

**The Onomastics of the *Batrachomyomachia* and that of Alciphron's Letters:
Continuity and Reinvention**

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1. INTRODUCTION

This contribution aims to shed light on the later comic onomastic tradition following the *Batrachomyomachia*, a parodic hexameter poem probably datable to around the first century BCE¹. The comparisons between the onomastics of the *Batrachomyomachia* and that of Imperial Greek literature will be conducted, case by case, with regard to the semantic and/or formal proximity of the names under consideration, with particular attention to their mechanisms of formation and the allusive values that characterize them. The investigation focuses specifically on certain names that recur in the epistolary collection of Alciphron, a second-century CE author whose letters stage characters belonging to well-defined social types—fishermen, farmers, parasites, and courtesans—and are consciously situated within a literary horizon of comic provenance. As already emphasized by Knorr (1875: 14, 15, 20), Sondag (1905: 93–94), Wölke (1978: 212), and Guastella (1988: 93–96), and as later scholarship has reiterated (cf., e.g., Lorenzoni 1990: 161 and Ozanam 2004: 18–19), a significant portion of the names attested in Alciphron recalls, in modes of formation and semantic value, the ‘speaking’ onomastics of the frogs and mice of the *Batrachomyomachia*. The most extensive and systematic study still available on Alciphron’s onomastics remains Sondag (1905). The present study therefore intends to deepen and update his analysis, highlighting certain affinities and divergences—both semantic and formal—between the onomastics of the *Batrachomyomachia* and that adopted by Alciphron in his epistolary work. The examples are preceded by a legend of the technical expressions used in the discussion.

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¹ For proposals regarding the date of composition of the *Batrachomyomachia*, cf. e.g. Montanari apud Fusillo (1988: 39–43).

Legend²

- **Simplex name:** a name consisting of a single lexical item.
- **[A N]_N endocentric determinative compound:** a determinative compound³ in which the noun functioning as the ‘head’⁴, placed on the right, is specified by an adjective placed on the left; examples: *μεγαλόπολις* (‘large city’); *Κακούλιος* (‘ill-fated Iliion’).
- **[N N]_N endocentric determinative compound:** a determinative compound in which the noun functioning as the ‘head’, placed on the right, is specified by a noun placed on the left; examples: *μητροπάτωρ* (‘mother’s father’, i.e. ‘maternal grandfather’); *πατροκασίγνητος* (‘father’s brother’, i.e. ‘paternal uncle’).
- **Bahuvrihi:** a determinative compound that refers to an external entity; the bahuvrihi is therefore a headless (i.e. exocentric) compound: that is, a possessive compound, i.e. a compound that denotes something possessed by the subject, a compound whose referent is not identical with either member of the compound; examples: *ρόδοδάκτυλος*, -ον (‘rosy-fingered’, said e.g. of the goddess Eos); *λευκάσπις*, -ιδος (‘white-shielded’, said chiefly of warriors).
- **V1 compound (= V1 compound of the φερέοικος type):** a compound in which the first element is to be traced back to a verb and the second element functions as a modifier of the first; examples: *φερέοικος* (‘house-carrying’, said e.g. of the snail); *φυγοπτόλεμος* (‘war-fleeing’ = ‘cowardly’).
- **V1 compound of the τερψίμβροτος type:** a compound in which, as in the preceding case, the first element is to be traced back to a verb and the second element functions as a modifier of the first; in this case the first member of the compound is joined to the second by a suffix -σι-, which adds no further semantic value, but functions as a mere connective element; examples: *τερψίμβροτος* (‘delighting mortals’, said e.g. of the sun); *έλκεσίπεπλος* (‘dragging the peplos’, said e.g. of Trojan women).
- **V2 compound:** a compound in which the second element is to be traced back to a verb and the first element functions as a modifier of the second; examples: *κουροτρόφος* (‘child-nourishing’, said e.g. of cities); *μηλοβοτήρ* (‘flock-pasturing’ = ‘shepherd’).

² The English terminology within the legend is drawn from Tribulato (2015).

³ By ‘compound’ is meant a word formed by the union of two or more lexical units. A determinative compound is a compound in which one element determines or specifies the other.

⁴ The ‘head’ of a compound is the element that establishes its principal meaning and grammatical category.

