

The Mundari Dialects, an Archeological View

by Potluri Rao In Seattle ©2018 (CC BY 4.0)

People who speak the Mundari language are the DNA O, a subgroup of the DNA F. Currently, they are scattered in small pockets only in the Nagpur plateau. They are found in high concentration in South East Asia.

The C and F, also known as the Asia Clade of Homo Sapiens, voluntarily left Ethiopia 100,000 years ago in search of dependable perennial rainwater resources. At that time, much of the world was covered with glaciers and the seawater was far below the current levels. At that time, the current Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman were fertile valleys called Balochistan. The C and F moved from Ethiopia to Balochistan 80,000 years ago.

The F were subdivided into the H, J2b, and O and spread out in different directions. The C and O moved from Balochistan to Punjab the current Thar desert that was a fertile valley at that time. From Punjab, they moved along the Yamuna river, to the Bay of Bengal that stretched from Bangladesh to Australia called Sunda. Sunda was a giant fertile valley with rainwater rivers. The C and O lived in Sunda 60,000 years ago.

Twenty thousand years ago, the glaciers started to melt and Sunda was submerged under 500 feet of water. The C moved east to China. The O retreated to the Sone river of the Vindhya. They moved to the Trikuta the headwaters of the Sone.

The O lived only along the Sone, in the Nagpur plateau. Around 2,200 BCE there was a global drought that lasted for almost 200 years. Majority of the O returned to Sunda. A few people were left behind; they moved to the east side of the Satpura Range, along with the rest of the people who were forced to relocate to the east side. They lived mostly in the current Odisha (Orissa) State.

Mundari (O) lived along the Sone only from 20,000 BCE to 2,200 BCE. They were along the Yamuna river 60,000 years ago when they moved from Balochistan to Sunda. They lived in Sunda from 60,000 BCE to 20,000 BCE. Currently, they live in what is left of Sunda. Mundari was the original language of the O.

Unlike the other languages of the South India such as Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu the Mundari dialects never evolved into a language. Languages evolved from dialects only when there was a commercial need for mass communications for trade. The O were highlanders with a different life style compared to the H and J2b.

According to the Census 2011 data, the following map shows pockets of Mundari dialects currently present in the Nagpur plateau.

- 98 Asuri
- 99 Bijori
- 100 Kodaku
- 112 Korwa
- 113 Kharia
- 122 Mru
- 134 Koda
- 135 Dhimal
- 136 Birhar
- 137 Turi
- 141 Munda
- 142 Mundari
- 143 Mahali
- 147 Juang
- 148 Parenga
- 149 Ho
- 343 Sora
- 344 Juray

