

1 Genomic insights into the population history and biological adaptation of Southwestern Chinese 2 Hmong-Mien people

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25 Abstract

26 **Hmong-Mien-speaking (HM) populations, widely distributed in South China, North of Thailand, Laos
27 and Vietnam, have experienced different settlement environments, dietary habits and pathogen exposure.
28 However, their specific biological adaptation also remained largely uncharacterized, which is important
29 in the population evolutionary genetics and Trans-Omics for regional Precision Medicine. Besides, the
30 origin and genetic diversity of HM people and their phylogenetic relationship with surrounding modern
31 and ancient populations are unknown. Here, we reported genome-wide SNPs in 52 representative Miao
32 people and combined them with 144 HM people from 13 geographically representative populations to
33 characterize the full genetic admixture and adaptive landscape of HM speakers. We found that obvious
34 genetic substructures existed in geographically different HM populations and also identified one new
35 ancestral lineage specifically existed in HM people, which spatially distributed from Sichuan and Guizhou
36 in the North to Thailand in the South and temporally dated to at least 500 years. The sharing patterns of
37 the newly-identified homogeneous ancestry component combined the estimated admixture times via the
38 decay of Linkage Disequilibrium and haplotype sharing in GLOBETROTTER suggested that the modern
39 HM-speaking populations originated from Southwest China and migrated southward recently, which is
40 consistent with the reconstructed phenomena of linguistic and archeological documents. Additionally, we
41 identified specific adaptive signatures associated with several important human nervous system
42 biological functions. Our pilot work emphasized the importance of anthropologically-informed sampling
43 and deeply genetic structure reconstruction via whole-genome sequencing in the next step in the deep
44 Chinese population genomic diversity project (CPGDP), especially in the ethnolinguistic regions.**

45
46 **Keywords:** Chinese population genetic diversity project (CPGDP), biological adaptation, genome-wide
47 SNPs, genetic admixture model, HM people

48 Introduction

49 Yungui Plateau and surrounding regions are the most ethnolinguistically diverse regions of China with a
50 population size of approximately 205 million (2020 census), home to many ethnic groups, including the
51 major population of Han Chinese and minorities of HM (HM), Tai-Kadai (TK), and TB (TB). This region
52 is a mountainous and rugged area, consisting of Sichuan, Chongqing, Guizhou, Yunnan and most parts
53 of Tibet Autonomous Region, which is characterized by the Sichuan Basin in the northeast, the karstic
54 Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau in the east, and the Hengduan Mountains in the west and the majority of the
55 region is drained by the Yangtze River. Historical records documented that portions of Southwest China
56 were incorporated as unequivocal parts of greater China since at least the end of the third century BCE
57 (Herman, 2018), and this region was largely dominated and incorporated into the Chinese domain by the
58 time of the Ming dynasty (Harper, 2007). It has been suggested that the Nanman tribes were ancient
59 indigenous people who inhabited in inland South and Southwest China. The Nanman referred to various
60 ethnic groups and were probably the ancestors of some present-day HM, TK, and non-Sinitic Sino-
61 Tibetan (ST) groups living in Southwest China. Generally, Southwest China exhibits a unique panorama
62 of geographic, cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and genetic diversity. However, the complete picture of genetic
63 diversity of ethnolinguistically diverse populations in this region remained uncharacterized.
64

66
67 During the past decade, paleogenomic studies have transformed our knowledge of the population history
68 of East Asians (Fu et al., 2013; Liu, Yichen et al., 2021; Mao et al., 2021; Ning et al., 2020; Ning et al.,
69 2019; Wang, C.C. et al., 2021; Wang, T. et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2020). A recent archaeological study of
70 early Holocene human cranium from Guizhou (Zhaoguo M1) supported that regionalization of
71 morphological variability patterns between Neolithic northern and southern East Asians could trace back
72 to at least 10,000 years ago (ya) (Zhang et al., 2021). However, our knowledge about the demographic
73 history of populations in Southwest China is limited due to the lack of ancient DNA data and sparse
74 sampling of modern people in genome-wide SNP or whole-genome studies (Bin et al., 2021; Chen et al.,
75 2021b; Liu, Y. et al., 2021a; Wang, M. et al., 2021b; Wang et al., 2020). A series of recent genome-wide
76 SNP studies demonstrated that southwestern Han Chinese showed a closer affinity with northern East
77 Asian sources relative to indigenous populations and were well fitted via the admixture of ancient millet
78 farmers from the Yellow River basin (YRB) and rice farmers from the Yangtze River basin (He et al.,
79 2020; Liu, Y. et al., 2021a; Wang, M. et al., 2021a; Wang, M. et al., 2021b; Wang et al., 2020). Genetic
80 findings focused on the culturally unique Hui people in this region also have proved that cultural diffusion
81 has played an important role in the formation of the Hui people and southwestern Huis could be modeled
82 as a mixture of major East Asian ancestry and minor western Eurasian ancestry (Liu, Y. et al., 2021a;
83 Wang et al., 2020). He et al. further obtained genomic information from 131 TB-speaking Tujia
84 individuals from Southwest/South-Central China and found the strong genetic assimilation between Tujia
85 people and central Han Chinese, which provided evidence that massive population movements and
86 genetic admixture under language borrowing have facilitated the formation of the genetic structure of
87 Tujia people (He et al., 2020). The patterns of population structure of TK groups revealed the genetic
88 differentiation among TK people from Southwest China and showed that YRB millet farmers and
89 Yangtze River rice farmers contributed substantially to the gene pool of present-day inland TK
90 people (Bin et al., 2021; Wang, M. et al., 2021a). Chen et al. recently analyzed genome-wide SNP data of
91 26 Mongolic-speaking Mongolians and 55 Tungusic-speaking Manchus from Guizhou and found that
92 southwestern Mongolic/Tungusic groups had a stronger genetic affinity with southern East Asians than
93 with northern Altaic groups (Chen et al., 2021b). It is remarkable, however, that no specific genome-
94 wide studies have been published to shed new light on the population structure of HM groups from
95 Southwest China.
96

97 Currently, HM groups mainly dwell in South China (including South-Central, Southwest, and Southeast
98 China) (He et al., 2019; Huang et al., 2020; Xia et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2019) and Vietnam, Laos and
99 Thailand in mainland Southeast Asia (Kutanan et al., 2021; Liu et al., 2020). The history of the HM
100 language family is obscure, which has been passed down mainly through oral legends and myths, for few
101 written historical records exist. Hence, linguistic, genetic and paleogenomic studies are crucial for
102 reconstructing the demographic history of HM groups (Huang et al., 2020; Kutanan et al., 2021; Liu et
103 al., 2020; Wang, T. et al., 2021; Xia et al., 2019). Wang et al. successfully obtained genomic material
104 from 31 ancient individuals from southern China (Guangxi and Fujian) ranging from ~12,000-10,000 to
105 500 ya and identified HM-related ancestry represented by ~500-year-old GaoHuaHua population (Wang,
106 T. et al., 2021). Neolithic genomes from Southeast Asia also identified at least five waves of southward
107 migrations from China participating in the formation of their modern patterns of genetic and
108 ethnolinguistic diversity (Lipson et al., 2018; McColl et al., 2018). The genetic information of HM groups
109 from South-Central China showed that HM-related ancestry was phylogenetically closer to the ancestry
110 of Neolithic mainland Southeast Asians and modern Austroasiatic (AA) groups than to Austronesians
111 (Xia et al., 2019). Huang et al. analyzed genome-wide SNP data of HM groups from Guangxi (Southeast
112 China) and found that HM-related ancestry maximized in the western Hmong groups (Miao_Longlin and
113 Miao_Xilin) (Huang et al., 2020). Findings of the human genetic history of mainland Southeast Asia also
114 confirmed the observed heterogeneity in HM people derived from multiple ancestral sources during the
115 extensive population movements and interactions (Kutanan et al., 2021; Liu et al., 2020). Therefore,
116 systematic genome-wide studies focusing on southwestern Chinese HM groups and publicly available
117 ancient East Asians will provide additional insights into the genetic makeup of HM groups from South
118 China.
119

120 Here we generated new genome-wide data of 52 the northernmost HM-speaking Miao individuals from
121 Xuyong, Sichuan. The Miao people are the largest of the HM-speaking populations and the fourth largest
122 of the 55 ethnic minorities in China. The Miao are a group of linguistically-related people mainly living
123 in mountainous areas of South China. The Xuyong is a county in the southeastern of Sichuan province,
124 which borders Guizhou to the south and Yunnan to the west. To thoroughly investigate the demographic
125 history of southwestern HM groups, we co-analyzed newly generated data with publicly available

126 genome-wide data of present-day and ancient East Eurasians leveraging shared alleles and haplotypes.
127

128 **Methods and materials**

129 **Sample collection, genotyping and data merging**

130 All newly-genotyped individuals were collected from three geographically different populations in
131 Sichuan (Baila (14), Hele (19) and Jiancao (19), **Figure S1**). Oragene DN salivary collection tube was
132 used to collect salivary samples. This study was approved via the ethical board of North Sichuan Medical
133 College and followed the rules of the Helsinki Declaration. Informed consent was obtained from each
134 participated volunteer. To keep a high representative of our included samples, the included subjects
135 should be indigenous people and lived in the sample collection place for at least three generations. We
136 genotyped 717,227 SNPs using the Infinium R Global Screening Array (GSA) version 2 in Miao people,
137 which included 661,133 autosomal SNPs and the remaining 56,096 SNPs localized in X-/Y-chromosome
138 and Mitochondrial DNA. We used PLINK (version v1.90) ([Chang et al., 2015](#)) to filter-out raw SNP data
139 based on the missing rate (mind: 0.01 and geno: 0.01), allele frequency (--maf 0.01) and p values of
140 Hardy-Weinberg exact test (--hwe 10⁻⁶). We used the King software to estimate the degrees of kinship
141 among 52 individuals and remove the close relatives within the three generations ([Tinker and Mather,
142 1993](#)). We finally merged our data with publicly available modern and ancient reference data from Allen
143 Ancient DNA Resource (AADR, <https://reich.hms.harvard.edu/allen-ancient-dna-resource-aadr-downloadable-genotypes-present-day-and-ancient-dna-data>), Besides, we also merged our new dataset
144 with modern population data from China and Southeast Asia, and ancient population data from Guangxi,
145 Fujian and other regions of East Asia ([Mao et al., 2021](#); [Wang, C.C. et al., 2021](#); [Wang, T. et al., 2021](#);
146 [Yang et al., 2020](#)) and finally formed the merged 1240K dataset and the merged HO dataset (**Table S1**).
147 In the merged higher-density Illumina dataset using for haplotype-based analysis, we merged genome-
148 wide data of Miao with our recent publication data from Han, Mongolian, Manchu, Gejia, Dongjia, Xijia
149 and others ([Chen et al., 2021a](#); [He et al., 2021](#); [Liu, Y. et al., 2021b](#); [Yao et al., 2021](#)).
150

151

152 **Frequency-based population genetic analysis**

153 **Principal component analysis**

154 We performed principal component analysis (PCA) in three population sets focused on a different scale
155 of genetic diversity. Smartpca package in EIGENSOFT software ([Patterson et al., 2006](#)) was used to
156 conduct PCA with ancient sample projected and no outlier removal (numoutlieriter: 0 and lsqproject:
157 YES). East-Asian-scale PCA included 393 TK people from 6 Chinese populations and 21 Southeast
158 populations; 144 HM individuals from 7 Chinese populations and 6 Southeast populations; 968 Sinitic
159 people from 16 Chinese populations, 356 TB speakers from 18 northern and 17 southern populations,
160 248 AA people from 20 populations, 115 Austronesian (AN) people from 13 populations, 304 Trans-
161 Eurasian people from 27 populations from North China and Siberia and 231 ancient individuals from 62
162 groups. Chinese-scale PCA was conducted based on the genetic variations of Sinitic, northern TB and
163 TK people in China, ancient populations from Guangxi, and all 16 HM-speaking populations. Twenty-
164 three ancient samples from 9 Guangxi groups were projected ([Wang, T. et al., 2021](#)). The third HM-scale
165 PCA included 15 modern populations (Vietnam Hmong populations show as outliers) and two Guangxi
166 ancient populations.

167 **ADMIXTURE**

168 We performed model-based ADMIXTURE analysis using the maximum likelihood clustering in the
169 ADMIXTURE (Version 1.3.0) software ([Alexander et al., 2009](#)) to estimate individual ancestry
170 composition. Included populations in the East Asian-scale PCA analysis and Chinese-scale PCA analysis
171 were used in the two different AMIDXUTRE analyses with the respective predefined ancestral sources
172 ranging from 2 to 16 and ranging from 2 to 10. We used PLINK (version v1.90) to prune the raw SNP
173 data into unlinked data via pruning for high linkage disequilibrium (-indep-pairwise 200 25 0.4). We
174 estimated the cross-validation error using the results of 100 times ADMIXTURE runs with different
175 seeds. And the best-fitted admixture model was regarded being possessed the lowest error.

