



Estimation of Stature from Foot Dimensions: A Comparative Study between Hausas and Yorubas in Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Anthropometry is the measurement of variables such as foot height, length and width of human body. The current study was conducted to estimate stature from foot dimensions among Hausas and Yorubas of Faculty of Basic Medical Science in Bayero University, Kano. The objectives were to obtain height and foot dimensions; determine sexual dimorphism, correlation and to estimate stature. The materials used were stadiometer and a digital vernier caliper. Sampling was done randomly. The sample size was 400 subjects (200 Hausas and 200 Yorubas). Statistical significance was deemed acceptable at $p < 0.05$. It was observed that all the variables have significant sexual dimorphism. Among the Hausas, all the variables correlated strongly with each other except for BMI and all foot dimensions. There was a weak negative correlation that is statistically significant between BMI and height. Among the Yorubas, weight, height and BMI correlated strongly with one other and also all foot dimensions correlated strongly with weight and height except LFB and weight where there was a weak positive correlation that is statistically significant. There was a weak positive correlation that is statistically significant between RFB and BMI while LFB and BMI correlate strongly with each other. Both foot lengths do not correlate with BMI. Significant relationship was found between the selected forensic parameters and the foot dimensions among Hausas and Yorubas of Faculty of Basic Medical Science in Bayero University, Kano.

Keywords: Estimation; Stature; Foot dimensions; Hausa; Yoruba

INTRODUCTION

Stature is the natural height of a person in an upright position (Laila *et al.*, 2009). Over the years, the development of anthropometric measurements of various anatomical structures for prediction and estimation of stature has become very useful especially when skeletal remains are often observed to be incomplete or extensively dismembered (Reddy, 2000). It is important to note that there are no universal formulae applicable for stature estimation from the length of one bone, since the bones are influenced by genes, age, sex and race (Rutihouser, 1968; Kulthanan *et al.*, 2004; Alabi *et al.*, 2016; Alabi *et al.*, 2017).

Stature is usually estimated by employing either anatomical or mathematical method. Dwight (1894) introduced the anatomical

method to estimate the total skeletal height while the mathematical method makes use of bone lengths, stature tables, and regression formulae to estimate the skeletal height or living stature (Dayal *et al.*, 2008). The dimensional relationship between stature and long bones could change in a population after a very long period of time.

Dimensional relationships between the body segments and the whole body have been of interest to artists, scientists, anatomists, anthropologists and medico-legal scientists for long time (Chikhalkar *et al.*, 2010). Anthropometry refers to a technique of expressing the form of human body quantitatively as it is the systematic collection and correlation of measurement of human body.



Ascertaining sex and estimation of stature from incomplete skeletal and decomposing bodies in physical anthropology and forensic science (Daniel *et al.*, 2005) has become useful in recent times due to mass disasters like plane crash, mass suicide, tsunamis, forest fires, and earth quakes (Snell, 2000). Sex differences is not in conformation with the foot per se, but rather in proportionality to the size of the body, and such has been documented by Ashizawa *et al.* (1997) among urban Japanese, in which women have smaller feet than men.

Body weight and stature tend to exhibit sexual dimorphism among populations of Ankara, Turkey (Atamturk and Duyar, 2008). The aim of the study was to estimate of stature from foot dimensions: a comparative study between Hausas and Yorubas in Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The study was conducted at the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Bayero University Kano.

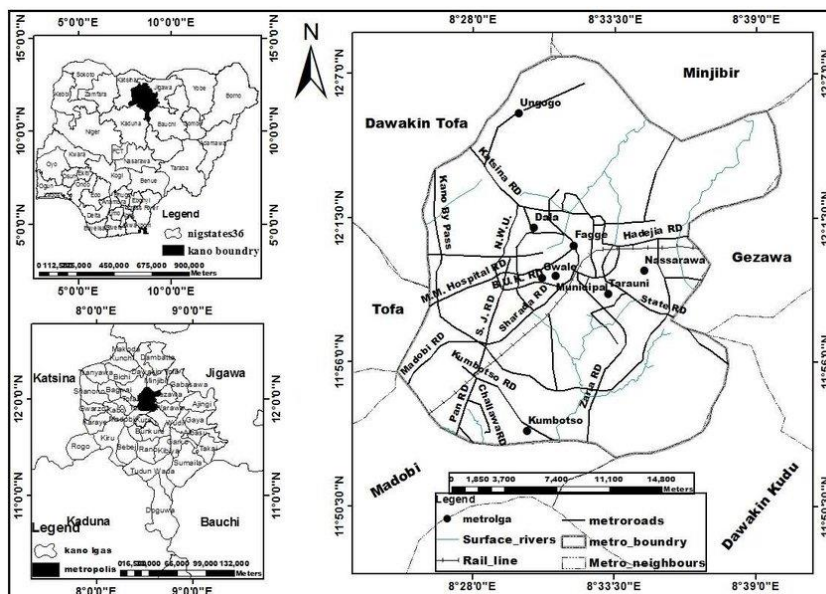


Fig I: Map of the study area: Bayero University, Kano.

