

Response on encoding BRAHMI MINIMIZING VIRAMA

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Background documents

Proposal to encode MINIMIZING VIRAMA in Brahmi script — Srinidhi A, Sridatta A ([L2/22-219](#))

Recommendations to UTC #173 November 2022 on Script Proposals ([L2/22-248](#)) (See point B 14.)

Discussion

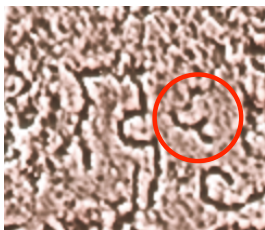
We had proposed the encoding of MINIMIZING VIRAMA in Brahmi. The script ad hoc group subsequently requested confirmation as to whether this form occurs only with M, N, K, and T, and recommended independent encoding of atomic characters since the set appeared to be limited in scope.

Upon further examination of additional inscriptional evidence, we confirm that the proposed vowel-less form is not restricted to these four consonants; it can occur with any consonant. Supporting evidence is provided in this document. Therefore, rather than encoding separate atomic characters for each consonant, we request the encoding of a single new virama character to represent this special vowel-less form of consonants, and seek approval of **BRAHMI MINIMIZING VIRAMA** as documented in L2/22-219.

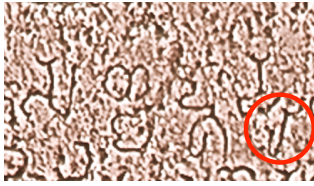
Attestations



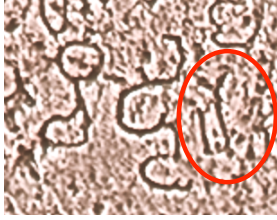
Figure 1. In the word samrāt belonging to Vakataka dynasty dated around 475-495 CE. From [1]



nāḍul



salbaṅgadar



viṭṭār

Figure 2. Occurrences in Halimidi inscription in letters l, r dated around 450 CE in Pre-Old Kannada language. From [2]

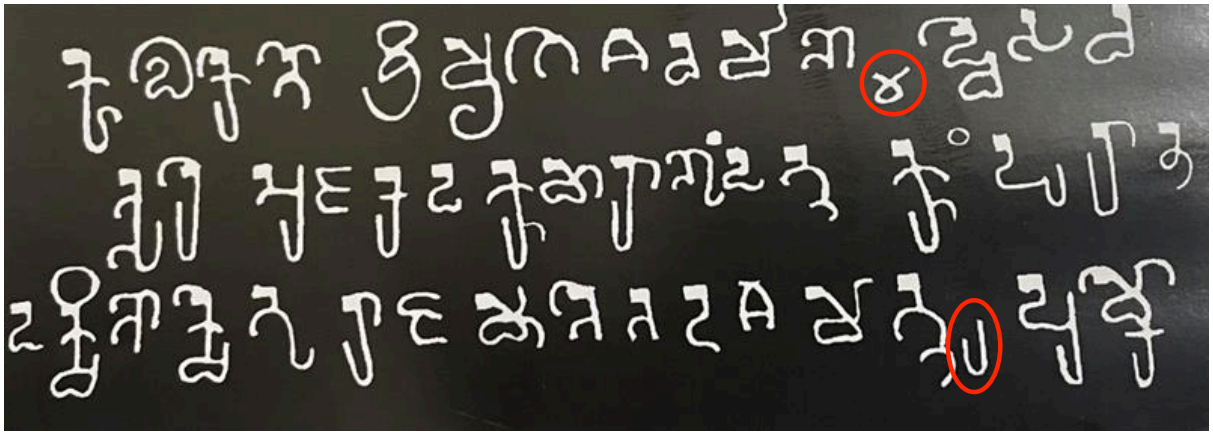


Figure 3. Occurrence in Sanskrit inscription from Haranahalli of Mṛgeśavarma of Kadamba dynasty dated 457 CE. Seen in the words śrīmrṣeṣavarmanam and daśamattar. From [3]

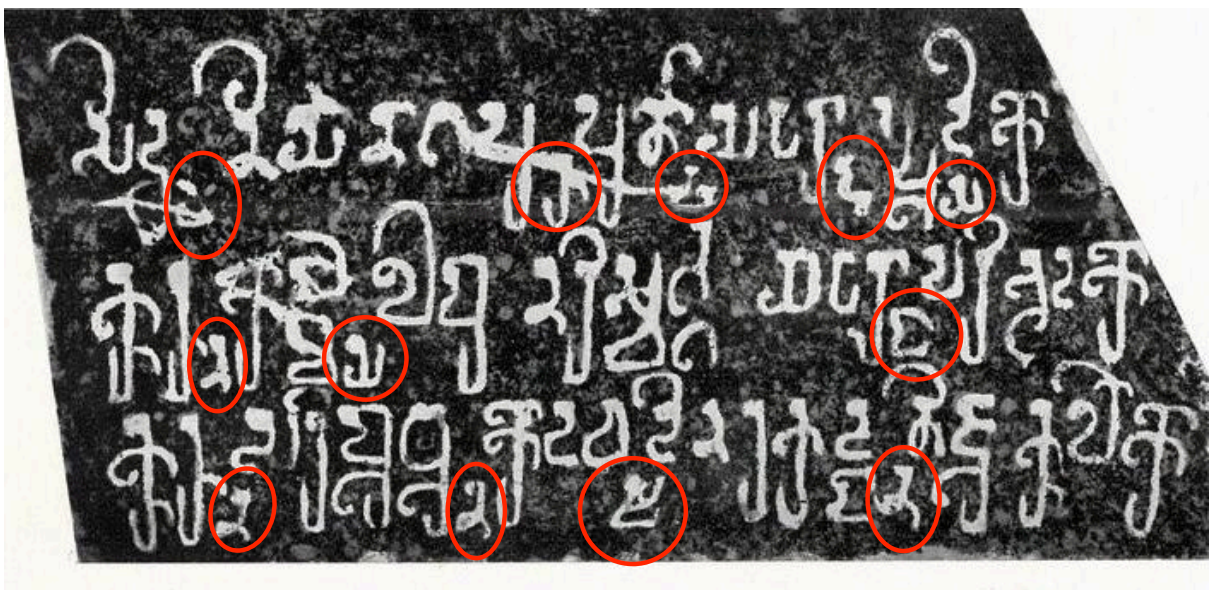


Figure 4. Đông Yên Châu inscription from Champa (present-day Vietnam) in the Old Cham language, dated to around 350 CE. The transliteration is given below.

The smaller vowel-less consonants occur in many words, particularly with the letters m, ñ, ñ̃, n, y, and v. From [4]

Voici ce texte, dont la lecture ne présente aucune difficulté :

(1) *siddham° ni yañ nāga puñ putauv ya urāñ spüy di ko* (2) *kurun ko jmāy labuḥ nari svarggaḥ ya urāñ paribhū di ko* (3) *kurun sari-bū thūn ko davam di naraka dñan tijuḥ kulo ko.*

References

1. Kielhorn, F.: "Bālāghāt plates of Pṛithivishēṇa II". EI 9. 1907-08, repr. 1981: 267ff.
2. Halmidi inscription.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Digital_images_of_Kadamba_inscriptions#/media/File:Halmidi_inscription4.png
3. ಕನ್ನಡ ಲಿಪಿ ವಿಕಾಸ Kannaḍa Lipi Vikāsa. By Dr. M.G Manjunatha and Prof. G.K. Devarajaswamy. 2019
4. Cœdès, Georges. "La plus ancienne inscription en langue chame." Eastern and Indian Studies in Honour of FW Thomas, CI E (1939): 39-52.