

The length of the vertex of the Mediterranean skull is greater than of the other two. While the vertex of the Bengali and Chinese skulls are of the same length, the Bengali skull shows more involutions in general. The lower half of the vertex of the Bengali skull (Mongolo-Dravidian) shows some resemblance in pattern to the lower half of the vertex of the Chinese skull. Out of the three above mentioned skulls, the vertex of the Mediterranean specimens shows no complicated pattern like the other two. In fact, the general pattern of the vertex of the Chinese and the Bengali sutures show a resemblance to each other, probably because they belong to the same sub-species asiaticus and no such resemblance could be found with the Mediterranean skull.

The suture pattern is highly variable either in fossil ammonites or in human or vertebrate skulls. In the same species of ammonite there is no doubt, a good deal of variations is in the suture pattern. As regards the fossil and recent human skulls, to the author's knowledge no such suture study has been made before, neither any yard-stick has been established in approach or procedure and naturally one has to face considerable variations in the suture pattern. I could not proceed further for lack of typical skulls representing different fossil species or different modern human races, which fall under different sub-species. It may be pointed out that no conclusion can be drawn from this preliminary study of typological approach, based on the available scanty material. Lack of adequate series of skulls in the Indian Museum did not permit the author to make a statistical study of the intra-group variation, which is necessary to assess the size of difference in the identification of a significant variation pattern. All this is recommended as an interesting pursuit in a laboratory or museum having a rich collection of skulls.

At least there are 17 Homo sub-species excluding the three principal species—Homo sapiens, Homo neanderthalensis and Homo heidelbergensis; according to Boule and Vallois (1952), the determinations given by different authors should fall in synonymy. As human palaeontologists generally stress external physical characters, it is suggested to make an attempt to classify the existing human species, if applicable on the basis of a particular cranial suture, to test how far it holds good.

SUMMARY

The study of suture closure has demonstrated the consistency of human skull sutures but it is not known if the human skull sutures can be used in the Homo systematics. The author studied some human skulls of both fossils and some recent ones which were available in the Indian Museum and presents here the results as obtained and based on the sagittal suture only. As the material examined by the author does not represent in sufficient numbers the types of different living human races, the present study could not be completed and thus no conclusion has been drawn.

If sutures are to play a systematic role in the living human races, they must also be of importance in the study of fossil human skulls. Studies in Invertebrate palaeontology since the early part of the nineteenth century have revealed that although sutures are stable characters yet they are variable in their pattern in the same species and it is very probable that the same thing might happen with human skulls, too, taking into consideration that previously two authors made no distinction between Cephalopods and Vertebrates in the case of their studies on optic chiasma.

As it is not wise to discard human sutures without examining them in detail, the author recommends an attempt in this regard on different representative skulls which are easily available in museums of the West.

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S. S. Sarkar,

Palaeontological Laboratory,
 33/4, Brindaban Mullick Lane, Howrah, West
 Bengal, India.

BODILY DEVELOPMENT OF GYPSY CHILDREN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

JAROSLAV SUCHÝ

Read at the Anthropological Conference in Luhačovice

Comparative linguistics can claim to have the main merit in discovering the area from which Gypsies have spread all over the world and in discovering their antiquity. As the most significant classics of this research are held: H. M. G. Grellmann (1787), A. F. Pott (1845), and F. Miklosić (1874—1879). Besides them, there was a number of both contemporaries and successors, who studied not only the language of the Gypsies, but also their history, folklore, and chiefly their music. Out of the many let us mention here at least the well-known composer F. Liszt, who in his book (1883) dealt mainly with the music of Hungarian Gypsies.

The Faculty of Pedagogy, Prague, has been treating as a national research task problems relating to the bodily development of Gypsy youth in to-day's conditions of life. The new conditions are marked by the fact that the Gypsies have now stopped to live their nomadic life as was usual in former times. Efforts are being made to enable them to pass from the state of isolation into that of assimilation with respect to the other inhabitants.