MATERIALS

The instruments for taking the anthropometric measurements in this research are includes digital vernier caliper (used in taking foot dimensions), stadiometer (used in taking height and body weight). The stadiometer was improvised with a meter ruler and weighing balance.

Anthropometry

The stature of individuals was measured using the stadiometer from highest point on vertex to the foot. All subjects were asked to stand at anatomical position (erect) barefoot on a level platform against the stadiometer

bar with his/her back and hips touching the bar, their feet were brought in contact with each other and the heels touching the bar with arms hanging by the side. The head of the subject was rested without any strain in the Frankfurt plane. The Foot Length (distance from the most prominent point of the heel to the most distal part of the longest toe) and Foot Breadth (distance between the most prominent point on the medial aspect of head of first metatarsal and the most prominent point on the lateral aspect of head of fifth metatarsal) were measured using digital vernier caliper.



Study Design

The study was a cross-sectional study.

Study Population and sample size

The study population represents Hausa and Yoruba students of Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Bayero University Kano, Nigeria

Sample Size Determination

The total number of subjects that participated in the research were calculated using the formula below:

$$N = Z^2 P(1-P) / d^2$$

Where;

N= required sample size

Z= standard normal deviation (1.96, at 95% confidence level)

P= proportion in the target population (50%)

d= degree of accuracy desired (5%)

$$n = 1.96^2 \times 0.5 \times 0.5 / (0.05)^2$$

$$n = 384.16 \text{ (Lwanga and Lemeshow, 1991)}$$

According to the formula, 384 participants will be required for the study, but 400 participants were used to increase power of statistics. The 400 participants included both males and females, Hausas and Yorubas

within the age range of 18 - 30 years. The sampling technique used to sample the population was a simple random sampling.

Statistical Analyses

Descriptive Statistics was adopted for the direct measured variables. Independent sample t-test was used to ascertain the difference between the two tribes while the relationship between stature and foot dimension was determined using Pearson correlation. Step wise regression analysis was done to predict stature from foot dimensions. Data analysis was carried out using Statistical Package for Service Solution SPSS (IBM Corporation) version 20.0. Significant difference was slated at $p < 0.05$.

RESULTS

The results on Height, Weight, BMI, RFL, LFL, RFB and LFB was presented in Table 1. The average foot length is greater than the average foot breadth.

Table 1: Anthropometrical parameters (Height, Weight, BMI, RFL, LFL, RFB and LFB) among Hausas and Yorubas students.

Variables	Mean	Minimum-Maximum
Weight(kg)	58.12±10.51	37.60-113.00
Height(m)	167.00±8.57	149.00-192.00
BMI(kg/m ²)	20.87±3.72	14.95-40.52
RFB(cm)	8.90±1.20	6.00-15.00
LFB(cm)	8.93±1.21	6.50-14.00
RFL(cm)	25.20±1.74	18.50-30.50
LFL(cm)	25.28±1.77	18.50-30.50

BMI= Body Mass Index, **RFB**= Right Foot Breadth, **LFB**= Left Foot Breadth, **RFL**= Right Foot Length, **LFL**= Left Foot Length, **SD**= Standard deviation.

Ethnic differences among Hausa and Yoruba students was not significant ($p > 0.05$) except for Right Foot Breadth (Table 2). In all the

variables that exhibit ethnic differences, Hausas recorded higher mean value except for BMI.



Table 2: Ethnic differences in Weight, Height, BMI, FBR, FBL, FLR and FLL among Hausas and Yorubas students.

Parameters	Hausas	Yorubas	T-value	P-value
WEIGHT (Kg)	58.18±10.88	58.06±10.16	0.114	0.910
HEIGHT (cm)	167.16±8.23	166.8±8.28	0.387	0.714
BMI (Kg/m ²)	20.83±3.71	20.90±3.71	-0.199	0.843
RFB (cm)	9.03±1.31	8.77±1.06	2.125	0.034
LFB (cm)	9.02±1.33	8.83±1.08	1.604	0.109
RFL (cm)	25.30±1.82	25.10± 1.64	1.604	0.109
LFL (cm)	25.43±1.86	25.13±1.66	1.692	0.091

Mean ± Standard deviation of **BMI**= Body Mass Index, **RFB**= Right Foot Breadth, **LFB**= Left Foot Breadth, **FLR**= Right Foot Length, **LFL**= Left Foot Length at 5%.

