# Microsatellite markers based genetic diversity and differentiation of Balangir goat population of Odisha

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#### ABSTRACT

This study was executed to investigate the genetic diversity of Balangir, a local goat population from Odisha, and its differentiation from the geographically closest registered goat breeds, Ganjam and Black Bengal by utilizing 22 polymorphic microsatellite markers. The genotypic status of individuals at each locus was identified by an automated DNA sequencer and allelic data was analyzed for genetic diversity parameters. It resulted in the acquisition of original and comparable information confirming the genetic distinctness of the Balangir goat population. The observed number of alleles varied between 4 (RM4) and 16 (OMHC1) with 8.23±0.64 alleles per locus in Balangir goats. A moderate level of observed heterozygosity (0.57±0.05) indicated sufficiently existing genetic diversity in this goat population which varied between 0.09 (OarJMP29) and 1 (ILSTS22). Expected heterozygosity (0.64±0.04) oscillated between 0.18 (ILSTS34) and 0.89 (OMHC1). Within the population, heterozygosity deficiency estimate (F<sub>IS</sub>) was significantly positive (0.13±0.05) and 73% of the investigated loci contributed towards the homozygote excess. Consequently, significant deviation from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium was observed at 12 of 22 analyzed loci. Assessment of Balangir goat population for mutation drift equilibrium indicated that the population did not suffer a reduction in effective population size in the last few generations. Four different approaches utilized to study genetic relationships (F statistics, analysis of molecular variance, phylogenetic relationship genetic distance, and individual assignment) indicated that the Balangir goat population was genetically differentiated from the two registered goat breeds. The study highlighted that Balangir is discrete Indian goat germplasm with sufficient genetic variability and needs to be registered as a goat breed of India.

Keywords: Balangir goat, Bottleneck, Diversity, Inbreeding, Microsatellite, Odisha

Goats (Capra hircus) are the smallest domesticated ruminants, widely spread across the world. They play an important economic role in India and other developing countries (MacHugh and Bradley 2001, Paim et al. 2019). In India, goats are distributed in varied geographical regions from the high altitude Himalayas to Rajasthan deserts and humid coastal areas (Joshi et al. 2004). Indian goat population has evolved mainly through adaptation to local agro-ecological conditions and to some extent through artificial selection for different traits (Tantia et al. 2018). As per 20th Livestock Census (www.dahd.nic.in/), the goat population in India was 148.88 million registering an increase of 10.1% over the previous census in 2012 (19<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census 2012). India has 34 registered goat breeds (www.nbagr.res.in) which correspond to only 41% of the indigenous goat population. The majority of the goat population (59%) is still referred to as the non-descript (Shivahre 2017). Hence, there is a need to characterize non-

Present address: ¹ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal, Haryana. ²BAIF, Uruli Kanchan, Maharashtra. ⊠Corresponding author email: rekvik@gmail.com descript populations and to establish their distinctness from the registered goat breeds for the formulation of conservation plans to ensure maintenance of indigenous caprine germplasm diversity.

Characterization of the new goat population and establishing their uniqueness from the registered breeds have gained momentum in the last decade in India. One such population is the Balangir goat of Odisha state. Ganjam is the only goat breed (INDIA\_GOAT\_1500\_GANJAM\_ 06008) registered from the state, although its total goat population is 6.39 million. Crossbreeding of indigenous goat germplasm of Odisha with Black Bengal goat breed (INDIA\_GOAT\_2100\_BLACKBENGAL\_06004) was taken up for genetic up-gradation of the existing stock. Molecular characterization of genetic diversity is helpful in the planning of conservation programs and in understanding existing variability in a population, its differentiation, structure, origin, and domestication. In recent years, different studies have been reported for genetic diversity estimation of various Indian goat breeds using microsatellites markers (Mishra et al. 2010, Vijh et al. 2010, Zaman et al. 2013, Singh et al. 2015, Raghavendra et al. 2017, Tantia et al. 2018, Verma et al. 2019).