Between the two states called isolation and assimilation is an intermediate stage characteristic of many Gypsies. They live with the other inhabitants neither jointly, nor separately, but rather parallel. They absorb from the surroundings only what they regard to be useful. They can be nonconformable. Surely enough there is a great strength in this quality, and it would be useful to cultivate it by education in a positive sense. It seems that, within a civilized society, only a man of extraordinary qualities can be nonconformable, who can afford it. That is why such a quality is surprising in those very Gypsies who have played the most inferior role in the course of social differentiation.

In the 20th century, the countries of Central Europe have introduced various forms of registering rambling groups, allotting regions to them, requiring notification of their migrations, and trying to settle them down according to plans. As a new and positive element appeared the understanding of assimilation no longer as mere settling down, but as a part of a more complex process of acultivation. The element of education appeared, problems of illiteracy and school atten-

TABLE 1
Examinations of Gypsy youth since 1960

Number of children	Age	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1960 to 1963 Tests in Bohemia J. Suchý	♂n = 89	—	8	4	11	10	17	10	14	10	4	1	—	—
	♀n = 74	1	2	7	14	18	14	6	4	5	2	1	—	—
1961 Tests in Slovakia J. Suchý	♂n = 312	—	28	35	33	36	44	29	34	35	24	11	3	—
	♀n = 233	—	30	34	27	27	30	27	24	19	13	1	—	1
1963 Tests in Czechoslovakia W. Krebs	♂n = 132	7	15	9	13	10	15	18	22	16	7	—	—	—
	♀n = 118	7	6	9	17	16	24	22	11	11	5	—	—	—

dance were being treated. The Gypsy quality of absorbing from the surroundings what is of use to them found here enough opportunity to develop. For example, many of the German Gypsies distinguished themselves so much as to reach a good cultural level. But then the slow, yet naturally proceeding assimilation was violently stopped. The well-organized registration was abused to form an artificial isolation, in the form of a single Gypsy camp which tragically found its end in the gas chambers. Through this the later assimilation of all that had escaped the terrible fate was worsened. Mistrust towards the authorities, fear of every registration and over-sen-

TABLE 3
Body height (cm) of Gypsy children—girls

♀	1960 to 1963 Tests in Bohemia J. Suchý n = 74		1961 Slovakia J. Suchý n = 233		1963 Tests in Czecho- slovakia W. Krebs n = 118	
	Age	\bar{x}	x*	\bar{x}	s	\bar{x}
6	—	—	—	—	—	115,0
7	117,0	114,0	114,1	4,6	—	122,0
8	119,2	119,0	120,5	5,0	—	124,3
9	120,6	124,0	125,3	4,3	—	128,1
10	128,5	128,0	128,9	5,6	—	132,9
11	133,5	134,0	134,7	7,2	—	139,9
12	137,0	140,0	140,7	6,9	—	145,8
13	149,0	146,0	148,1	5,6	—	153,8
14	149,6	151,0	152,9	6,9	—	152,9
15	149,5	153,0	152,7	6,4	—	153,8
16	153,0	154,0	(159,0)	—	—	—

TABLE 2
Body height (cm) of Gypsy Children—boys

♂	1960 to 1963 Tests in Bohemia J. Suchý n = 89		1961 Slovakia J. Suchý n = 312		1963 Tests in Czecho- slovakia W. Krebs n = 132	
	Age	\bar{x}	x*	\bar{x}	s	\bar{x}
6	—	—	—	—	—	118,7
7	115,0	114,0	115,0	4,9	—	118,7
8	120,0	119,0	119,5	4,8	—	122,7
9	121,0	124,0	125,0	6,1	—	129,9
10	127,9	129,0	128,9	5,9	—	133,1
11	133,4	133,0	134,0	7,1	—	138,0
12	135,9	138,0	138,1	7,1	—	138,6
13	145,0	143,0	143,7	8,3	—	148,9
14	151,9	148,0	147,6	8,4	—	158,1
15	154,2	154,0	154,6	7,4	—	159,6
16	159,0	161,0	(166,4)	6,2	—	—
17	—	—	156,4	5,5	—	—

\bar{x} = mean (empirical value)
x* = mean (parameter of growth curve, derived from empirical value)
s = standard error

sibility even to the slightest sign of discrimination caused a protective tendency during several years and led to isolation in turn.

