

A Genetic Variation in the Y Chromosome Among Modern Japanese Males Related to Several Physiological and Psychological Characteristics

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Previous studies in population genetics have proposed that the Y-chromosomal (Y-DNA) haplogroup D ancestor likely originated from Africa. The haplogroup D branch next started Out-of-Africa migration, rapidly expanded across Eurasia, and later diversified in East Asia. Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55, one of the branches of haplogroup D, is only found in modern Japanese males, suggesting that individuals with Y-DNA haplogroup D migrated from the Eurasian continent. Based on previous observations, Y-DNA haplogroup D is expected to be associated with some male characteristics including personality. Therefore, this study investigated whether the Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55 is associated with several physiological and psychological characteristics, including exploratory motivation and human relationship-related perception. We recruited Japanese young adult males and females and investigated the association between Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55, physiological [body mass index (BMI)], and

several psychological parameters [perceived number of close friends, behavioral inhibition system/behavioral activation system (BIS/BAS), perceived happiness, and perceived loneliness]. The results indicated that males with haplogroup D-M55 had a higher BMI and more close friends, compared with non-carrier males. Additional multiple regression analyses, which tested the hypothesis that haplogroup D-M55 predicts BMI and perceived number of close friends, confirmed our hypothesis, even after controlling for the potentially confounding variables of age and sex. We also analyzed the gene–gene interaction between haplogroup D-M55 and an autosomal gene polymorphism associated with BMI and human relationships, such as the dopamine D2 receptor gene (*DRD2*: rs1800497). Results showed gene–gene interactions between haplogroups D-M55 and *DRD2* in BMI. Based on these findings, it is demonstrated that Y-DNA haplogroup D is associated with human personality.

Introduction

We inherit half of our DNA from our father and half from our mother. Genetic modification occurs frequently when DNA is transmitted from parents, and even siblings with the same parents have different DNA. However, there are some instances in which the DNA of the parent is inherited with little change. These are maternal mitochondrial DNA and paternal Y-chromosomal DNA (Y-DNA). Because both mitochondrial DNA and Y-DNA change little by little due to mutations, we can assume the order in which the existing mutations were separated from their common ancestor. Analyses of haplogroups and populations of similar haplotypes (haploid genotype) with a common ancestor are widely used in population genetics ([Rindermann et al., 2012](#)). For example, the origin of Japanese people can be explored by examining Y-DNA haplogroups. Y-chromosomal Adam, “a male ancestor common to all human beings,” was estimated to be a male from 200,000 to 300,000 years ago ([Karmin et al., 2015](#)). Previous studies have proposed that the Y-DNA haplogroup D ancestor likely lived in Africa around 50,000–70,000 years ago and that the haplogroup D branch (haplogroup D1-M174) started Out-of-Africa migration and rapidly expanded across Eurasia, later diversifying in

East Asia ([Haber et al., 2019](#); [Hallast et al., 2021](#)). In Japan, haplogroup D-M55 (haplogroup D1a2a: one of two branches of haplogroup D1a) is found in approximately 33% of modern Japanese males ([Sato et al., 2014](#)).

The genetic variations in Y-DNA have been reported to influence male behavior, health risk, and immunity. For example, [Wang et al. \(2012\)](#) found a protective effect of Y-haplogroup E1b1b1c against prostate cancer.

Furthermore, [Dumanski et al. \(2015\)](#) reported that smoking is associated with the loss of chromosome Y in blood cells, which is associated with an increased risk of non-hematological tumors among aging males. [Charchar et al.](#)

[\(2012\)](#) also reported that Y-haplogroup I is linked to a substantially increased risk of coronary artery disease, due to the downregulation of adaptive immunity as well as upregulation of inflammatory response pathways in their macrophages. Furthermore, [Sato et al. \(2013\)](#) also found that Y-DNA

haplogroup D-M55 is associated with spermatogenic failure in Japanese

males. [Sermondade et al. \(2012\)](#) also showed a negative correlation between body mass index (BMI) and sperm concentration or total sperm count,

suggesting an association between haplogroup D-M55 and several male

physiological parameters, such as BMI. Recently, [Mchiza et al. \(2019\)](#) reported that BMI is associated with social and psychological parameters, such as

psychological distress or mental health wellness, suggesting an association

between haplogroup D-M55 and several male psychological parameters, such

as perceived happiness and loneliness. Based on these previous observations,

it is possible that Y-DNA haplogroup D is associated with some male personality traits.

