

INFERENCES FROM STUDIES ON HUMAN DIVERSITY ... LONG AFTER DARWIN

PARTHA P. MAJUMDER*

Charles Darwin was silent on the evolution of humans in his 1859 book 'On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection'. Later, in his 1871 book The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex, dealt extensively with this topic. In this book he made many seminal observations and prophetic statements about human evolution. Darwin recognized that variation in characteristics among individuals provided the basis of evolutionary transitions. The rediscovery of Mendelism in 1900 ushered in a new era in biology. Tools for studying genetic diversity at greater molecular depths became available in quick succession. In this essay we discuss various aspects of human genome diversity studies on our understanding of human evolution and the value of such studies.
