagt | |
| | CSN1S1 pyro | acagtggcatagtagcttt | |
| CSN2-BMC_9215 | CSN2_9215Fbio | cacaattattcaccacatgactc | 55 |
| | CSN2_9215R | tcctcatatgctcatatatcaaa | |
| | pyroCSN2_9215 | atgctcatatatcaaaaaca | |
| CSN2_67 | CSN2 8101 F-bio | ctttgccagacacagtctcta | 55 |
| | CSN2 8101 R | ggtttgagtaagaggaggatgtt | |
| | pyro CSN2 8101 | tgtgggaggctgta | |
| CSN2-BMC_2364 | CSN2_2364F-bio | gagctagcatatttagtcaagaga | 52 |
| | CSN2_2364R | cctttcaaatagcacatgtatcc | |
| | pyroCSN2_2364 | gcacatgtatcctaacaac | |
| CSN2-BMC_269 | CSN2_269F-bio | tcaaaattggtgagagacagtcat | 52 |
| | CSN2_269R | acatttccctttctcaggaagat | |
| | pyroCSN2_269 | gatgctttacatatgtgc | |
| CSN1S2-BMC_3312 | CSN1S2 3312F | ggtcgtgactagaagaggttctgt ^a | 55 |
| | CSN1S2 3312R-bio | agctatgaggctcagcataagg | |
| | pyroCSN1S2 3312 | ctagaagaggttctgtggt | |
| CSN1S2-BMC_10431 | CSN1S2_10431F | acgggtctgtctggaatgga ^a | 58 |
| | CSN1S2_10431R-bio | ggcaaactgaatccagcatatcct | |
| | pyroCSN1S2_10431 | agccaatggcctcct | |

^aBiotinylated in the 5' end

SUPPLEMENTAL RESULTS

Allelic dropout formula

$$P \text{ (false homozygote)} = k \left(\frac{k}{n}\right)^{n-1} = \frac{\text{observed nr of allelic dropouts}}{\text{all observations from heterozygous individuals}}$$

n = antalet typningar

Table S2. Allelic dropout for different markers. A minimum of four successful SNP identifications, five for marker 8, for each historic sample were considered sufficient for inclusion in the statistical analysis.

| Marker | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 14 | 20 | 23 | 29 | 34 |
|-------------|--------|--------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| P (n= 4) | 0,0078 | 0,0042 | 0,043 | 0,025 (n=5) | 0,023 | 0,025 | 0,017 | 0,035 | 0,025 | 0,040 |

Table S3. Proportion of cattle fragments compared to human fragments in all samples with the 70bp primer system.

| Sample | Locality | %70bp | Average % |
|----------|-----------|---|-----------|
| MS1 | Marstrand | 100, 97,8 | 98,9 |
| MS2 | Marstrand | 96,7, 100 | 98,4 |
| MS5 | Marstrand | 97,5, 98,1, 96,5 | 97,4 |
| MS7 | Marstrand | 100, 98,1 | 99 |
| MS9 | Marstrand | 96,3 | 96,3 |
| MS10 | Marstrand | 97,3, 97,8 | 97,6 |
| ML1 | Marstrand | 89,5, 97,1 | 93,3 |
| ML2 | Marstrand | 93, 97,6 | 95,3 |
| ML3 | Marstrand | 96,9, 97,7, 100 | 97,3 |
| ML5 | Marstrand | 100, 97,1, 100 | 100 |
| ML8 | Marstrand | 100, 97,8 | 99 |
| ML10 | Marstrand | 96,4, 97,2 | 98,9 |
| ML11 | Marstrand | 94,8 | 94,8 |
| Domestic | | | |
| Nöt 2 | Hungary | 84,98,95,98,96,2,80,7,100,93,5,98,5,97,3 | 94 |
| Nöt 3 | Hungary | 100, 96,6, 97, 97, 97, 96, 96,8, 100, 100, 97,4, 100, 100 | 98,2 |
| Nöt 4 | Hungary | 96, 100, 93, 94, 95,9, 96,5, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100 | 98 |
| Nöt 5 | Hungary | 98, 97, 95, 95,8, 98,6, 97, 100, 92,5, 98,2, 96,5, 98,7 | 97 |
| Nöt 6 | Hungary | 96,5, 97,8, 86, 95,8, 97, 100, 100, 98,1, 97,7, 92,5 | 96 |
| Aurochs | | | |
| U1 | Hungary | 100, 96,3, 98,4, 90,6, 98,5, 95,6 | 96,6 |
| UJ | Hungary | 100, 96,8 | 98,4 |
| U7 | Hungary | 60,8, 100, 69,9, 98,9, 98,6, 97,1, 94,6 | 88,8 |
| U8 | Hungary | 97,7, 100, 100, 100, 97,1 | 99 |
| U9 | Hungary | 90, 91 | 90,5 |