Although Y-DNA haplogroups could be a marker of many environmental and genetic differences and (most probably) might not be genes directly coding the psychological and physiological characteristics, [Rindermann et al.](#)

[\(2012\)](#) have indicated that Y-DNA haplogroups could use as evolutionary

markers of cognitive ability. In their study, the haplogroups were used in

linear multiple regression analysis to determine their impacts as predictors of

differences in national intelligence, and haplogroups appeared to be significant predictors of national cognitive ability. Thus, it is possible that Y-DNA haplogroup D is also associated with several cognitive and behavioral traits as previous studies have suggested an association between human exploratory and impulsive behaviors, such as novelty seeking and Out-of-Africa migration ([Munafò et al., 2008](#); [Royo et al., 2018](#)). If haplogroup D-M55, a genetic polymorphism unique to Japan, is associated with several behavioral characteristics including exploratory behaviors, it may be deduced that this gene polymorphism is associated with Out-of-Eurasia migration. Therefore, the present study first investigated the association between Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55 and several physiological (BMI) and psychological parameters [perceived number of close friends, behavioral inhibition system/behavioral activation system (BIS/BAS), perceived happiness, and perceived loneliness] in Japanese university students.

Because the biological mechanisms underlying the linkage between haplogroup D-M55 and male personality is still obscure, the association might be on shaky grounding. In order to reinforce the association, we focused on the gene–gene interactions, which can be defined as a logical interaction between two or more genes that affect the phenotype of organisms ([Koo et al., 2013](#); [Lee et al., 2013](#)). A study has also analyzed Y chromosome DNA, mitochondrial DNA, and autosomal microsatellite markers together to reveal the evolutionary history of a certain population ([Jinam et al., 2012](#)) because these genes are co-evolutional. Thus, it is possible that there is a gene–gene interaction between Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55 and several autosomal gene polymorphisms, and the interaction may induce differences in personality. This study is a part of our larger research project, an exploratory cross-cultural investigation of various gene \times environment effects (for published reports on the project, see: [Ishii et al., 2018, 2021](#); [Zheng et al., 2020](#)). We used a subset of the project's data to test for subtle effects of the haplogroup D-M55 \times several autosomal gene polymorphisms on BMI and perceived

number of close friends in Japanese university students. In this project, we analyzed several gene polymorphisms, such as serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine: 5-HT) transporter gene-linked polymorphic region (5-HTTLPR) ([Luo et al., 2016](#)), rs806377 (cannabinoid receptor 1 gene: *CNR1*, [Matsunaga et al., 2018](#)), rs53576 (oxytocin receptor gene: *OXTR*, [Nishina et al., 2015](#)), rs1800497 (dopamine D2 receptor gene: *DRD2*, [Takeuchi et al., 2015](#); [Murakami et al., 2017](#)), and rs6311 (5-HT (serotonin) receptor 2A gene: *HTR2A*, [Matsunaga et al., 2017](#)). We showed the results of the gene–gene interaction between haplogroups D-M55 and *DRD2* using multiple regression analyses with reference to the study by [Erzurumluoglu et al. \(2018\)](#).

Materials and Methods

Participants

We recruited 623 undergraduate students from Nagoya University and Kobe University [292 men and 327 women, and four entries with incomplete gender; mean age (Mage) = 19.60 years, standard deviation (SD) = 1.31, range = 18–25]. The mean BMI of the participants was 20.48 kg/m² (SD = 2.26, range: 12.59–34.08). This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Nagoya University (approval number: NUPSY-190415-M-01) and Kobe University (approval number: 2014-10). All participants volunteered for the study for monetary compensation. They signed an informed consent form prior to participation. After completing the study, they were debriefed and paid for their participation.

