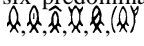


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such as Kannada. The findings described in paper 2 are of importance and cannot be ignored. The six predominantly used fish-like symbols  present in the Indus writing bear one-to-one semblance with the akshara symbols for va, pa, ma, ba, sha, gha present in the modern Kannada script. Further, two anticipated labial aksharas for 'pha' and 'bha' that were missing in IM corpus were found from BW corpus. Besides that, Indus signs for fractional numbers (1/4, 1/2, 3/4, 1/16, 1/8, 3/16) were identified in the Indus text. We strongly feel that the observations made in our articles are deep-rooted from a linguistic point of view and would certainly lead a step forward in understanding the genesis of modern Indian language scripts.

Response

We appreciate the comments made by Yadav *et al.* on our articles. They have expressed disagreement with our conclusion that the Indus script is abugida type. However, we believe that the statistics given in tables 3 and 7 and some important observations (1–4) listed in paper 1 (p. 156) do support the presence of medial vowel signs in Indus script and their semblance to Dravidian-type language

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Mutation in impact factor

Acta Crystallographica Section A: Foundations of Crystallography [pISSN 0108-7673] exhibited perhaps the first ever mutation in the impact factor (IF) of a journal. Specifically, its IF was merely 2.051 in 2008, mutated to 49.926 in 2009 and even increased to 54.333 in 2010; now its 2011 IF is 2.076, i.e. what it should have been¹.

The main reason attributed to this high IF was a single paper authored by George Sheldrick, 'A short history of SHELX' (2008, **64A**, 112–122) providing an account of the development of the SHELX system of computer programs from 1976 to date².

This brings a few points to the fore, i.e. a review paper plays an important role in determining the IF of a journal. Also, one must look at the citation of an individual paper while undertaking any evaluation exercise, as IF alone may not provide the correct picture³.

More importantly, isolated cases like this have prompted the use of *h*-index for evaluation exercise, especially for senior scientists⁴. And even *p*-index⁵ is knocking!

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