The first horse herders and the impact of early Bronze Age steppe expansions into Asia -
DTU Orbit (06/11/2018)

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The Yamnaya expansions from the western steppe into Europe and Asia during the Early Bronze Age (~3000 BCE) are
believed to have brought with them Indo-European languages and possibly horse husbandry. We analyze 74 ancient
whole-genome sequences from across Inner Asia and Anatolia and show that the Botai people associated with the earliest
horse husbandry derived from a hunter-gatherer population deeply diverged from the Yamnaya. Our results also suggest
distinct migrations bringing West Eurasian ancestry into South Asia before and after but not at the time of Yamnaya
culture. We find no evidence of steppe ancestry in Bronze Age Anatolia from when Indo-European languages are attested
there. Thus, in contrast to Europe, Early Bronze Age Yamnaya-related migrations had limited direct genetic impact in Asia.

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Bio and Health Informatics, Metagenomics, University of Copenhagen, Welcome Trust
Sanger Institute, Leiden University, Harvard University, Shejire DNA project, Al Farabi Kazakh National University, S.
Toraighyrov Pavlodar State University, University of Chicago, Buketov Karaganda State University, University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Istanbul University, University of Gothenburg, Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography,
Japanese Institute of Anatolian Archaeology, Gazi University, Hazara University, University of Exeter, Directorate of
Archaeology and Museums, Archaeological Museum Harappa, Russian Academy of Sciences, Irkutsk State University,
Margulan Joint Research Center for Archeological Studies, University of Alberta, University of California at Berkeley
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Barjamovic, G., Rasmussen, S., Zacho, C., Baimukhanov, N., Zibert, V., Merz, V., Biddanda, A., Merz, I., Loman, V.,
evokimov, V., Usmanova, E., Hemphil, B., Seguin-Orlando, A., Yediay, F. E., Ullah, I., Sjögren, K., Iversen, K. H.,
Choin, J., de la Fuente, C., Ilardo, M., Schroeder, H., Moisseyev, V., Gromov, A., Polyakov, A., Omura, S., Senyurt, S. Y.,
I., Novembre, J., Weber, A. W., Orlando, L., Allentoft, M. E., Nielsen, R., Kristiansen, K., Sikora, M., Ostram, A. K.,
Durbin, R., Simonsen, E.
Number of pages: 11
Publication date: 2018
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information
Journal: Science
Volume: 360
Issue number: 6396
Article number: eaar7711
ISSN (Print): 0036-8075
Ratings:
BFI (2018): BFI-level 3
Web of Science (2018): Indexed yes
BFI (2017): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2017): CiteScore 15.85 SJR 14.142 SNIP 7.154
Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes
BFI (2016): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 14.39 SJR 13.745 SNIP 7.547
Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes
BFI (2015): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2015): CiteScore 13.12 SJR 12.872 SNIP 7.606
Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes
BFI (2014): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2014): CiteScore 12.68 SJR 12.052 SNIP 8.129
Web of Science (2014): Indexed yes
BFI (2013): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2013): CiteScore 12.43 SJR 12.41 SNIP 7.809
ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2013): Indexed yes
BFI (2012): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2012): CiteScore 12.39 SJR 13.318 SNIP 8.087
ISI indexed (2012): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2012): Indexed yes
BFI (2011): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2011): CiteScore 11.97 SJR 14.238 SNIP 8.277
ISI indexed (2011): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2011): Indexed yes
BFI (2010): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2010): SJR 13.481 SNIP 7.773
Web of Science (2010): Indexed yes
BFI (2009): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2009): SJR 11.897 SNIP 7.056
Web of Science (2009): Indexed yes
BFI (2008): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2008): SJR 11.277 SNIP 6.075
Web of Science (2008): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (2007): SJR 10.072 SNIP 6.017
Web of Science (2007): Indexed yes
Web of Science (2006): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (2005): SJR 11.09 SNIP 6.563
Web of Science (2005): Indexed yes
Web of Science (2004): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (2003): SJR 11.428 SNIP 7.488
Web of Science (2003): Indexed yes
Web of Science (2002): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (2001): SJR 10.987 SNIP 6.94
Web of Science (2001): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (2000): SJR 15.245 SNIP 7.042
Web of Science (2000): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (1999): SJR 16.615 SNIP 7.018
Original language: English
DOIs: 10.1126/science.aar7711
Source: FindIt
Source-ID: 2434401137
Research output: Research - peer-review ; Journal article – Annual report year: 2018