The sexual dimorphism in foot dimensions and anthropometric variables in both Hausas and Yorubas have significant difference at p<0.05 (Table 3 and 4).

Table 3: Sexual dimorphism in foot dimensions and anthropometric variables among Hausas students.

Parameters	Mean ± SD		T-Value	p-value
	Males	Females		
WEIGHT (Kg)	62.46±9.03	53.90±10.92	-6.037	<0.001
HEIGHT (cm)	171±0.08	163±0.07	-7.21	<0.001
BMI (Kg/m ²)	21.44±3.67	20.22±3.72	-2.32	0.021
RFB (cm)	9.50±1.46	8.55±0.94	-5.397	<0.001
LFB (cm)	9.46±1.39	8.57±1.10	-5.011	<0.001
RFL (cm)	26.00±1.82	24.61±1.53	-5.825	<0.001
LFL (cm)	26.18±1.82	24.68±1.59	-6.164	<0.001

BMI= Body Mass Index, **RFB**= Right Foot Breadth, **RFB**= Right Foot Breadth, **LFB**= Left Foot Breadth, **FLR**= Right Foot Length, **LFL**= Left Foot Length, and **SD**= Standard Deviation.

Table 4: Sexual Dimorphism in foot dimensions and anthropometric variables among Yorubas of Faculty of Basic Medical Science in Bayero University, Kano.

Parameters	Male	Female	T-Value	p-value
WEIGHT (Kg)	62.43±9.38	53.69±8.98	-6.73	<0.001
HEIGHT (cm)	170±8.57	163±6.50	-6.162	<0.001
BMI (Kg/m ²)	21.66±3.62	20.14±3.68	-2.929	0.004
RFB (cm)	9.03±1.08	8.51±0.97	-3.539	0.001
LFB (cm)	9.12±1.06	8.53±1.02	-3.989	<0.001
RFL (cm)	25.69±1.67	24.51±1.40	-5.384	<0.001
LFL (cm)	25.74±1.69	24.52±1.4	-5.557	<0.001

Mean± SD, **BMI**= Body Mass Index, **RFB**= Right Foot Breadth, **RFB**= Right Foot Breadth, **LFB**= Left Foot Breadth, **FLR**= Right Foot Length, **LFL**= Left Foot Length, and **SD**= Standard Deviation.

Table 5 showed strong correlation of anthropometrical parameters among Hausas except for BMI and foot dimensions while similar trend was also observed in Yorubas (Table 6).



Table 5: Correlation of the parameters among Hausas students

Variables	Weight (Kg)	Height (cm)	BMI (Kg/m ²)	RFB (cm)	LFB (cm)	RFL (cm)	LFL (cm)
Weight (Kg)	1						
Height (cm)	0.401**	1					
BMI (Kg/m ²)	0.834**	-0.163*	1				
RFB (cm)	0.224**	0.454**	-0.028	1			
LFB (cm)	0.229**	0.439**	-0.011	0.90**	1		
RFL (cm)	0.323**	0.665**	-0.50	0.485**	0.519**	1	
LFL (cm)	0.299**	0.659**	-0.70	0.527**	0.581**	0.907**	1

BMI= Body Mass Index, RFB= Right Foot Breadth, LFB= Left Foot Breadth, RFL= Right Foot Length, LFL= Left Foot Length.

Table 6: Correlation of the parameters among Yorubas students

Variables	Weight (Kg)	Height (cm)	BMI (Kg/m ²)	RFB (cm)	LFB (cm)	RFL (cm)	LFL (cm)
Weight (Kg)	1						
Height (cm)	0.307**	1					
BMI (Kg/m ²)	0.832**	0.285**	1				
RFB (cm)	0.228**	0.190**	0.16*	1			
LFB (cm)	0.338*	0.249**	0.185**	0.874**	1		
RFL (cm)	0.239**	0.566**	-0.088	0.405**	0.374**	1	
LFL (cm)	0.249**	0.587**	-0.091	0.431**	0.436**	0.882**	1

BMI= Body Mass Index, RFB= Right Foot Breadth, LFB= Left Foot Breadth, RFL= Right Foot Length, LFL= Left Foot Length.

Table 7 and 8 indicated that there are significant difference (P<0.005) between the Foot Length and Foot Breadth stature among Hausas students.

Table 7: Prediction (Regression) of Stature from foot dimensions among Hausas students.

