

## Genetic Variations and Bottleneck Demographic Studies in Kurdish Horse Breed Using 17 Microsatellite Markers

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### ABSTRACT

The Kurdish horse is one of the most valuable and original pure genetic reserves in Iran. According to historical evidence, this breed dates back to more than 2,500 years ago. In this population, genetic variations were analyzed using 17 microsatellite markers recommended by International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG). Genomic DNAs were extracted from the hair roots of 761 Kurdish horses. DNA fragments were amplified by multiplex PCR reaction using fluorescently labeled primers, and determined by capillary electrophoresis. Average number of alleles per locus was 4.29 (from 6 alleles in HTG7 to 17 alleles in ASB17). The mean value of the observed heterozygosity was 0.721, ranging from 0.491 (HTG7) to 0.838 (VHL20), while expected heterozygosity ranged from 0.523 (HTG7) to 0.839 (VHL20) with a mean of 0.752. The PIC value was from 0.708 (HMS6) to 0.856 (ASB17) with a mean of 0.782. The inbreeding coefficient ranged from -0.012 (ASB2) to 0.183 (HTG6) with a mean of 0.040. Deviation from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium ( $P < 0.05$ ) was found in 11 loci. The total exclusion probability of the 17 microsatellite loci was 0.9999. Kurdish horse revealed bottleneck event under two models of microsatellite evolution for sign and standardized differences for Infinite Alleles Model (IAM) and Stepwise Mutation Model (SMM). Based on this study, the effectiveness of 17 microsatellite markers for parentage verification and assignment test of Kurdish horse is confirmed. These results may facilitate conservation programs for the studied breeds and raise preserve their genetic variation.

**Keywords:** Bottleneck effect, Genetic reserves, Infinite alleles model, Stepwise mutation model.

### INTRODUCTION

The horse is a great mammal benefit for its speed, endurance, and strength. Horses are members of the Equidae family, the horses' role in human history and culture make it one of the most momentous domestic animals (Budiansky, 2004). The horse has played an important role in the history of Iran for many centuries (Fotovati, 2000), but with the advancement of technology, its role has been reduced and, as a result, its number is gradually declining. The history of horse breeding in Iran is very long due to its agricultural, cultural, and historical importance. Horse breeds in Iran mainly

include Caspian, Turkmen, Dareshuri, Persian Arabian, and Kurdish (Fotovati, 2000). Because some of these breeds are considered endangered, it is important to know about their genetic structure. The latest official statistics on the number of Iranian horse population in the country, published in (FAO, 2021), shows about 131000, of which the Kurdish horse is about 1500 (<https://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=FAO&f=item%3A1096>). The Persian Kurdish Horse, with its unique characteristics such as great sagacity and high strength in mountainous areas, and its inherent talent in playing Dressage and Polo amongst all the other Iranian horse breeds, is one of the most precious and main pure genetic reserves in

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Iran. The main habitat of the Persian Kurdish horse is commonly Kermanshah and Kurdistan province. However, the distribution of this horse population has developed to the Iranian provinces of Azerbaijan, Kerman, Hamadan, Isfahan, and Elam, as well as parts of Turkey and Iraq. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2022) reported that many horse populations all over the world are at risk of extinction. Among mammalian species, sheep, cattle and horses have the largest numbers of breeds at risk. However, rabbits (61%), horses (33%) and sheep (30%) are the species with the largest proportions of breeds at risk. Cattle are the species with the largest number of breeds (159) reported as extinct. Large numbers of extinct breeds of sheep (107), horses (101), and pigs (70) are also reported (FAO, 2022).

Therefore, it is important to know the genetic diversity of these populations to design conservation programs. Genetic diversity studies in livestock focus on assessing genetic variation within and between breeds. To better manage livestock resources, it is necessary to know the genetic structure of livestock populations such as population size and genetic variation within and between populations. The genetic variation in populations can be calculated using genetic and molecular information. In the case of lacking or incomplete pedigree data, it would be better to use molecular markers to characterize a population structure. (Delgado *et al.*, 2014). Microsatellites are mainly used to determine the genetic variation within and between different populations of the horse (Aberle and Distl, 2004; Sargious *et al.*, 2021a, b, c; Štohlková Putnová and Štohl, 2021; Cozzi *et al.*, 2022). Microsatellites were identified for the first time in Swedish horse breed by Ellegren *et al.* (1992) and Marklund *et al.* (1994). Microsatellite markers are one of the most efficient types of molecular markers because of their high polymorphism, wide genome coverage, co-dominant inheritance, and good reproducibility. Microsatellite markers have been widely used to identify the genetic structure of Iranian horses. (Seyedabadi *et al.*, 2017; Amirinia *et al.*, 2007; Rahimi-Mianji *et al.*, 2015; Moridi *et al.*, 2013). However, little information is

