

## Some Problems in the Somatology of Hungarian People

by T. TÓTH, Budapest

**Abstract**—Somatological data taken from different ethnogeographical groups of Hungarian people were evaluated in the aspects of ethno-genesis. With 1 table and 2 figures.

### Material and method

In discussing the problem we have to mention that somatological investigations had been carried out in our country before 1969, too: in the eastern territory of Transdanubia (LIPP 1938), in Eastern Hungary (NEMESKÉRI 1938, MALÁN & KACSUR 1960), in Northern Hungary (NEMESKÉRI 1953), in the southern part of Tiszántúl (territory east to the River Tisza) (FARKAS & LIPTÁK 1965, 1970), along the River Danube (KELEMEN 1968). Besides these authors it was LAJOS BARTUCZ who was dealing recurrently with general anthropological problems of Hungarian people (1939a–b, 1943). The generally accepted requirement for ethnic-anthropological studies is the sampling of data during the same season from different groups containing a great number of individuals and living very far from each other. Extensive morphoscopical comparisons, i.e. increasing the ethnogenetical informations can be performed only in this way. Author of this paper accepting all of the above mentioned requirement sampled a lot of data from nine different ethnogeographical groups of Hungarian people in the years 1969–1970 and then from November 1970 till March 1971 in the territories of Őrség, Göcsej, Nagykúnság, Jászság, South- and Northeast Palócság, Taktaköz, Szamos-mellék and in the northwestern part of Transdanubia (Rábaköz). Somatological, dermatoglyphical, odontological and daltonistic data were taken from more than 3000 adult individuals (men, aged 20–60 years) of about 30 villages. The villages are as follows: Óriszentpéter, Szalafő, Bajánsenye, Csonkahegyhát, Kustánszeg, Becsvölgye, Milejszeg, Petrikeresztúr, Karcag, Kunmadaras, Kunhegyes, Jászapáti, Jászárokszállás, Jászfényszaru, Taktaharkány, Taktakenéz, Taktabáj, Gacsály, Rozsály, Matolcs, Aszaló, Szikszó, Szendrő, Boldva, Gyöngyöstarján, Himód, Kisfalud, Mezőkövesd. From the results of his investigations author deals in this paper only with the intercontinental relationships, in other words with the proportion of the Mongoloid component, in addition he is trying to give a short analysis of some data about the heterogeneity of the inhabitants living in above enumerated localities. In the applied combinational polygons one can find on the first value-radius the index-values of Mongoloidity expressing the main taxonomical position of the nine ethnogeographical groups. On the second value-radius the percentage of dark hair-colour is presented, on the third one the percentage of mixed eye-colour, on the fourth one the extension of beard (average point 1–5), on the fifth one the extension of chest hair (average point 1–5), on the sixth one the bizygomatic diameter (139–148 mm), on the seventh one the morphological facial height (125–134 mm), whereas on the eight value-radius we can see the values of cephalic index (77.0–86.0). It should be noted that the minimal values are located in the origins of the circles. For throwing a light upon the above mentioned problems author joins to this paper the combinational polygon constructed from the morphoscopical and morphometrical data of the Central-Danubian variant as well as of the southern Ossets and Kipchaks from Kazakhstan (Fig. 1.). The data of these two abroad groups had been sampled by author during his former study tours (TÓTH 1966). It should be also mentioned that the index-values shown on the first value-radius include the data of ten morphoscopic characters (extension of beard, extension of chest hair, frequency of epicanthus, development of proximal part of upper eyelid-plica, eye-slant, horizontal facial profile, prominence of cheekbones, nasal root height, upper lip profile, prominence of genial tubercle).

