A Dravidian decipherment of Indus script

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This publication is for feedback and further elucidation on the basic decipherment for larger community of enthusiast out there in the world. Important documents for understanding Indus script is the corpus created by Asko Parbola and Iravadham Mahadevan's concordance work (here on refered to as M77). We also need the Dravidian Etymological Dictionary (DED) by Burrow and Emaneau. Please download the two PDFs from Internet Archive and you should be ready. There are two excellent software versions of these PDFs: Iravadham Mahadevan's concordance maintained by Roja Muthiah Research Library and Dravidian Etymological Dictionary maintained by Digital South Asia Library of the Chicago University. Another rich source of conjectures and data is the great work of Bryan Wells: The Archaeology and Epigraphy of Indus Writing, Archaeopress, 2025, who also has an excellent online database.

If you want to write documents with Indus signs then you need Asko Parbola's NFM Indus Script font. This document was written in that font, a lovely gift from MVB to me. Now on to the beautiful discovery of the decipherment.

The decipherment became possible with the arrival of the splendid work by MVB in Sasanam: M.V. பாஸ்கர் (Bhaskar), அன்றைய தலைப்பு செய்திகள் (Yesterday's headlines), சிந்துவெளி நாகரீக சிறப்பு வெளியீடு (Indus Valley Civilization Special Issue), கிருஷ்ணகிரி மாவட்ட வரலாற்று ஆய்வு மைய்யம் (Krishnagiri District History Research Center), சாசனம் (Sasanam), 2025.

This laid down the map that lead to all the linkage between graphics and the text, building this beautiful journey of discovery enabled by M.V. Bhaskar, with whom I have been working for the past several years. My learning in art, Brahmi and Indus Script derived from his interactions.

Decipherment is a commutative diagram:



Of course, a lot of hard work and walking on three legs. We use M77 to denote Mahadevan's sign numbers, but the glyphs are provided by Asko Parbola's NFM Indus Script font.

Skilled artistry of Indus script

At the core of Indus script lies the mastery of a skilled metallurgist (%?). We will illustrate this with these few examples:

$$\psi = \sqrt[3]{8} \psi = \text{vel-aṇi-nuṛan-ūr} = வேல்அணிநுழனூர்}$$

The semantic meaning being the town with tailors, jewellery and hunting professions.

$$\sqrt{n}$$
 = $| \land \cap | | | | | = mu$ -iru-mel-per-ul = மூவிரு மேல்பொருள்

The semantic meaning being the mighty great guardian of the township (elevated to kings and gods at later times).

Some important townships

This is just indicative of the various kinds of townships and professions, and a deeper quantitaive study is required to obtain their relative importance. What is interesting is that the last one is farmer's town, which doesn't count really as a town, but in Dravidian languages, the term "ūr" seems to cover what we call "village" also.

| M77 Sign | Glyph | Syllable | DED | Description | Tamil |
|----------|-------|------------------|-----|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 342 | U | ūr | 752 | town | ஊர் |
| 347 | υü | velūr | - | hunter's town | வேலூர் |
| 358 | UP | chevūr | - | bronze worker town | செவ்வூர் |
| 351 | T V | vel-nuran-ūr | - | hunter-cloth worker town | வேல்நுழவூர் |
| ? | U₩ | che-palla-ūr | - | bronze-elephant worker town | செவப்பல்லூர் |
| 355 | UW. | vel-palla-ūr | - | hunter-elephant worker town | வேல்பல்லூர் |
| 361 | UU | che-ko-ūr | - | herder-bronze worker town | செங்கோவூர் |
| 372 | THY | vel-aṇi-nuran-ūr | - | hunter-jeweller- tailor town | வேல்அணிநுழனூர் |
| 15 | ₩ | uŗavūr | 688 | working, farming town | உழவூர் |

Numbers

Numbers are treated separately, but they are just like other glyphs, easily welded and affixed to other glyphs, producing a plethora of possibilities.