This study was undertaken to get an in-depth description of the current status of the genetic diversity and population structure in the Balangir goats as well their genetic distinctness from two registered goat breeds of this region (Ganjam and Black Bengal). The results can guide the development of breeding strategies for efficient germplasm resources utilization, conservation, and development. This will also facilitate the registration of Balangir as a breed.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals, distribution and sample collection: Balangir goats are mainly distributed in the three districts of Odisha; Balangir, Sonepur, and Bargarh. These were located between 20°72′ and 21°20′N latitude and between 83°37′ and 83°92′E longitude. Animals are of brown, black, and white color with brown having dominance. More than 5,000 animals of 500 farmers were explored for the morphometric characteristics in an extensive survey undertaken in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) funded project–Network project on Animal Genetic Resources. Blood samples of 50 unrelated animals were collected from the jugular vein of the animal using vacutainer tubes having EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid) as an anticoagulant. Samples were transported to the laboratory in an ice-box and stored at –80°C.

DNA extraction and microsatellite amplification: DNA was isolated from whole blood using the standard phenolchloroform method (Sambrook et al. 2001). The resulting DNA strands were spooled out and washed twice with icecold 70% ethanol to remove excess salts. DNA was redissolved in 300-450 µl of Tris-acetate-EDTA (TAE) buffer (pH 8). The quality and concentration of DNA were checked on 0.6% agarose gel as well as by nanodrop spectrophotometer. Twenty-two FAO (http://dad.fao.org/en/refer/ library/guideline/marker.pdf) and ISAG (International Society for Animal Genetics) recommended microsatellite markers for goats, spread across the genome were selected for microsatellite genotyping (FAO 2011). The forward primer of each primer pair was labeled with a fluorescent dye. These markers have previously been demonstrated to be polymorphic in different Indian goat breeds (Tantia et al. 2018, Verma et al. 2019). PCR was performed in a total reaction volume of 10 µL using 96 well plates. The reaction mixture consisted of 10-20 ng of DNA, 0.2 µM of each primer, and a PCR master mix consisting of 0.2 mM of each dNTP and 2 mM of MgCl<sub>2</sub>. A negative control, consisting of all the reaction components, except for the template DNA, was also included to detect any possible contamination. Touchdown protocol was run. Details areinitial denaturation of 95°C for 1 min; amplification cycle with steps of denaturation at 95°C for 45 sec, 60–51°C with a decrease of 3°C every third cycle for 1 min, 72°C for 45 sec and 20 cycles of denaturation; 95°C for 45 sec, amplification at 48°C for 1 min, extension at 72°C for 45 sec followed by final extension step at 72°C for 5 min. The remaining 2 loci (ILSTS049 and OarAE129) were amplified

with a specific temperature protocol which consisted of initial denaturation of 95°C for 1 min; 32 cycles of 95°C for 30 sec, specific annealing temperature (58 and 60°C, respectively) for 45 sec, 72°C for 45 sec and final extension step at 72°C for 10 min. Amplification products were electrophoresed in 2% agarose gel treated with ethidium bromide for later visualization of DNA bands under ultraviolet light.

Microsatellite marker genotyping: Fluorescently-labelled DNA fragments were analyzed by capillary electrophoresis on Applied Biosystems 3130XL Genetic Analyzer. Genotyping reaction consisted of 1  $\mu$ L PCR products, 8.9  $\mu$ L of Hi-Di formamide, and 0.1  $\mu$ L of GeneScan® LIZ 500 size standard. Fragment sizes were estimated by GeneScan analysis software (Applied Biosystems, USA) and extraction of allele size was done with the Gene Mapper 3.0 software. The extracted data were analyzed to estimate genetic diversity.

Diversity estimation: The genotype data were analyzed using GenAlEx 6.5 software (Peakall and Smouse 2012) to calculate allele frequencies at each locus for each population, the average number of alleles per population; observed (Na), and effective numbers of alleles (Ne) and heterozygosity values; observed (Ho) and expected (He), Shannon information index (I) as well as heterozygote deficit ( $F_{\rm IS}$ ) per locus across breeds and markers. Average values were expressed as Mean±SE from values at each locus. Chi-square tests of deviations from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) were derived.

Relationships and genetic differentiation among populations: To study the genetic differentiation of Balangir goats from the closely distributed registered breeds (Ganjam and Black Bengal), its genotype data were compared and analyzed with the data already generated for the two breeds. Different F statistics estimates, Principal coordinate analysis (PCoA), analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA), and genetic distances were applied. PCoA for the microsatellite markers, Nei's genetic distance (Nei 1972), and Cavalli-Sforza Chord distance were estimated by GenAlEx 6.5. The dendrograms of phylogenetic trees were built from different distance matrices and were visualized by MEGA4 (Tamura et al. 2007) using the neighbor-joining (NJ) approach. Population assignment was performed using multilocus genotypes of individuals as implemented in GenAlEx 6.5.