- **Unbound SCs: agentive adjectives and nouns in -ος:** a subclass of V2 compounds in which the verbal element bears the suffix -ος; example: κουροτρόφος (cf. supra).
- **Unbound SCs: agentive compounds in -της:** a subclass of V2 compounds in which the verbal element bears the suffix -της; example: κυνηγέτης ('dog-leader' = 'hunter').
- **Nouns and adjectives in -ας (> -ης in Attic-Ionic):** a subclass of V2 compounds in which the verbal element bears the suffix -ας/-ης; example: γυναικοφίλης/-φίλας ('woman-loving', said e.g. of Zeus).
- **Compounds of the ὄρεσίτροφος type ('reared in the mountains'):** unbound SCs: agentive adjectives and nouns in -ος in which the verbal element has passive value; such compounds are accented on the first member.
- **'Speaking' name:** a proper name that is semantically transparent, constructed so as to make immediately perceptible to the audience traits of the character's personality, behaviour, physical appearance, or social status.
- **Pseudopatronymic:** a name in which the suffix -ίδης (but also -άδης, -ιάδης), originally indicating descent (cf. Homeric patronymics such as: Ἀτρείδης = 'son of Atreus', said of Agamemnon in *Il.* 1.7 et al. and of Menelaus in *Il.* 6.44 et al.; Λαερτιάδης = 'son of Laertes', said of Odysseus in *Il.* 2.173, *Od.* 11.60 et al.; etc.), loses its patronymic function and becomes a mere formative used for humorous purposes; examples: Αἰσιμίδης (< αἴσιμος = 'just') in Archilochus (fr. 14 W.; an individual whose life is excessively devoted to propriety); Στρεψιάδης (< στρέφω), a character in Aristophanes' *Clouds* whose name ('Turner') highlights his desire to acquire the sophists' capacity for rhetorical argumentation—the στροφαί, the sophistic 'twists' or tricks—so as to avoid paying his debts.

2. CASE ANALYSIS

Example 1. V2 compounds ending in -φάγος: Ἄρτοφάγος ('Bread-eater'. Mouse name transmitted at v. 210⁵); Κραμβοφάγος ('Cabbage-eater'. Frog name attested at v. 218); Πρασσοφάγος ('Leek-eater'. Frog name transmitted at vv. 232 and 247, and conjectured by Barnes 1711 at v. 235); Πτερνοφάγος ('Ham-eater'. Mouse name attested at v. 227, and conjectured by Barnes 1711 at v. 224);

⁵ For the numbering of the verses of the *Batrachomyomachia*, I follow here the manuscript tradition of the poem as reported in Ludwich (1896). The *Batrachomyomachia* has been transmitted by an enormous number of manuscripts containing variants often very different from one another, which is why for a long time there were debates among scholars as to which codices preserved the authentic readings: the question cannot yet be said to be resolved, owing to frequent interpolations, and a critical edition of the poem has always been a very difficult undertaking.

Σιτοφάγος ('Grain-eater'/'Bread-eater'/'Food-eater'. Mouse name attested at v. 247); Τυροφάγος ('Cheese-eater'. Mouse name transmitted at vv. 137 and 223); Ὑδροφάγος ('Water-eater'. Frog name documented at v. 227).

I would associate Alciphron's Θαμβοφάγος ('Wonder-eater'; a parasite in *Ep.* 3.20⁶) and Φαγοδαίτης ('Banquet-devourer'/'Victuals-devourer'; a character in *Ep.* 3.30⁷) with all the *Batrachomyomachia* names recalled here, since they too are characterized by the root φαγ-. It should be noted at the outset, however, that in Φαγοδαίτης the root φαγ- constitutes the first member of the compound, whereas the opposite holds in all the relevant *Batrachomyomachia* names, in which the verb systematically appears in final position. In my view, the -φάγος name in the *Batrachomyomachia* most readily comparable to Alciphron's Φαγοδαίτης is Σιτοφάγος, a compound that can bear the general meaning 'Food-eater'. We also observe that in Θαμβοφάγος the verbal root, analogously to what happens in the poem's names invoked here, occurs at the end of the compound. Even so, it is appropriate to emphasize that, with regard to Θαμβοφάγος, a non-negligible semantic difference emerges *vis-à-vis* the *Batrachomyomachia* names: in Alciphron's compound, -φάγος is used figuratively⁸.

