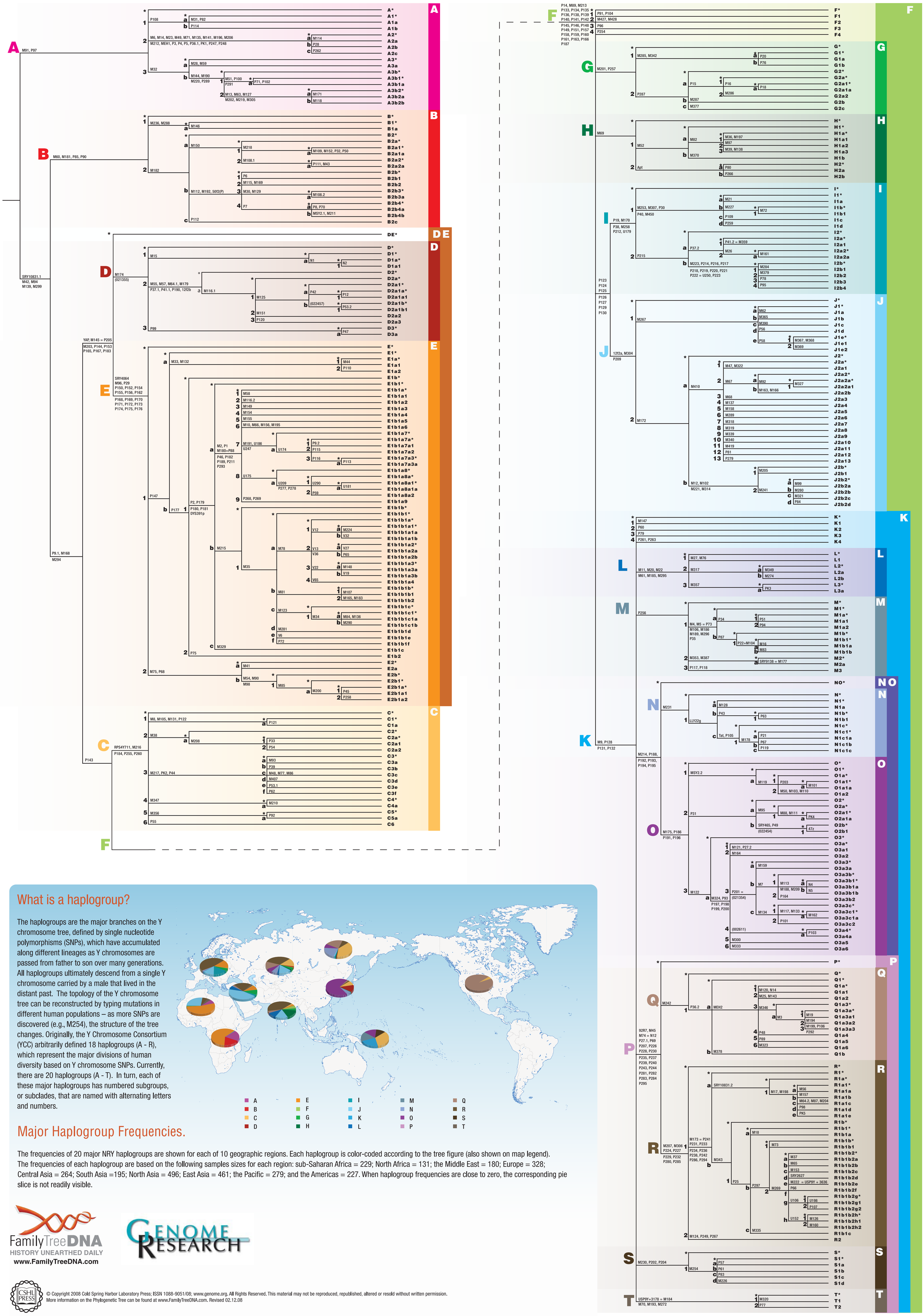
Y-Chromosome Phylogenetic Tree



What is a haplogroup?

The haplogroups are the major branches on the Y chromosome tree, defined by single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), which have accumulated along different lineages as Y chromosomes are passed from father to son over many generations. All haplogroups ultimately descend from a single Y chromosome carried by a male that lived in the distant past. The topology of the Y chromosome tree can be reconstructed by typing mutations in different human populations – as more SNPs are discovered (e.g., M254), the structure of the tree changes. Originally, the Y Chromosome Consortium (YCC) arbitrarily defined 18 haplogroups (A - R), which represent the major divisions of human diversity based on Y chromosome SNPs. Currently, there are 20 haplogroups (A - T). In turn, each of these major haplogroups has numbered subgroups, or subclades, that are named with alternating letters and numbers.

Major Haplogroup Frequencies.

The frequencies of 20 major NRY haplogroups are shown for each of 10 geographic regions. Each haplogroup is color-coded according to the tree figure (also shown on map legend). The frequencies of each haplogroup are based on the following samples sizes for each region: sub-Saharan Africa = 229; North Africa = 131; the Middle East = 180; Europe = 328; Central Asia = 264; South Asia =195; North Asia = 496; East Asia = 461; the Pacific = 279; and the Americas = 227. When haplogroup frequencies are close to zero, the corresponding pie slice is not readily visible.

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