Bottleneck detection: Bottleneck events in the population were tested by two methods using Bottleneck v1.2.02 (http://www.ensam.inra.fr/URLB). The first method consisted of three excess heterozygosity tests developed by Cornuet and Luikart (1996) like a sign test, standardized differences test, and a Wilcoxon signed-rank test. The probability distribution was established using 1,000 simulations based on allele frequency and heterozygosity under three models namely infinite allele model (IAM), stepwise mutation model (SMM), and two-phase model of mutation (TPM). The genetic bottleneck test was reconfirmed through a Mode shift indicator test based on qualitative descriptive allele frequency distribution (Luikart et al. 1998). Loss of rare

alleles in bottlenecked populations was detected when one or more of the common allele classes have a higher number of alleles than the rare allele class.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Genetic characterization of goat breeds requires a basic understanding of the variation both within and between populations. Microsatellites are useful in conservation genetics because of the high degree of polymorphism, which makes them extremely informative and provides very high discriminating power (Glaubitz and Moran 2000). These properties of microsatellites allow a thorough assessment of the genetic variation and structure within and among populations (Bruford *et al.* 1996). Genetic diversity is essential for the long-term survival of species and populations, because it provides the raw material for adaptation and evolution, especially when environmental conditions change. The genetic diversity of many goat breeds has been investigated using microsatellite markers.

Genetic variability in Balangir goat population: All the markers were polymorphic and a total of 181 alleles were detected across the 22 loci. An exact test for genotypic linkage disequilibrium yielded no significant P values across the population, and therefore independent assortment of all the loci was assumed. Reasonable polymorphism in Balangir goats is evident from the allele frequency data. OMHC1 showed the highest number of observed alleles per locus (16) while RM4 showed the lowest (4) with 8.227 mean numbers of alleles (Table 1). The expected number of alleles varied from 1.21 (ILSTS34) to 8.87 (OMHC1) with a mean of 3.69±0.43. Lower values of the expected number of alleles as compared to the observed number of alleles in all the population suggested that low-frequency alleles were prevalent in this population (Sharma et al. 2015). The use of microsatellites with a range of polymorphisms reduced the risk of overestimating genetic variability, which might occur with the selection of only highly polymorphic microsatellite markers. Genetic variation is important as it provides the ability to adapt to ever-changing environments. Indian goats in general show the higher genetic variation that must have contributed to their adaptability (Sharma et al. 2015). Balangir goats also had a considerable amount of allelic diversity (Table 1), which is comparable to some of the established breeds of India such as Mahboobnagar (8.8±0.55; Raghavendra et al. 2017), Bidri (8.48±0.88) and Nandidurga (8.22±0.66) (Tantia et al. 2018). Balangir allelic diversity is much higher than the Assam Hill goats (4.9±2.220; Zaman et al. 2013) but is lower than the Changthangi breed of the Himalayan region (10.4±3.91; Mishra et al. 2010).

Shannon's Information Index (I) is a parameter indicative of the informative degree of a marker which ranged from 0.45 (ILSTS34) to 2.36 (OMHC1) with a mean of 1.44±0.11 in Balangir goats (Table 1). Balangir goat had sufficient genetic variation based on its gene diversity in addition to the average number of alleles per locus. The observed and expected heterozygosity values ranged from 0.09

(OarJMP29) to 1 (ILSTS22) and from 0.18 (ILSTS34) to 0.89 (OMHC1) with an overall mean of 0.57±0.05 and 0.64±0.04, respectively. Mean observed heterozygosity (0.57) in Balangir goat was less than that in several recognized goat breeds of India, viz. Changthangi (0.60; Mishra et al. 2010), Nandidurga (0.60; Tantia et al. 2018), Black Bengal (0.69; Vijh et al. 2010), Osmanabadi (0.71; Bhat et al. 2013), Sanagamneri (0.73; Nath et al. 2014), Berari (0.79; Kharkar et al. 2015), Chegu (0.80) and Gaddi (0.748) goat of Himachal Pradesh (Singh et al. 2015). Observed heterozygosity was lower than expected showing a departure from Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) and the possibility of inbreeding. Significant deviation from HWE was observed in 12 loci at P< 0.001. Ewens-Watterson test for neutrality revealed that all the microsatellite markers were neutral as observed F values lie within the upper and lower limits of 95% confidence region of the expected F values. Since 100% loci were neutral, selection as a cause of the decrease in observed heterozygosity was ruled out. Thus, the difference between the observed and expected heterozygosity can be due to the non-random mating among the individuals of the population. This was also reflected in the positive  $F_{IS}$  value (0.13) which ranged from -0.36 to 0.70 (Table 1). Heterozygote deficiency of 13% indicated the possibility of inbreeding in the population.