available for the genetic structure of the Kurdish horse using microsatellites markers in Iran (Khamisabadi, *et al.*, 2020). This study aimed to determine historical population bottlenecks, genetic diversity, and describe the setup of polymorphic microsatellites for the paternity testing of the Kurdish horse.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Sample Collection and DNA Isolation

First, 761 hair samples of Kurdish horses were collected from different regions of Iran. Samples were collected from male and female and all horses registered in the Studbook. Total DNA was extracted from the hair follicles by the methods described by QuickGene DNA tissue kits (FUJIFILM, Japan) and the concentration and purity of the extracted genomic DNAs were determined using a NanoDrop spectrophotometer at optical density of 260 and 280 nm.

### Microsatellite Amplification

Samples were genotyped for genetic diversity studies and paternity tests using a set of 17 microsatellites recommended by the International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG) (Table 1). Microsatellites were amplified using fluorescently labeled primers and following the PCR conditions given by Dimsoski (2003). Thermal cycling included initial denaturation at 94°C for 5 minutes, 30 cycles of 95°C for 30 seconds, 60°C for 30 seconds, 72°C for 1 minute and final extension at 72°C for 10 minutes. The PCR products were separated on the 3130×1 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems). Allele sizes were determined with the software package GeneScan 3.7 using a LIZ 500 bp internal size standard (Applied Biosystems).

**Table 1.** Microsatellite names and primer information.

Locus	Localization on chromosome	Repeat motif	Size range (bp)	Fluorescent dye	Reference
AHT4	24q14	(AC)nAT(AC)n	144–164	6-FAM	Binns <i>et al.</i> (1995)
AHT5	8	(GT)n	126–144	VIC	Binns <i>et al.</i> (1995)
ASB2	15q21.3-q23	(GT)n	216–250	VIC	Binns <i>et al.</i> (1995)
ASB17	2p14-p15	(AC)n	87–129	PET	Binns <i>et al.</i> (1995)
ASB23	3q22.1-q22.3	(TG)n and (TG)n TT(TG)4	175–211	VIC	Irvin <i>et al.</i> (1998)
CA425	28q18	(GT)n	226–246	PET	Eggleston <i>et al.</i> (1997)
HMS1	15	(TG)n	170–186	PET	Guerin <i>et al.</i> (1994)
HMS2	10	(CA)n(TC)2	222–248	NED	Guerin <i>et al.</i> (1994)
HMS3	9	(TG)2(CA)2TC(CA)n and (TG)2(CA)2TC(CA)nGA(CA)5	148–170	NED	Guerin <i>et al.</i> (1994)
HMS6	4	(GT)n	151–169	VIC	Guerin <i>et al.</i> (1994)
HMS7	1q25	(AC)2(CA)n	165–185	6-FAM	Guerin <i>et al.</i> (1994)
HTG4	9	(TG)nAT(AG)5AAG(GA)5, ACAG(AGGG)3	127–139	6-FAM	Ellegren <i>et al.</i> (1992)
HTG6	15q26-q27	(TG)n	84–102	VIC	Ellegren <i>et al.</i> (1992)
HTG7	4	(GT)n	118–128	NED	Marklund <i>et al.</i> (1994)
HTG10	21	(TG)n and TATC(TG)n	95–115	NED	Marklund <i>et al.</i> (1994)
LEX3	Xq	(TG)n	142–164	PET	Coogle <i>et al.</i> (1996)
VHL20	30	(TG)n	87–105	6-FAM	Van Haeringen <i>et al.</i> (1994)

### Statistical Analysis

The percentage of observed heterozygosity was calculated for the population. Average expected theoretical heterozygosity from Hardy-Weinberg assumptions was calculated using Equation (1) (Hedrick, 1999):

$$H_e = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i^2 \quad (1)$$

Where,  $p_i$  is the  $i$ th allele frequency. Polymorphic Information Content (PIC) was calculated using Equation (2) (Botstein *et al.*, 1980):

$$PIC = 1 - \left( \sum_{i=1}^k p_i^2 \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^k 2p_i^2 p_j^2 \quad (2)$$