Example 2. Ἀρτοφάγος; cf. *supra*.

Parallels may be established with certain parasite names in Alciphron, comparable with that of the poem in terms of compositional pattern and semantic allusiveness, or only in the latter respect. Scholarship (e.g. Sondag 1905: 38) has noted that the name Ἀρτεπίθυμος ('Bread-desirer'; a parasite who appears in *Ep.* 3.3⁹) may be compared with the *Batrachomyomachia*'s Ἀρτοφάγος; it is evident that Ἀρτοφάγος and Ἀρτεπίθυμος are comparable both by virtue of their semantic allusiveness and by their compositional pattern, since both belong to the class of unbound SCs: agentive adjectives and nouns in -ος; moreover, both

⁶ For Alciphron's letters I adopt the numbering in Schepers (1905). Cf. Sondag (1905: 34), who specifies that Θαμβοφάγος should be understood in the sense 'he ate in such a way as to be an object of wonder', a meaning that corresponds very poorly to the formation. Glei (1984: 186) had already compared the *Batrachomyomachia*'s Ἀρτοφάγος with Alciphron's Θαμβοφάγος, a comparison later reiterated by Guastella (1988: 96).

⁷ Cf. Sondag (1905: 30–31).

⁸ We cannot, I think, rule out the hypothesis that Θαμβοφάγος is constituted by two verbal roots and should therefore be understood as 'one who eats and astonishes', i.e. 'one who astonishes by how (and how much) he eats'. In that case it would be a copulative compound (< θαμβέω with transitive value). We must note that in Greek copulative compounds are exclusively nominal or adjectival in nature (cf. e.g. ἀνδρόγυνος = 'man-woman', i.e. 'hermaphrodite'; γλυκύπικρος = 'sweet-bitter'). Greek does not, by contrast, form compounds by coordinating two verbal bases. Nevertheless, we cannot exclude the possibility that Θαμβοφάγος constitutes an exception to the rule.

⁹ Cf. Sondag (1905: 38).

names contain the same noun for refined bread, ἄρτος. On semantic grounds, in my judgement, the poem's Ἀρτοφάγος should also be compared with two other parasites we encounter in Alciphron. One is Ἀρτοπύκτης ('Bread-boxer', i.e. 'one who boxes for bread'; a parasite in *Ep.* 3.14¹⁰), whose name evokes the action of winning one's bread by fighting and then biting into it¹¹: we note that Ἀρτοφάγος and Ἀρτοπύκτης share the first member of the compound, the noun ἄρτος; however, Ἀρτοπύκτης belongs to a different class of compounds from Ἀρτοφάγος, namely [N N]_N endocentric determinative compounds. The other is the parasite Πλακουντομύων ('Cake-mouse'; the name appears in *Ep.* 3.31¹²), comparable with that of the poem again on semantic grounds, since it may refer to the act of consuming bread. It should be stressed, however, that there is a not insignificant difference in meaning between Ἀρτοφάγος and Πλακουντομύων: the noun constituting the first member of the latter compound, πλακοῦς, has a very broad semantic range and denotes a cake or flatbread in general, savoury or sweet, whereas ἄρτος designates a very specific kind of bread (cf. *supra*). For the class of compounds to which Πλακουντομύων belongs, cf. *supra* on Ἀρτοπύκτης.

Example 3. Πρασσοφάγος; cf. *supra*.

I believe a comparison can be made with a parasite name in Alciphron. On the basis of a certain semantic allusiveness, I would compare with Πρασσοφάγος the compound Σκορδοσφράντης ('Garlic-sniffer' or 'garlic-stinking'; name attested in *Ep.* 3.25¹³). In my view, Alciphron's name may be associated with Πρασσοφάγος insofar as, though by means of a different compositional schema, it alludes to a parasite fond of garlic, a vegetable belonging to the same family as the leek. Σκορδοσφράντης belongs to the unbound SCs: agentive compounds in -της, likewise a subclass of V2 compounds.

¹⁰ Cf. Sondag (1905: 37).