Genetic bottleneck analysis: Bottleneck influences the distribution of genetic variation within and among populations. In recently bottlenecked populations, the majority of loci will exhibit an excess of heterozygotes, exceeding the heterozygosity expected in a population at mutation drift equilibrium. Non-significant heterozygote excess based on different models, as revealed from Wilcoxon rank test (Table 2) and under IAM and TPM models of Sign test and IAM model of Standardized differences tests suggested that there was no recent bottleneck in the existing Balangir population.

The genetic bottleneck in the recent past is a significant aspect to consider for conservation because it leads to a reduction in genetic variability, inbreeding, expression of undesirable recessive alleles, and therefore diminishing the survival rates.

A graphical representation utilizing allelic class and proportion of alleles showed a normal 'L' shaped distribution (Fig. 1) and hence the abundance of low frequency (<0.10) alleles. This finding suggested the absence of any detectably large, recent genetic bottleneck (preceding 40–80 generations) in this population.

Differentiation of Balangir goat population: Balangir goat was most diverse, which had 181 alleles, closely followed by Black Bengal with 165 alleles and Ganjam with a total of 157 alleles (Table 2). Similarly, the mean observed number of alleles (Na) and heterozygosity (Ho) were highest in the Balangir goat population being 8.23±0.64 and 0.57±0.05, respectively. Corresponding values for the Black Bengal breed were 7.50±0.48 and 0.53±0.05 and the least values were observed in Ganjam as 7.14±0.54 and 0.51±0.05. Ganjam had the highest

Table 1. Microsatellite diversity estimates in Ganjam and Black Bengal goat breeds and Balangir goat population