In the latter half of the 20th century assimilation goes hand in hand with education and aculturation. Courses for adults are being organized and adequate working conditions looked for. The process is slow where the local population is conservative, with traditions adopted long ago. It is there that the isolation of Gypsies survives longer. It is no more an isolation conditioned racially, but socially. The existence of social isolators and their influence on the future development or on the differentiation of mankind is a world-wide and not only specifically Gypsy problem. And yet it is necessary in this context to point out one phenomenon which, especially in the present Central-European conditions, is very important. It is the comparatively high natality and the great natural increase in population of the Gypsies. While the other inhabitants increase only slightly in number due to their low birth-rate,

TABLE 4

Body weight (kg) of Gypsy children—boys

♂	1960 to 1963 Tests in Bohemia J. Suchý n = 89		1961 Slovakia J. Suchý n = 312		1963 Tests in Czecho- slovakia W. Krebs n = 132	
	Age	\bar{x}	x*	\bar{x}	s	\bar{x}
6	—	—	—	—	—	20,4
7	23,1	21,0	21,0	2,8	—	21,0
8	22,7	23,5	21,9	2,5	—	24,1
9	24,9	26,0	25,8	4,2	—	25,8
10	28,5	28,5	27,0	4,0	—	29,3
11	31,5	31,0	31,1	6,5	—	29,7
12	33,4	33,5	33,2	5,1	—	33,4
13	36,7	38,0	35,9	5,6	—	39,2
14	45,4	43,0	41,8	6,4	—	46,1
15	47,0	50,0	46,9	8,1	—	46,9
16	53,0	55,0	(54,0)	6,7	—	—
17	—	—	49,0	7,3	—	—

practically taken place during the historical era of most of the European nations. But the investigator cannot avoid here some hypotheses and reconstructions. How much more difficult it is to elucidate migrations far older, when science finds the documents only in a few accidental archeological excavations. That is why the example of the most recent Indo-European incites to a sharp and critical evaluation of various ethnogenetic theories.

In Czechoslovakia, the Romany language was studied especially by V. Lesný (1934) and J. Lipa (1965). Historical monographs were issued by Z. Jamnická-Šmerglová (1955), and E. Horváthová (1964). The anthropology of Gypsies was paid attention to by F. Štampach (1929, 1932), J. Malý (1937, 1939), R. Váňa, O. Pinkas (1937), M. Nováková (1946), J. Mareš (1947), J. A. Valšík (1958, 1966), W. Krebs (1964), and J. Beneš (1965). The German monograph by H. Arnold (1965), too, mentions the Gypsies living in Czechoslovakia.

DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL

Between the years 1960 and 1963, the Gypsy children in various places of the Northern and Western Bohemian regions were examined anthropologically. The results of this research were presented in a separate report (J. Suchý, 1964). In a nation-wide research of the basic bodily characteristics of children and young people in Czechoslovakia in 1961 (V. Fetter, J. Suchý, 1966), there were included also some Gypsy children as was laid down by the method of incidental representative selection. A relatively higher number of such children was in the territory of Slovakia. Thus we obtained an independent set. The results derived from it are the main subject of this article.

The third set used as material for comparison was taken over from the hitherto unpublished data of W. Krebs (1964).

The number of children in the various sets examined according to age and sex is given in Table 1.

in Gypsies a population explosion is taking place, similarly as in a number of peoples in the developing countries outside Europe, where the nutritional and hygienic-epidemiological situation has improved. And since assimilation at present constitutes a task mainly for pedagogy, we must count with increasing numbers of Gypsy children in schools, and must think how and where to engage them in work.

