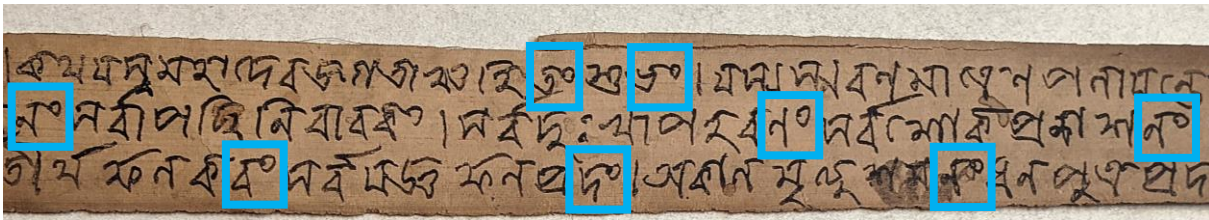


# Top Right Spacing Anusvara in Bengali/Assamese

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This document is to bring attention to another form of anusvara in Bengali/Assamese historical sources and seek opinion of the group on whether it should be encoded separately or unified with the existing character.

The top right spacing anusvara is similar to the currently encoded ং U+0982 BENGALI SIGN ANUSVARA, except that it lacks the bottom diagonal stroke. It can be found both on manuscripts as well as coins.



**Figure 1.** Manuscript using top right spacing anusvara.

Transliteration: ...*hitam śubham* (first row)

Source: Bhuvaneśvarīkavaca

[https://tst-project.github.io/mss/Sanscrit\\_1442\\_1.xml?fac=4](https://tst-project.github.io/mss/Sanscrit_1442_1.xml?fac=4)



**Figure 2.** Coins using top right spacing anusvara.

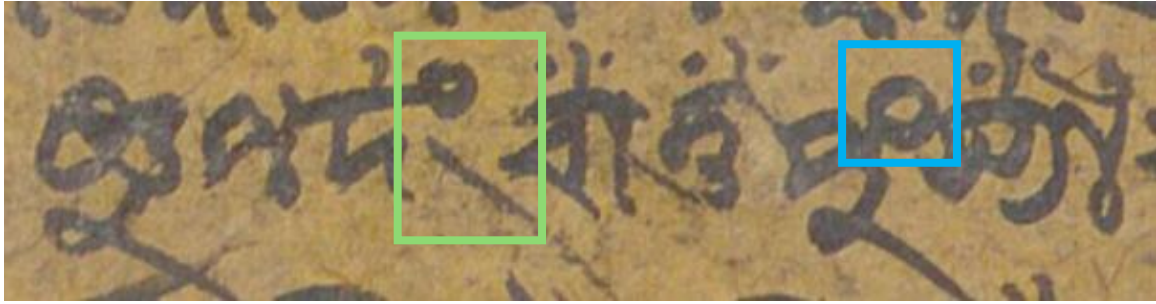
Transliteration: ...*simha*...

Source: Left: <https://www.cngcoins.com/Coin.aspx?CoinID=302796>

Right: <https://coinindia.com/galleries-assam.html>

The reasons that might be viewed as in support of separate encoding would be:

- 1) Some contrastive usage can be found. It is not clear, however, what the contrast represents.



**Figure 3.** Existing vs. top right spacing anusvara.

Transliteration: ...*ṣṇupadam* *vā tu pum*syā...

Source: Amarasimha (author)

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b53194874c/f210>

- 2) Unlike the currently encoded anusvara sign, this one can also be found at the start of lines:



**Figure 4.** Coins using top right spacing anusvara at the beginning of a line.

Transliteration: ...*si-m*ha...

Source: <https://coinindia.com/galleries-assam.html>

- 3) An existing character, namely ° U+09FD BENGALI ABBREVIATION SIGN is a tempting confusable that would be allowed in isolation, but has different identity.

The reasons for unifying with the existing anusvara would be:

- 1) Unclear contrastive usage and identity distinction
- 2) Abundance of anusvaras (normal, top non-spacing #476, top-right spacing)
- 3) Minor visual difference that could be achieved with font technology