Where,  $p_i$  and  $p_j$  are frequencies of corresponding alleles. Effective number of alleles ( $n_e$ ) was calculated using Equation (3) (Hedrick, 1999):

$$n_e = 1 / \sum_{i=1}^n p_i^2 \quad (3)$$

This parameter ( $n_e$ ) gives an indication of the relative influence of the alleles. Standard diversity including the Number of alleles ( $N_a$ ), effective Number of alleles ( $N_e$ ), observed ( $H_o$ ), and expected ( $H_e$ ) Heterozygosity, Polymorphic Information Content (PIC), Probability of Exclusion (PE), and Combined Probabilities of Exclusion (CPE) were calculated using Cervus 3.0 (Kalinowski *et al.*, 2007). Testing of the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium and Wright's Fixation Indices (FIS) were calculated using GenAlEx software version 6.5 (Peakall and Smouse, 2006).

To accomplish the goal of finding evidence of fluctuations in Kurdish horse population sizes, Bottleneck V1.2.02 Software (<http://www.ensam.inra.fr/URLB>) was used to detect deviations from mutation drift equilibrium. This method developed by Cornuet and Luikart (1996) consisted of three excess heterozygosity tests: Sign test, standardized differences test, and Wilcoxon



sign-rank test. The probability distribution was established using 1000 simulations under the three models: Infinite Allele Model (IAM), Two-Phase Model of Mutation (TPM), and Stepwise Mutation Model (SMM).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 183 alleles were detected across the 17 loci analyzed. Statistical results of 17 microsatellites loci for Kurdish horse are reported in Table 2. The basic diversity indices (Bottleneck analysis) like observed number of alleles ( $H_o$ ), expected Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) Heterozygosity ( $H_e$ ), and the expected mutation drift equilibrium heterozygosity ( $H_{eq}$ ) under different mutation models are presented in Table 3.

The number of alleles per marker varied from 7 for HTG7 and HMS6 to 17 for ASB17 (Figure 1) and the across loci  $H_o$  value ranged from 0.491 for HTG7 to 0.838 for VHL20 while the  $H_e$  value varied from 0.523 for HTG7 to 0.839 for VHL20 (Table

2). The mean of heterozygosity values for the whole dataset were 0.721 for  $H_o$  and 0.752 for  $H_e$ . The average number of alleles per locus was  $10.76 \pm 0.673$  for the Kurdish horse population. How informative a locus is depends upon the  $N_a$  exhibited by the locus and the frequency distribution of these alleles in the population (Ozkan *et al.*, 2009). The mean  $N_a$  in the present study was higher than that seen in other Iranian horse breed (Seyedabadi *et al.*, 2017; Amirinia *et al.*, 2007; Rahimi-Mianji *et al.*, 2015). All marker loci used in this study were informative, since the average PIC value was calculated at 0.782. The lowest PIC value was for HMS6 (0.708), while the highest value was for ASB17 (0.856).

Microsatellite markers showing PIC values higher than 0.5 are generally considered as informative in horse population. Based on the classification of Botstein *et al.* (1980),  $PIC > 0.5$  is highly informative,  $0.25 < PIC < 0.5$  is middle informative and  $PIC < 0.25$  is slightly