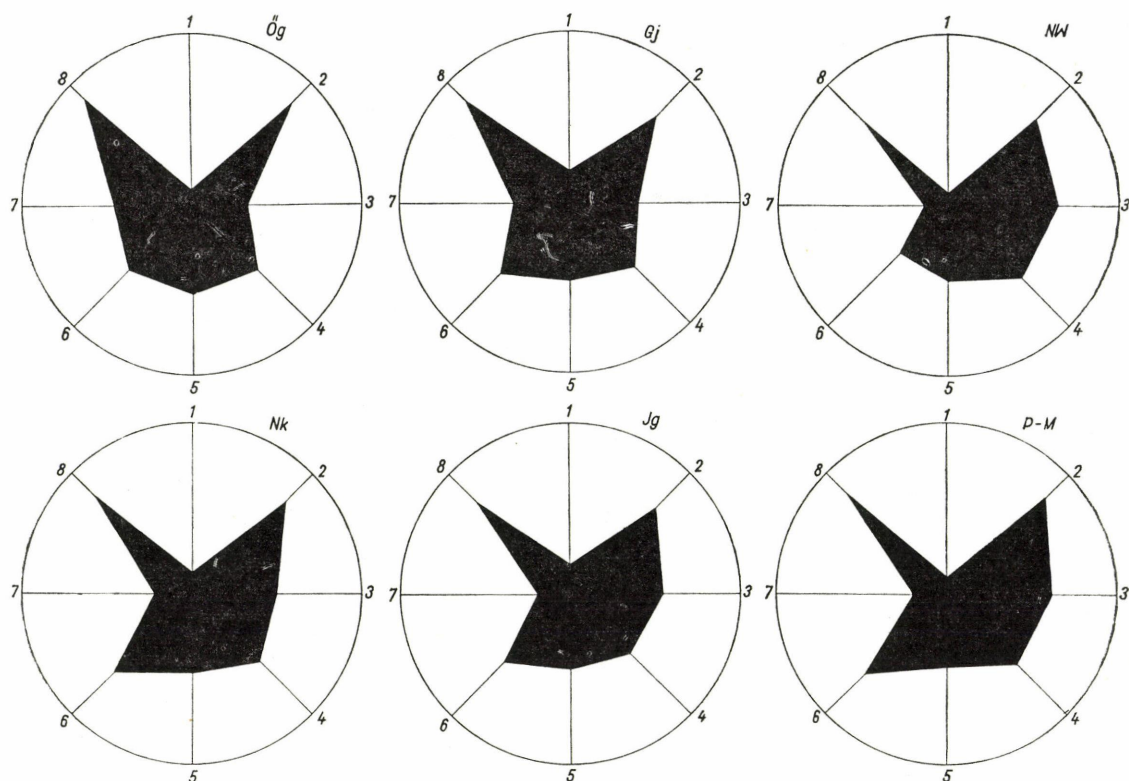


Fig. 1. Combinational polygons of some Hungarian and other groups. — Abbreviations: Ög = Őrség, Gj = Göcsej, NW = north-west (Rábaköz), Nk = Nagykunság, Jg = Jászság, P-M = southern Palóc and Matyó

### Interpretation of results

From the data relating to the subject of our studies (Table 1) it can be ascertained that the overwhelming majority of the individuals from the nine ethnogeographical groups as well as from the Central-Danubian variant are characterized by dark hair-colour. The high percentage of the mixed eye-colour with the exception of the inhabitants of territory Őrség is of the same significance. The manifestation of this pigment characters is very important for evaluating the heterogeneity of the investigated ethnogeographical groups. The growth of beard is generally of middle extension, that of the chest-hair in majority of the groups below the average. On the basis of the morphological facial height the investigated ethnogeographical groups of Hungarian people are characterized by a face of medium or somewhat beneath medium height. Relatively long face is characteristic for the north-western group (Rábaköz), but towards the Middle-Tisza Basin an increase of the facial breadth seems very impressive. According to correlation between the main cephalic diameters the investigated male populations are characterized by hyperbrachycephaly. It deserves attention the similarity between the data of facial breadth of the Europoid Ossets and the Kiptshaks from Kazakhstan having a high Mongoloid component. This is a convincing evidence for the unsuitability of the bizygomatic values to separate the main taxonomical components



