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**An Asian-specific 9-bp deletion in region V of  
mitochondrial DNA is found in Europe.**

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The Kalmyks is single human population in modern Europe professing Buddhism. The ancestry of the Kalmyks were ancient Mongol tribes and then the Oirats, who lived in West Mongolia during XI-XVI centuries AD. The Oirats existed as the the alliance of four nomad tribes since the Chingizkhan's empire. The Kalmyks have appeared in South-East Europe (the area of lower Volga and the North Caucasus) in the end of XVI - beginning of XVII centuries AD. The molecular-genetic analysis of the non-coding region V of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) was carried out for 139 Kalmyks belonging to three tribes of the Kalmyks according to their maternal lineages: the Torgut - 50 persons, the Derbet - 46 persons, the Buzav (the Don's Kalmyks) - 17 persons. The maternal ancestry for 26 Kalmyks were uncertain. Main polymorphisms in the region V were typed: 1) the Asian-specific intergenic COII/tRNA<sub>Lys</sub> 9-bp deletion, 2) the loss of *HaeIII* restriction site at the position of 8250-8254 nucleotides. The frequency of 9-bp deletion was 8,6% for the Kalmyks as the whole, 8.0% for the Torgut, 4.4% for the Derbet, 11.8% for the Buzav, and 15.4% for the group of the Kalmyks with uncertain maternal lineage ancestry. The *HaeIII* 8250-8254 site loss was observed for 3.6% of the Kalmyks (5 persons) and was only found among the Torgut. Presence of *HaeIII* polymorphism may be due to specific events in the Torgut history. Mutation rate in mtDNA, history and ethnic isolation of the Oirats and the Kalmyks after disintegration of the Chingizkhan's empire lead to conclusion about similarity of mtDNA haplotypes between modern Kalmyks and medieval Mongols before invasion in Europe.