| M77 Sign | Glyph | Syllable | DED | Description | Tamil |
|----------|-------|----------------|----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 86 | | mutal, -al | 4950 | one, primary | முதல், -ல் |
| 87 | | -ar, -ir, iru- | 474, 481 | two, great, eminence | ரண்டு, -இர், -ர்,இரு- |

| 89 | | mū-, mūn- | 5052 | three | மு-, முன்- |
|-----|------------------|-------------------------|------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 95 | | nal-, -nāl, nalla- | 2912 | four, good | நல்-, -நால், நல்ல- |
| 96 | IIII | -ai | 2826 | five, unity | - ஐ |
| 108 | IIIII | aru-, -ar | 2485 | six, river, fort | ஆறு, அறு- |
| 110 | IIIIII | eru-, -eru | 910 | seven, rise, fertile | ஏழு, -எழு |
| | Application of a | above phonemes | | | |
| 112 | 1111 | nalam, ñālam, munnāl | 2913 | land, healthy, before | நலம், நாலம், முன்னால் |
| 116 | 1111 | nallai, nellai | - | rice | நல்லை, நெல்லை |
| 121 | 1111 | nal.nel.āl | - | good rice person | நல்நெல்லாள் |
| 120 | <i>;;;</i> | mu-munamum | - | three generations back | மும்முன்னோனும், மும்முன்னமும் |
| 119 | ; ;; | mu-munnor | - | two generations back | மும்முன்னோர் |

Clitics

Clitics provide sentence structure (the subject and the object). The default reading order is right to left, but before the clitic (sign 99), the reading is left to right.

| M77 No. | Glyph | Syllable | Tamil |
|------------|-------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 97 | 1 | -il, -da, -ta, -in | -ட, -டு, -த, -து, -இல், -இன் |
| 99 | 11 | -ra, -ru | -ர, -ரு, -ற, -று |
| 123 | y | -yar, -yin | -யர், -யார் |
| 344 | ij | ūr-ār | ஊரார் |
| 343 | Ţ | ūr-il | ஊரில் |

Learn through pun

Following are an indication of the pun that abounds in Indus script, which is termed as the "rebus principle". Of course, it only makes sense if your language is close to ancient Dravidian. For deeper understanding you may have to refer to some of the sign values below this in the section on "Syllabic development". We only sketch a few, but the Indus script syllabary abounds in such pun. The reduction of number of glyphs required for a writing system for Dravidian language is very much dependent on prudently choosing glyphs that provide highest possible homophony.

| M77 Sign | Glyph | Syllable | DED | Description | Tamil |
|--|-------|-----------------|-----|-------------|----------|
| 298 |))))) | valai = vala+ai | - |) = vala+5 | ഖல+ஐ=ഖலை |
| Right-parenthesis is "vala" (curved as well as right) in Tamil and "vala" + "ai" = | | | | | |

| | | | | fits well with des tement shown in | |
|-----|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| 62 | (\$) | valai-kanni | 5379 | scabbard fish with fang-like teeth | வாளை மீன் |
| | drawn at the top | | earning. This ex | t has sharp teeth. plains that the pa | |
| 295 |)} | eri-valai | 902 | Another sharp tooth fish | ஏரி வாளை (மீன்) |
| | | tion: "vālai" ≈ "v | alai". The prefix | ri-valai", a pun ag "eri" comes fron on: "iru" ≈ "eri". | |
| 63 | (₹◊) | kanni-pori-valai | - | Trapping of birds | கன்னி-பொறி- வலை |
| | | ng it through a p | olysyllabic pun a | of fish as "kanni" as "kanni-pori" w nil is "trapping". | |
| 64 | <u>"</u> (Qà) | valai-kanni | - | The clitic reverses reading order | கன்னி-பொறி- வலை |
| | The clitic sign 6 defines that. | 4 reverses the rea | nding order to the | e right of it. This | learning script |
| 376 | 09 | pal | - | teeth | பல்லு |
| | A teeth is in | dicated by the pro | otruding teeth ef | fect, just like in tl | ne fish teeth. |
| 57 | -&- | irumpu | 486 | iron | இரும்பு |
| | Now we have | e triple pun: iru-p | ou (two insects) ? | ë erumpu (ant) ≈ i | irumpu (iron) |
| 181 | (1)% | kottu | 2065, 2064 | pour (sting) | கொட்டு |
| | homophones | s in Dravidian "ko | ottu". The stingir | how "sting" and ' ng honey-bee also rs (kottu) from th | is supposed |
| 393 | (§) | palla-ar | 3986a, 1045, 4016 | palla, pallar | பல்லர் (பள்ளப |
| | The sign 391 | | list below) is inc e (pallam) by cre | licated here by pueating the pun. | tting it upside |
| 310 | B | vila-vila | 5424 | tremble with fear | മിരുഖിരു |
| | This cognates w | | ED 5370), probate rering scene that | oly a long-tailed f it creates. | ruit bat, with a |
| 303 |)(| iţa, | 432 | cleft, gap, split, crack open , slit, breach, chasm | இட |