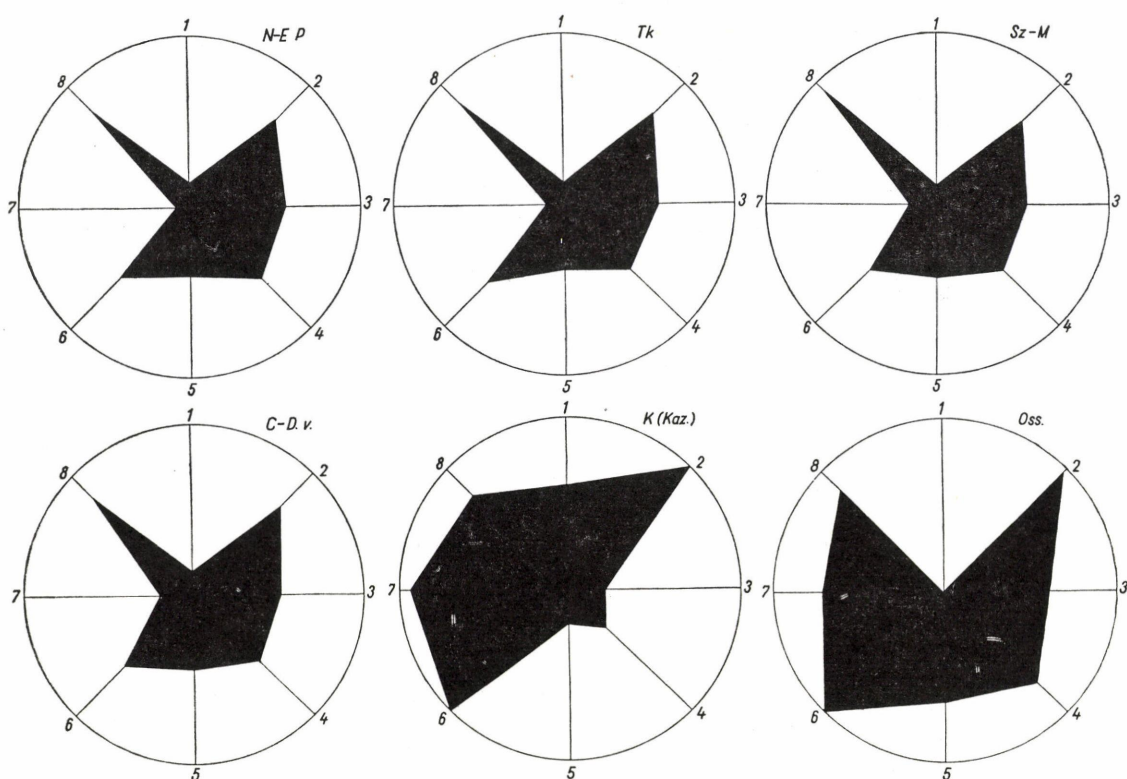


Fig. 2. Combinational polygons if some Hungarian and other groups. — Abbreviations: NE P = north-east Palóc, Tk = Taktaköz, Sz-M = Szamosmellék, C-D v. = Central Danubian variant, K (Kaz.) = Kiptshaks from Kazakhstan, Oss. = southern Ossets

(Europoid and Mongoloid ones) from each other. This can be illustrated by the applied combinational polygons, too (Fig. 1). In the same polygons finds the relatively closeness of the investigated groups of Hungarian people its convincing expression, too. The polygons show further evidently that the morphological components of the Central-Danubian variant are mainly connected with those of the groups living in Tisza Basin.

In earlier decades it was widely accepted by scientists that the frequency of Mongoloid components was very high especially in "Palóc" groups. Nevertheless the investigations discussed precedingly have given different informations about this problem. The morphoscopic characters summarized on the first value-radius of the combinational polygons used by us clearly demonstrate the complete lack of Mongoloid components in some ethno-geographical groups. It must be admitted that in some individual cases an epicanthus or a strong arch of cheekbones may be present. E.g. among the 388 individuals living in Kunság territory we have found only 2-3 persons with a well developed epicanthus. As it has been clearly shown by our comprehensive investigations in the forming of the dominant Europoid character-complex of the anthropological composition of the male populations the southern and northern subcontinental elements are nearly equal participated.

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Table 1. Averages and frequency of some principal anthropological characters

Characteristics		Index of Mongolo- idity (over 20)	% of dark hair colour	% of mixed eye colour	Extension of beard average point, 1-5	Extension of chest hair average point, 1-5	Bizygo- matic breadth (mm)	Morph. facial height (mm)	Cephalic index
Ethnic groups									
South-West, Őrség	(115)*	9.20	82	33	2.68	2.63	143.3	128.6	84.8
South-West, Göcsej	(634)	18.57	71	40	2.65	2.25	143.7	127.2	84.4
North-West, Rábaköz	(247)	7.14	71	64	2.98	2.19	141.9	125.3	82.9
Tisza-Basin, Kunság	(387)	12.27	77	49	2.76	2.28	144.4	126.2	84.0
Tisza-Basin, Jászság	(337)	17.45	71	54	2.41	2.18	143.5	125.8	83.6
South-Palócság (with Matyó)	(291)	9.94	79	61	2.84	2.10	144.6	125.9	84.2
North-East Palócság	(540)	13.88	71	56	2.94	2.00	143.7	124.7	83.8
North-Hungary, Taktaköz	(448)	12.18	74	55	2.71	1.90	144.3	125.0	84.3
North-East Hungary (Szamos-hát)	(311)	10.80	69	52	2.75	2.14	143.5	125.6	85.2
Central-danubian variant	(3310)	13.41	73	52	2.74	2.14	143.7	125.9	84.1
Kiptshak (Kazakhstan)	(106)	60.60	100	22	1.56	1.03	150.4	133.3	83.8
Southern Ossetians	(100)	-2.57	98	61	3.76	3.22	149.2	131.1	84.5

\* Case number

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Author's address: DR. TIBOR TÓTH

Anthropological Department  
Hungarian Natural History Museum  
H-1062 Budapest, Bajza utca 39  
Hungary