176 **Phylogeny modeling with TreeMix**

177 We used PLINK (version v1.90) to calculate the pairwise Fst genetic distance between studied Sichuan
178 Miao (SCM) and other modern and ancient references and also estimated the allele frequency distribution
179 of included populations in the TreeMix analyses. Both modern and ancient populations were used to
180 construct the maximum-likelihood-based phylogenetic relationship with population splits and migration
181 events using TreeMix v.1.13 ([Pickrell and Pritchard, 2012](#)).

182 **Outgroup- f_3 -statistics and admixture- f_3 -statistics**

183 We assessed the potentially existed admixture signatures in SCM via the admixture- f_3 -statistics in the
184 form $f_3(\text{Source1, source2; Miao_Baila/Jiancao/Hele})$, which was calculated using qp3Pop (version 435)
185 package in the AdmixTools software ([Patterson et al., 2012](#)). The target populations with the observed

186 negative f_3 values and Z-scores less than -3 were regarded as mixed populations with two surrogates of
187 ancestral populations related to source1 and source2. Followingly, similar to the quantitation of the
188 genetic similarities and differences as pairwise Fst, we assessed the genetic affinity between studied
189 populations and other reference populations via the outgroup- f_3 -statistics in the form of f_3 (Reference
190 source, studied Miao; Mbuti).

191 **Pairwise qpWave tests**

192 We calculated p-values of the rank tests of all possible population pairs among HM-speaking populations
193 and other geographically close modern and ancient reference populations using qpWave in the
194 AdmixTools package (Patterson et al., 2012) to test their genetic evolutionary relationships and genetic
195 homogeneity. Here, we used a set of distant outgroup sets, which included Mbuti, Ust_Ishim, Kostenki14,
196 Papuan, Australian, Mixe, MA1, Jehai and Tianyuan. The obtained pairwise matrix of the p values was
197 visualized and presented in a heatmap using pheatmap package.

198 **Admixture modeling using qpAdm**

199 We further assessed the relative ancestral source and corresponding admixture proportion of Chinese
200 HM-speaking and surrounding Han Chinese populations using a two-way-based admixture model in the
201 qpAdm (version 634) in the AdmixTools package (Patterson et al., 2012). One of the studied populations
202 combined with two predefined ancestral modern and ancient sources were used as the left populations
203 and the aforementioned pairwise-based outgroups were used as the left populations along with two
204 additional parameters (allsnps: YES; details: YES).

205 **Demographic modeling with qpGraph**

206 We used the R package of ADMIXTOOLS2 (Patterson et al., 2012) to explore the best-fitted phylogenetic
207 topology with admixture events and mixing proportions with the Mbuti, Onge, Loschbour, Tianyuan,
208 Baojianshan, Qihe, GaoHuaHua, Longshan as the basic representative genetic lineages for molding the
209 formation of modern SCM. A “rotating” scheme of adding other modern and ancient populations was
210 used to explore other genetic ancestries that would improve the qpGraph-based admixture models. One
211 model with the predefined admixture events ranging from 0 to 5 was ran 50 times and we then choose
212 the best models based on the Z-scores and best-fitted scores. We also replaced the Longshan people with
213 the upper Yellow River Lajia people as the northern ancestral lineage and ran all aforementioned
214 admixture models.

215 **ALDER**

216 We estimated the decay of linkage disequilibrium in SCM using all possible population pairs of modern
217 East Asians as surrogate populations in ALDER 1.0 (Loh et al., 2013). Two additional parameters were
218 used here: jackknife: YES and mindis: 0.005.

219

220 **Haplotype-based population genetic analysis**

221 **Segmented haplotype estimation**

222 We used Shapeit software (Segmented Haplotype Estimation & Imputation Tool) to phase our dense
223 SNP data with the default parameters (--burn 10 --prune 10 --main 30) (Browning and Browning, 2011).
224 Pairwise sharing IBD segments were calculated using refined-ibd software (16May19.ad5.jar) with the
225 length parameter as 0.1 (Browning and Browning, 2013).

226 **Chromosome painting**

227 We ran ChromoPainterV2 software (Lawson et al., 2012) to paint the target SCM and sampled surrogate
228 northern and southern East Asians using all phased populations as the surrogate populations, which was
229 regarded as the full analysis. We also removed the SCM and their most close genetic relatives (Gejia,
230 Dongjia and Xijia) in the set of surrogates and painted all target and surrogate populations once again,
231 which was regarded as the regional analysis. We then combined all chunk length output files of 22
232 chromosomes as the final dataset of sharing chunk length.

233 **FineSTRUCTURE analysis**

234 we identified the fine-scale population substructure using fineSTRUCTURE (version 4.0) (Lawson et al.,
235 2012). Perl scripts of convertrecfile.pl and impute2chromopainter.pl were used to prepare the input phase
236 data and recombination data. FineSTRUCTURE, ChromoCombine and ChromoPainter were combined
237 in the four successive steps of analyses with the parameters (-s3iters 100000 -s4iters 50000 -s1minsnps
238 1000 -s1indfrac 0.1). The estimated coancestry was used to run PCA analysis and phylogenetic
239 relationships at the individual-level and population-level.

240 **GLOBETROTTER-based admixture estimation**

241 We ran the R program of GLOBETROTTER (Hellenthal et al., 2014) to further identify, date and describe
242 the admixture events of the target SCM. Both painting samples and copy vectors estimated in the
243 ChromoPainterV2 were used as the basal inputs in the GLOBETROTTER-based estimation. We first ran
244 it to infer admixture proportions, dates and sources with two specifically predefined parameters (prop.ind:
245 1; bootstrap.num:20) and we then reran it with 100 bootstrap samples to estimate the confidence interval

246 of the admixture dates.

247 **Natural selection indexes of XPEHH and iHS estimation**

248 We calculated the integrated haplotype score (iHS) and cross-population extended haplotype
249 homogeneity (XPEHH) using the R package of ReHH ([Gautier et al., 2017](#)). Here both northern Han
250 Chinese from Shaanxi and Gansu provinces, and southern Han Chinese from Sichuan, Chongqing and
251 Fujian provinces were used as the reference in the XPEHH estimation.

252 **Gene enrichment analysis**

253 The online tool of Metascape ([Zhou et al., 2019](#)) was used to annotate the potentially existed natural
254 selection signatures in the iHS and XPEHH.

255

256 **Results**

257 **Newly-identified HM genetic cline in the context of East Asian populations**

258 We genotyped 52 genome-wide SNP data in three SCM populations (Baila, Jiancao and Hele) and found
259 that five samples possessed close sibship with other samples. After removing relatives, we merged our
260 data with the Human Origin dataset in AADR (merged HO dataset) to explore the genetic diversity of
261 SCM and their genetic relationship with modern and ancient Eurasian populations. East-Asian-scale PCA
262 results showed three genetic clines ([Figure 1A](#)), which included the northern East Asian cluster (Altaiic
263 and northern ST speakers), and the southern East Asian and Southeast Asian cluster (AA, AN, TK and
264 southern TB), and the newly identified HM genetic cline. Interestingly, our newly-studied three SCM
265 populations separated from other Chinese populations and clustered closely with geographically distant
266 Hmong people from North Vietnam (Hmong) and Thailand (Hmong-Daw and Hmong-Njua), suggesting
267 their strong genetic affinity and potentially existing common origin history. Dao and IuMien clustered
268 closely with TK people, and Miao and She people from Chongqing and other southern China were
269 overlapped with geographically close Han people, which suggested the massive population interaction
270 between HM people and their neighbors. Other HM people, including Gejia, Dongjia and Xijia in
271 Guizhou, PaThen in Vietnam were localized between three genetically different HM genetic lineages.

272

273 Focused on the genetic diversity of ST and TK people in China and all studied and reference HM
274 populations, we used a panel of 65 populations and identified three primary directions in the first two
275 dimensions represented by ST, HM and Hainan Hui people [(top right, top left, and bottom, respectively),
276 [Figure 1B](#)]. We found that ~500-year-old prehistoric Guangxi GaoHuaHua was localized closely with
277 SCM, but ~1500-year-old BaBanQinCen overlapped with Chinese TK people and HM Dao. Additionally,
278 we explored the finer-scale population relationship within geographically different Miao populations and
279 found that Vietnam Hmong separated from other populations along PC2. After removing this outlier of
280 Hmong, PCA patterns also showed three different genetic clades among the remaining sixteen HM
281 populations, which represented by representative HM cline, Sinicized HM and Vietnam HM [(right, top
282 left, and bottom left, respectively), [Figure 1C](#)]. These identified population stratifications among HM-
283 speaking populations were confirmed via pairwise Fst genetic distances among 29 Chinese populations
284 based on the Illumina-based dataset ([Table S2](#)) and among 65 populations based on the merged HO
285 dataset ([Table S3](#)). Genetic differences estimated via Fst values showed that SCM had a close genetic
286 relationship with Guizhou HM people (Gejia, Dongjia and Xijia), followed by geographically different
287 ST groups, northern Mongolic Mongolian and southern AA populations (Blang and Wa). Results from
288 the lower-density HO dataset not only confirmed the general patterns of genetic affinity between SCM
289 and East Asians reported in Illumina-dataset but also directly identified that SCM possessed the genetic
290 affinity with Hmong people from Vietnam and Thailand among modern reference populations, with
291 GaoHuaHua (Miao_Baila: 0.1398; Miao_Jiancao: 0.1394; Miao_Hele: 0.1419) among ancient Guangxi
292 ancient references.

293

294 **Ancestral composition of HM-speaking populations**

295 Consistent with the identified unique genetic cluster of SCM people, we expectedly observed one
296 dominant unique ancestry component in HM-speaking populations (blue ancestry in [Figure 1D](#)). HM-
297 specific ancestry maximized in Vietnam and Thailand Hmong people, as well as existed in SCM and
298 GaoHuaHua with a higher proportion. Different from the gene pool of HM people in Southeast Asia,
299 SCM and ~500-year-old GaoHuaHua people harbored more ancestry related to 1500-year-old historic
300 Guangxi people (pink ancestry). Furthermore, SCM harbored more genetic influence from Sinitic-related
301 populations (origin and purple ancestries) relative to the GaoHuaHua people. A similar pattern was
302 observed in Guizhou populations but with different ancestry proportions, in which Guizhou HM people
303 harbored higher pink and orange ancestries and smaller blue ancestry. This observed pattern of ancestry
304 composition suggested that Guizhou and Sichuan HM-speaking populations absorbed additional gene
305 flow from northern East Asians when they experienced extensive population movement and interaction.

306 Indeed, other Miao people from Chongqing and She and Miao in the HGDP project possessed similar
307 ancestry composition with neighboring Hans, which supported the stronger extent of admixture between
308 Pro-HM and incoming southward Han's ancestor. The admixture signatures in the f_3 (East Asians,
309 Miao_Baila; Miao_Jiancao) confirmed that Jiancao Miao was an admixed population and harbored
310 additional genetic materials from northern East Asians (negative Z-scores in LateXiongnu (-3.798),
311 LateXiongnu_han (-3.506), Han_Shanxi (-3.076) et.al.) and southern East Asians (-3.443 in Li_Hainan)
312 (**Table S4**). However, no statistically significant negative f_3 -values have been identified in the targets of
313 the other two SCM groups. Evidence from the ancient genomes has suggested that prehistoric Guangxi
314 GaoHuaHua people were the temporally direct ancestor of modern Guangxi Miao people ([Wang, T. et](#)
315 [al., 2021](#)). However, only marginal negative f_3 -values were observed in Jiancao Miao, as f_3 (GaoHuaHua,
316 Pumi_Lanping; Miao_Jiancao)=-1.228*SE, although we observed a close cluster relationship in the PCA
317 and ADMIXTURE.

