Studies of the incidence of sickling and of the blood groups in Madagascar and African populations indicate a far closer link between these populations than has previously been suggested. Although the language and culture of the Malagasy are of Malayo-Indonesian origin, genetic studies show that the African element predominates in most of the tribes. Reference is made to the close association between human migrations and the distribution of domestic animals, and knowledge of the origins of some ethnic groups may be increased by further genetic studies of this type.