

Myrtia, n° 16, 2001, pp. 323-325

NOTES ON THE TEXT OF DIONYSIUS PERIEGETES

H. WHITE

Classics Research Centre, Londres*

I shall now discuss various passages from the *Description of the Earth*. I have used the monograph by I. Tsavari¹ as the starting point of my research. This thesis was directed by Prof. M. Papat homopoulos and Prof. J. Irigoín.

At line 13 Dionysius mentions Canopus, which he describes as “famous” (περίπυστον). It should be noted that the mss offer the variant reading περίκλυστον: cf. Tsavari, *op. cit.*, page 330. This reading makes perfect sense, since Canopus was “an island-town in Lower Egypt, on the western mouth of the Nile”: cf. Lewis And Short, *A Latin Dictionary*, s. v. *Canopus*, (1). Cf. also *Hom. Hymn to Apollo*, line 181 Δῆλιοι περικλύστου and Catullus 66, 58 *Canopeis...litoribus*.

At line 130 the mss offer the two variants αὔθις² and αὔτις. It should be noted that αὔθις is an Attic form: cf. my *New Studies In Greek Poetry* (Amsterdam 1989), page 25 where I discuss the employment of Attic forms in Homer and later Greek epic poetry.

At line 357 Dionysius mentions Parthenope (i.e. Naples) and the “fertile earth of Campania” (Καμπανῶν λιπαρὸν πέδον). The mss offer the variant reading ἱερόν³: cf. Tsavari, page 226. The reading ἱερόν may be an allusion to the Cumaean Sibyl. Cf. Ovid, *Met.* 15, 712 where Parthenope and Cumae are mentioned together. It should, moreover, be noted that the Romans located Avernus in Campania: cf. Ovid, *Met.* 14, 101ff.

* **Dirección para correspondencia:** Heather White. 30C, Bethune Road, London N 16 5BD (England).

¹ Cf. Isabelle On Tsavari. *Histoire Du Texte De La Description De La Terre De Denys Le Périégète* (Ioannina 1990). Dr. Tsavari has produced an important study of the mss of Dionysius Periegetes.

² Cf. Tsavari, *op. cit.*, page 284.

³ Cf., moreover, the *scholia ad loc.*

At line 390 the poet refers to the “splendid” (ἐρικυδέα) tomb of Cadmus. The mss offer the variant περιηγέα: cf. Tsavari, *op. cit.*, page 242. The reading περιηγέα may refer to the “rounded” burial mound. Cf. *Thes. Gr. Ling. s. v.* where it is noted that the adjective περιηγής could mean “convex”.

At line 392 Dionysius mentions that Cadmus and Harmonia were turned into snakes: εἰς ὀφίων σκολιὸν δέμας (γένος v.l.) ἠλλάξαντο. It is possible to accept the reading γένος and to understand that we are faced here with an example of adjectival *enallage*⁴. It is the snakes themselves which are “crooked” (σκολιόν). For the fact that Cadmus and his wife were turned into snakes cf. Ovid, *Met.* 4, 563ff.

At line 458 Corsica is said to be “immense” (ἀπείριτος). The mss offer the variant ἐπήρατος: cf. Tsavari, *op. cit.*, page 290. Thus Corsica is described as “lovely”. Cf. Hesiod, *frag.* 205,4 ἐπιδότου ἐνδοθι νήσου.

At line 533 Dionysius mentions an island called Caunus. Eustathius noted that Caunus was founded by an Ionian from Miletus, who was also called Caunus: cf. Parthenius XI, 2 and Nicaenetus *frag.* I, 8 (πτολίεθρον ἐδείματο πρῶτος Ἰώνων). However, the city founded by Caunus was in Caria, whereas Dionysius Periegetes refers to an Ionian island. The variant Κῶος (cf. Tsavari, page 378) is a trivialization.

At line 611 the poet refers to “bitter” (ἀδευκέα) smoke. The mss offer the variant ἀδερκέα: cf. Tsavari, *op. cit.*, page 269. I would like to suggest that ἀδερκέα means here “well-seen”. For other cases where ἀ- has intensifying force cf. my *New Studies In Greek Poetry*, page 134.

At line 760 Scythia is said to be “exposed” (λελειμμένη) to wintry winds and hail. The mss offer the variant κεκλειμένη, cf. Tsavari, *op. cit.*, page 372. According to the reading κεκλειμένη, Scythia was “confined” (“shut off”) by wind and hail: cf. LSJ s.v. κλείω III.

At line 768 the land of the Chalybes is mentioned. The mss offer the variant στυγερήν : cf. Tsavari, *op.cit.*, page 256. Dionysius may have called the land of the Chalybes “hateful” in order to allude to the fact that it produced iron for weapons of war.

At line 828 the poet mentions the “shrine” (νήον) of Artemis. The mss provide the variant βωμόν: cf. Tsavari, *op.cit.*, page 346. For the “altar” of Artemis cf. Callimachus, *Hymn* 3, 261.

⁴ Cf. my *Studies In The Poetry Of Nicander* (Amsterdam 1987), page 52.

At line 863 Dionysius uses the adjective πολυκλύστοιο. The mss offer the variant περικλύστοιο: cf. Tsavari, *op. cit.*, page 251. Cf. Odyssey 4, 354 πολυκλύστῳ ἐνὶ πόντῳ: περικλύστῳ v.l. For the reproduction of Homeric variant readings cf. my *New Studies In Greek Poetry*, page 23f. Cf. also *Mus. Phil. Lond.*, vol. 9, page 93.

At line 912 the poet mentions “flowery” (ἀνθεμόεσσαν) Sidon. The mss offer the variant reading ἠνεμόεσσαν, i.e. “windy”: cf. Tsavari, *op. cit.*, page 254. Cf. *Iliad* 3, 305 Ἴλιον ἠνεμόεσσαν and Callimachus, *Hymn to Delos*, line 11 ἠνεμόεσσα.

At line 943 the mss offer the reading αὐτόματοι...λίμναι: cf. Tsavari, *op. cit.*, page 291. It should be noted that the adjective αὐτόματοι has been restricted to two terminations: cf. my *New Studies In Greek Poetry*, page 30.

At line 1031 a gem is described as ἀφεγγέα. The poet has again used ἀ- with intensifying force. Thus ἀφεγγέα means εὐφεγγέα: cf. Tsavari, *op. cit.*, page 266 where it is noted that the mss offer the variant reading εὐφεγγέα (i.e. “brilliant”).

I hope that my above observations will add to the worth of Dr. Tsavari’s valuable monograph.