Abbreviations

bp = base pair
COII = cytochrome oxidase subunit II
CRS = Cambridge Reference Sequence (Anderson et al. 1981)
D-loop = displacement loop (=control region) of mtDNA
HVS-I = the first hypervariable segment of the control region
Kb = kilo base pair
LGM = the Last Glacial Maximum
LHON = Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy
MP = maximum parsimony
MQW = Milli Q water
MRCA = the most recent common ancestor
mtDNA = mitochondrial DNA
Np = nucleotide position
PNG = Papua New Guinea
Pmoles = picomoles
RFLP = Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism
SDS = Sodium Dodecyl sulfate
TEMED = N-Tetramethylethylenediamine
TBE = Tris Borate EDTA
tRNA Lys = lysyl transfer RNA
ybp = year before present

Definition of basic terms used in the thesis

Haplotype = A sequence type that comprises all identical sequences
Haplogroup = A group of haplotypes that share a common ancestor defined by an array of synapomorphic substitutions lineage any array of characters/mutations shared by more than one haplotype.
Star-like tree = A set of sequences is said to have a pattern of star-like phylogeny if most (ideally all of them) coalesce to one and the same haplotype (that has not necessarily been observed in the sample).
Founder haplotype = Haplotype to which all sequences under concern coalesce to.
Time depth = Age time calculated to the MRCA of a group of sequences expansion time time calculated to the founder that displays star-like phylogeny.
Caucasoids = Western Eurasians, including populations from Near East, West Asia, Europe and northern Africa.