

Nilgiri Dolmens (South India)*

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Introduction

This study, which primarily deals with Nilgiri dolmens, is intended to compliment VICTOR ROSNER's "Dolmens in the Anamalai Hills, South India" (*Anthropos* 54.1959: 169-182). While the Anamalai Hills are to the south of the Palghat Gap, the Nilgiri Hills form a massif to the north and where the Eastern and Western Ghats meet (Map 1). In contrast to the Anamalai dolmens, the Nilgiri dolmens are generally smaller, are not combined into such complex variations, and are not surrounded by walls. Because many of the Nilgiri dolmens are sculptured, they form another distinctive group in South India. In considering Nilgiri dolmens it becomes necessary to devote some attention to the five traditional groups in the region: the Badagas, Irulas,

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