








































































3 Synthesis

The three abecedaries exhibit an inventory of 26 glyphs. Conspicuously missing are distinctions between *z* and *s*, *t* and *s*³, and *q* and *z*. This would suggest that the interdental and sibilants have merged, and that the glyphs used to represent the etymological interdentals *t* and *z* came to signify the outcome of these mergers. The case of *q* and *z* is more complicated. The final sequence in both the Dhofari alphabets and that of Duqm contain only one glyph in the position of *q*-*z*, but in Duqm the sign is an X, which is similar to the glyph signifying *z* in Himaitic, while it is an H in Dhofari, similar to the *q* glyph of Thamudic B and other North Arabian scripts.⁹ The merger of the sibilants and interdentals is a feature of Ḥasaitic, an eastern Arabian language carved along the Gulf.¹⁰ Ḥaḍramitic also attests this merger, so we could be dealing with an ancient, areal sound change of east Arabia, extending from Ḥaḍramut across Oman and along the Gulf northwards.¹¹

	KMG 120-126	KMD 28- 31	Duqm	Thamudic B ¹²	South Arabian	Dadanitic (JSLih 152) ¹³
<i>h</i>						
<i>l</i>						
<i>h</i>						
<i>m</i>						
<i>q</i>						
<i>w</i>						
<i>s</i> ²						
<i>r</i>						
<i>b</i>						
<i>t</i>						
<i>s</i> ¹						
<i>k</i>						

⁹ See Macdonald 2000, 34.

¹⁰ On the phonology of Hasaitic, see Al-Jallad 2024.

¹¹ The status of the interdentals is unclear in Qaṭrayith, the vernacular of the gulf region in the early Islamic period (Al-Jallad 2025b).

¹² Al-Jallad and al-Manaser 2015.

¹³ <https://ociana.osu.edu/inscriptions/14076>.














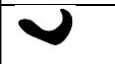

























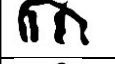









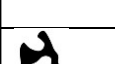















<i>n</i>						
<i>h</i>		NA				
<i>š > z</i>						
<i>s³ > ṭ</i>						
<i>f</i>		NA				
		NA				
						
<i>d</i>						
<i>g</i>						
<i>d</i>						
<i>ḡ</i>						
<i>t</i>						
<i>z</i>		<i>> d</i>				
<i>d</i>			<i>> z</i>			
<i>y</i>						
<i>ṭ <> s³</i>						
<i>z <> š</i>						

Chart 1: The Dhofari alphabets in context with other attested South Semitic abecedaries

3.1 Commentary on the letter shapes

Many of the letter shapes are unremarkable from the point of view of the South Semitic script archetype. The following commentary will concern glyphs that inform our understanding of the history of the script and its unique features.

 : The two-horned *alif* sides is more closely related to the North Arabian scripts; this shape is encountered in Taymanitic, Dadanitic, Thamudic B, and occasionally in Thamudic C. The Ancient South Arabian form of the *alif* is simplified to an open rectangle with a bolt extending from its top.