318
319 To further characterized the admixture landscape of SCM and other East Asian representative populations
320 based on the sharing haplotypes, we used SCM as the surrogate of the ancestral source and painted all
321 other sampled East Asian populations using ChromoPainter. We found Guizhou HM populations (Gejia,
322 Dongjia and Xijia) copied the longest DNA chunk from SCM with the total copied chunk length over
323 1287.74 centimorgans (**Figure 2A**). SCM also contributed much genetic material to geographically close
324 Miao, Han and Chuanqing groups (over 237.31 centimorgans) and donated relatively less ancestry to
325 northern Altaic- and southern AA and TB-speaking populations, including the Wa, Pumi, Lahu and Bai
326 in geographically close Yunnan Province (**Figure 2B**). Followingly, we explored the extent to which
327 other putative East Asian surrogates contributed to the formation of the SCM people. We used other non-
328 HM people as the ancestral surrogate to paint the SCM people and we found southern Han Chinese
329 donated much ancestry to targeted Miao (**Figure 2C**), even higher than southern Miao and She and other
330 southern East Asian indigenous populations (**Figure 2D**), which provided supporting evidence for
331 genetic interactions between HM and southern Sinitic people. Collectively, the SCM people served as
332 one unique ancestral source that contributed much genetic ancestry to modern East Asians.
333

334 Although the genetic affinity between SCM and Sinitic Han Chinese were identified, finer-scale
335 population structure inferred from the fineSTRUCTURE showed that SCM possessed a similar pattern
336 sharing ancestry with Guizhou HM people and formed one specific HM branch (**Figure 3**). The inferred
337 PCA patterns based on the sharing haplotypes showed that SCM separated from other Han Chinese and
338 Yunnan AA and TB people and had a close relationship with Guizhou HM people (**Figure 3A~C**).
339 Clustering patterns based on the sharing DNA fragments among population-level and individual-level
340 (**Figure 3D~E**) further confirmed the genetic differentiation between HM people and Sinitic people,
341 which is consistent with the genetic affinity observed in the shared IBD matrix. Additionally, we used
342 the GLOBETROTTER to identify, date and describe the admixture status of SCM. We first conducted
343 the regional analysis, in which meta-SCM was used as the targeted populations and other East Asians
344 except to Guizhou HM people used as the surrogates. The best-guess conclusion was an unclear signal,
345 which provided evidence for their unique population history of SCM. Thus, we secondly performed full
346 analysis to characterized three SCM people conditional on all other sampled East Asian populations as
347 ancestral proximity. We identified recent admixture events in all three geographically different targets.
348 One-date admixture model for Baila Miao suggested that it was formed via recent admixture events in
349 seven generations ago with one source related to Jiancao Miao (0.86) and the other source related to
350 Sichuan Han (0.14). A similar admixture model was identified in Hele Miao people, in which the
351 identified one-date model showed that a recent admixture event occurred five generations ago with major
352 ancestry sources related to Jiancao Miao (0.84) and the minor source related to Guizhou Han (0.16). We
353 found two-date-two-way admixture model best fitted the genetic admixture history of Jiancao Miao. The
354 ancient admixture events occurred 86 generations ago with the Guizhou Gejia as the minor source
355 proximity (0.48) and Baila Miao as the major source proximity (0.52). A recent admixture occurred five
356 generations ago with Baila Miao as the major donor (0.83) and Guizhou Han as the minor donor (0.17).
357 We further estimated the admixture times used ALDER using three SCMs as the targets and all other
358 modern East Asians as the ancestral sources to test the decay of linkage disequilibrium (**Table S5**). When
359 we used Guizhou HM people as one of the sources, both population compositions from northern and
360 southern East Asians can produce statistically significant admixture signatures with the admixture times
361 ranged from 22.35+/-6.92 (Maonan) to 160.58±70.32 (Xijia), which also provided supporting clues for
362 the complex ancient admixture events for different ancestral sources.
363

364 **Genetic admixture and continuity of HM-specific ancestry at the crossroads of East and Southeast**
365 **Asia in the past 1500 years**

366 To further explore the geographic distribution of our identified HM-dominant ancestry and further
367 constrain the formed time range, we conducted a series of formal tests to validate our predefined
368 phylogenetic topologies. Shared genetic drift inferred from outgroup- f_3 -statistics in the form f_3 (SCMs,
369 modern East Asians; Mbuti) suggested that SCM shared a closest genetic relationship with Guizhou HM
370 people, followed by TK people in South China and geographically close Han based on the merged 1240K
371 dataset (Table S6). The genetic affinity between SCM and Hmong people in Vietnam and Thailand was
372 directly evidenced via the observed largest outgroup- f_3 -values in the merged HO dataset, suggesting HM-
373 specific ancestry widely distributed in Sichuan, Guizhou, Guangxi, Vietnam and Thailand. Focused on
374 the ancient reference populations, we found that historic Guangxi GaoHuaHua people were on the top
375 list for the shared genetic drift (0.3324 for Baila Miao, 0.3317 for Hele Miao and 0.3304 for Jiancao
376 Miao). 1500-year-old Guangxi BaBanQinCen and Iron Age Taiwan Hanben also possessed strong
377 genetic affinity with SCM, suggesting their common origin history and possibly originated from South
378 China. These patterns of genetic affinity among spatiotemporally different southern East Asians were
379 consistent with the shared characteristics attested by cultural, linguistic and archeological documents.
380

381 To further explore the genetic relationship between ancient Guangxi populations and modern
382 ethnolinguistic populations, we conducted pairwise qpWave analysis among 16 HM populations, five
383 Guangxi ancient groups (GaoHuaHua, BaBanQinCen, Baojianshan, Dushan and Longlin), seven TK-,
384 16 Sinitic- and 18 TB-speaking populations (Figure 4). We found genetic homogeneity existed within
385 populations from geographically and linguistically close populations, especially in TB, Sinitic and HM.
386 Here, we only observed strong genetic affinity within geographically diverse HM people and found
387 genetic heterogeneity between historic Guangxi populations and modern HM people. Considering
388 different admixture models identified among three SCM populations, we performed symmetrical f_4 -
389 statistics in the form f_4 (SCM1, SCM2; reference populations, Mbuti) (Table S7). We also identified
390 differentiated evolutionary history among them; Jiancao Miao shared more alleles with Guizhou HM
391 people compared with Miao people from Baila and Hele, and Jiancao Miao also shared more northern
392 East Asian ancestry related to other two Miao populations. Results from another version of symmetrical
393 f_4 -statistics in the form f_4 (reference1, reference2; SCM, Mbuti) first confirmed the strong genetic affinity
394 between SCM people and other HM people, as most negative f_4 -values identified in f_4 (reference1, HM;
395 SCM, Mbuti) (Table S8). All 126 tested f_4 (Reference, GaoHuaHua; SCM, Mbuti) values were negative
396 and 123 out of 126 were statistically significant, which suggested the SCM shared more ancestry and a
397 closer genetic relationship with GaoHuaHua relative to other modern and ancient East Asians. We also
398 tested f_4 (Reference, SCM; GaoHuaHua, Mbuti) (Table S9) and found GaoHuaHua shared more alleles
399 with SCM compared to all reference populations. These observed results were consistent with the
400 hypothesis of SCM people are the direct descendants of historic Guangxi GaoHuaHua. We also tested
401 f_4 (GaoHuaHua, SCM; reference, Mbuti) and found additional gene flow from ancestral sources related
402 to late Neolithic populations from the YRB, as observed negative f_4 -values in f_4 (GaoHuaHua, Miao_Hele;
403 Han_Gansu, Mbuti) = -3.78*SE or f_4 (GaoHuaHua, Miao_Baila; China_Upper_YR_LN, Mbuti) = -
404 3.252*SE. Indeed, we previously observed admixture signatures in Jiancao Miao in admixture-
405 f_3 (GaoHuaHua, northern East Asians; Jiancao Miao), which suggested SCM shared major ancestry from
406 GaoHuaHua and also experienced additional genetic admixture from northern East Asians.
407

408 Focused on the deeper temporal population dynamics, we followingly tested the genetic relationship
409 between SCM and ~1500-year-old BaBanQinCen used the same strategies (Table S9). Positive results
410 in f_4 (Dongjia/Maonan/China_SEastAsia_Coastal_LN/ Guangxi_1500BP, SCM; BaBanQinCen, Mbuti)
411 showed that BaBanQinCen shared more derived alleles with late Neolithic and Iron Age Fujian
412 populations and other spatiotemporally close Guangxi historic populations. Statistically significant
413 values in f_4 (BaBanQinCen, SCM; reference, Mbuti) further confirmed that BaBanQinCen does not form
414 a clade with SCM and shared more alleles with pre-Neolithic Amur River people (AR14K), Neolithic-
415 to-Iron Age Fujian populations and indigenous Guangxi prehistoric populations (Baojianshan and
416 Dushan) compared with SCM, which was further supported via the f_4 -statistics focused on other ~1500-
417 year-old Guangxi populations (Guangxi_1500BP) and Taiwan Hanben. But SCM shared more genetic
418 influence from northern East Asians compared with ~1500-year-old Guangxi people. Compared with
419 other Guangxi prehistoric populations (f_4 (Longlin, Baojianshan and Dushan, reference; SCM, Mbuti)),
420 SCM shared more ancestry with ancient northern East Asians, southern Fujian and modern East Asian
421 ancestry. Compared with SCM, prehistoric Guangxi populations shared more Neolithic to Iron Age
422 Fujian and Guangxi ancestries. We also tested the genetic relationship between SCM and YRB farmers
423 using asymmetric- f_4 -statistics and found YRB millet farmers shared more alleles with SCM people
424 compared to early Asians and southern Fujian and Fujian ancient populations. As expected, SCM
425 harbored more HM-related alleles or ancient Fujian and Guangxi ancestries compared with millet farmers.

426 Generally, formal test results demonstrated that SCM possessed the strongest genetic affinity with ~500-
427 year-old Guangxi GaoHuaHua people and additionally obtained genetic influx from northern East Asians
428 recently.

429

430 **Admixture evolutionary models**

431 A close genetic relationship between Guangxi historic populations and SCM has been evidenced in our
432 descriptive analyses and quantitative *f*-statistics. We further conducted two-way qpAdm models with two
433 Guangxi ancient populations as the southern surrogates and four northern ancient populations from YRB
434 and Amur River as the northern ancestral sources to estimate the ancestral composition of SCM and their
435 ethnically and geographically close populations ([Figure 5A](#)). When we used BaBanQinCen as the source,
436 we tested the two-way admixture models: proportion of ancestry contribution of historic Guangxi
437 population ranged from 0.811 ± 0.107 in Kali Dongjia to 0.404 ± 0.107 in Shaanxi Hans in the AR14K-
438 BaBanQinCen model and spanned from 0.738 ± 0.145 to 0.127 ± 0.088 in Shaanxi Hans in
439 China_YR_LBIA-BaBanQinCen model. SCM derived $0.780 \sim 0.806$ ancestry from historic Guangxi
440 ancestry in the former model and $0.653 \sim 0.666$ ancestry from it in the latter model ([Figure 5A](#)). We also
441 confirmed that the unique gene pool of SCM derived from major ancestry from Guangxi and minor
442 ancestry from North East Asians via the additional two qpAdm admixture models with early Neolithic
443 Amur River Hunter-Gatherer, middle Neolithic-to-Iron Age YRB farmers as the northern sources.

444

445 Until now, to explore the population genetic diversity of Chinese populations and provided some pilot
446 works supporting the initiation of the Chinese population genome diversity project (CPGDP) based on
447 the deep whole-genome sequencing on anthropologically-informed sampling populations, we have
448 genotyped the array-based genome-wide SNP data in 29 ethnolinguistically different populations. We
449 reconstructed phylogenetic relationships between three studied SCM populations and 26 other Chinese
450 populations from ST, Altaic, AA and HM ([Figure 5B](#)). We identified that branch clusters were consistent
451 with the linguistic categories and geographical division. Tibetan Lahu and Hani clustered closely with
452 AA Blang and Wa, and other populations were clustered as the northern and southern East Asian branches.
453 The southern branches consisted of our newly-studied Miao and Guizhou HM people and Guizhou
454 Chuanqing and Manchu. The northern branch comprised of Mongolic, TB and Sinitic people. We found
455 that two Chongqing Miao populations clustered closely with the northern branch, suggesting much
456 genetic material mixed from surrounding Han Chinese populations. We also identified regional
457 population gene flow events from ethnically different populations, such as gene flow events from Pumi
458 to Hani and from Blang to common ancestral lineage of Bai, Pumi and Mongolian. To directly reconstruct
459 the phylogenies between the HM population and historic Guangxi populations, we merged 16 HM-
460 speaking populations with GaoHuaHua and BaBanQinCen and found two separated branches
461 respectively clustered closely with GaoHuaHua and BaBanQinCen ([Figure 5C](#)). Close phylogenetic
462 relationship among SCM, Guangxi GaoHuaHua, Guizhou Gejia, Dongjia and Xijia, and Vietnam and
463 Thailand Hmong further supported the common origin of geographically different HM people.