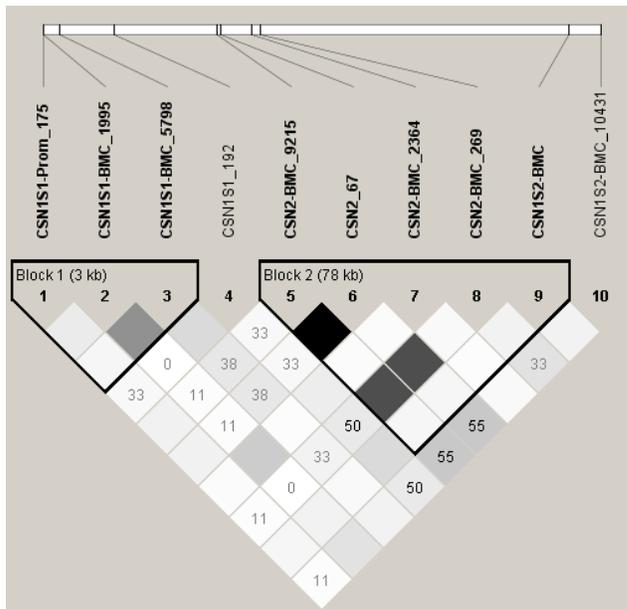


Figure S1. LD across the casein segment in Zebu. Each square contains the level of LD measured by r^2 between the markers specified; dark tones correspond to increasing levels of r^2 ; triangles indicate division by loci.

Table S4. Ancient samples replication and genotype. All replicates are listed together with the genotype used in the analysis. The genotypes are produced with strict routines excluding possible contaminated samples or those vaguely indicated by pyrosequencing technique.

| Sample ID | 4 | | | 5 | | | 6 | | | 8 | | | 11 | | | 14 | | | 20 | | | 23 | | | 9 | | | 34 | | | |
|-----------|------|------|----------|----------|----|----------|------|------|--------|----------|------|---------|----|-----|----------|----|----|------|----|------|-------|----------|----------|----|----|-------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----|
| | AA | AG | GG | GG | GC | CC | CC | CT | TT | AA | AG | GG | GG | GT | TT | AA | AC | CC | AA | AG | GG | TT | TC | CC | GG | GA | AA | AA | AG | GG | |
| Nöt 2 | VIII | | AA VII | | | GG VII | | | CC V | | | AA VI | | | GG VI | | | AA | | IIII | GG VI | | | TT | | | V | AA V | | AA | |
| Nöt 3 | IIII | | AA VIII | | | GG II | | IIII | CT XVI | | | AA | | V | GT | | II | IIII | AC | II | | | AG VII | | | TT | | VI | AA IIIII | AA | |
| Nöt 4 | VI | | I III | AG VII | | GG | | II | II | CT III | | II | AG | | V | TT | | IIII | CC | IIII | | | AA VII | | | TT | VI | III | GG IIIII | AA | |
| Nöt 5 | IIII | IIII | | AG VI | | GG VII | | | CC III | | IIII | AG III | | VII | GT III | | V | AC | | | V | AG VI | | | TT | II | III | AG V | | AA | |
| Nöt 6 | XIII | II | | AA III V | | GC | IIII | IIII | CT VI | | | AA VIII | | | GG IIIII | | | AA | | II | IIII | GG V | | | TC | VIIII | | II | AG II | | AG |
| U1 | VIII | | AA IIIII | | | GG IIIII | | | CC V | | | AA X | | | GG IIIII | | | AA | | | V | GG III | | | TT | | III | AA IIIII | | AA | |
| U7 | VIII | | AA VI | | | GG IIIII | | IIII | CT VI | | | AA | | II | VI | TT | | X | CC | II | IIII | III | AG IIIII | II | | TC | VIIII | | III | AG IIIII | AA |
| U8 | VIII | | AA V | | | GG | | | V | TT IIIII | | AA | | | II | TT | | IIII | CC | V | | | AA | | | - | VIIII | | GG IIIII | | AA |
| U9 | II | | AA III | | | GG | | | CT | | | AA | | | GT | | | AA | | | | | | | | | | | | | - |
| UJ | IIII | | AA VII | | | GG V | | | CC X | | | AA X | | | GG VIIII | | | AA | | | V | GG IIIII | | | TT | III | | V | AA VI | | AA |

Table S5. Genotypes for modern samples, Bison and Zebu.

| Sample ID | Specimen | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 14 | 20 | 23 | 29 | 34 |
|-----------|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | | | Genotype | | | | |
| B1 | Bison | GG | GG | CC | GG | | CC | GG | | AA | AA |
| B2 | Bison | | GG | CC | GG | | CC | GG | | AA | AA |
| B3 | Bison | GG | GC | CC | GG | | CC | GG | | AA | AA |
| B4 | Bison | GG | GG | CC | GG | | CC | GG | | AG | AA |
| B5 | Bison | GG | GC | CC | GG | TG | CC | GG | | AA | AA |
| KZ14 | Zebu | AG | GC | CC | AG | TT | CC | | TT | | AA |
| KV24 | Zebu | | | | | | | GG | TT | GG | AA |
| KV27 | Zebu | AA | GG | CC | AG | TT | CA | GG | TT | AG | AA |
| KV30 | Zebu | AA | GC | TC | AG | TG | CA | GG | TC | GG | AG |
| KV3 | Zebu | AG | GC | TC | AG | TG | CA | GG | TC | GG | AG |
| KV4 | Zebu | AA | GC | CC | AG | TT | CC | GA | | | AA |
| RZ8 | Zebu | AA | GG | CC | GG | TT | CC | GG | | AG | AG |
| RZ9 | Zebu | GG | GG | CC | AG | TT | CC | GG | TT | | |