Syllabic development

We outline from top to bottom how the syllabary is slowly developed from simple to complex glyphs. Happy journey!

| M77 Sign | Glyph | Syllable | DED | Description | Tamil |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | * | an | 131, 132 | person | அன் |
| | 大大 | an(n)-an | 131, 132 | brother | அண்ணன் |
| 2 | 太 | kāvalan | 1417, 1416 | security guard | காவலன் |
| 25 | 刘 | mutalvan | 4950 | chief | முதல்வன் |
| 26 | l X II | nal-mutalvan | - | good chief | நல்முதல் வ ன் |
| 3 | * | āļ | 399 | servant, slave, soldier, messenger | ஆள் |
| 4 | * | natt-an | 3638 | country man | நாட்டான் |
| 5 | 霁 | natt-ar-an | 3638 | country rules | நாட்டாரன் |
| 6 | 类 | kompa <u>n</u> | 2115 | clever man | கொம்பன் |
| 7 | 太 | val(i)-an | 5276 | skilled man | வலியன் |
| 8 | * | vel-an | 5368 | lance fighter | ි කෙහත් |
| 9 |)歎) | valai-velan, valaiyan | 5288 | animal trapper | வலையன் |
| 12 | 夾 | uravan | 688 | farmer | உழவன் |
| 13 | ፟ | uravāļ | 688 | farm worker | உழவாள் |
| 14 | δĴ | per-uṛavan | 688 | big farmer | பேர் உழவன் |
| 15 | 恭 | uravūr | 688 | working, farming town | உழவூர் |
| 35 | ** | valaiyan | 5288 | trapper | வலையன் |
| 41 | 太 | kīŗrān | 1621 | poor | கீழான் |
| 42 | \$ | pallan | 3986a | mahout | பல்ல(ഖ)ன் |
| 54 | * | pu | 4345 | flower, insect | பூ (பூச்சி) |
| 55 | * | pol | 4550 | flowering | பொலி, பொலிவு |
| 374 | 0 | -n | 1159b, 3621, 3621a | night, bug | நீர் (துளி), (ப)னி, நள், நல்லு |
| 410 | 8 | nān | 2908, 3639 | string, me | நான் |
| 415 | 8 | nannan | 3639 | a name | நண்ணன் |
| 417 | 8 | nalnelāļ | - | Good farmer | நல்நெல்லாள் - |
| 412 | 8. | nāṅkuru | 2906 | earthworm | நாண்குழு |

| 186 | Ħ | kū <u>r</u> u | 1924, 1921 | section, division, share, to proclaim | ௬௶ |
|-----|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 299 | (| ida, idai | 449 | hip, left | இட-, இடை |
| 301 | (| idayan | 450 | herder, herdsman | இடையன் |
| 287 |) | vala-, vaļai | 5313, 5314 | bent, trap, right | ഖര, ഖണ്ബ |
| 293 |) | valaiyan | 5288 | animal trapper (short form) | வலை வேலன், வலையன் |
| 303 |)(| ița, ițavai | 432, 434 | narrow way | இட, இடவை |
| 186 | Ħ | kutai | 1714 | notch at end of bow | குதை |
| 312 | 0 | kuṭa, kuṭai | 1660 | hollow, cavity, penetrate | குடை |
| 328 | U | vu | 651, 761 | ooze, mortar | ഖ, ഉ, ഉണ |
| ? | U | vala, vala | 5304 | strong, fertile | ഖல-, ഖണ- |
| 32 | | vuvan | | person between two | <u>உ</u> வன் |
| 330 | U | ūm (ūma <u>n</u>) | 748 | to fly (owl) | ஊம் (ஊமன்) |
| 332 | * | vai | 5549-53 | to stay, straw of paddy, to abuse, sharp | ഞഖ |
| 336 | A | uṭaṇ, valaṇ | 945 | with, consent, immediately | உடன், ഖலண் |
| 337 | Ä | uțai | 593 | wealthy | உடை |
| 342 | U | ūr | 752 | town, village | ஊர் |
| 347 | Ű | vellore | - | hunter's town | வேலூர் |
| 358 | U | chevur | - | bronze worker's town | செவ்வூர் |
| 344 | T | ūr-ar | - | important sign with clitics | ஊரார் |
| 343 | T | ūr-il | - | important sign with clitics | ஊரில் |
| 373 | 0 | pa | 3805, 4016, 4124, 3884 | sun, pot | பகல், பள்ளம், பானை, பண் |
| 375 | 0 | pal, pala | 3986a | teeth, many | ഥ ർ, |
| 379 | 0 | pammu | 3934 | to baste, to yarn | பம்மல் |
| 391 | ₩ | pallā | 3986a, 1045 | elephant | பல்லா (யானை) |
| | Depic | ted by the ornamental oval-sl | haped plate tha | nt is fixed on it's f | orehead |
| 392 | ¦ ⊕ ¦ | nal-pallar (nalla-palla-iru) | - | good mahout | நல் பல்லர் |
| 403 | Ø | pa <u>r</u> ai, pa <u>rr</u> u | 4031, 4032, 4034 | announcement (sale) with a drum beat | பறை, பற்று |
| 407 | ₩ | pulam | 4303 | arable land, rice field | புலம் |