Equation (DV = B x IV +constant)	R ²	F-value	p-value
Height (cm) = 3.055 x RFB (cm)+ 139.59	0.206	51.38	<0.001
Height (cm) = 2.926 x LFB (cm)+ 140.757	0.193	47.38	<0.001
Height (cm) = 3.240 x RFL (cm) + 85.173	0.446	159.13	<0.001
Height (cm) = 3.129 x LFL (cm) + 87.6	0.434	151.95	<0.001

Table 8: Prediction (Regression) of Stature from foot dimensions among Yorubas students.

Equation (DV = B x IV +constant)	R ²	F-value	p-value
Height (cm) = 1.486 x FBR (cm) + 153.81	0.036	7.416	0.007
Height (cm) = 1.914 x FBL (cm) + 149.94	0.062	13.09	<0.001
Height (cm) = 2.84 x FLR (cm) + 95.39	0.32	93.20	<0.001
Height (cm) = 2.925 x FLL (cm) + 93.34	0.345	104.24	<0.001



DISCUSSION

The human foot is a complex structure, playing an important role in the locomotion processes of the lower extremity, therefore analysis of foot anthropometry is important to the study of ergonomics, orthotics designing and forensic science (Shaifaly *et al.*, 2013). The study showed that males have significant higher mean value of total stature than females. It can therefore be inferred that males are generally taller than females, which agrees with previous studies on stature estimation in Nigeria (Danborno and Elukpo, 2008; Danborno *et al.*, 2008; Ebite *et al.*, 2009; Numan *et al.*, 2013; Ibegbu *et al.*, 2014; Oria *et al.*, 2016).

A significant sexual dimorphism was observed in the foot dimensions which are in line with previous studies (Danborno and Elukpo 2008). Foot lengths are sexually dimorphic (Ashizawa *et al.*, 1997). Adelekan *et al.* (2019) and Egwu *et al.* (2012) reported similar result on sexual dimorphism in foot length and breadth among Nigerian population, which is also in consonance with the findings of Uhrova *et al.*, 2015, among Slovak population. The expression of the sexual dimorphism among Hausas and Yorubas students may suggest possible universality of sexual dimorphism across different ethnic groups within the age and spectra in the study area. Sex determination can be done from foot index, foot shape and foot bones. Although bilateral symmetry is a feature seen in humans, there is asymmetry in the foot length without gender or handedness bias (Grivas *et al.*, 2008) and body mass index (BMI) of adults and adolescents were reported to be sexually dimorphic (Amoo-Tella, *et al.*, 2017).

The present findings on sexual dimorphism in height was also in accordance with that of Egwu *et al.*, 2012). In the study of a Slovak population, stature was found to have significant sexual dimorphism (Uhrova *et al.*, 2015), which is also in agreement with the present study. Similar trend on height and

weight were reported on sexually dimorphic among population in Ankara, Turkey (Atamturk and Duyar, 2008), and sexual dimorphism in height (Adamu *et al.*, 2013). Young male adults residing in Calabar State of Nigeria reported to have significantly higher values in height (Igiri *et al.*, 2009). These proved that the height is an important tool for determination of sexual dimorphism of an individual irrespective of age, ethnicity and population. It was evident that the adult weight was significantly sexually dimorphic (Shen, 2009).

A significant relationship was found to exist between height and foot dimensions among both males and females, this was supported by (Ozdenet *et al.*, 2004; Sanli *et al.*, 2005) in a study conducted among Turkish adults aged 17 to 23 years. Relationship between foot length and height is strongly significant (Danborno *et al.*, 2008; Okoro *et al.*, 2009). Krishan and Sharma (2007) studied the estimation of stature from dimensions of hand and feet in an Indian population and showed that the highest correlation coefficient and the lowest standard error of estimate were between stature and foot length.

Sexual dimorphism in body mass index, was also evident among Turkish population (Ergul, 2019), and this supports the present study on sexual dimorphism in BMI. The larger foot dimension of males in this study in comparison with females is in agreement with the findings by Ashizawa *et al.* (1997) and (Sexena, 1984; Wunderlich *et al.*, 2002; Obikili *et al.*, (2009). in their various study on the Nigerian population that found males to have broader and longer foot dimensions than females.

CONCLUSION

Significant relationship was found between stature and foot dimensions among Hausas and Yorubas students in Bayero University, Kano.



The findings in the present study showed that there was a strong correlation between stature and foot dimensions and in view of this, stature of an individual can be predicted using foot dimensions without any hindrance from

age, race, ethnicity, genetic make-up and nationality.

Conflict of interest: None declared

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