Dental Affricates

The use of dental affricates contrasting with affricates with other places of articulation as well as with other dental sounds was investigated. The inventory of Iranian Wakhi of Pakistan contains a voiced dental affricate, as well as a palatal (or alveolo-palatal) affricate, a voiced dental fricative and a voiced interdental fricative, as shown in (1).

(1) Wakhi, Pakistan [wbl(p)] (Iranian)

a. /dzaq/ ‘small’ (WBLp-KinEK:010)

b. /dʑɨmat/ ‘wife’ (WBLp-KinSA:038)

c. /zik/ ‘tongue’ (WBLp-40listEK:034)

d. /ðas/ ‘ten’ (WBLp-NumEK:010)

The presence of dental affricates is a strongly areal features, present in as many as 47 or the sample languages. The feature is present in languages across five of the phylogenetic groupings, while absent in both of the Turkic sample languages.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 47 | 79 |
| Absent | 11 | 19 |
| Indeterminate | 1 | 2 |