											Breed /	Breed / Population	uc								
			Black	Black Bengal goat	goat					Ganjam	ı goat							Balangir	goat		
Locus	Z	Na	Se	Ι	Но	Не	ഥ	Z	Na	Ne	Ι	Но	Не	ഥ	Z	Na	Ne	Ι	Но	Не	Н
ETH225	47	5	1.11	0.28	90.0	0.1	0.1	33	3	1.66	0.72	0.12	0.4	69.0	45	9	1.82	0.92	0.36	0.45	0.21
ILSTS044	47	5	1.27	0.5	0.21	0.22	0.22	45	∞	2.44	1.3	0.49	0.59	0.17	45	7	2.46	1.3	0.36	0.59	0.4
ILSTS008	45	7	1.58	98.0	0.44	0.37	0.37	40	5	1.87	96.0	0.18	0.47	0.62	45	5	2.24	1.08	9.0	0.55	-0.08
OarHH64	31	10	5.81	2	0.39	0.83	0.84	4	8	2.55	1.38	0.5	0.61	0.18	4	9	3.09	1.39	0.52	89.0	0.23
ILSTS059	48	8	5.71	1.86	0.85	0.82	0.83	46	∞	2.87	1.35	0.61	0.65	0.07	39	10	4.6	1.8	0.62	0.78	0.21
ILSTS065	4	7	3.32	1.52	0.73	0.7	0.71	48	5	2.1	1.04	0.29	0.52	0.44	41	9	1.74	6.0	0.2	0.43	0.54
OarJMP29	43	5	1.44	0.67	0.33	0.31	0.31	42	∞	2.08	1.19	0.29	0.52	0.45	43	5	1.45	89.0	0.09	0.31	0.7
ILSTS033	45	111	5.13	1.95	0.87	8.0	0.81	48	∞	4.11	1.63	0.98	92.0	-0.29	46	6	2.52	1.35	0.7	9.0	-0.15
OarFCB48	45	6	5.08	1.82	69.0	8.0	0.81	45	7	5.36	1.77	0.67	0.81	0.18	48	12	5.45	1.99	0.81	0.82	0.01
OMHC1	43	11	7.18	2.1	0.79	98.0	0.87	48	11	7.62	2.17	86.0	0.87	-0.13	47	16	8.87	2.36	0.89	68.0	-0.01
ILSTS005	46	4	1.84	8.0	0.35	0.46	0.46	47	4	1.57	0.74	0.13	0.36	0.65	48	7	1.97	1.01	0.52	0.49	90.0-
ILSTS019	46	7	4.34	1.64	0.78	0.77	0.78	41	4	2.87	1.16	89.0	0.65	-0.05	48	∞	5.47	1.82	0.65	0.82	0.21
ILSTS058	36	11	7.01	2.13	0.67	98.0	0.87	43	13	3.78	1.75	0.74	0.74	-0.01	4	14	4.17	1.88	0.59	92.0	0.22
ILSTS087	41	7	4.02	1.54	0.29	0.75	92.0	36	5	3.77	1.41	0.44	0.73	0.4	47	6	6.44	2.02	0.87	0.84	-0.03
ILSTS029	36	6	4.21	1.71	0.81	0.76	0.77	38	6	5.18	1.84	0.32	0.81	0.61	43	9	1.62	0.87	0.33	0.38	0.15
ILSTS049	45	7	3.4	1.44	69.0	0.71	0.71	41	7	4.2	1.6	0.49	92.0	0.36	43	6	5.44	1.9	0.7	0.82	0.15
ILSTS30	47	7	2.67	1.4	0.51	0.63	0.63	4	∞	6.14	1.86	89.0	0.84	0.19	43	6	4.68	1.88	0.65	0.79	0.17
ILSTS34	47	8	1.8	1.02	0.36	0.44	0.45	48	7	1.57	0.83	0.29	0.36	0.2	43	9	1.21	0.45	0.16	0.18	0.07
ILSTS022	48	4	1.38	0.55	0.17	0.27	0.28	38	3	2.02	8.0	0.37	0.51	0.27	48	7	3.8	1.5	1	0.74	-0.36
RM088	42	8	3.22	1.45	69.0	69.0	0.7	45	6	3.64	1.61	0.67	0.73	0.08	46	4	2.05	0.84	0.43	0.51	0.15
RM4	45	5	1.98	0.84	0.22	0.49	0.5	4	7	3.29	1.46	0.57	0.7	0.18	48	10	4.35	1.77	0.65	0.77	0.16
ILSTS082	48	10	2.6	1.37	0.79	0.62	0.62	48	10	4.36	1.82	0.73	0.77	0.05	48	10	5.85	1.95	0.79	0.83	0.05
Mean	43.86	7.5	3.46	1.34	0.53	9.0	0.13	43.27	7.14	3.41	1.38	0.51	0.64	0.24	45.09	8.23	3.69	1.44	0.57	0.64	0.13
SE	0.94	0.48	0.4	0.12	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.91	0.54	0.34	0.09	0.05	0.03	90.0	0.55	0.64	0.43	0.11	0.05	0.04	0.05

Na, No. of different alleles; Ne, no. of effective alleles =  $1 / (Sum pi^2/2)$ ; I, Shannon's information index = -1\*Sum (pi \* Ln (pi)); Ho, observed heterozygosity = No. of Hets / N; He, expected heterozygosity =  $1-Sum pi^2/2$ ; uHe, unbiased expected heterozygosity = (2N / (2N-1))\*He; F, fixation index = (He-Ho) / He = 1-(Ho / He), Where pi is the frequency of the  $i^{th}$  allele for the population and Sum  $pi^2/2$  is the sum of the squared total allele frequencies.

Table 2. Test for null hypothesis for mutation drift equilibrium under three mutation models using Sign rank, Standardized differences and Wilcoxon tests

Test/ model		IAM	TPM	SMM
Sign test (Number of loci with heterozygosity excess)	Expected	13.09	13.03	12.93
	Observed	13.00	9.00	2.00
	P value	0.56472	0.06379	0.00000*
Standardized differences test	T2 value	-0.11	-4.082	-12.159
	P value	0.45614	0.00002*	0.0*
Wilcoxon rank test (one tail for heterozygosity excess)	P value	0.52537	0.96578	0.99999

<sup>\*</sup>Rejection of null hypothesis / Bottleneck.

heterozygote deficiency ( $F_{IS}$ , 24%) whereas; Black Bengal and Balangir had 13% deficiency.

