

to the cause of Indian archaeology he was bestowed numerous prizes, fellowships, and public honours, including the title of *Padma Bhushan* by the Government of India. The Robert Bruce Foote Plaque which he received in 1974 was one award he particularly cherished, because it was presented by the Department of Anthropology of Calcutta University which at one time had considered Deccan College as its rival in prehistoric studies.

He published his autobiography entitled "Born for Archaeology" in 1978 and is survived by his wife, Sarladevi.

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The Cat in Irula Culture

An Irula Creation Myth

Kamil V. Zvelebil

1.

The Irulas (*ērḷaru*) are a tribal complex of four communities inhabiting lower slopes of the northern, eastern, and southern segments of the Nilgiri Hills (South India). They speak a non-literary language of their own – the *ērḷa na:ya* – in four mutually intelligible dialects; historically it belongs to the Tamil-Malayalam subgroup of South Dravidian. Two of the tribes intermarry, so that the Irula complex forms a tribal group of three endogamous units, with another tribe, the Shōlegas, closely related: