

TOPIC: HARDY-WEINBERG EQUILIBRIUM

1. The table below shows the genotypic frequencies of A/A , A/a and a/a individuals in three human populations. “ A ” and “ a ” are two alleles of a gene coding for a protein involved in brain development (specifically, the trigeminal nerve).

People who are heterozygous or homozygous A/A have one or more symptoms related to ACHOO syndrome, a very common condition whereby a person has the urge to sneeze upon sudden exposure to bright light (you may have ACHOO too!).

| Population # | Frequency of A/A | Frequency of A/a | Frequency of a/a |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 0.33 | 0.34 | 0.33 |
| 2 | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 | 0.04 | 0.32 | 0.64 |

a) For each of the populations below, calculate the frequency of allele “ A ” and allele “ a ”.

b) Determine which of the populations is/are in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium, showing all your calculations.

- c) A dictatorial government with a constantly sneezing leader takes power in the country where Population 1 lives. Under the new regime, people who do not have ACHOO syndrome (that is, the a/a individuals) are considered non-human and are deported to an isolated tropical island, and no a/a individuals are allowed into the country.
- i) What will be the allele and genotypic frequencies in the remaining (non-deported) population?
 - ii) Will this population be in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium?
Show all your logic.
- d) After the departure of the a/a individuals, the remaining members of Population 1 are very concerned about potentially having a/a children. If they mate randomly with respect to A/A vs. A/a genotype, what proportion of the next generation will be homozygous recessive?
- e) Will the strategy of the dictatorial government eventually be able to ensure the loss of the a allele (and fixation of the A allele) in Population 1?
Explain and defend your answer in light of the mechanisms of evolution.

(If you are interested in ACHOO, check

<http://www.omim.org/entry/100820?search=ACHOO&highlight=achoo>)