| 80 | ¥ | parapurai | 3949 | to spread | பறப்புறை |
|-----|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 78 | * | pūr, puri, pori, purā | 4374 | bird | புர், புரி, பொரி, புறா |
| 66 | 谂 | peru-kāl | - | great good gentleman | நல்பெருங்கன்னி |
| 66 | 谂 | nal-peru-kanni | - | great good gentleman | நல்பெருங்கன்னி |
| 69 | 爻 | kalam | 1305 | vessel, ship | கலம் |
| 75 | Q | peru-ka <u>n</u> ai | 1404 | intense, abundance | பெருங்கனாய் |
| 65 | Ŷ. | peru-kanni | | big boat, big cart | பெருங்கன்னி |
| 70 | Q | kāl | 1483 | cart | கால் |
| 72 | ♦ | kōl | 2238 | boat, raft | கோல் |
| 67 | X | kondu, kõnda, gõnde | 2053, 2216 | bull, with | கொடு (கொண்டு), கோண்டே, கொண்டே, கொண் ட |
| 60 | 烩 | nalla-kanni | - | good vehicle, good trapper | நல்ல கன்னி |
| 59 | | kaṇ, kanni | 1159a, 1166, 1168, 1417, 1483 | bamboo raft, trap, trapper | கண், கன்னி |
| 31 | ‡ ® | pāṇan | 4068 | tamil bard | பாணன், பாடுபவன் |
| 396 | 9 | pāṇal | 4071 | rice-field | பாணல் |
| ? | 0 | pān | 4068 | song, melody | பாண் |
| 36 | X XX | tan | 3045 | cold, water | தண் (தண்ணீர்) |
| 229 | M | tar, tāri | 3178 | bow down | தாழு, தாழி |
| 223 | IX | mumuta | - | ancient grand-parent | மும்மூத |
| 222 | × | tal, tol | 3123, 3105, 3516 | obstruct, stop beat, crush, old, | தள், தொள் |
| 53 | 00 | tāvu | 3177 | jump, luxuriant, tread gently | தாவு, தவளை |
| 217 | \bowtie | taṭa | 3020 | big, large | தடா |
| 216 | \bowtie | tan, tān | 2946, 3188, 3110 | earthen pot | தன், தண் (தண்டி), தவளை |
| 254 | ļ I | pați, pațți | 3848, 3850, 3868 | hamlet, village, settlement, rest, roost, step gradee, rank | படி, பட்டி |
| 389 | ② | pañ-nilam | 3837 | ploughed land | பண்னிலம் |
| 387 | 9 | velappa | | hunter | வேலப்பன் |
| 404 | 1001 | nal-pa <u>r</u> ai | | good announcement | நல்ல பறை |
| 406 | (P) | paḷapaḷa | 4012 | glittering, well- oiled | பளப்பள |

