An Unlikely Retention
A comparative look at the (inter)dental Approximant

**It is a retention:**
(1) Because of its markedness.
(2) Because of its geographical distribution.
(3) Because of its phonetic/phonemic status in the languages in which it occurs.
(4) Because of the distribution of other approximants.

**Its unlikeliness:**
(1) Due to social pressure to not show the tongue when speaking, this articulation is not preferred. It is not liked, in a sense “unlikely” or unliked. (Arcenas 2004; Gallman 1983; Harmon 1977)
(2) It is unlikely that in the future the sound will be retained due to language shift, and social pressure resisting the sound. It is an endangered sound.
(3) It is an unlikely candidate to advance to the status of “Proto” in comparative studies when compared with other candidates due to its rarity in each sub-group.

**R-L-D Consonant**
In Austronesian languages (particularly Philippine languages) there is a correspondence of R-L-D-Ø (Conant 1911) (and Ø) for Proto-Austronesian *l. This is the same position in which we find the interdental. In some languages the reflex of *l is one or more of r, l, d, Ø, ?, n, ɸ.

**Bibliography**
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