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STR VARIATION IN THE IMMIGRANT BASQUE POPULATION OF SOUTHWEST IDAHO

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We have characterized thirty-eight unrelated Basque individuals with maternal Basque ancestry, for the CODIS 13 core short tandem repeat (STR) loci: CSF1PO, D3S1358, D5S818, D7S820, D8S1179, D13S317, D16S539, D18S51, FGA, HUMTH01, TPOX, and vWA. Genetic analyses between and within populations were performed using all 13 loci for three native Basque country populations, four other Iberian populations, and two North African populations. An additional eighteen European and North African populations were used for analysis with nine loci. Neighbor-joining trees indicated that Basques of Idaho cluster with other European Basque populations, and are, like Viscayan Basques, an outlier, relative to other Iberian populations. This study represents the first microsatellite analysis of an American population of Basque ancestry, and furthers our understanding of the genetics of human migrations.