To describe the level of heterogeneity within and between the studied goat populations, firstly, F-statistics values were determined. The global deficit of heterozygotes across populations ( $F_{IT}$ ) amounted to 32.8%. An overall 16.3% significant (P<0.05) deficit of heterozygotes ( $F_{IS}$ ) occurred

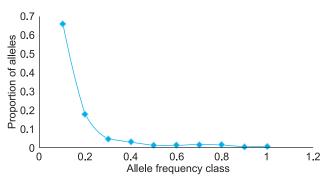


Fig. 1. Allele frequencies at different microsatellite loci in Balangir goat population.

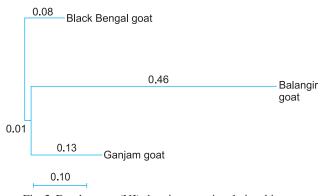


Fig. 2. Dendrogram (NJ) showing genetic relationships among goat populations based on Nei's genetic distance.

in the analyzed loci because of inbreeding within the populations. Wright (1978) suggested that F<sub>ST</sub> value of greater than 0.15 indicates moderate genetic differentiation among the populations. Accordingly, the multi-locus F<sub>ST</sub> values identified high breed differentiation as 20.7% of the total genetic variation was due to unique allelic differences between the populations. The pair-wise F<sub>ST</sub> values were of similar magnitude between Balangir and Ganjam (0.196) and Balangir and Black Bengal (0.193) indicating almost equal differentiation of Balangir goat population from both Ganjam as well as Black Bengal goat breeds. Minimum population differentiation was recorded between the two registered goat breeds, Ganjam and Black Bengal (0.081). Stable genetic flow among populations was evident from a high number of migrants from one population to another (Nm = 2.207 > 1.00). Prevalent field conditions are facilitating higher gene flow among the three goat groups explored in the present study. These include the absence of breed/population-specific breeding policy perpetuating crossbreeding or uncontrolled mating, altogether resulting in gene flow and introgression in the field. Secondly, visualization of breed relationship by constructing phylogenetic tree based on Nei's genetic distance distinguished Balangir goat from both Black Bengal and Ganjam goat breeds following Neighbor-joining (NJ) approach. Balangir was on a separate node close to the Ganjam goat (Fig. 2). The pair-wise Nei's genetic distance identified the least genetic differentiation between Black Bengal and Ganjam (0.333), highest divergence between Ganjam and Balangir (1.625), and intermediate value (1.329) between Black Bengal and Balangir goat.

Thirdly, AMOVA revealed that 14% of total genetic variance resulted from genetic differentiation between three populations (Table 3).

Table 3. Partitioning of molecular variance within and between goat populations and the level of population sub-structure (F<sub>ST</sub>)

Source of variation	d. f.	Sum of squares	Variance components	Percentage of variation	F <sub>ST</sub>	F <sub>IS</sub>	F <sub>IT</sub>	Nm	P
Among populations Within populations	2	312.076	1.498	14	0.145*	0.383	0.475	1.479	0.001
Among individuals	141	1727.844	3.393	33					
Within individuals	144	787.5	5.469	53					
Total	287	2827.42	10.359	100					

<sup>\*</sup>Significant deviation of pair-wise fixation index (F<sub>ST</sub>) value through 99 permutations from zero (P<0.001); d.f., degree of freedom

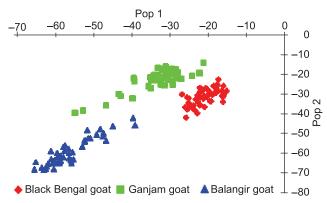


Fig. 3. Population assignment of individual animals of three Indian goat populations.

The other 86% was due to the within-population components of the genetic variance. The pairwise fixation index  $(F_{ST})$  value (0.145) provided by AMOVA through 99 permutations differed significantly from zero at P<0.001.

Fourthly, the population assignment test based on the likelihood method with the leave one out procedure assigned 100% of the individuals correctly to their respective populations, exhibiting distinctiveness of these groups (Fig. 3).

In conclusion, a genetic relationship among the Balangir goat population and two registered goat breeds of India was established. Altogether results confirmed the distinct identity of Balangir goats that was considered to be a non-descript population, till now. The important information generated by microsatellite markers on genetic variation and population structure will pave the way towards the management and conservation of Balangir goats.

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