| | | | | (message through pigeon?) | |
|-----|------------|---|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 81 | (4) | valai-puri | _ | trapped bird | ഖതെവ്വറ്റി, പ്പറ്റിഖതെ |
| 319 | 6 | mura | 4977 | snail, curl | முற, முறை, முறுக்கு |
| 134 | \land | peru, pēr | 4411 | big, large | பெரு, பேர்- |
| 204 | A | mu-peru | _ | mature large | முப்பெரு |
| 209 | Δ | peru-mutal | _ | large primary | பெருமுதல் |
| 210 | ▲ | mu-peru-mutal | - | mature three large primary | முப்பெருமுதல் |
| 205 | A | nāl-kompu, nāmpu | 2115, 3649 | good clever, J sprout of millet | நால்கொம்பு, நாம்பு |
| 261 | \Diamond | kō | 2177, 2178 | mountain, gentry | கோ, கோட்டை |
| | | n of the word "kō" could t rced by the West wind, fr | | | |
| 30 | ☆ | kōvan | | herder, herdsman, gentry | கோவன் |
| | Cattle | class that eventually become | omes the ruling g | entry | |
| 267 | ♦ | kōṭṭa, kōṭu | 2207, 2053, 2203, 2200 | gift, munificence, fort, gentry (west wind, western practice of having kings in Sumeria), horn | கொட, கோட்ட, கொடு, கொம்பன் |
| 272 | Ö | kōṭai, kōṭai | 2207, 2049 | fort, gift | கோட்டை |
| 271 | ♦ | kōṭṭam | 2058 | cattle-shed | கோட்டம் |
| 244 | | a <u>r</u> u, ā <u>rr</u> u, a <u>r</u> ai, araņ | 317, 407, 322, 201 | strong, dwellment, camp, room, castle | அறு, ஆற்று, அறை, அரண் |
| 242 | | māṭi, māṭu | 4796a, 4798 | mansion, terrace, ox | மாடி, மாடு |
| 197 | П | mē, mēţu, mettai | 5086, 5058, 5069 | top, terrace | மேல், மெத்தை |
| 198 | A | mē-mu | 5086 | higher excellence | സേന |
| 199 | X | mē-vēl | 5086 | excellent hunter | மேவேல் |
| 200 | 4 | nal-mē | 5086 | good excellence | நல்ம <u>ே</u> |
| 402 | Á | nāţu | 3638 | country (as a contrast to forest) | நாடு |

| 162 | Ψ | vēl | 5536 | spear, valour | ි කෙන් |
|-----|-----------|---|---------------------|--|---|
| 245 | | tațți | 3036, 3039 | cloth, wooden frame | தட்டி |
| 246 | 人田 | taṭṭal | 3039 | threshing | தட்டல் |
| 296 | D | vari | 5297 | way | வழி |
| 149 | ** | nālvaŗi | 5297 | cross-road | நால்வழி |
| 297 | 身 | aruvari | 5297 | six-way crossing | அறுவழி, ஆறுவழி |
| 135 | \wedge | peruvari | 5297 | big way | பெருவழி |
| 136 | \otimes | aim perumvari | 5297 | five big way | ஐம் பெருவழி |
| 153 | Ŷ | poruļ, poral, poril | 4544, 4555, 4558 | object/goods, town, earth/country/di strict | பொருள், பொறல், பொறில் |
| 155 | + | ampi | 177 | boat, raft, ship | அம்பி |
| 211 | Ŷ | anuppu (ampu) | 329 (178) | send | அனுப்பு, அன்பு |
| 83 | ** | irappan, irappu | 501 | death | இறப்பு |
| 50 | Ħ | āṭu | 5152 | goat | ஆத்து, ஆடு |
| 124 | 人 | ēr | 2815 | plough | கலப்பை |
| 47 | 2 | aran | 204 | squink, law- abiding, just | அறண், அரணை |
| 48 | № | nal-aran, aran-nal- | - | good behavior | நல் அறன், அறநல்- |
| 113 | (;;;) | viļai-ñālam | 5437, 2913 | fertile land | விளை நாலம் |
| 415 | 8 | mu-pala | 7- | important many | முப்பல |
| 171 | Ψ | nil-(v)anji, nilai | - | stable | நில்வஞ்சி, நிலை |
| ? | | nal-inai, nāl-inai | - | good joining, joining four | நல்லிணை, நாலிணை |
| 49 | F | kula | 1829 | generation, geneology | குலம் |
| 51 | Ĭ. | māru, māran, mu-kula- iru-mā <u>r</u> an | 4834 | reliable third generation barter (showing one's back) | மாறு - , மாறன், முக்குல மும்மாறனார் |
| 302 | 7 | mā <u>rr</u> al | 4834 | exchange | மாற்றல் |
| 137 | X | cēr, cēri | 2814, 207 | join, union, assemblage, hamlet | சேர், சேரி |
| 140 | ","" | nal-iru-cēri | - | good, strong assemblage | நல்லிருச்சேரி |
| 141 | * | cēri-va <u>r</u> i | - | road to assemblage | சேரிவழி |
| 142 | ₩. | cēri-vaṛi-anjih | | road to assemblage resting place | சேரிவழிவஞ்சி |