**Table 2.** Statistical results of microsatellites loci for Kurdish horse.<sup>a</sup>

Loci	$N_a$	$N_e$	I	$H_o$	$H_e$	PIC	$F_{IS}$	PE	HWE
VHL20	11.000	6.227	1.969	0.838	0.839	0.814	0.001	0.852	ns
HTG4	10.000	3.109	1.437	0.664	0.678	0.808	0.022	0.657	***
AHT4	10.000	4.588	1.717	0.787	0.782	0.802	-0.006	0.763	ns
HMS7	8.000	4.509	1.662	0.782	0.778	0.775	-0.005	0.764	ns
ASB2	12.000	4.900	1.820	0.806	0.796	0.824	-0.012	0.796	***
ASB17	17.000	6.145	2.102	0.837	0.837	0.856	0.000	0.859	***
AHT5	11.000	3.905	1.568	0.716	0.744	0.817	0.037	0.710	***
HMS6	7.000	4.286	1.577	0.768	0.767	0.708	-0.002	0.735	ns
ASB23	15.000	5.462	1.868	0.823	0.817	0.831	-0.007	0.816	***
HTG10	12.000	4.746	1.790	0.779	0.789	0.725	0.013	0.778	ns
HMS3	11.000	4.705	1.729	0.787	0.787	0.818	0.000	0.777	ns
HTG6	8.000	3.107	1.262	0.554	0.678	0.724	0.183	0.576	***
HTG7	7.000	2.095	0.986	0.491	0.523	0.818	0.061	0.445	***
HMS2	11.000	5.087	1.848	0.766	0.803	0.724	0.047	0.810	***
CA425	11.000	2.850	1.392	0.673	0.649	0.801	-0.037	0.635	**
HMS1	8.000	2.956	1.322	0.654	0.662	0.729	0.011	0.584	**
Mean (Sd)	10.562 (0.459)	4.292(0. 257)	1.628(0. 059)	0.732 (0.082)	0.745 (0.21)	0.785 (0.46)	0.019	0.9998	-

<sup>a</sup>  $N_a$ : Observed Number of alleles,  $N_e$ : Effective Number of alleles, I: Information Index,  $H_o$ : Observed Heterozygosity,  $H_e$ : Expected Heterozygosity, PIC: Polymorphic Information Content,  $F_{IS}$ : Fixation Index, PE: Exclusion Probabilities, and HWE: Hardy Weinberg Equilibrium.

Table 3. Bottleneck analysis under three microsatellite evaluation models in Kurdish horse.

Locus	ko	He	IAM				TPM				SMM			
			H <sub>eq</sub>	SD	DH/sd	Prob	H <sub>eq</sub>	SD	DH/SD	Prob	H <sub>eq</sub>	SD	DH/SD	Prob
VHL20	11	0.839	0.644	0.141	1.384	0.008	0.76	0.069	1.147	0.073	0.84	0.035	-0.041	0.415
HTG4	10	0.678	0.609	0.152	0.455	0.402	0.739	0.079	-0.777	0.178	0.825	0.037	-4.025	0.006
AHT4	10	0.782	0.624	0.145	1.095	0.093	0.735	0.078	0.605	0.315	0.824	0.037	-1.135	0.123
HMS7	8	0.778	0.539	0.164	1.451	0.019	0.667	0.11	1.017	0.114	0.779	0.049	-0.015	0.405
ASB2	12	0.796	0.668	0.131	0.98	0.114	0.778	0.062	0.295	0.463	0.854	0.029	-1.975	0.046
ASB17	17	0.837	0.751	0.097	0.89	0.162	0.849	0.04	-0.294	0.315	0.899	0.027	-2.252	0.01
AHT5	11	0.744	0.652	0.131	0.704	0.284	0.759	0.07	-0.211	0.345	0.841	0.035	-2.799	0.02
HMS6	7	0.767	0.509	0.174	1.484	0.02	0.632	0.12	1.119	0.07	0.743	0.062	0.386	0.43
ASB23	15	0.817	0.722	0.116	0.816	0.185	0.826	0.048	-0.19	0.351	0.885	0.021	-3.28	0.008
HTG10	12	0.789	0.67	0.12	0.992	0.125	0.782	0.06	0.123	0.488	0.855	0.029	-2.287	0.033
HMS3	11	0.787	0.647	0.131	1.069	0.102	0.759	0.07	0.403	0.407	0.84	0.034	-1.569	0.078
HTG6	8	0.678	0.547	0.168	0.781	0.231	0.668	0.108	0.094	0.445	0.775	0.052	-1.853	0.059
HTG7	7	0.523	0.516	0.174	0.042	0.428	0.64	0.109	-1.077	0.119	0.744	0.062	-3.58	0.01
HMS2	11	0.803	0.642	0.141	1.142	0.065	0.759	0.072	0.601	0.321	0.838	0.035	-0.99	0.144
CA425	11	0.649	0.652	0.134	-0.021	0.398	0.759	0.077	-1.43	0.089	0.84	0.034	-5.582	0.003
HMS1	8	0.662	0.549	0.165	0.689	0.285	0.678	0.096	-0.168	0.351	0.777	0.051	-2.258	0.039

Ko: Observed alleles, He: Expected HWE Heterozygosity, H<sub>eq</sub>: Expected mutation drift equilibrium Heterozygosity, IAM: Infinite Allele Model, TPM: Two-Phase Model of Mutation, SMM: Stepwise Mutation Model, SD: Standard Deviation, DH: (Hobs-Hexp).