464

465 We finally reconstructed the deep population admixture history of HM-speaking populations using the
466 qpGraph model with population splits and admixture events. We used the ancestral lineage of Mb uti in
467 Africa, Loschbour in western Eurasia, Onge in South Asia, Tianyuan in East Asia as the basal deep early
468 continental lineages. We used Baojianshan in the early Neolithic period and GaoHuaHua in the historic
469 time from Guangxi, Qihe in the early Neolithic in Fujian as southern East Asian lineages and used
470 Neolithic YRB millet farmers as the northern East Asian lineages. In our first best-fitted model ([Figure
471 6A](#)), we added additional late Fujian Xitoucun and Tanshishan from the late Neolithic period, we found
472 GaoHuaHua could be fitted as major ancestry related to upper Yellow River Qijia people (0.52) and
473 minor ancestry related to late Neolithic Fujian people (0.48). However, SCM derived much more ancestry
474 from northern East Asians (0.82) in this model, suggesting additional northern East Asian gene flow
475 influenced the genetic formation of modern HM-speaking populations. In the second bested fitted model
476 ([Figure 6C](#)), we added Hunter-Gatherer lineage from the Mongolian Plateau (Bosiman) and found
477 Xuyong Miao could be fitted as 0.86 ancestry from GaoHuaHua the remaining ancestry from Qijia people
478 (0.14). The third best-fitted model ([Figure 6D](#)) with adding Australian lineage also replicated the shared
479 major ancestry between GaoHuaHua and Xuyong Miao. In the final version of the qpGraph model
480 ([Figure 6D](#)), we added the American indigenous lineages, in which Miao was fitted as 0.37 ancestry
481 from western Eurasian and 0.63 ancestry from East Asians. Xuyong Miao was modeled as similar
482 ancestry composition as the third model. Here, we should be cautious that the differences in the
483 topologies of the early deep lineages when different populations were added to our basal models. The
484 detailed true phylogenetic relationship should be further explored and reconstructed via denser
485 spatiotemporally different early Asian population sequencing data. But the consistent pattern of Miao's

486 genetic profiles of major ancestry from GaoHuaHua and minor ancestry from northern East Asia were
487 obtained from four different admixture models, suggesting it is valuable to illuminate the simple model
488 of the formation of modern SCM.

489

490 **Uniparental founding lineages**

491 We obtained high-resolution uniparental maternal and paternal lineages in SCM (**Table S10**). We
492 identified four dominant maternal founding lineages in SCM [(B5a1c1 (0.3462), F1g1 (0.1346), B4a
493 (0.0769) and F1a (0.0769)]. We also identified two paternal founding lineages [(O2a2a1a2a1a2 (0.3913),
494 O2a1c1a1a1a1a1b (0.1739)] in SCM, which is consistent with the hypothesis of the primary ancestry
495 of Miao originated from southern Chinese indigenes. In detail, we observed 10 terminal paternal lineages
496 among 23 males and 17 terminal maternal lineages in 52 females. Compared with geographically close
497 Chongqing Han populations, we found a significant difference in the frequency of major lineages
498 between Chongqing Han and Sichuan Miao (**Figure 7**).

499

500 **Natural selection signatures and their biological adaptation**

501 Genetic studies have identified many biologically adaptive genes or pathways in ethnolinguistically
502 diverse populations. Evolutionary adaptative mutations could be accumulated and generated longer
503 extended haplotype homozygosity with their increase of allele frequency of the initial mutations. We
504 scanned for candidates of the positive selections using iHS and XPEHH in SCM. We first calculated
505 XPEHH values for Miao using northern Han as reference population and identified obvious candidates
506 in Chromosomes 1-3, 9, 20 and 22 (**Figure 8A**). Chromosome 1 showed selection signals in the vicinity
507 of *Neuroblastoma breakpoint family member 9/10* (NBPF 9/10) locus, reflecting well-known signals
508 associated with susceptibility of the neuroblastoma. We further identified a strong selection signal
509 implicating *Polypeptide N-acetylgalactosaminyltransferase 13* (GALNT13) and *potassium voltage-
510 gated channel subfamily J member 3* (KCNJ3) located in chromosome 3. The former one is expressed in
511 all neuroblastoma cells and encodes a glycosyltransferase enzyme responsible for the synthesis of O-
512 glycan. The latter one encodes G proteins in the potassium channel and is associated with susceptibility
513 candidates for schizophrenia (Yamada et al., 2012). We also identified four top candidate genes in
514 chromosome 3, including the *abhydrolase domain containing 10* (ABHD10), *RNA binding motif single
515 stranded interacting protein 3* (RBMS3), *RBMS3 antisense RNA 3* (RBMS3-AS3) and *transgelin 3*
516 (TAGLN3). ABHD10 is one of the important members of the AB hydrolase superfamily and is associated
517 with enzymes for deglucuronidation of mycophenolic acid acyl-glucuronide (Iwamura et al., 2012).
518 RBMS3 encodes protein binding Prx1 mRNA in a sequence-specific manner via binding poly(A) and
519 poly(U) oligoribonucleotides and controls Prx1 expression and indirectly collagen synthesis (Fritz and
520 Stefanovic, 2007). It also served as the tumor suppressor gene associated with lung squamous cell
521 carcinoma and esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (Li et al., 2011). TAGLN3 encodes a cytoskeleton-
522 associated protein and is reported to possess an association with schizophrenia (Ito et al., 2005).
523 Chromosome 8 shows a selection signal of *myotubularin-related protein 7* (MTMR7) was localized at
524 and associated with the susceptibility of Creutzfeldt-Jakob risk. Three top genes were identified in
525 Chromosome 9, which included *contactin associated protein-like 3B* (CNTNAP3B),
526 *phosphoglucomutase 5 pseudogene 2* (PGM5P2) and *SWI/SNF related, matrix associated, actin-
527 dependent regulator of chromatin, subfamily a, member 2* (SMARCA2). SMARCA2 encodes the protein-
528 controlled coactivator participating in transcriptional activation and vitamin D-coupled transcription
529 regulation. Genetic evidence has shown the association between its genetic polymorphisms and the
530 susceptibility of schizophrenia (Sengupta et al., 2006), Nicolaides-Baraitser syndrome (Van Houdt et al.,
531 2012), lung cancer (Oike et al., 2013). *ADAM metallopeptidase domain 12* (ADAM12) situates in
532 Chromosome 10 and ADAM12 encodes trans-membrane metalloproteinase, which can secret
533 glycoproteins that are involved in cell-cell interaction, fertilisation, and muscle development. We also
534 identified natural selection signatures in *cytochrome P450 family 2 subfamily A member 6* (CYP2A6),
535 *Isthmin 1* (ISM1) and *cytochrome P450 family 2 subfamily D member 6* (CYP2D6).

536

537 We further calculated another set of XPEHH scores using southern Han Chinese as the reference
538 population and iHS scores in the SCM populations. To explore the biological functions of all possible
539 natural-selected genes (102 loci in iHS-based, 93 XPEHH_N-based and XPEHH_S-based), we made
540 enrichment analysis based on three sets of identified natural-selection genes. Loci with p-values of
541 XPEHH scores larger than 5 and p-values of iHS larger than 3.3 were used in the enrichment analysis
542 via the Metascape. Overlapping loci observed among three gene candidate lists showed the more
543 common gene candidates inferred from XPEHH and less overlapping loci between XPEHH-based loci
544 and iHS-based loci (**Figure 8B**). Heatmap based on p-values of enrichment pathways (**Figure 8C~E**)
545 showed that all three ways identified the candidate genes associated with metabolic process

546 (GO:0008152), response to stimulus (GO:0050896), cellular process (GO:0009987), regulation of
547 biological process (GO:0050789), biological adhesion (GO:0022610), developmental process
548 (GO:0032502). Results from the iHS also showed other top-level gene ontology biological processes,
549 which included immune system process (GO:0002376), biological regulation (GO:0065007), positive
550 regulation of biological process (GO:0048518), behavior (GO:0007610), signaling (GO:0023052),
551 multicellular organismal process (GO:0032501), locomotion (GO:0040011), negative regulation of
552 biological process (GO:0048519) and localization (GO:0051179), the detailed enriched terms, pathways
553 and processes enrichment analysis and their networks of top twenty clusters showed in do not reveal the
554 previously reported natural-selected loci associated pigmentation, alcohol metabolism and other common
555 adaptive signals (EDAR et al.) of East Asians (Mao et al., 2021).

556

557 Discussion

558 Unique genetic history of HM-speaking populations

559 Genetic diversity and population history of East Asians have been comprehensively explored and
560 reconstructed in the past twenty years via lower-density genetic markers (Short tandem repeats, SNPs,
561 Indels) and higher-density array-based genome-wide SNPs and whole-genome sequencing data, which
562 advanced our understanding of the origin, diversification, migration, admixture and adaptation of Chinese
563 populations (Cao et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2009; Consortium et al., 2009; Wang, C.C. et al., 2021; Xu et
564 al., 2009). As we all know that International Human Genome Organization (HUGO) initiated the broader
565 Human Genome Diversity Project (HGDP) in 1991. HGDP aimed at illuminating the structure of
566 genomes and population genetic relationships among worldwide populations via initial array-based
567 genome-wide SNPs and recent whole-genome sequencing (Bergstrom et al., 2020). A similar work of the
568 CHGDP was publicly reported in 1998 (Cavalli-Sforza, 1998), in which Chu et al. first comprehensively
569 reported genetic relationships and general population stratification based on STR data (Chu et al., 1998).
570 Six years later, Wen et al. illuminated demic diffusion of northern East Asians contributed to the
571 formation of the genetic landscape of modern Han Chinese populations and their sex-biased admixture
572 processes via uniparental markers (Y-chromosome SNPs/STRs and Mitochondrial SNPs) (Wen et al.,
573 2004). The next important step occurred around 2009 and several genetic analyses based on genome-
574 wide SNPs, including mapping Asian genetic diversity reported by HUGO Pan-Asian SNP Consortium,
575 have identified population stratification among linguistically different Asian populations and genetic
576 differentiation between northern and southern Han Chinese populations (Chen et al., 2009; Consortium
577 et al., 2009; Xu et al., 2009). However, these studies had limitations of the lower resolution of used
578 marker panel or limited representative samples from the ethnolinguistic region of China. Recently, large-
579 scale genetic data from the Taiwan Biobank, China Metabolic Analytics Project (ChinaMAP) and other
580 low-coverage sequencing projects (Cao et al., 2020; Chiang et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2018; Lo et al., 2021)
581 have reconstructed fine-scale genetic profiles of the major populations in China and reconstructed a
582 detailed framework of the population evolutionary history. Cao et al. identified seven population clusters
583 along with geographically different administrative divisions (Li et al., 2021), which is consistent with
584 our recently identified differentiated admixture history of geographically different Han Chinese
585 populations possessing major ancestry related to northern East Asians and additional gene influx from
586 neighboring indigenous populations (Guang-Lin He et al., 2021; He et al., 2021; Liu, Y. et al., 2021b;
587 Wang, M. et al., 2021b; Yao et al., 2021). Genetic studies focused on ethnolinguistic Chinese regions
588 further identified different genetic lineages in modern East Asians, TB lineage in Tibetan Plateau,
589 Tungusic lineage in Amur River Basin, AA and AN lineage in South China and Southeast Asia (Siska et
590 al., 2017; Wang, C.C. et al., 2021). Recently ancient genomes also identified differentiated ancestral
591 sources that existed in East Asia since the early Neolithic, including Guangxi, Fujian, Shandong, Tibet,
592 Siberia ancestries (Mao et al., 2021; Wang, C.C. et al., 2021; Wang, T. et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2020).
593 However, many gaps of Southwest Chinese indigenous populations needed to be completed in the
594 Chinese HGDP based anthropological sampling and Trans-Omics of Precision of Medicine of the
595 Chinese population (CPTOPMed). Large-scale genomic data from ethnolinguistic different populations
596 may provide new insights into the population history and medical utilization in the precision
597 medication for East Asians like the UK10K and TOPMed (Taliun et al., 2021; Wang, Q. et al., 2021).

598

599 To comprehensively provide a complete picture of the genetic diversity of China and make
600 comprehensive sampling and sequencing strategies in the next whole-genome sequencing projects, it is
601 necessary to explore the basal genetic background using the small sample size and array genotyping
602 technology. As our part of initial pilot work in CPGDP based on anthropologically-informed sampling,
603 we reported genome-wide SNP data of 55 SCM samples from three geographically diverse populations.
604 Our analysis reveals the key features of the landscape of southwestern HM lineage, including the
605 identified unique HM cline in East Asian-scale PCA and population stratification in regional-scale-PCA,

606 the observed dominant specific ancestry in geographically distant HM people, the estimated strong
607 genetic affinity among HM people via the Fst, outgroup f_3 -statistics, f_4 -statistics. We further confirmed
608 that stronger genetic affinity within HM people via the sharing patterns of DNA fragments in the IBD,
609 Chromosome painting and FineSTRUCTURE, as well as the attested close clustered pattern in TreeMix -
610 based phylogeny and close phylogenetic relationships between HM people and 500-year-old GaoHuaHua
611 people. Admixture models based on the two-way models further found that the dominant 1500-year-old
612 Guangxi historic ancestry in modern HM people. These observed genetic affinities between HM people
613 from Sichuan, Guizhou, Vietnam and Thailand suggested that all modern HM people possessed a
614 common origin. Combined previous cultural, linguistic, archaeogenetic evidence, the most originated
615 center of modern Hmong-Mien people is the Yungui Plateau in Southeast China. We also found that Miao
616 from Chongqing and HGDP project and She people shared more ancestry with Han Chinese populations,
617 suggested some HM people also obtained much genetic material with southward Han Chinese
618 populations. Compared with historic Guangxi populations (BaBanQinCen and GaoHuaHua), SCM
619 shared more derived ancestry with northern East Asians, suggested that the persistent southward gene
620 flow from northern East Asians influenced the modern genetic profile of HM people. Based on the
621 admixture times dated via GLOBETTROR and ALDER, complex population migration and admixture
622 events occurred in the historic and prehistoric Pro-HM people. Spatiotemporal analysis between modern
623 HM people and their genetic evolutionary relationship with surrounding modern ethnolinguistically
624 diverse populations, as well as the genetic relationship between ancient Yellow River millet farmers and
625 Fujian and Guangxi ancient populations suggested that HM people originated from the crossroad region
626 of Sichuan and Guizhou provinces. Modern HM people may have remained the most representative
627 ancestry of ancient Daxi, Shijiahe people in the middle Yangzi River Basin, which needed to be validated
628 directly via ancient genomes in this region.

629

630 **Specific genomic patterns of natural selection signatures**

631 Ethnically different populations undergoing historical differences in the pathogen exposure may remain
632 different patterns of the allele frequency spectrum and extended haplotype homozygosity under natural
633 selection processes. We identified different natural selection candidates (NBPF9, RBMS3-AS3,
634 CNTNAP3B, NBPF10, CYP2D6, TAGLN3, ISM1, RBMS3, KCNJ3, ADAM12, GALNT13, PGM5P2,
635 CYP2A6, MTMR7 and SMARCA2) associated with several different biological functions (metabolic
636 process, response to stimulus, cellular process, regulation of biological processes) in Miao people
637 compared with other East Asians. Denisovan archaic high-altitude adaptive introgression signals were
638 observed in Tibetans (EPAS1 and EGLN1), which is not observed in HM people with obvious natural
639 selection signatures (Yi et al., 2010). More Denisovan archaic adaptive introgression signals related to
640 immune function (TNFAIP3, SAMS1, CCR10, CD33, DDX60, EPHB2, EVI5, IGLON5, IRF4, JAK1,
641 ROBO2, PELI2, ARHGEF28, BANK1, LRRC8C and LRRC8D and VSIG10L), metabolism (DLEU1,
642 WARS2 and SUMF1) (Choin et al., 2021) were identified in Austronesian and Oceanian populations.
643 But we only observed immune-related Denisovan introgression signals in the DCC gene situated in
644 chromosome 18, which underwent the natural selection evidenced via a higher iHS score (3.5517 in
645 rs17755942, 3.4758 in rs1237775, 3.3540 in rs16920, 3.3299 in rs79301210) in SCM. Choin et al. also
646 reported Neanderthal adaptive introgression genes in Oceanians, including dermatological or
647 pigmentation phenotypes (OCA2, LAMB3, TMEM132D, SLC36A1, KRT80, FANCA and DBNDD1),
648 metabolism (LIP1, ZNF444, TBC1D1, GPBP1, PASK, SVEP1, OSBPL10 and HDLBP), immunity
649 (IL10RA, TIAM1 and PRSS57) and neuronal development (SIPA1L2, TENM3, UNC13C, SEMA3F and
650 MCPH1) (Choin et al., 2021). However, our analysis based on the XPEHH scores only identified one
651 Neanderthal introgression immunity signal (CNTN5) and one pigmentation phenotype signal (PTCH1).
652 CNCN5 harbored high XPEHH scores (>2.1313) ranged from 99577624 to 99616124 in chromosome
653 11 with the highest values of 4.2829 in rs7111400. Loci situated from 98209156 to 98225683 in PTCH1
654 in chromosome 9 also possessed higher XPEHH scores in HM people with the highest values in missense
655 mutation rs357564 (4.5412). ALDH2 and ADH1B were reported a strong association with alcohol
656 metabolism (Taliun et al., 2021), however, the highest XPEHH absolute scores in HM people less than
657 0.5937 for ALDH2 and 1.6013 for ADH1B. Five selection-candidate genes of CTNNA2, LRP1B,
658 CSNK1G3, ASTN2 and NEO15 were evidenced under natural selection in Taiwan Han populations
659 (Lo et al., 2021), however, only LRP1B associated with lipid metabolism were evidenced and replicated
660 in HM people. The observed differentiated patterns of genomic selection process in HM people consistent
661 with their reconstructed unique population history and specific living environments in Southwest China.
662 Thus, further whole-genome sequencing in the CPGDP based on sampling of larger sample size in
663 Southwest China would be provided deep insights of adaptation history of HM people.

664

665 **Conclusion**

666 Taken together, we provided genome-wide SNPs data from SCM and directly evidenced their genetic
667 affinity with southmost Thailand and Vietnam Hmong and ancient 500-year-old Guangxi GaoHuaHua
668 people. We identified HM-specific ancestry components spatially distributed ranged from the middle
669 Yangzi River Basin to Southeast Asia, and temporally distributed at least since from 500 years ago. These
670 results provided direct evidence supported a model in which HM-speaking populations originated from
671 ancient Baiyue in the middle Yangzi River Basin and experienced a recent southward migration from
672 Sichuan and Guizhou to Vietnam and Thailand. Additionally, unique patterns of natural-selected
673 signatures in SCM have identified many candidate genes associated with important neural system
674 biological processes and pathways, which not supported the possibility of recent large-scale admixture
675 occurred between HM people and shrouding Han Chinese. If these phenomena occurred, genetic changes
676 can produce shifts in the allele frequency spectrum of pre-existing mutations and tended to showed a
677 consistent pattern of the selected signals.

678
679 **Acknowledgments**

680 This work was funded by Supported by the Project funded by China Postdoctoral Science Foundation
681 (2021M691879), Opening project of Medical Imaging Key Laboratory of Sichuan Province
682 (MIKLSP202104), the Science and Technology Program of Guangzhou, China (2019030016), the
683 "Double First Class University Plan" key construction project of Xiamen University (the origin and
684 evolution of East Asian populations and the spread of Chinese civilization), National Natural Science
685 Foundation of China (NSFC 31801040), Nanchang Outstanding Young Talents Program of Xiamen
686 University (X2123302), the Major project of National Social Science Foundation of China (20&ZD248),
687 the European Research Council (ERC) grant to Dan Xu (ERC-2019-ADG-883700-TRAM). S. Fang and
688 Z. Xu from Information and Network Center of Xiamen University are acknowledged for the help with
689 the high-performance computing. We thank Prof. Wibhu Kutanan in Khon Kaen University, Prof. Mark
690 Stoneking and Dr. Dang Liu in Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology for sharing genome-
691 wide SNP data from Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos.

692
693 **Data Availability**

694 The Genome-wide variation data have been deposited in the Genome Variation Map (GVM) in Big Data
695 Center, Beijing Institute of Genomics (BIG), Chinese Academy of Science, under accession numbers
696 PRJCA006460 that are publicly accessible at <http://bigd.big.ac.cn/gvm/getProjectDetail?project=xxxxxx> (available when it published).

697
698 **Disclosure of potential conflict of interest**

700 The author declares no conflict of interest.

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702 **Reference**

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951 Figure Legends

952 **Figure 1, Genetic affinity of HM people in the context of modern and ancient eastern Eurasians.**
953 (A-C), Principal component analyses focused on the genetic diversity from East Asian, South Chinese
954 populations and HM-speaking populations. Included East Asian ancient populations were projected onto
955

956 the modern genetic background. Populations were color-coded based on geographical and linguistic
957 categories. (D), Model-based ADMIXTURE results with five predefined ancestral sources showed the
958 ancestral cluttering pattern and their individual ancestral proportion.

959 **Figure 2, The chromosome painting between Hmong-Mien people and other East Asian reference**
960 **populations.** (A~B), the amount of total length of DNA fragments of modern East Asians copied from
961 donor chromosomes from Sichuan Miao. (C~D), The average DNA chunk of Sichuan Miao copied from
962 other East Asians. Statistical indexes showed the results of inter-population comparisons

963 **Figure 3, Fine-scale population genetic structure based on the shared haplotype data.** (A~C), PCA
964 results based on the co-ancestry matrix showed a genetic relationship among modern East Asians. The
965 color showed the re-classification of the homogeneous population label. (D~E), clustering patterns of
966 individual-level and population-level East Asians based on the pairwise coincidence matrixes.

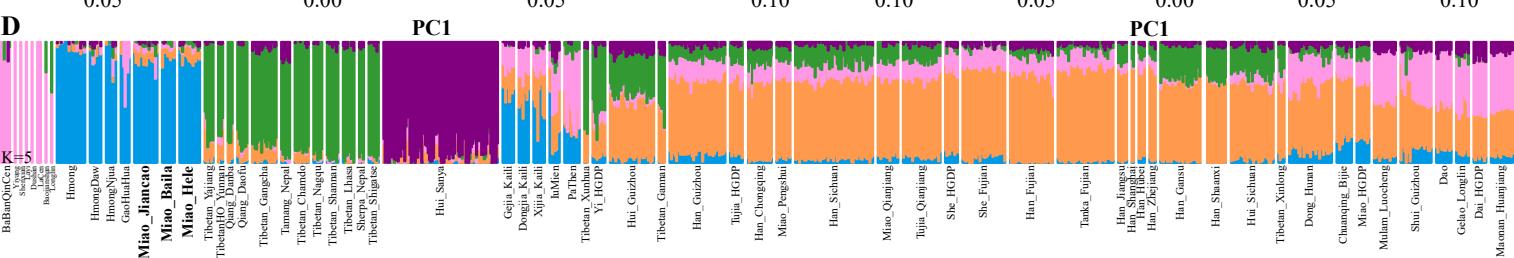
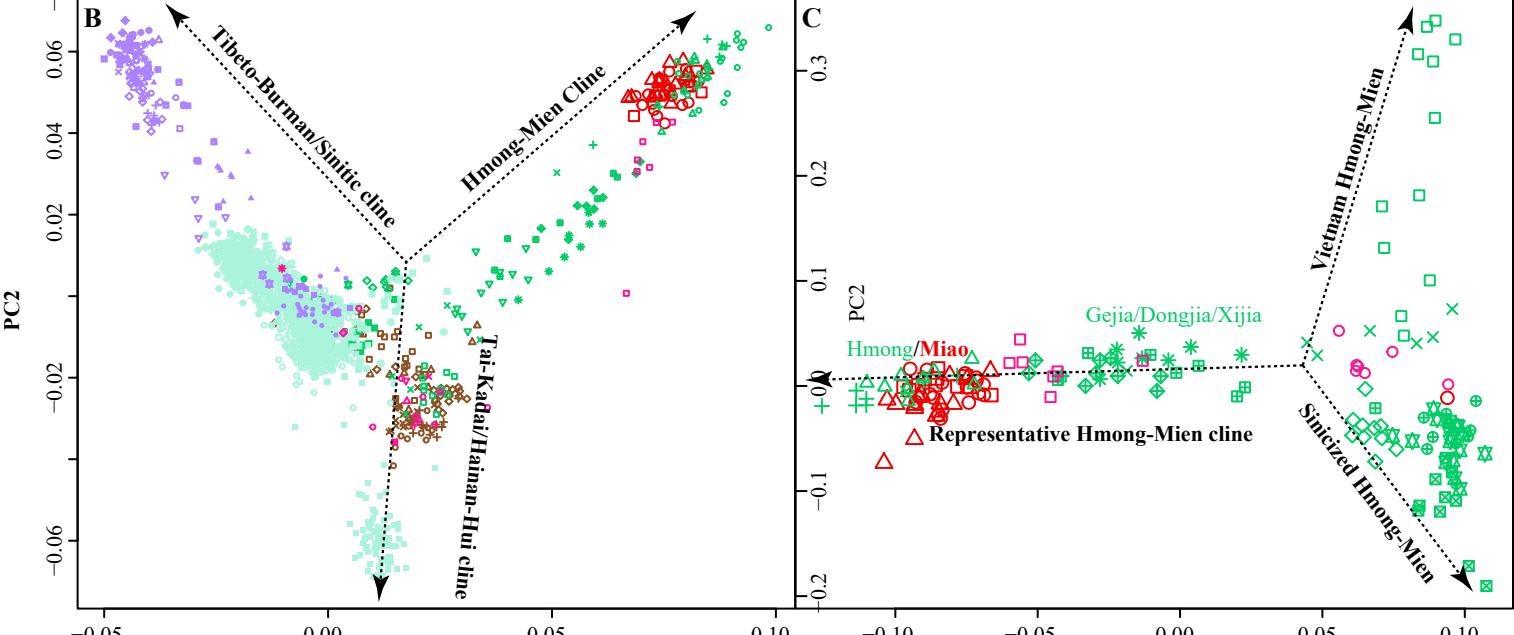
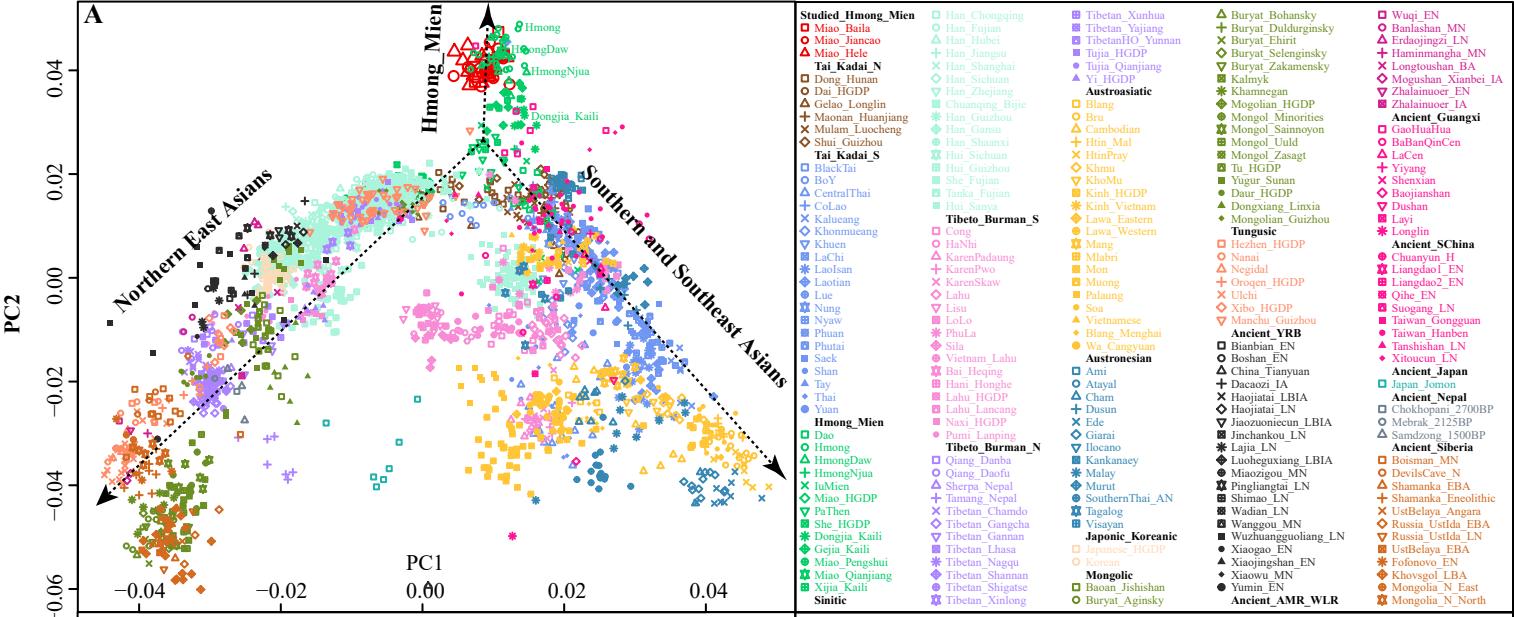
967 **Figure 4, Pairwise qpWave analysis showed the genetic heterogeneity and homogeneity among East**
968 **Asians.** P-values of rank1 tests larger than 0.05 showed the genetic homogeneity among two reference
969 populations, which were marked as “++”, and p values of rank1 tests larger than 0.01 were marked as
970 “+.”

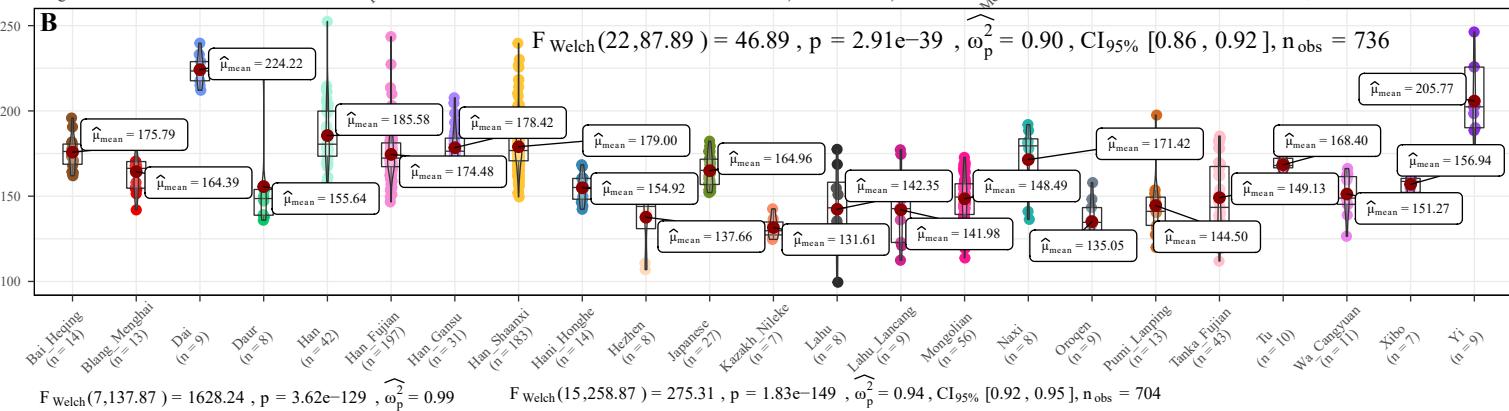
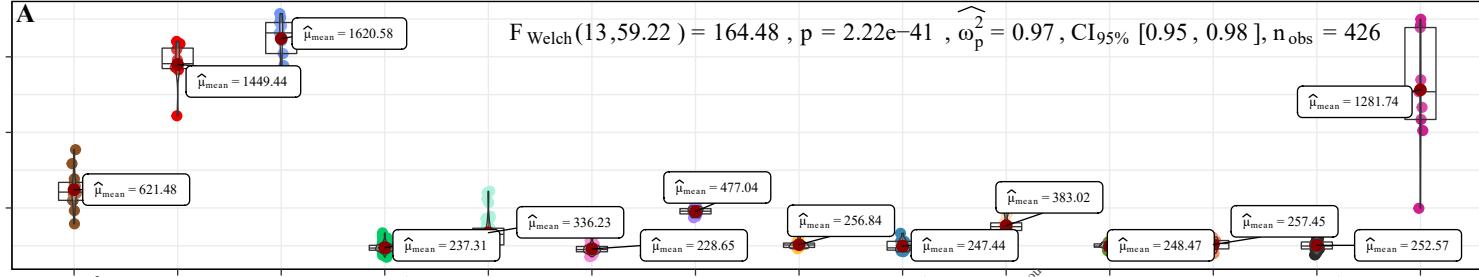
971 **Figure 5, Results of qpAdm models and TreeMix-based phylogenies.** (A), Two-way admixture
972 models showed ancestry comparison in different ancestral source pairs. (B~C), TreeMix-based
973 phylogenetic tree with two migration events showed the genetic relationship between East Asians.

974 **Figure 6. Deep population history reconstruction based on the best-fitted qpGraph models.**
975 Different frameworks in the qpGraph-based models adding the late Neolithic Fujian population
976 (SEastAsia_Coastal_LN, A), Mongolian Plateau Hunter-Gatherer (Boisman, B), Australian (C) and
977 Mixe (D).

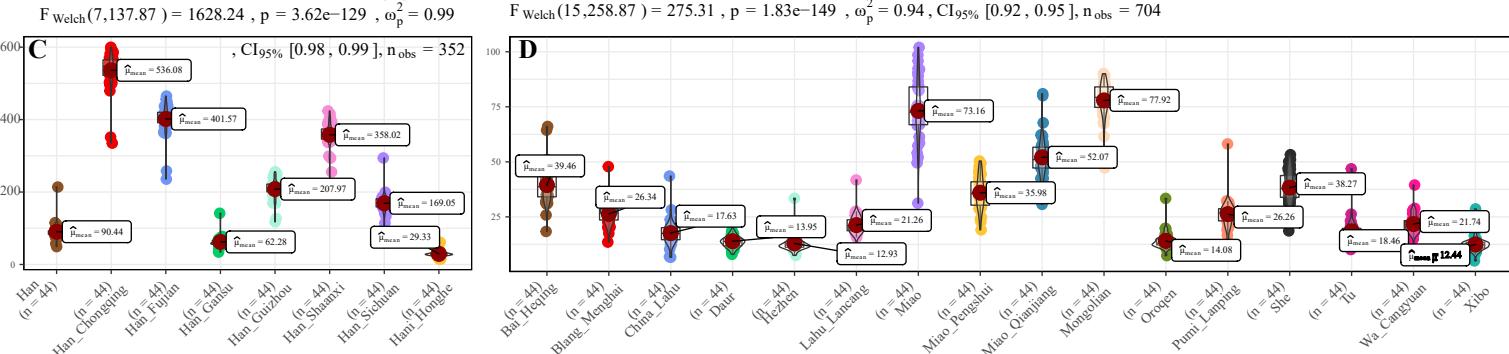
978 **Figure 7, Allele frequency spectrum of observed maternal and paternal haplogroups of Chongqing**
979 **Miao and Chongqing Han.** Population comparison between Han and Miao based on the frequency
980 distribution of the observed paternal lineages (A) and maternal lineages (B) via the Pearson and Cramer
981 tests.

982 **Figure 8 Manhattan showed the natural selection signatures and enrichment analysis.** (A), P-values
983 of XPEHH in Miao population using northern Han as the reference population. (B), Overlap among three
984 gene lists based on gene-level and shared term level, where blue curves link genes that belong to the
985 same enriched ontology term. The inner-circle represents gene lists, where hits are arranged along the
986 arc. Genes that hit multiple lists are colored in dark orange, and genes unique to a list are shown in light
987 orange. (C), Heatmap of top-twenty enriched terms across three input gene lists, colored by p-values.
988 (D), Top 20 clusters with their representative enriched terms, (E), Network of enriched terms colored by
989 cluster-ID.