A statistical power analysis was conducted using G * Power, version 3.1.9.4 ([Faul et al., 2007](#)). We assumed that the effect size of this study would be equivalent to that observed in our previous study ([Matsunaga et al., 2018](#)). An *a priori* power analysis estimated the necessary sample size for this study as $N = 432$ (analysis of variance, fixed effects, omnibus, one-way; effect size = 0.15; alpha error = 0.05; 1-beta error = 0.80; number of groups = 3). This study used data from three sub-studies of the aforementioned research project

([Matsunaga et al., 2017, 2018](#); [Ishii et al., 2018](#); [Zheng et al., 2020](#)). The first sub-study, which was conducted at Kobe University in 2015, involved 213 participants. The second sub-study, which was conducted at Kobe University in 2018, involved 203 participants. The third sub-study, which was conducted at Nagoya University in 2019, involved 207 participants. Therefore, the dataset analyzed in this study included a total of 623 participants.

Genotyping

Nail samples were collected, and from these samples, genomic DNA was extracted using ISOHAIR kits (Nippon Gene Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan). The Y-DNA Haplogroup D-M55 was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the primers 5'-GTAGGCGTTTGACAGCAGTT and 5'-ACTGGATGACTGATGAAAAGGT ([Kumagai et al., 2010](#); [Sato et al., 2014](#)), in a total volume of 25 µl solution containing 100 ng of genomic DNA, 0.4 dNTPs, 0.2 µM of each primer, 1.25 U of Takara LA Taq polymerase (Takara Bio Inc., Shiga, Japan), and GC buffer I (Takara Bio Inc.). An initial denaturation at 95°C for 5 min was followed by 40 cycles of denaturation at 95°C for 30 s, annealing at 53°C for 30 s, extension at 72°C for 1 min, and a final extension at 72°C for 5 min.

In addition, the SNP markers for rs1800497 (*DRD2*) were genotyped using TaqMan® SNP Genotyping Assays (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., Waltham, MA, USA), which were functionally tested by the manufacturer and made available on demand. The SNP assay contained forward and reverse PCR primers, as well as two allele-specific probes conjugated with either VIC or FAM fluorescent markers. Each PCR mixture consisted of a DNA template, SNP-specific genotyping assay, and Taqman Genotype master mix (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.). All PCRs and allelic discrimination reactions were performed using the StepOne Plus™ Real-Time PCR System (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.).

Evaluation of Several Demographic and Psychological Parameters

The participants were asked to report their gender, age, height, and weight. BMI was calculated using height and weight. They were also asked to report their perceived number of close friends, BIS/BAS ([Carver and White, 1994](#); [Takahashi et al., 2007](#)), perceived happiness ([Lyubomirsky and Lepper, 1999](#); [Shimai et al., 2004](#)), and perceived loneliness ([Russell et al., 1980](#); [Moroi, 1992](#)). The participants' perceived happiness level was evaluated using the Japanese version of the Subjective Happiness Scale (SHS; [Shimai et al., 2004](#)) consisting of four items (e.g., "In general, what is your level of happiness?") that were rated on a 7-point Likert scale from 1 = "not happy at all" to 7 = "very happy." These four items were averaged to obtain a single score for subjective happiness (Cronbach's α coefficient = 0.84). The participant's perceived loneliness level was evaluated by using the Japanese version of the UCLA Loneliness Scale ([Moroi, 1992](#)) consisting of 20 items (e.g., "There is no one I can turn to") that were rated on a 4-point Likert scale from 1 = "never feel like this" to 4 = "frequently feel like this." The 20 items were averaged to obtain a single score for perceived loneliness (Cronbach's α coefficient = 0.92). The BIS/BAS scales are presented as a self-report questionnaire that assesses individual differences in personality dimensions that reflect the sensitivity of two motivational systems: the aversive and appetitive system (BIS and BAS; [Gray, 1987](#); [Carver and White, 1994](#)). BAS is believed to regulate appetitive motives, in which the goal is to move toward something that is desired. BIS is said to regulate aversive motives, in which the goal is to move away from something that is unpleasant. The Japanese version of the BIS/BAS scales ([Takahashi et al., 2007](#)) consists of 20 items divided into two primary scales: the Behavioral Inhibition System scale (BIS; 7 items) and the Behavioral Activation System scale (BAS; 13 items).

