

## Asian on-line Y-STR Haplotype Reference Database

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**(in press).** For several years, Y-chromosomal microsatellites (STRs) have become well-established in forensic practice. In this context, the unique genetic characteristics of the Y chromosome (i.e. its paternal inheritance and lack of recombination) render Y-STRs particularly powerful. Notably, genetic differences between male populations appear to be greater for Y-STRs compared to autosomal STRs that may be due to the sensitivity of Y-chromosomal lineages to genetic drift [5]. Assessment of match probabilities amongst males or traces/persons requires the analyses of a large number of haplotypes in reference populations. Haplotype data of a large number of European as well as North and South American populations are available online (Y-STR Haplotype Reference Database –YHRD; [www.ystr.org](http://www.ystr.org)). The most recent multi-center effort has led to the establishment of an Asian YHRD ([www.ystr.org/asia](http://www.ystr.org/asia)) which was made available in January 2002. All databases are maintained at the Institute of Legal Medicine, Humboldt-University, Berlin and will soon be fused with a global repository of Y haplotypes that include populations from all continents.

### KEYWORDS

Y-chromosome, STR, Y-Haplotype Reference Database (YHRD), Population genetics