| 129 | ^ | koļ | 2151 | seize, acquire | கொள் |
|-----|------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 130 | 1 | koļal | 2151 | exchange, buy/sell | கொள்ளல், கொள்முதல் |
| 148 | 55 | cērukoļ | 5297, 2151 | exchange, buy/sell | சேர்ந்துகொள் |
| 237 | | mutal | 4951 | base, foot, stump | முதல் |
| 304 | D | vil, viļ | 5422, 5421, 5432, 5433 | bow, call out, sell | ചി ல் |
| 305 | (ÿ | vilai | 5421 | price | ഖിல്തെ, ഖിതെ |
| 127 | ٦ | alaku, alanku, agagu | 239, 240, 246, 255 | beak, beauty, grains of paddy | அலகு, அழகு |
| 306 | F | araku- v ilam | - | good home | அழகு வி இல்லம் |
| 307 | B | viļampu | 5433, 5434 | proclaim openly, serve food | விளம்பு |
| 17 | * | villava <u>n</u> | 5422 | archer | ഖിல்லவன் |
| 28 | X 0 | viļampan | 5434 | one who superintends the distribution | விளம்பன் |
| 310 | B | vila-vila | 5424 | tremble with fear | ഖിഖഖിഖ |
| 125 | Κ | vilaku | 5423 | diverge | മിയക്ര |
| 397 | þ | aṇi, aṇiyal | 116 | pearl necklace | அணி, அணியல், முத்து மாலை |
| 398 | Ŷ | peru-aṇi(yal) | 116 | big pearl necklace | பெரு அணி |
| 377 | ⊕ | nal-aṇi-pala | - | many good pearl necklaces | நல் அணி பல |
| 233 | ₩ | mumalai | - | three mountain range | மும்மலை |
| 235 | R.y | mumalai-vel | - | three mountain hunter | மும்மலை வேல் |
| 180 | M | koţţu | 2063, 2064 | pour, sting | கொட்டு (தேன்) |
| 181 | (AC | koţţu | 2063, 2064 | pour, sting | கொட்டு |
| 169 | Ÿ | nilam | 3676 | land, ricefield | நிலம் |
| 171 | " | nilai | 3675 | firm, stable | நிலை |
| 173 | # | irunilai | 3675 | very firm, stable | இருநிலை |
| 174 | # | iru-nilam | 481, 3676 | great/vast land | இருநிலம் |
| 88 | HE | nal-iru | 3610, 480 | fine life | நல்லி ரு |
| 176 | ודוח | vanjī, anjih, añcal | 5265, 56, 54 | paddy, rice, to take on shoulder, resting place | வஞ்சி, அஞ்சி, அஞ்சல் |
| 166 | <u> </u> | vēl-vanjī | - | hunter's lair | வேல்வஞ்சி |

| 249 | Ь | māţţu | 4801, 4802 | fasten, put in, fasten, hook, kindle, fire | மாட்டு |
|-----|------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 253 | ф | māṭṭal | 4802 | necklace | மாட்டல் |
| 252 | F | mā <u>rr</u> am (māṭṭu + mu) | 4834 | exchange, barter | மாற்றம் |
| 182 | H | mūtai (mū + iṭai) | 4954 | long under cultivation, mature | மூதை |
| 178 | A | kalappai, kalam | 1304 | plough, vessel, ship | கலப்பை, கலம் |
| 323 | ۵ | il, ila | 494, 497 | non-existence, leaf | (2) an |
| 325 | <u></u> | ila | 497 | leaf | இல |
| 326 | \$ | ilai, iļai | 497, 496, 513 | leaf, young | இலை, இலஞ்சி |
| 327 | # | iļavarian, iļaivarian | - | horticulturalist? | இலைவழியான் |
| 76 | 7 | cē | 1931 | red, bronze | சே, செம்மை |
| 311 | D | yā <u>r</u> , e <u>r</u> il | 5156 | harp, music, beauty | யாழ், எழில், இசை |
| 400 | × | nuran | 3714, 3715 | penetrate, stitch | நுழ-, நுழன், நுழம்பு, நுளம்பு |
| 219 | X | tai (ta + kaccai) | 3473 | sew, stitch | தை |
| 214 | M | irutai | 481, 3473 | strong stitch, good tailor | இருதை |
| ? | 4 | cī, cīpu, cil, calli | 2599, 2622, 1577, 2382 | cleanse, wooden peg, splinter | <i>දී</i> , චිப්பු, චිබ් |
| 240 | | cil | 1577 | small | சில் |
| 241 | \Q | ci <u>r</u> a | 2589 | eminent, illustrious | சிற- |
| 381 | (a) | ci <u>r</u> appu | 2589 | eminent, illustrious | சிறப்பு |
| 256 | 甲 | nērci <u>r</u> a | 3772 | just and eminent | நேர்சிற |
| 266 | • | nērci <u>r</u> a-kō | 2177 | just and eminent leader | நேர்சிற கோ |
| 215 | MA | ci <u>r</u> uttai | 2590 | panther | சிறுத்தை |
| 258 | ŀ | cīrmai | 2624 | excellence, greateness | சீர்மை |
| 257 | 1 | cutti, cuttiyal | 2668 | small hammer | சுத்தி, சுத்தியல் |
| 259 | 1 | cutti, cuttiyal | 2668 | small hammer | சுத்தி, சுத்தியல் |
| 192 | M | paḷḷi | 4018 | hamlet, herdsman's village | பள்ளி |
| 193 | | mumalai-perum-puli | 4307, 4411 | three-mountain | மும்மலை பெரும்புலி |

