Retroflex Plosives

The use of retroflex (or apical post-alveolar) plosive consonants contrasting with dental/alveolar plosives was investigated. In Ashkun, a dental voiceless plosive (1a) contrasts with a retroflex voiceless plosive (1b), and a dental voiced plosive (1c) contrasts with a retroflex voiced plosive (1d).

1. Ashkun [ask] (Nuristani)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | /zat / | ‘night’ (ASK-40list-WS:024) |
| b. | /vaːʈ / | ‘stone’ (ASK-40list-WS:032) |
| c. | /awndej/ | ‘grandfather’ (ASK-Kin-WS:013) |
| d. | /muɖuk / | ‘frog’ (ASK-Val-WS:034) |

The presence of retroflex plosives is a strongly areal feature, absent only in the inventories of the Turkic languages, some of the Iranian languages and possibly in one of the Sino-Tibetan languages.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 50 | 85 |
| Absent | 9 | 15 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |