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Twelve thousand Asian men

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The 'Out-of-Africa' hypothesis posits that modern humans derive from an African originator population, that spread outward replacing local populations approximately 100,000 years ago. In the May 11 *Science*, Ke *et al.* report the use of Y chromosome polymorphism analysis to test the origins of modern Asian man (*Science* 2001, **292**:1151-1153). They looked at 12,127 men from 163 different populations across Southeast and Central Asia and typed three Y chromosome biallelic markers (YAP, M89 and M130). All of the samples carried at least one of the three African polymorphisms (YAP+, M89T or M130T). The absence of any ancient non-African Y chromosomes supports the hypothesis that Africans completely replaced earlier East Asian populations.

References

1. African populations and the evolution of human mitochondrial DNA.
2. *Science*, [<http://www.sciencemag.org>]
3. A recent common ancestry for human Y chromosomes.