| | | | | big tiger | |
|-----|----------|------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 321 | 60 | ñāṇ | 2908 | marriage string, necklace | நாண் |
| 322 | ŵ | nēññil | 2907 | plogh-shaft | நென்னில் |
| 367 | 660 | nānan | 2908 | yarn maker | நாணன் |
| 82 | a | ta <u>r</u> upu | 3142, 3169 | to join together, amass (wealth) | தறுப்பு (தாரா - வாத்து) |
| 202 | A | mā- | 4786 | up | шт- |
| 247 | 11 | caṭṭam, taṭṭi | 2304, 3036, 3039 | frame, mould, | சட்டம், தட்டி |
| 341 | 岡 | uru | 689 | harrow | உழு (பரப்பு, பரம்பு) |
| 177 | # | nal-mutal, nalāl | - | good chief, good worker, hard worker | நல்முதல்-, நல்லாள் |

Signs and affixes

Just to give a flavor of the decipherment here we group few signs under base/affix geometry. In some cases there could be more than one affix.

Sign ○

| Affix Base | | | III | | | Ψ | 0 | ⋄ | <u>o</u> | 太 | - |
|---------------|-----|----------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-----|------------------|----------|------------|----------------|
| 0 | 1 | ∞ | 0 | ¦@¦ | ⊕ | Θ | 0 | (a) | 9 | ‡ © | ¦ ⊕ ¦ |
| pa | pal | para | pammu | nal- para | pallā | vel- appa | pān | ci <u>r</u> appu | pānal | pān-an | nal-pallar |

Sign U

| Affix Base | I | | | | 0 | 0 | Ψ | - | X & Y |
|---------------|-----|----|-----------|-----------|--------------|------|-------|--------|------------------|
| | | Ţ | "" | \forall | \bigcup | Μ̈́ | υÜ | TV. | UY |
| ū | vaļ | ūr | ūm | vai | uṭa <u>n</u> | uțai | velūr | chevūr | vel-aṇi-nuran-ūr |

Sign \bowtie

| Affix | | 0 | IIII | | 4 | | D | - | * |
|-----------|-----------|-----|----------|--------|-------------------|---------|------|------------|-----|
| Base | | | | | | | | | |
| \bowtie | \bowtie | 000 | X | M | MA | 以 | K | \bowtie | 炊 |
| ta | tal | tan | tai | irutai | ci <u>r</u> uttai | mumutai | tāŗi | tațu, tața | tan |

Sign **☆**

| Affix Base | | | \wedge | \wedge | | III |
|---------------|-----------|----------|------------|---------------------|--------------|-------|
| Ŷ | \$ | ♦ | \$ | Ŷ | * | 英 |
| kanni | kāl | kōl | peru-kanni | peru-ka <u>n</u> ai | kōnda, gōnde | kalam |

Sign **☆**

| Affix Base | | | - | k | - | \wedge | | - |
|---------------|----|---------------|---------|--------|--------|----------|----------|------------------|
| * | * | 大大 | 太 | 犬 | 炊 | 太 | 利 | 洲 |
| an | āļ | aṇṇa <u>n</u> | kāvalan | naṭṭan | uravan | kīŗrān | mutalvan | nal- mutalvan |

