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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Evaluation of the impact of genetic linkage in forensic identity and relationship testing for expanded DNA marker sets

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Highlights

- A biostatistical tool for analyzing the overall effect of linkage on likelihood calculations in various forensic genetic case scenarios is presented.
- The tool is provided as a command script via the open-source platform R and is prepared with reference data for over 40 STRs and 140 SNPs.
- The tool can be used during marker selection and the design of new marker panels or applied to existing marker sets to examine the effect of linkage on a case-by-case basis.
- Studies of existing forensic marker panels show the impact of linkage is generally small, but may be more considerable in individual cases.

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