A 69-year-old man was found to have pancytopenia. His hemoglobin level was 118 g/L with a normal mean corpuscular volume, white cell count $3.4 \times 10^9/L$, neutrophil count $1.7 \times 10^9/L$ and platelet count $83 \times 10^9/L$. Blood smear showed dysplastic neutrophils, and the bone marrow aspirate confirmed myelodysplastic syndrome with 8% blasts (RAEB-1). He had trilineage dysplastic changes with prominent micromegakaryocytes and dyserythropoiesis. The nuclei of one of these dysplastic, polychromatic normoblasts took on the form of a snowman and is shown in the figure. Cytogenetic analysis revealed complex karyotype with rearrangements of chromosomes 7, 12, and 20, resulting in a partial deletion of 20q.
Dysplastic polychromatic "snowmoblast"