Sign ◊

| Affix Base | \Diamond | IIIII | Ш | ** | 甲 | ⊗ | D |
|---------------|----------------|-------|--------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------|
| \Diamond | ♦ | ta♡ | ♦ | × | • | ⟨⊕ ⟩ | \$ |
| kō | kōṭṭa, kōṭu | kōṭai | kōṭṭam | nāl-vaṛi- kōṭai | nērci <u>r</u> a-kō | pallar-kōṭṭa | kōṭai-vari |

Sign)

| Affix | 180° | 0 | 180° | - 180° | 90° | 270° | |
|-------|------|----------|---------|--------|-------------|------|-----------|
| Base | | | | | | | |
|) | (|) | (|)(| | U |)) |
| | | · | · | | | _ | |
| | | | | | | | |
| valai | ițai | valaiyan | iṭaiyan | iţa | kuṭa, kuṭai | ū | iru-valai |
| | | | | | | | |

Sign 🖺

| Affix Base | I | | | III | I | I | Ħ |
|---------------|------|-----|-----|---------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| 0 | A | 60 | 8 | 8 | 8 | F8 | 8× |
| -n | nāţu | ñāņ | nan | nannu, nannan | nalnelāļ | nan-mutal | nāṅk uru |

Common phrases

Here we list multiple logos (mostly pairs and triplets) that commonly occur together in IVC. We also list a few non-aglutinative entangled glyphs which we try to describe them as complex mixed states.

| M77 Signs | Glyph | Syllable | DED | Description | Tamil |
|-----------------|----------------|--|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 321-336 | ⊘ ₩ | uṭaṇ-ñāṇ | 2908 | marriage | உடன் நாண் (உடன்தை) |
| | Sign-336 ⊌ als | so has ideographic mo | rtar & pe | estle marriage asso | ociation as well |
| 176-321- 336 | EOU | uṭaṇ-ñāṇ-anjih | 2908 | marriage hall | உடன் நாண் அஞ்சி |
| 148 | 卐 = X+ √ | ma <u>r</u> ukoļ | 5297, 2151 | exchange, buy/sell | மாற்று கொள் |
| 12-124 | | ēr-vuravan | - | farmer | ஏர் உழவன் |
| 169-124 | Ÿ.A. | ēr-nilam | - | farm land | ஏர் நிலம் |
| 113 | (!!!) | viļai-nallam | 5437- 3613 | cultivable rich soil | விளை நல்லம் |
| 130-51 | √ ĝ | ma <u>r</u> u-koļ, mu- kula-iru-māran- koļ | - | barter | மாற்று கொள் |
| 402-267 | 6 0 | koṭa-nāṭu | - | herder country | கொட நாடு |
| 402-267 | (a) | valaiyan-nāṭu | - | trapper's country | வலையன் நாடு |
| 402-76 | 6 M | cē-nāṭu | - | red country, bronze country | சே நாடு |
| 67-65 | ※ 灸 | peru-kanni- kondu | - | with big vehicle | பெருங்கன்னி கொண்டு |
| 59-67 | ◆ | konda-kal | - | bullock cart | கொண்டா கல், கோண்ட கல், மாட்டு வண்டி |
| 59-67 | ◆ | peru-konda-kal | - | big bullock cart | பெரு கோண்ட கல், பெரு மாட்டு வண்டி |
| 307-379- 176 | DOE | pammu-vilambu- anji | - | bow stringer's resting place | பம்மு வில்லம்பு அஞ்சி |
| 402-379- 319 | <u>400</u> | mura-pammu- nadu | - | yarn twisting country | முறபம்மு நாடு |
| 342-379- 398 | UOF | perum.aṇi- pammu-ūr | - | big necklace maker's town | பெரு அணி பம்மூர் |
| 372 = | &y = Ux44 | vel-aṇi-nuran-ūr | - | town with | வேல்அணிநுழனூர் |

| 342+400+ 397+162 | | | | hunters, pearl and cloth workers | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------|--|-------------------|
| 194 = 342+400+ 397+162 | <i>☆</i> = ∧ ↑ | mu-iru-mēl-per- ul | - | the mighty mel-perul | மூவிரு மேல்பொருள் |
| 96-409 | ºrº | nan-nilai | 3588 | amiable | நன்னிலை |