¹¹ As noted e.g. by Knorr (1875: 14), the explanation of the name Ἀρτοπύκτης must be sought in the fact that parasites often received blows at banquets, and thus the act of snatching food took the shape of a real struggle. One cannot exclude, I think, the possibility that the Alciphronian name means 'boxer of bread', i.e. 'one who punches the bread'/'one who demolishes/bolts down the bread', with reference, therefore, to the parasite's voracity.

¹² Cf. Sondag (1905: 42–43). According to Sondag (1905: 43), the second part of the compound is to be identified with the noun μῦς; Sondag, *ibid.*, stresses that the mouse has always been associated with the image of the thief.

¹³ Cf. Sondag (1905: 33–34). According to Sondag (1905: 34), the name means *aut qui alium redolet aut qui eius odorem sectatur*.

Example 4. Σιτοφάγος: cf. supra.

I consider that the ‘Homeric’ Σιτοφάγος¹⁴ should be connected with Alciphron’s Σιτάλκης (‘Grain-protector’), a ‘speaking’ name of a farmer, ‘ontologically’ opposed to the parasites who ‘destroy’ food, in *Ep.* 2.11, for which cf. Sondag (1905: 22–23). The compound in question, like Σιτοφάγος, indicates a concern for grain. We observe, however, that, unlike the compound of the *Batrachomyomachia*, Σιτάλκης, derived from the root of ἀλέξω, does indeed fall within the class of V2 compounds, but within the subclass of nouns and adjectives in -ας (> -ης in Attic-Ionic)¹⁵.

Example 5. V2 compound ending in -βουλος: Ἀρτεπίβουλος (‘Bread-plotter’/‘Bread-coveter’. Mouse name or epithet¹⁶ documented at v. 261).

¹⁴ By ‘Homeric’ is meant a name documented in the *Batrachomyomachia*.

¹⁵ In *Lexomye*, Σιτάλκης/Σιτάλκας is interpreted as formed from the union of two nouns, and the second member of the compound is therefore seen in the noun ἀλκή (the sense of Σιτάλκης/Σιτάλκας would then probably be ‘Protection with respect to grain’): in my view, such a reading of the name is less plausible.

¹⁶ The nature of this compound is in fact widely debated in scholarship, given the problematic character of the verse in which it occurs. Buzelli (2019: 384–385) ad v. 261 opts for Κναίσωνος φίλος υἱὸς ἀμύμονος Ἀρτεπιβούλου, which he renders as «do Agarrapanida Roedor amado filho»: the scholar therefore holds that the verse in question sets out the descent of Μεριδάρπαξ from Κναίσων and that of Κναίσων from Ἀρτεπίβουλος. Hosty (2013: 323 and 2020: 245) notes that Homer sometimes concentrates two genealogical levels in a single verse, referring by way of example to *Il.* 2.704–705 ([...] Ποδάρκης [...] / Ἰφίκλου υἱὸς πολυμήλου Φυλακίδαο) and *Il.* 2.846–847 (Εὐφρημος [...] / υἱὸς Τροϊζήνοιο διοτρεφέος Κεάδαο); however, Hosty continues (2013 and 2020, *ibid.*), in such cases the more remote generation is invariably expressed by Homer through a patronymic form (Φυλακίδαο, Κεάδαο). Possebom (2003: 140–141) prints v. 261 as Κναίσωνος φίλος υἱὸς ἀμύμονος Ἀρτεπιβούλου, but is of the view that Κναίσων and Ἀρτεπίβουλος are the two names of Μεριδάρπαξ’s father. Fusillo (1988: 82) prints v. 261 as follows: †κναίσωνος† φίλος υἱὸς ἀμύμονος Ἀρτεπιβούλου; Fusillo thus considers †κναίσωνος† a corrupt epithet referring to the genitive of the proper name Ἀρτεπιβούλου. Fusillo (1988: 129) justifies his choice by observing that in the *Batrachomyomachia* we have no examples of ‘speaking’ epithets like ἀρτεπίβουλος (a point already made in Glew 1984: 198–199), that the verb κναίω/κνάω is never applied to mice and therefore at the beginning of v. 261 one should not seek a proper name such as Κναίσων, but rather a qualifying adjective modifying Ἀρτεπίβουλος. Fusillo (1988: 129) further recalls that Ludwig (1894: 23 and 1896: 77, 80–81, 91–92, 189, and 403) instead prefers Κναίσωνος φίλος υἱὸς ἀμύμονος, ἀρτεπιβούλου, judging ἀρτεπίβουλος an epithet of the proper name Κναίσων. Ludwig’s solution is adopted, among others, by Allen (1912: 181), Ahlborn (1959: 46 and 95), Aerts (1992: 12–13), West (2003: 233 and 288–289), Schobinger (2007: 30–31), Hosty (2013: 128, 142, and 323 and 2020: 112–113 and 245), and Paixão dos Santos (2022: 81 and 109).