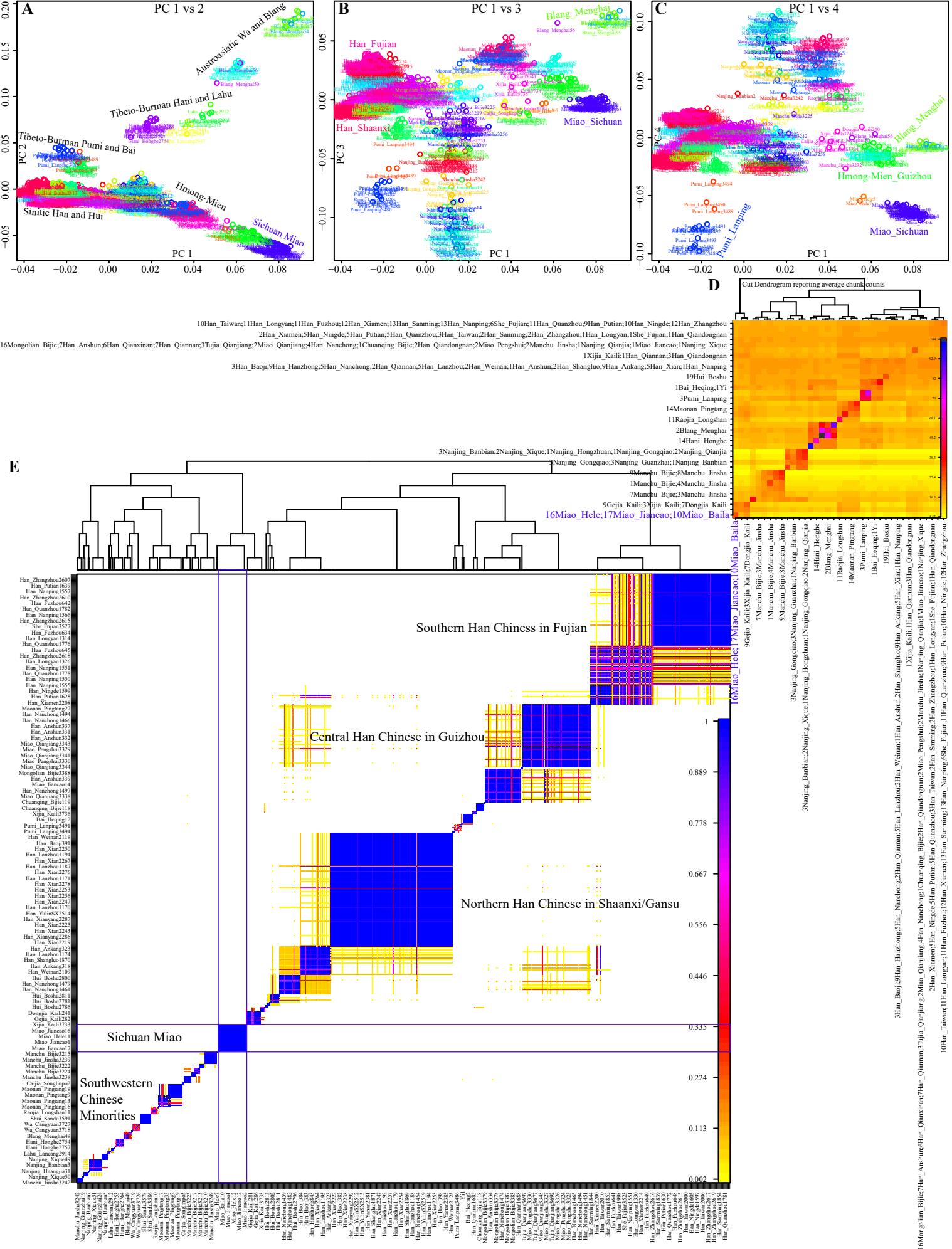


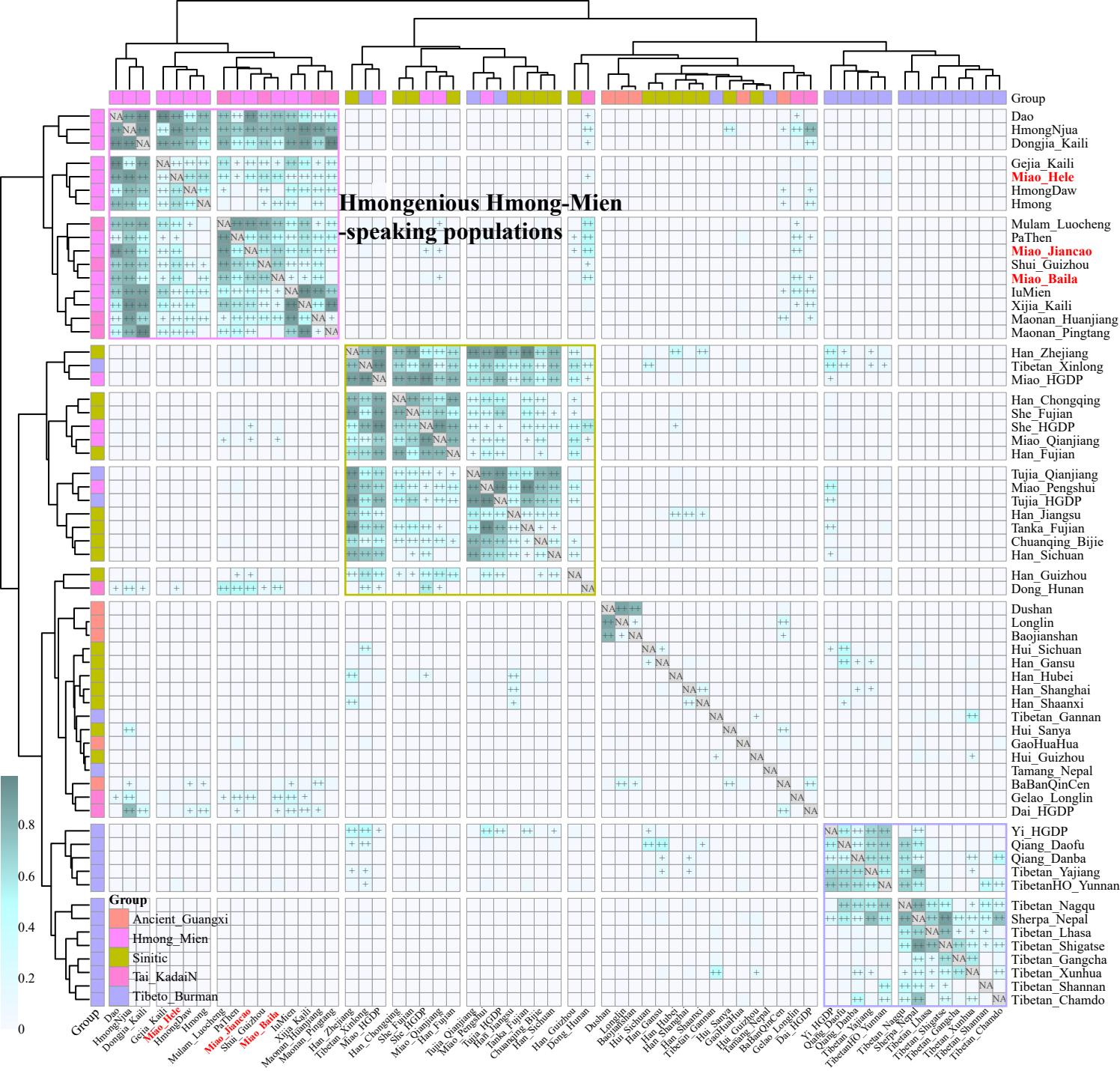


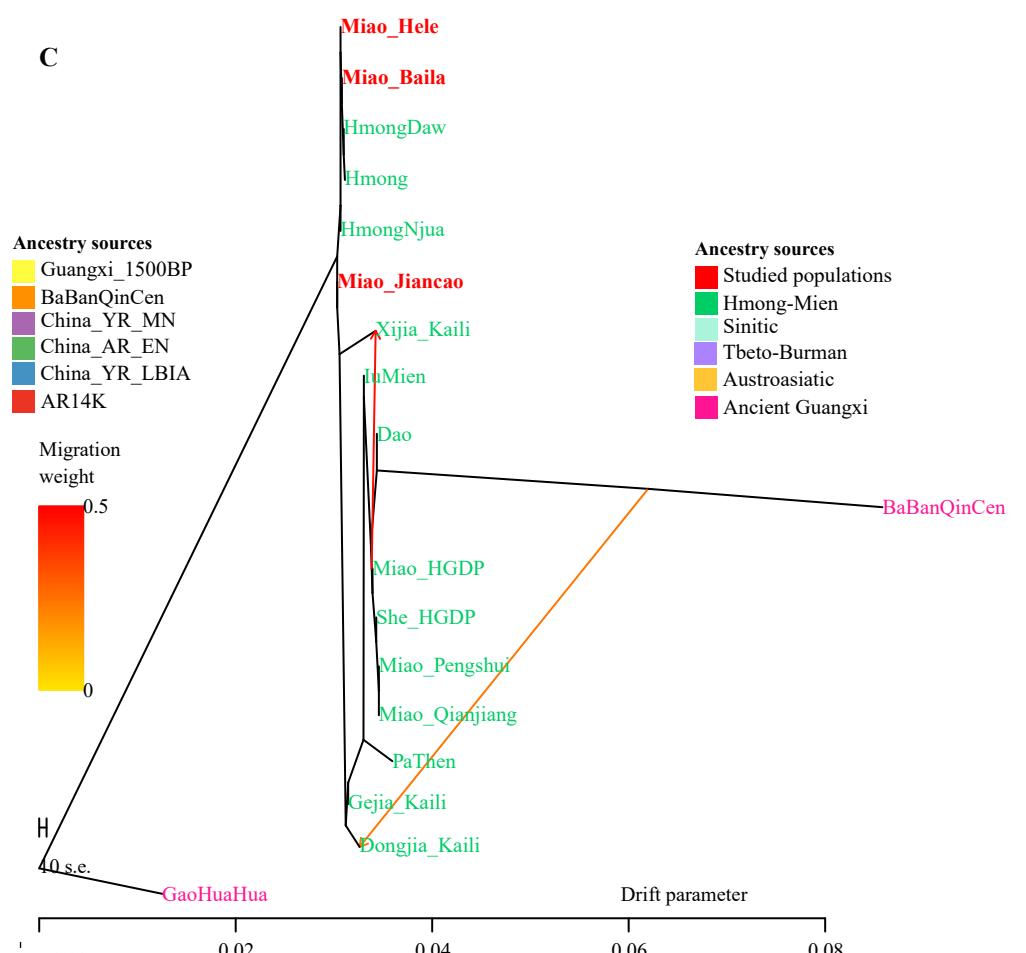
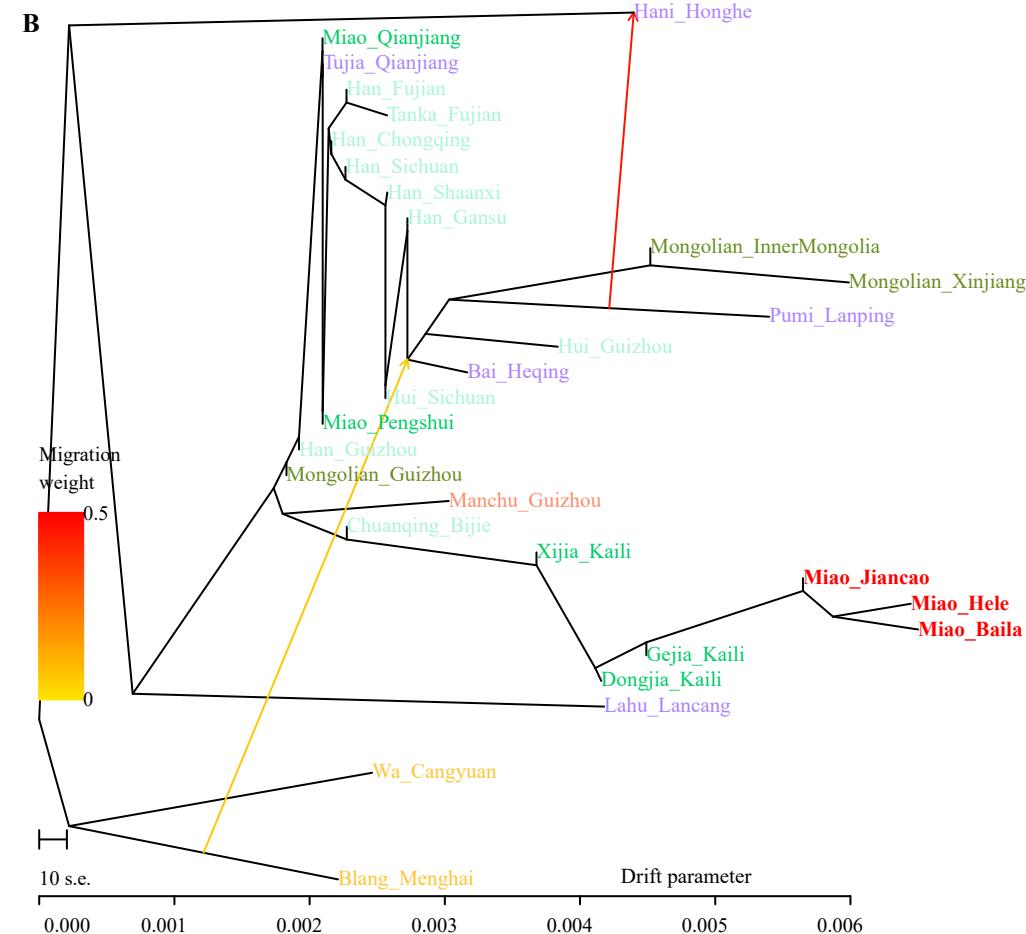
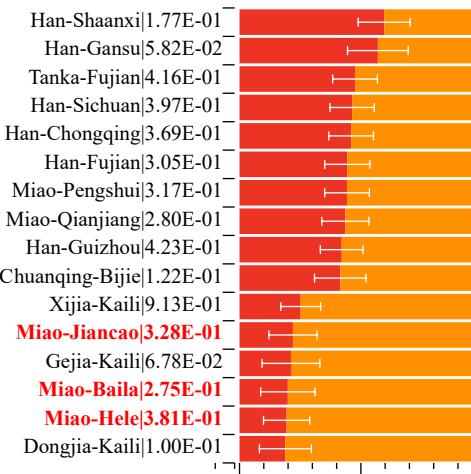
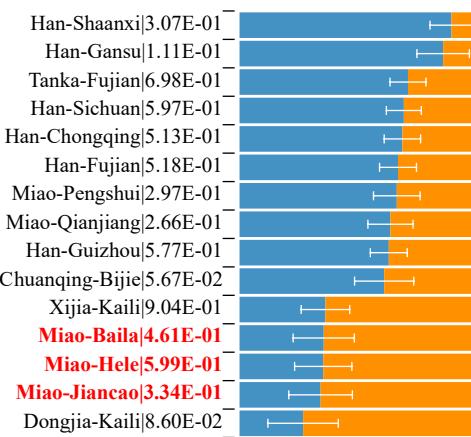
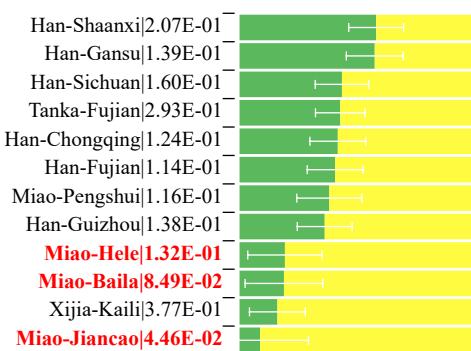
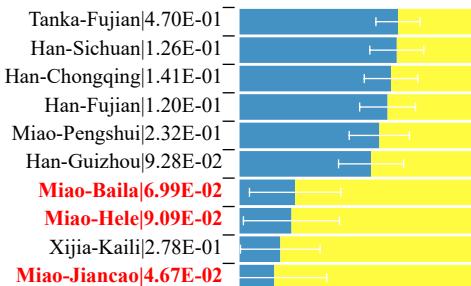
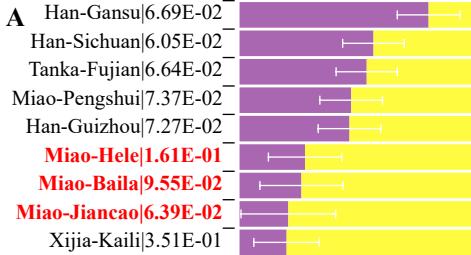
$F_{\text{Welch}}(7, 137.87) = 1628.24, p = 3.62e-129, \hat{\omega}_p^2 = 0.99$