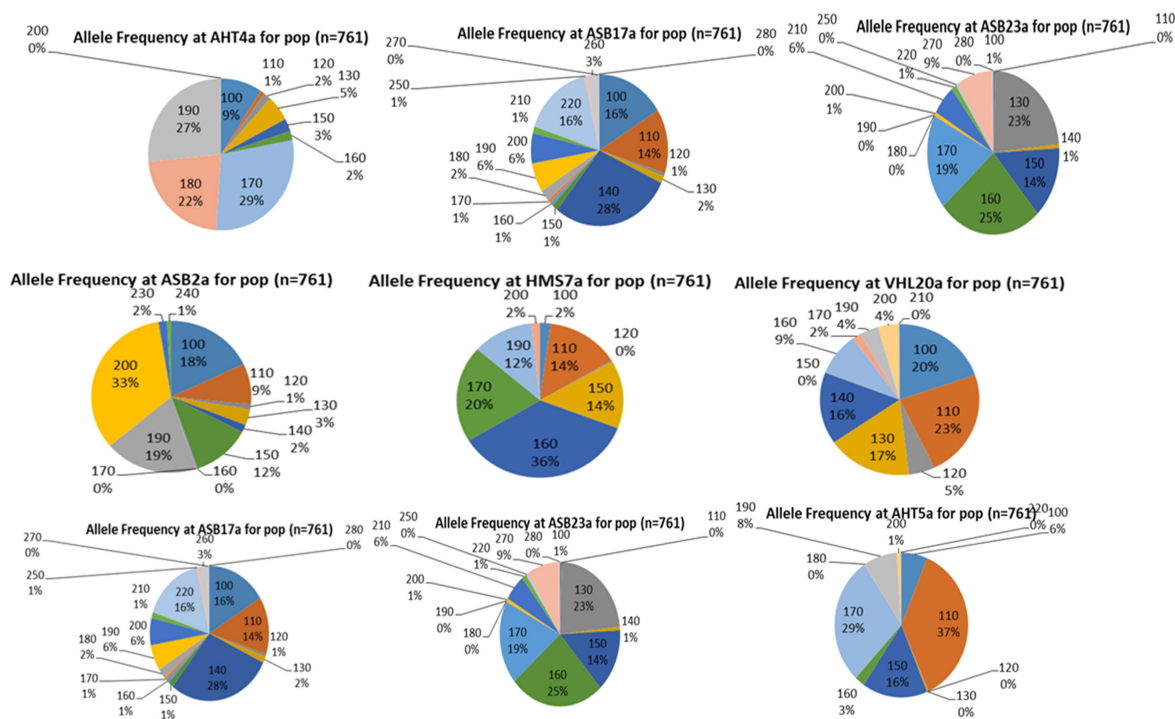


Figure 1. Alleles and allele's frequencies for the some microsatellite markers in Kurdish horse population.



informative (Botstein *et al.*, 1980). The value of PIC similar to heterozygosity depends on the frequency of the allele. For genetic variation studies, researchers recommend using microsatellite markers with PIC values  $> 0.5$ , and values below this level are insufficient for parentage verification (Dierks *et al.*, 2007).

The individual PE ranged from 58% at the HMS1 locus to 86% at ASB17 for the registered group of Kurdish breed. Statistically significant deviations from the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium were found in more than two-thirds of the microsatellite loci. There were many causes of disequilibrium such as small population, selection at or near the genomic locus, non-random mating, genetic drift and inbreeding. (Seyedabadi *et al.*, 2017; Mahrous *et al.*, 2011; Khanshour *et al.*, 2013).

Other studies reported a high level of gene diversity ( $H_e$ ) in Turkmen horse (0.73) and Caspian horse (0.74) in Iranian horse breeds using a set of 17 microsatellites (Seyedabadi *et al.*, 2017a,b).