Statistical Analyses

All data analyses were conducted using SPSS version 27 [International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), Armonk, NY]. Demographic (age and

BMI) and psychological (number of close friends, happiness, and loneliness) parameters were analyzed using a one-way (males with haplogroup D-M55, males without haplogroup D-M55, and female) analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Bonferroni-corrected multiple comparisons. As it is not possible to determine which is higher or lower by comparing only the two groups of males, we included the female participants as a control group in the comparison. Furthermore, to reveal the gene–gene interaction between haplogroup D-M55 and rs1800497 (*DRD2*), we performed multiple regression analyses to identify potentially confounding variables of age and sex, and the interactions with haplogroups D-M55 and *DRD2*. In the regression analyses, gene polymorphisms and sex were converted into dummy variables and analyzed. Haplogroup D-M55: females = 0, non-carrier males = 1, carrier males = 2; *DRD2*: GG = 0, AG = 1, AA = 2. Sex: female = 0, male = 1.

Results

Effects of Y-DNA Haplogroup D-M55 on Demographic and Psychological Characteristics

We first determined haplogroup frequency. The number of males with haplogroup D-M55 was 88 (30.66%) in the present Japanese sample (199 non-carriers and five unidentified participants), which was similar to a previous study ([Sato et al., 2014](#)).

[Table 1](#) summarizes the effects of the Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55 on physiological and psychological parameters. A one-way ANOVA revealed a significant main effect of the group (males with haplogroup D-M55, males without haplogroup D-M55, and females) on BMI [$F_{(2,608)} = 9.53, p < 0.01, \eta^2p = 0.030$], perceived number of close friends [$F_{(2,606)} = 6.19, p < 0.01, \eta^2p = 0.020$], BIS [$F_{(2,577)} = 9.68, p < 0.01, \eta^2p = 0.032$], subjective happiness [$F_{(2,611)} = 3.84, p = 0.022, \eta^2p = 0.012$], and loneliness [$F_{(2,610)} = 3.93, p = 0.020, \eta^2p = 0.013$]. There were no significant differences in age and

BAS.

TABLE 1

	Male with haplogroup D-M55	Male without haplogroup D-M55	Female	F-value	p-value
Age	30.75 (2.0)	30.75 (2.0)	30.75 (2.0)	1.000	1.000
Height	175.0 (2.0)	175.0 (2.0)	175.0 (2.0)	1.000	1.000
Weight	75.0 (2.0)	75.0 (2.0)	75.0 (2.0)	1.000	1.000
BMI	24.0 (0.2)	24.0 (0.2)	24.0 (0.2)	1.000	1.000
Number of close friends	3.0 (0.2)	3.0 (0.2)	3.0 (0.2)	1.000	1.000
BIS	1.0 (0.1)	1.0 (0.1)	1.0 (0.1)	1.000	1.000
SHS	1.0 (0.1)	1.0 (0.1)	1.0 (0.1)	1.000	1.000
Loneliness	1.0 (0.1)	1.0 (0.1)	1.0 (0.1)	1.000	1.000

Table 1. Effects of haplogroup D-M55 on demographic and psychological parameters.

Multiple comparisons showed that the BMI of males with haplogroup D-M55 was significantly higher than that of non-carrier males ($p = 0.020$) and that of females ($p < 0.01$). The BMI of non-carrier males was not significantly different from that of females ($p = 0.176$; [Figure 1](#)).

FIGURE 1

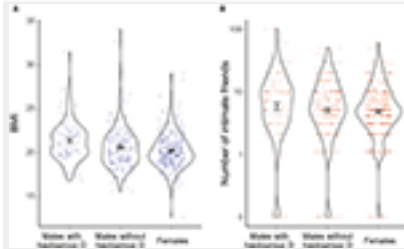


Figure 1. Effects of haplogroup D-M55 on the BMI (**A**) and perceived number of close friends (**B**). Each column and its error bars represent the mean \pm standard error of the mean.