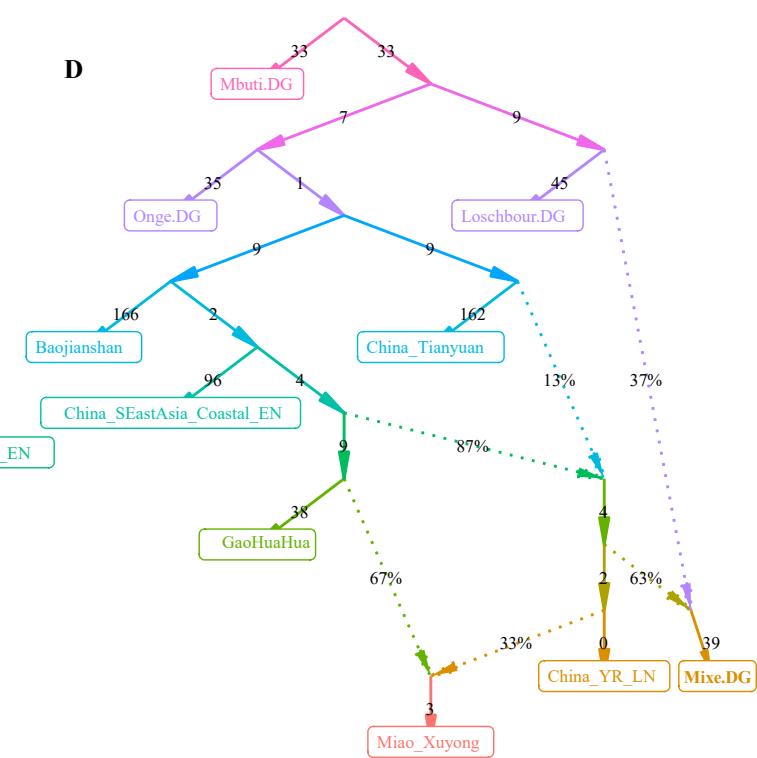
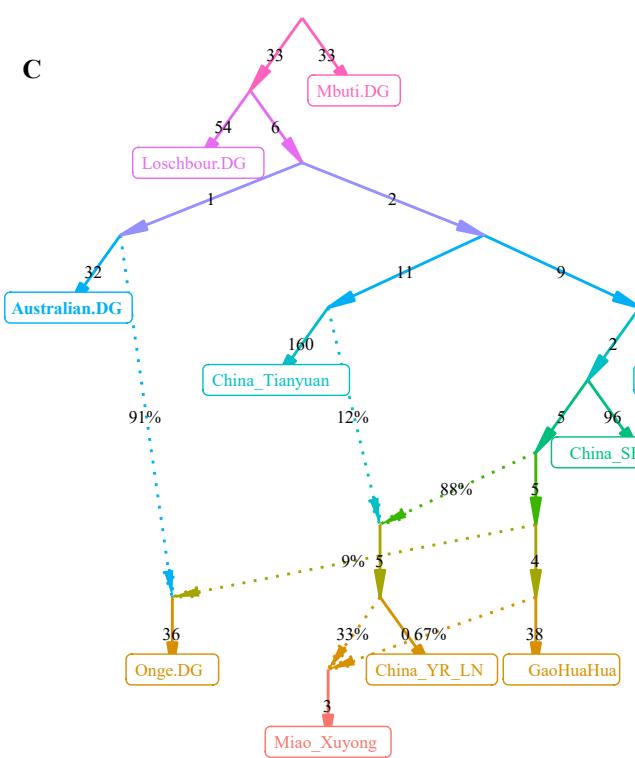
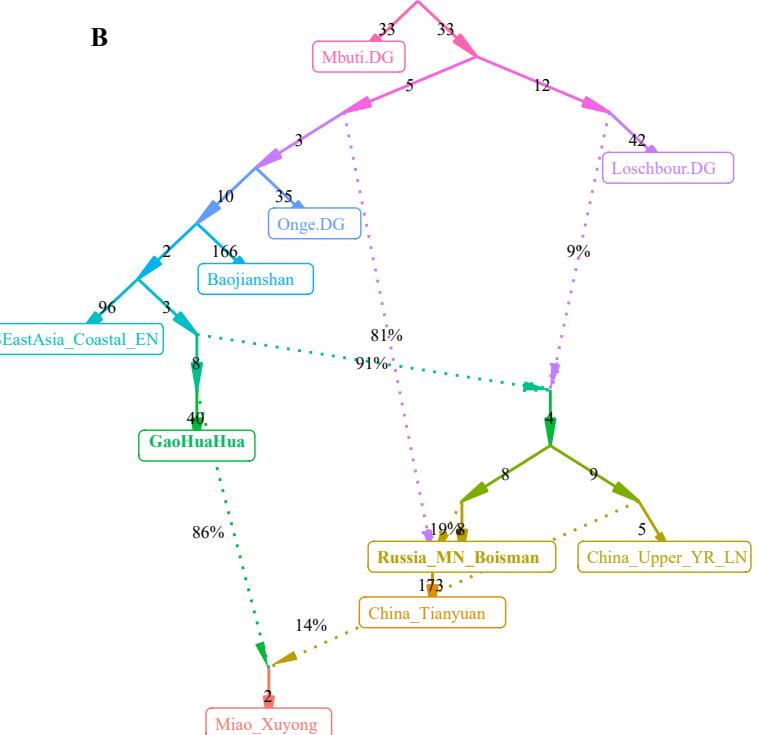
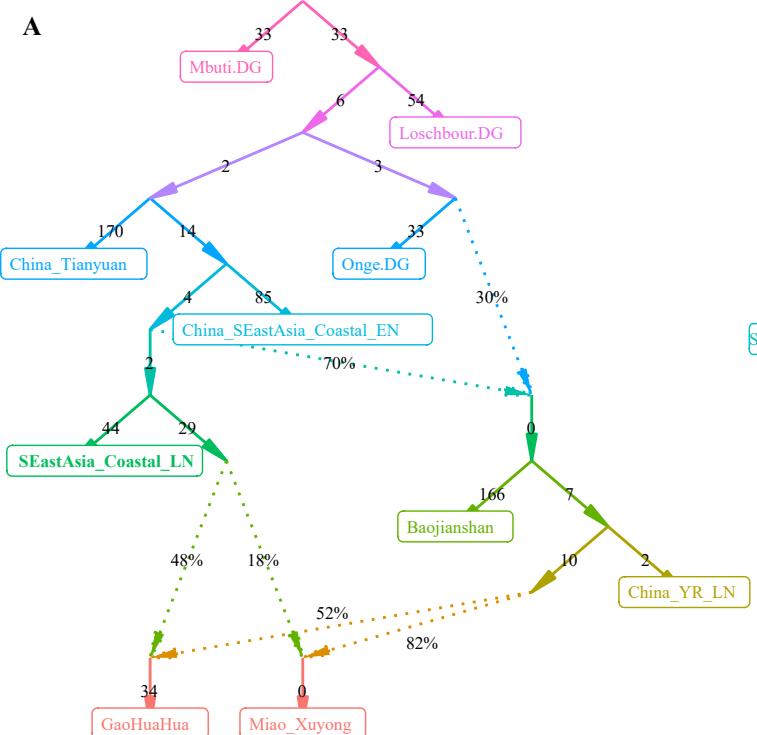


$F_{\text{Welch}}(15, 258.87) = 275.31, p = 1.83e-149, \hat{\omega}_p^2 = 0.94, \text{CI}_{95\%} [0.92, 0.95], n_{\text{obs}} = 704$









$\chi^2_{\text{Pearson}} (18) = 21.36$, $p = 0.262$, $\widehat{V}_{\text{Cramer}} = 0.16$, $\text{CI}_{95\%} [0.00, 0.00]$, $n_{\text{obs}} = 121$

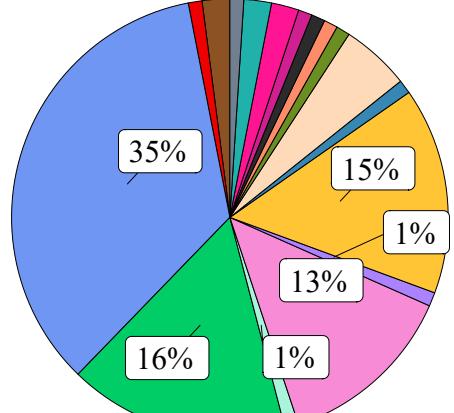
Y-chromosomal haplogroup

Han_Chongqing

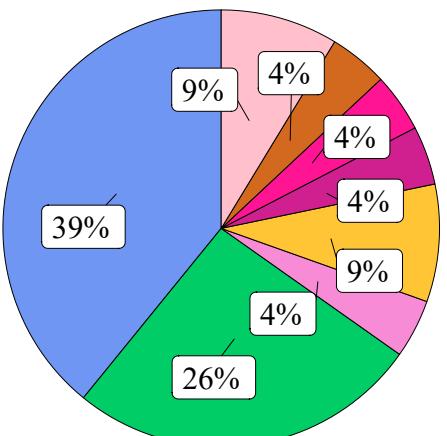
Miao_Xuyong

A

$\chi^2_{\text{gof}} (18) = 261.06$, $p = 4.56e-45$, $n = 98$



$\chi^2_{\text{gof}} (18) = 83.57$, $p = 2.02e-10$, $n = 23$



$\log_e(BF_{01}) = 5.78$, $\widehat{V}_{\text{Cramer}}^{\text{posterior}} = 0.41$, $\text{CI}_{95\%}^{\text{HDI}} [0.30, 0.54]$, $a_{\text{Gunel-Dickey}} = 1.00$

$\chi^2_{\text{Pearson}} (35) = 76.10$, $p = 7.1e-05$, $\widehat{V}_{\text{Cramer}} = 0.40$, $\text{CI}_{95\%} [0.00, 0.35]$, $n_{\text{obs}} = 251$

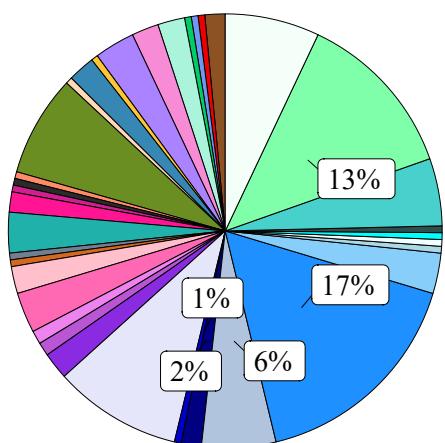
Mitochondrial haplogroup

Han_Chongqing

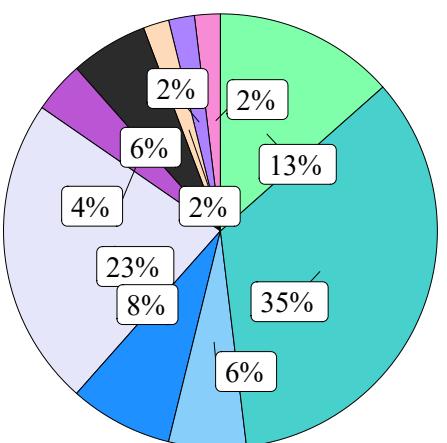
Miao_Xuyong

B

$\chi^2_{\text{gof}} (35) = 342.09$, $p = 4.73e-52$, $n = 199$



$\chi^2_{\text{gof}} (35) = 334.31$, $p = 1.58e-50$, $n = 52$



$\log_e(BF_{01}) = -0.64$, $\widehat{V}_{\text{Cramer}}^{\text{posterior}} = 0.48$, $\text{CI}_{95\%}^{\text{HDI}} [0.40, 0.56]$, $a_{\text{Gunel-Dickey}} = 1.00$