Assimilation proceeds more successfully where the local inhabitants are as much immigrants as the Gypsies are. The common troubles at the beginning of colonization are a good social link. Such is the case, e.g., in a territory which remained depopulated after a war, or where big industrial centres come into being. It is there, too, that biological mixing sometimes takes place, a fact still very rare. In such new "melting pots" the living conditions differ relatively little and are acceptable for anybody in the same way.

In 1967 there were 221 thousand Gypsies living in Czechoslovakia. Out of this number, about two thirds on the whole accept willingly the social conditions offered to them.

The whole problem of assimilation and aculturation is not simple. It is an interaction of a genetic base with the environment. Moreover, there exist differentiated qualities with different abilities of reaction in different environments. Therefore the best solution of this problem is that of individualization. Both the education of the young and the educational influence on the adults play here a great role. The education of Gypsies is but one component of this effort. The other must also be the education of the inhabitants among whom the Gypsies live. Here is one important task for anthropological pedagogy, whose mission it is to explain questions of interhuman and inter-group relationship, to overcome prejudices, and to educate people to humanistic ethics.

The whole history of Gypsies is very instructive for the anthropologist. It shows how a new element is finding its way into the structure of European populations. It is an example of the action which took place already several times in the past. For the time being, Gypsies represent the last wave in the flux of various populations into Europe. This wave has

TABLE 5

Body weight (kg) of Gypsy children—girls

♀	1960 to 1963 Tests in Bohemia J. Suchý n = 74		1961 Slovakia J. Suchý n = 232		1963 Tests in Czecho- slovakia W. Krebs n = 118	
	Age	\bar{x}	x*	\bar{x}	s	\bar{x}
6	—	—	—	—	—	19,3
7	21,5	20,5	20,4	2,0	—	21,8
8	23,1	23,0	23,0	3,3	—	24,9
9	24,1	25,0	25,3	3,7	—	25,5
10	29,4	28,0	26,1	4,0	—	27,8
11	29,5	31,0	31,1	6,9	—	31,9
12	32,0	35,5	34,5	4,2	—	37,3
13	39,2	40,0	42,0	7,6	—	44,7
14	50,8	45,0	49,4	7,8	—	50,3
15	53,0	49,5	46,8	8,2	—	48,0
16	61,0	51,5	(54,0)	—	—	—

TABLE 6

Chest circumference (cm) of Gypsy children—boys

♂	1960 to 1963 Tests in Bohemia J. Suchý		1961 Slovakia J. Suchý		1963 Tests in Czecho- slovakia W. Krebs n = 132
	n = 89		n = 312		
Age	\bar{x}	x*	\bar{x}	s	\bar{x}
6	—	—	—	—	56,3
7	60,5	59,0	59,0	2,4	55,9
8	60,2	60,5	59,7	3,5	57,6
9	62,2	62,5	62,2	2,6	58,9
10	65,2	65,0	63,1	3,8	61,9
11	66,3	67,0	66,5	5,1	62,5
12	68,5	68,5	68,6	3,7	65,3
13	72,5	72,0	70,0	4,7	67,6
14	77,3	75,0	73,5	5,2	73,5
15	76,7	—	78,2	5,4	75,0
16	83,0	—	(80,0)	3,8	—
17	—	—	77,0	—	—

METHODS

The children were being examined by conventional anthropological methods (R. Martin—K. Saller according to V. Fetter et col., 1967). The present report gives the results relating to the basic bodily characteristics, i.e., body height, body weight, and the chest circumference. In all sets compared, mean values for each characteristic and each year of age were calculated. The standard error was calculated only in the most numerous set. For an objective comparison of the results of the less numerous sets obtained in the course of the research of Gypsy youth the already formerly employed method of normalized characters proved useful (J. Suchý, 1964). This method found its application also in the present study.

The value of a normalized character is denoted by the letter *i*.

$$i = \frac{x - \bar{x}}{s}$$

x = established value of the character studied (e.g., of height or weight)

\bar{x} = mean value of such a character according to nation-wide research

s = standard error according to nation-wide research.