The inbreeding coefficient ( $F_{IS}$ ) is a measure of relative heterozygote deficit and non-random mating in the population. Its value ranges between -1 (all individuals heterozygote), 0 (random association of alleles) and 1 (all individuals homozygote). If inbreeding is avoided,  $F = 0$ ; negative  $F$  indices are usually from selection in favor of the heterozygotes, whereas positive values indicate that the considered population has an inbreeding system of mating (Liu *et al.*, 2008).

In this study, the rate of  $F_{IS}$  (0.04) indicates a low level of inbreeding in Kurdish horse population, nevertheless, inbreeding index for locus HTG6 (0.183) was high in this population (Table 2).

The heterozygote deficiency ( $F_{IS} > 0$ ) might be attributed to several factors, namely, sample relatedness, linkage with loci under selection, population heterogeneity, null alleles and inbreeding (Shahsavarani and Rahimi-Mianji, 2010).

When a breeder conducts a selective breeding program, his primary objective is

to improve the population, not conserve gene and genotypic frequencies. Inbreeding and genetic drift are inevitable during a selective breeding program, because each act of selection creates a bottleneck event that accelerates the accumulation of inbreeding and magnifies genetic drift (Emrani *et al.*, 2011). However if the program is well defined, the variability will be preserved.

Bottlenecks influence the distribution of genetic variation within and among populations, thus the genetic effects of reductions in population size requires evaluation. To characterize it, sign, standardized differences and Wilcoxon sign rank tests were utilized. The values of average Heterozygosity ( $H_e$ ) and their probabilities ( $H > H_e$ ) in the sign test were calculated under three models of microsatellite evolution (IAM, SMM and TPM) and used to measure the expected number of loci with heterozygosity excess (Table 4). If the probability values for each model were less than 0.05, then, null hypothesis was rejected, indicating that the bottleneck event occurred in this model. Under null hypothesis in the sign test, the expected number of loci with heterozygosity excess in Kurdish horse was 10.17 and 9.96 for IAM and SMM, respectively (Table 4). The probability values were 0.00016 and 0.00009, respectively, which thus rejects the null hypothesis. These results indicate that, due to mutation-drift equilibrium, Kurdish horse has undergone a recent genetic bottleneck.

However, the expected number of loci with heterozygosity excess was 9.96 in TPM with probabilities 0.59448, meaning that the null hypothesis was accepted when using the Sign test.

The standardized difference test provided the  $T_2$  (probability) statistics equal to 3.736 (0.00009), 0.554 (0.28964) and - 8.290 (0.00000) for the IAM, TPM and SMM models, respectively. The probability values were less than 0.05 for IAM and SMM, thus rejecting the null hypothesis of mutation-drift equilibrium under IAM and SMM.

**Table 4.** Test for null hypothesis under three microsatellite evolution models.

Test/Model	IAM	TPM	SMM
Sign test: number of loci with heterozygosity excess: Expected value (Probability)	10.17 (0.00016)* 1 loci with heterozygosity deficiency and 16 loci with heterozygosity excess.	9.96 (0.59448) 7 loci with heterozygosity deficiency and 10 loci with heterozygosity excess.	9.96 (0.00009)* 16 loci with heterozygosity deficiency and 1 loci with heterozygosity excess
Standard differences test: Ti values (Probability)	3.736 (0.00009)*	0.554(0.28964)	- 8.290 (0.00000)*
Wilcoxon rank test (Probability of heterozygosity excess)	0.00000*	0.22929	0.99997

\* Rejection of null hypothesis/bottleneck.

These results indicate that Kurdish horse has undergone a recent genetic bottleneck.

Using the Wilcoxon rank test (a non-parametric test), the probability values were 0.00000 (IAM), 0.22929 (TPM) and 0.99997 (SMM) under these three models, indicating that the null hypothesis is rejected under IAM and the population under study has undergone a recent bottleneck.

In Miyako horses, the probability values for bottleneck models (Infinite allele model: 0.00000; Stepwise mutation model: 0.00026; and Two-phase model: 0.00000) suggested that Miyako horses have experienced a recent genetic bottleneck (Natsuko *et al.*, 2017)

Populations exhibiting a significant heterozygosity excess would be considered to have experienced a recent genetic bottleneck. The sign test, standardized differences test, and Wilcoxon test all showed a significant heterozygosity excess under the IAM ( $P < 0.05$ ). Also, the sign test and standardized differences test showed a significant heterozygosity excess under SMM. These results indicate that, due to mutation-drift equilibrium, Kurdish horse has undergone a recent genetic bottleneck. These recent bottleneck in the Kurdish horse population may be due to diminished population size and/or use of a limited number of stallion in the horse breeding farms.