As for the number of close friends, males with haplogroup D-M55 had more friends than non-carrier males ($p = 0.042$) and females ($p < 0.01$). The number of close friends of non-carrier males was not significantly different from that of females ($p = 0.711$; [Figure 1](#)). Thus, haplogroup D-M55 in males was associated with a higher BMI and more close friends, compared with non-carrier males and females.

Considering other psychological parameters such as BIS, subjective happiness, and loneliness, females had significantly higher BIS scores than both males with haplogroup D-M55 ($p < 0.01$) and non-carrier males ($p < 0.01$), whereas there was no significant difference between the male groups ($p = 1.000$). The mean SHS score in females was higher than in non-carrier males ($p = 0.021$), whereas the differences between females and males with haplogroup D-M55 ($p = 0.553$), and between males with haplogroup D-M55 and non-carrier males ($p = 1.000$) were not significant. The mean score for the Loneliness Scale among non-carrier males was significantly higher than for females ($p =$

0.020), whereas the difference between females and males with haplogroup D-M55 ($p= 1.000$), and between males with haplogroup D-M55 and non-carrier males ($p= 0.224$) were not significant.

Gene–Gene Interaction Between Y-DNA Haplogroup D-M55 and Dopamine D2 Receptor Polymorphism

We subsequently performed a multiple regression analysis, which tested our hypothesis that haplogroup D-M55 predicted BMI and the number of close friends, even after controlling for the potentially confounding variables of age and sex. [Table 2](#) (step 1) shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for BMI. The model was statistically significant [$F_{(3,607)} = 6.363, p < 0.01$], supporting our hypothesis ($\beta = 0.248, t = 2.708, p < 0.01$). Furthermore, to explore the gene–gene interaction between Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55 and an autosomal SNP associated with BMI, we performed a supplementary analysis of BMI, haplogroup D-M55, and *DRD2* (rs1800497). [Table 2](#) (step 2) shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for BMI entering the interactions with haplogroups D-M55 and *DRD2*. The model was statistically significant [$F_{(5,597)} = 5.199, p < 0.01$], and gene–gene interaction was also statistically significant ($\beta = 0.101, t = 2.484, p = 0.013$). The average BMIs of each group are presented in [Table 3](#).

TABLE 2

Table 2. Results from the regression analysis examining the association between Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55 and BMI.

TABLE 3

Table 3. BMI of each group.

[Table 4](#) (step 1) shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for the perceived number of close friends, after controlling for the potentially confounding variables of age and sex. The model was statistically significant [$F_{(3,605)} = 4.941, p < 0.01$], supporting our hypothesis ($\beta = 0.230, t = 2.489, p < 0.05$). [Table 4](#) (step 2) shows the results of the multiple regression analysis for

the perceived number of close friends entering the interactions with haplogroups D-M55 and *DRD2*. The model was statistically significant [$F_{(5,595)}=3.033, p = 0.010$]; however, the gene–gene interaction was not statistically significant.

TABLE 4

Predictor variables	Model 1		Model 2	
	β	SE	β	SE
Age	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Sex	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Education (years)	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Income (1000 JPY)	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Intercept				

Table 4. Results from the regression analysis examining the association between Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55 and the perceived number of close friends.

Discussion

General Discussion

Based on previous studies indicating that Y-DNA haplogroup is associated with some male personalities ([Sato et al., 2013](#); [Dumanski et al., 2015](#)), this study posits that Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55, a genetic polymorphism unique to Japan, may be associated with certain personality traits. In the present study, we investigated the association between haplogroup D-M55 and several physiological and psychological parameters, including BMI, number of close friends, BIS/BAS, subjective happiness, and loneliness. As shown in [Table 1](#), our statistical analyses indicated that males with haplogroup D-M55 had higher BMI and more close friends than both non-carrier males and females. Friendships are adaptive ([Seyfarth and Cheney, 2012](#)), and having a strong social network reduces stress, lowers the risk of disease, and increases longevity ([Berkman et al., 2004](#); [Holt-Lunstad et al., 2010](#)). Thus, from the perspective of evolutionary psychology, it seems that individuals with higher BMI and many friends have an advantage in terms of survival. Hence, it is possible that these features may be one of the factors associated with human survival or Out-of-Eurasia migration.