The value *i* indicated how far the set or the individual studied is from the mean. It determines its position in respect to the basic set of nation-wide research. The advantage of this method is that by means of the value *i*, the various characters are mutually comparable (proportionality), or also values of one character at a different age (development). This is so, because the unit in which the value *i* is expressed is not centimetres or kilograms, but the quotients of the standard error of the respective character at the respective age. Thus a negative *i* means that the person examined is below, the positive *i* that he is above average. If *i* equals one, it indicates that the person examined is one standard error away from average.

RESULTS

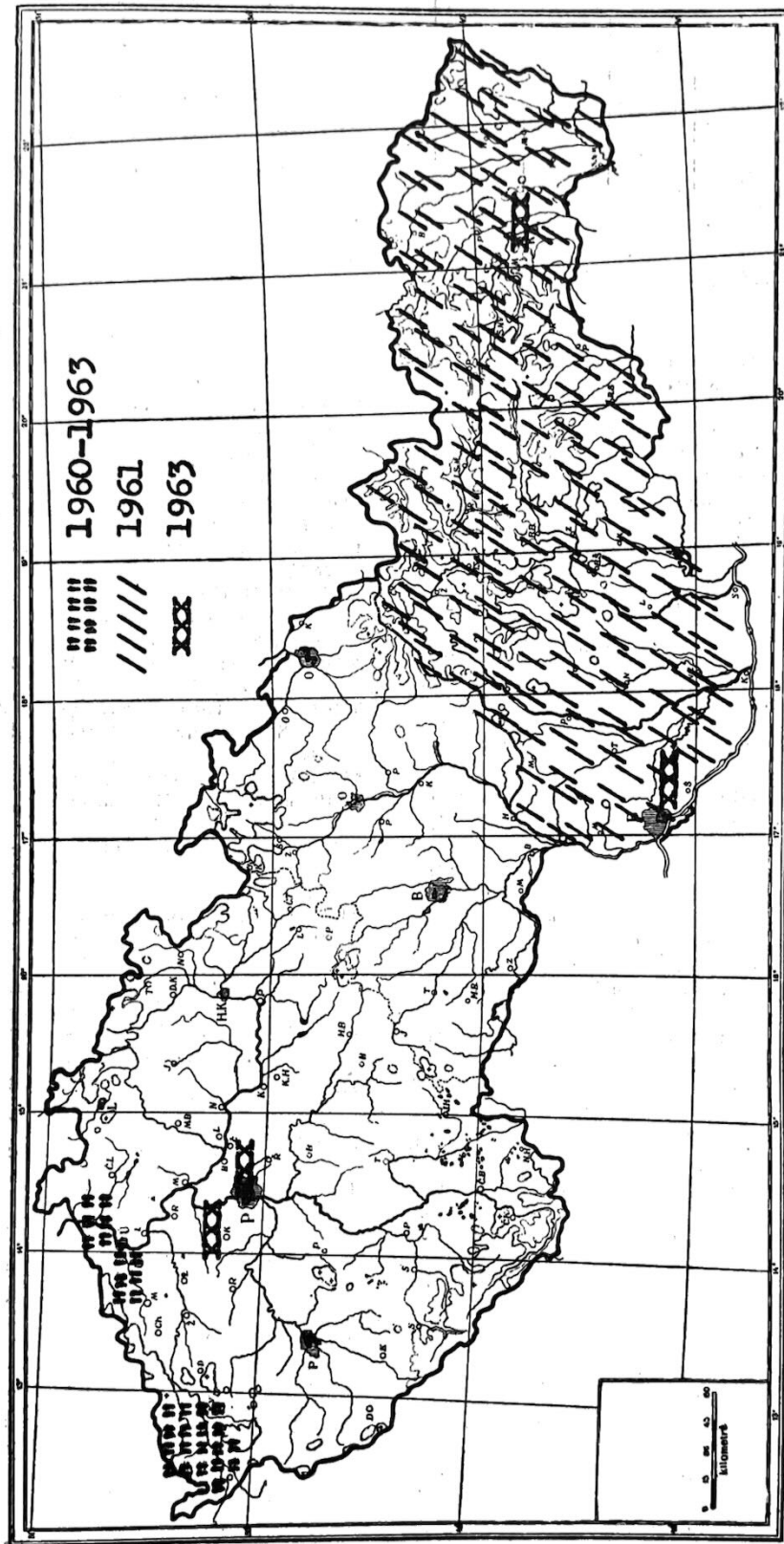
The first results about the physical condition of Gypsy children were obtained in the years 1960 to 1963. As the various age classes were relatively not very numerous, it was necessary to treat the whole at one time, for which the method of normalized characters provides good conditions. Yet the evolutionary curves could not be plotted according to the empirical values of the calculated means. The course of the curve would be influenced by a small number of cases. That is why it was necessary from the empirical values to derive the theoretical parameters of the growth curve. Such parameters could consequently be compared with the evolutionary curve as had been derived from a far more numerous set in 1961. Almost identical results obtained through comparison of the values *x** from 1960 to 1963 with those of \bar{x} from 1961 indicate that the construction of the theoretically expected parameters was right even though the documentary material was relatively little numerous. Furthermore is it possible to conclude from the calculations that in the said time there were practically no substantial differences between the given sets, even though their regional provenience is different. This confirms the earlier finding (J. Suchý, 1964) saying that the difference of Gypsy children from the other population is, first of all, a matter of their anthropological specificity.