Combined Probability of Exclusion (CPE) value for parentage testing in a horse should be higher than 0.9995 (Tozaki *et al.*, 2001; Seyedabadi *et al.*, 2017a), that, in this study, the CPE using 17 microsatellite markers was higher than this amount. Other studies

reported similar values of CPE in the Iranian horse (Seyedabadi *et al.*, 2017a; Seyedabadi *et al.*, 2017b; Amirinia *et al.*, 2007).

Seyedabadi *et al* (2017) also reported a total Probability of Exclusion (PE) of 0.999 for 17 microsatellite loci used in Caspian horse parentage test. These results shows that our selected microsatellites have greater power of exclusion. The efficiency of paternity testing depends on the number of loci and the level of the informativeness that microsatellite markers provide. The level of informativeness of a microsatellite marker is specified by its values of heterozygosity, PIC, PE and genetic variation, and these values depend on the number and frequency of alleles in the population (Seyedabadi *et al.*, 2017).

However, high levels of Polymorphism Information Content (PIC), heterozygosis, and a low level of inbreeding in Kurdish horse population indicate high genetic variability in this breed that can be used to design breeding programs by horse breeders.

## CONCLUSIONS

This paper highlights the genetic structure of the Kurdish horse breed. As these data show, microsatellites are a useful tool for studying the population genetic structure among Iranian horse breeds. Our survey showed imperfection in the individual identification system and the ability of



genetic markers to resolve this defect. Also, these genetic markers would be of great importance for designing conservation program for Kurdish horse breed.

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## مطالعه تنوع و تنگنای ژنتیکی اسب کرد به کمک ۱۷ جایگاه ریزماهوره

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### چکیده

اسب کرد یکی از ارزشمندترین و اصیل ترین ذخایر ژنتیکی ایران است. بر اساس شواهد تاریخی، قدمت این نژاد به بیش از ۲۵۰۰ سال پیش باز می گردد در این جمعیت، تنوع ژنتیکی با استفاده از ۱۷ نشانگر ریزماهوره توصیه شده توسط انجمن بین المللی ژنتیک حیوانات (ISAG) در مورد تجزیه و تحلیل قرار گرفته است. DNA ژنومی از ریشه موی ۷۶۱ راس اسب کرد استخراج شد. قطعات DNA با واکنش Multiplex PCR با استفاده از پرایمرهای نشاندار شده با فلورسنت تکثیر و با الکتروفورز مویرگی تعیین ژنوتیپ شدند. میانگین تعداد آلل در هر جایگاه ۴/۲۹ بود (از شش آلل در HTG7 تا ۱۷ آلل در ASB17). میانگین هتروزیگوسیتی مشاهده شده ۰/۷۲۱ با محدوده ۰/۴۹۱ (HTG7) تا ۰/۸۳۸ (VHL20) بود در حالی که هتروزیگوسیتی مورد انتظار از ۰/۵۲۳ (HTG7) تا ۰/۸۳۹ (VHL20) با میانگین ۰/۷۵۲ بود. مقدار PIC از ۰/۷۰۸ (HMS6) تا ۰/۸۵۶ (ASB17) و با میانگین ۰/۷۸۲ بود. ضریب همخوانی از ۰/۰۱۲ (ASB2) تا ۰/۱۸۳ (HTG6) با میانگین ۰/۰۴۰ متغیر بود. انحراف از تعادل هاردی واینبرگ ( $p < 0.05$ ) در ۱۱ جایگاه مشاهده شد. قدرت تشخیص ۱۷ (PE) جایگاه ریزماهوره ۰/۹۹۹ بود. اسب کرد برای دو مدل ارزیابی ریزماهوره درآزمون معنی داری و تفاوت استاندارد در مدل آلل نامحدود (IAM) و جهش مرحله ای (SMM)، تنگنای ژنتیکی نشان داد. بر اساس این مطالعه، کارایی هفده نشانگر ریزماهوره ای برای تایید والدین و اصالت اسب کرد مورد تایید می باشد. این نتایج ممکن است برنامه های حفاظتی را برای نژادهای مورد مطالعه تسهیل و تنوع ژنتیکی آنها را حفظ کند.