Regional Variation of Jomon People as Viewed from Cranial Metrics

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Phenotypic variation of Jomon population can be interpreted in terms of formation of its population structure. Because the population structure is an outcome of the population history, regional variation can reflect the formation process of the Jomon population by considering it as the mixture of expansion of an initial population with the extrinsic influence of hypothetical immigrants. This paper analyzes the regional variation of Jomon population using craniometric data. Results indicate that the Jomon skulls exhibit geographical cline along the Japanese archipelago, and that each region possesses different population histories with their local backgrounds. The following speculation can be made with caution, the process of Jomon formation seemed to be centered out of West Japan (Chugoku nor Kyushu regions), Kyushu Jomon could have a small-sized and isolated population history, and that of Hokkaido Jomon could have been deeply rooted or partially affected by extrinsic immigrants.

Key words: Jomon, skull, regional variation, R-matrix