However, both males with and without haplogroup D-M55 have normal BMI; hence, the results are difficult to directly interpret with respect to survival and migration. As previous studies have suggested an association between human

exploratory and impulsive behaviors, such as novelty seeking and Out-of-Africa migration ([Munafò et al., 2008](#); [Royo et al., 2018](#)), we subsequently examined the association between haplogroup D-M55 and human motivational systems such as the aversive or behavioral inhibition system (BIS) and the appetitive or behavioral activation system (BAS). However, we did not find a significant difference in BIS/BAS scores between males with haplogroup D-M55 and non-carrier males. In addition, we did not find a difference in either happiness or loneliness scores between males with haplogroup D-M55 and non-carrier males. However, males without haplogroup D-M55 were significantly lonelier than females, whereas males with haplogroup D-M55 were at the same level of loneliness as females. Thus, it is possible that a significant difference between males was not observed due to the small sample size.

Although the biological mechanisms underlying the association between Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55, BMI, and perceived number of close friends are still obscure, previous reports have indicated an association between infertility and Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55 in Japanese males ([Sato et al., 2013](#)). Several previous reports have also shown a negative correlation between BMI and sperm concentration or total sperm count ([Sermondade et al., 2012](#)). Thus, the present finding, indicating the association between BMI and haplogroup D-M55, might be valid. A recent study has demonstrated the elevated expression of cytochrome P450 aromatase, which catalyzes the conversion of testosterone to estradiol in Leydig cells of men with nonobstructive azoospermia, and elevated circulating levels of luteinizing hormone (LH) and follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), which induce aromatase expression ([Shiraishi et al., 2021](#)). A negative correlation between circulating LH level and BMI, and a negative correlation between LH and testosterone have been previously reported ([Pagán et al., 2006](#); [Fukui et al., 2007](#)). Testosterone is known to be associated with aggressive behavior ([Carré and Archer, 2018](#)). Therefore, it is suggested that males with haplogroup D-M55 have lower circulating testosterone levels

and are less aggressive. As a result, it is possible for them to build good relationships with friends. Further studies measuring the circulating levels of steroid hormones and gonadotropins in males with haplogroup D-M55 are needed in the future.

To investigate the gene–gene interactions between Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55 and autosomal genetic polymorphisms associated with BMI and human relationships, we performed a supplementary analysis of the interactions with haplogroup D-M55 and autosomal genetic polymorphism (*DRD2*). The results showed gene–gene interactions between haplogroups D-M55 and *DRD2* in BMI. A previous study indicated that there was a significant association between the *DRD2* genotype and exercise habit in the period from childhood to adolescence, with a 1.38-fold greater probability of people who exercise carrying the A allele among Japanese adults ([Murakami et al., 2017](#)). The rs1800497 pathogenic variant (A allele) has been previously described to be associated with a reduction in *DRD2* receptor density in the brain ([Comings et al., 1991](#)); moreover, *DRD2* A allele carriers experienced greater positive emotions after cocaine exposure ([Spellicy et al., 2014](#)), suggesting that individuals with *DRD2* A allele experience a lower level of “reward” due to reduced dopaminergic functions and are therefore more habitual in seeking “artificial” means of increasing the “reward” sensation, such as exercise. Moreover, previous studies have indicated that *DRD2* polymorphism is associated with feelings of integration or closeness to their local community ([Pearce et al., 2017, 2018](#)), suggesting that variation in genes associated with dopamine receptor 2 may be predominantly linked to engagement in wider social groups, resulting in higher motivation for several behaviors, including exercise. Although the biological mechanisms underlying the association between haplogroup D-M55 genotype and *DRD2* remain unclear, it is possible that the dopaminergic nervous system is involved in these biological mechanisms.