The set of 1963 yields somewhat differing results (W. Krebs). Especially striking is the body height. An explanation is likely to be found in chronology. This research is of relatively recent date. Tests dating from the years 1960 to 1963 had their crux between 1960 and 1961. In 1963 they were enhanced through an appendix numbering only 40 children, all hospitalized. Contrary to this, tests by W. Krebs come all from 1963 and were made up of children attending school. This research already seems to have recorded the first signs of a remarkable phenomenon, viz. that acceleration of the bodily development affects also Gypsy children under certain living conditions. Detailed numerical results of all the three research tasks compared are presented in Tables 2 to 8.

TABLE 7

Chest circumference (cm) of Gypsy children—girls

♀	1960 to 1963 Tests in Bohemia J. Suchý		1961 Slovakia J. Suchý		1963 Tests in Czecho- slovakia W. Krebs n = 118
	n = 74		n = 233		
Age	\bar{x}	x*	\bar{x}	s	\bar{x}
6	—	—	—	—	53,0
7	57,5	58,0	57,2	2,6	55,3
8	60,3	60,0	59,8	3,2	58,4
9	61,0	62,5	61,2	3,6	58,4
10	65,2	65,0	61,9	3,0	58,4
11	66,6	67,0	67,6	6,9	64,0
12	68,3	68,5	69,4	5,0	67,5
13	74,7	74,0	77,2	7,7	73,8
14	80,6	78,0	80,3	7,6	76,6
15	85,5	—	78,7	6,4	78,2
16	83,0	—	81,0	—	—



Geographical Origin of the Studied Gypsy Children

TABLE 8

Total for height and weight expressed with the aid of normalization of character

	1960 to 1963 Tests in Bohemia J. Suchý		1961 Slovakia J. Suchý		1963 Tests in Czechoslovakia W. Krebs	
	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀
Height	-1,39	-1,28	-1,33	-1,09	-0,65	-0,47
Weight	-0,67	-0,70	-0,84	-0,74	-0,64	-0,49

SUMMARY

The present study deals with the problems of Gypsy population in changed living conditions. In the introduction, the author formulated his approach towards questions of isolation, assimilation and aculturation. The results of an anthropometric examination of the physical condition of Gypsy youth in Czechoslovakia between the years 1960 to 1963 are given on the basis of documentary material coming from three different sets, two proper and one comparative, numbering a total of 533 children.

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Doc. Dr. Jaroslav Suchý, CSc.,

Pedagogická fakulta UK Praha 1,
M. Rettigové 4