of Jaina cosmology\textsuperscript{18}, which has a similar structure. This, however, could not be tested because of lack of sufficient samples. Figure 2 shows chronological changes in D/L ratio of MLS from second-century (Jaina) to thirteenth-century (Hoysala) temples. It can be seen that this ratio has drastically decreased over a period of time. We propose that these MLS represent an entirely different model of Jaina culture whose D/L ratio was high. When this cult structure from North India was copied in South Indian temples (probably as a result of some Jaina kings converting to Vaishnavism) a ‘copy error’ was probably incorporated over a period of time, leading to a resemblance to maize ears.

Thus it may be inferred that the MLS at Somnathpur do not represent maize ears. Hence the implication drawn thereupon that maize was being cultivated in South India in pre-Columbian times cannot be unequivocally supported on the basis of these structures; nor trans-oceanic trade contacts between the Old World and the New World during pre-Columbian times.


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**Symmetry preservation during radiation damage**

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An examination of radiation-damage processes consequent to high-energy irradiation in certain ammonium salts studied using ESR of free radicals together with the structural information available from neutron diffraction studies shows that, other factors being equal/nearly equal, symmetry-related bonds are preserved in preference to those unrelated to one another by any symmetry.