Limitations and Future Directions

Our study has several limitations. First, in the present study, we did not consider some basic demographics, such as the disease states, medication intake, and socioeconomic status (SES), between the three groups. In the case of the present study, the SES may represent a confounding variable. Because a previous study reported that lower-class individuals are higher in empathic accuracy than are upper-class individuals ([Kraus et al., 2010](#)), it may influence the number of close friends. Thus, several confounding factors may exist in the present results. Second, because height and weight were self-reported, it might differ from actual BMI. Third, in the present study, we used only the BIS/BAS questionnaire to investigate the association between haplogroup D-M55 and the human motivational system. Previous studies have used many experimental methods to examine the association between gene polymorphisms and human exploratory and impulsive behaviors, such as the human behavioral pattern monitor (hBPM), an exploration paradigm based on the rodent open field ([Minassian et al., 2018](#)), and the Go/No-go task ([Nomura and Nomura, 2006](#)). Thus, we cannot confidently say that haplogroup D-M55 is not associated with human exploratory and impulsive behaviors. Fourth, the sample size of the present study may be relatively small because the number of males with haplogroup D-M55 was small in the Japanese samples. Thus, replicating the present experiment using larger samples is necessary to draw stronger conclusions. Fifth, considering the gene–gene interaction, the present study investigated the interaction between Y-DNA haplogroup D-M55 and not only *DRD2*, but also other autosomal gene polymorphisms associated with BMI and human relationships, such as 5HTTLPR ([Luo et al., 2016](#)), rs806377 (*CNR1*; [Matsunaga et al., 2018](#)), rs53576 (*OXTR*; [Nishina et al., 2015](#)), and rs6311 (*HTR2A*; [Matsunaga et al., 2017](#)). However, we did not mention these interactions in this article. We were unable to find any association other than *DRD2* and haplogroup D-M55 (data not shown). In addition to *DRD2*, there are many SNPs related to BMI and

human relationships; therefore, it is necessary to investigate the relationships with other SNPs in the future. For example, the genome-wide association study (GWAS) has recently been developed to search the candidate genes comprehensively, e.g., BMI ([Akiyama et al., 2017](#)), and antisocial behavior ([Tielbeek et al., 2017](#)). Thus, comparing the SNPs of males with and without haplogroup D-M55 comprehensively by GWAS, it is possible to search for candidate genes related to gene–gene interactions other than *DRD2*. Furthermore, recent studies have suggested an association between personality-associated genes and Out-of-Africa migration ([Chen et al., 1999](#); [Royo et al., 2018](#)). It is known that exon 3 variable-number tandem repeat polymorphism in the dopamine D4 receptor gene (*DRD4*) is associated with human exploratory behavior, such as novelty seeking ([Munafò et al., 2008](#)), and a previous study found a correlation between the distance of the macro-migration in nomadic populations and the proportion of long alleles of *DRD4*, which is expected to be strongly associated with novelty seeking ([Chen et al., 1999](#)). A previous report also found a correlation between the migration distance and allele frequency of copy-number variants within the signal regulatory protein beta-1 (*SIRPB1*) gene, which is associated with impulsive behavior ([Royo et al., 2018](#)). Such gene polymorphisms might also be the candidate genes related to gene–gene interactions.

Conclusion

The present study is the first to show the effects of haplogroup D-M55 on psychological and physiological characteristics. Our findings indicate that males with haplogroup D-M55 are characterized as having a higher BMI and many close friends. These findings demonstrate that Y-DNA haplogroup D is associated with human personality. The present findings may be applicable to the fields of evolutionary psychology and population genetics.

Data Availability Statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

Ethics Statement

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by Nagoya University and Kobe University. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants for their participation in this study.

Author Contributions

MM, YO, TM, YN, HY, and KI designed the research. YO, TM, YN, and KI collected the data. MM determined the gene polymorphisms and analyzed the data. MM, YO, and KI drafted the manuscript. TM, YN, and HY provided critical revisions. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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