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Sickle cell trait, Haemoglobin variants, G-6PD deficiency and colour blindness amongst the Santals of Hoogly, W. Bengal.

Sickle cell trait, haemoglobin variants, G-6PD enzyme deficiency, and colour blindness (red-green) are useful population markers. This note reports the incidence of these markers amongst the Santal tribe of Hoogly district (Pandua P. S.).

Blood samples from 164 male persons, above 13 years of age, were collected and tested for sickling of red cells (by metabisulphite method), G-6PD deficiency[1], haemoglobin variants (by paper and starch gel electrophoresis) and red-green colour blindness (by Ishihra charts, 1968). Incidence of sickle cell trait is absent. No haemoglobin variant is detected and all are normal AA type. 23 cases are G-6PD deficient (14.03%), 6 cases of protan type and 2 deutan type red-green colour blindness (total 4.88%) have been encountered.

In an earlier study Chowdhury *et al*,[2] reported 1.19% sickle cell trait and haemoglobin A+S amongst the Santals of Midnapore district. No early report on G-6PD test amongst the Santals is available.

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B. N. MUKHERJEE
S. K. DAS
K. C. MALHOTRA
S. L. KATE

Anthropometry & Human Genetics Unit,
Indian Statistical Institute,
Calcutta 700035, and
B. J. Medical College, Poona.
India.

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