Several scholars¹⁷ have emphasized that Alciphron drew on the name Ἀρτεπίβουλος for his parasite Ἀρτεπίθυμος¹⁸, for which I refer to the paragraph on Ἀρτοφάγος. Here we note that Ἀρτεπίβουλος and Ἀρτεπίθυμος have especially close meanings (ἐπιβουλεύω = 'to plot against something, to lay snares for something', but also 'to covet something'; ἐπιθυμέω = 'to desire something'), and both are characterized by *verba vocalia* with the preposition ἐπί in initial position. For the comparison between Ἀρτεπίβουλος and Alciphron's Ἀρτοπύκτης, made by Ludwich (1896: 98), cf. the paragraph on Ἀρτοφάγος.

Example 6. V2 compounds ending in -βάτης: Κραμβοβάτης ('Cabbage-treader'. Frog name transmitted at vv. 237 and 241); Πηλοβάτης ('Mud-treader'. Frog name documented at vv. 237 and 241).

Ludwich (1896: 98) maintains that Alciphron took inspiration from the 'Homeric' Κραμβοβάτης for the creation of the name Ναυβάτης ('Ship-treader'/'one who advances with ships'; *Ep.* 1.5), which he assigns to a fisherman¹⁹. We note that in Ναυβάτης, unlike in Κραμβοβάτης and Πηλοβάτης, the first member of the compound identifies a means/instrumental complement.

Example 7. V2 compound ending in -διώκτης: Κνισσοδιώκτης²⁰ ('Smoke-chaser'/'chaser of the smell of roast meat'/'chaser of the smell of the fat of

¹⁷ Ludwich (1896: 77 and 98), Fusillo (1988: 129), Glei (1984: 199), Guastella (1988: 96), Hosty (2013: 323 and 2020: 245), Schmitt (2022: 172).

¹⁸ Wölke (1978: 272–273) considers it quite probable that Alciphron started from the poem's 'Homeric' Ἀρτεπίβουλος for the name of his parasite Ἀρτεπίθυμος. Migoubert (2010: 124) and Knorr (1875: 14) leave open the possibility that Alciphron drew inspiration for Ἀρτεπίθυμος from the 'Homeric' Ἀρτεπίβουλος. Torné Teixidó (1999: 318) likewise alludes in the critical apparatus of his edition of the *Batrachomyomachia* to the comparison between the 'Homeric' Ἀρτεπίβουλος and Alciphron's Ἀρτεπίθυμος. The comparison between Ἀρτεπίβουλος and Ἀρτεπίθυμος had also been hinted at by Sondag (1905: 38), who, however, at pp. 93–94 makes clear that Alciphron, in devising his compound, need not necessarily have had the *Batrachomyomachia*'s Ἀρτεπίβουλος in mind.

¹⁹ Sondag (1905: 93) is careful to remark, instead, that we cannot be certain that Alciphron was inspired by the 'Homeric' Κραμβοβάτης for his Ναυβάτης, since compounds with second element -βάτης are not rare.

²⁰ Christensen and Robinson (2018: 137) highlight that the double sigma in Κνισσοδιώκτης is probably to be identified as a hyper-archaism for κνίσση. *LSJ* s.v. κνίσα merely states that κνίσσα and κνίσση are incorrect forms. Garnier (2011: 12) reports the name as Κνισσοδιώκτης. *LSJ* likewise registers the name as Κνισσοδιώκτης s.v. Κνισσοδιώκτης. The same solution is adopted in Chantraine, *DELG* s.v. κνίσα, though without mention of the double-sigma issue. The κνίσα/κνίσσα question is not treated either in Frisk, *GEW* s.v. κνίσα or in Beekes, *EDG* s.v. κνίσα. Migoubert (2010: 487) states that the correct form of the name ought to be Κνισσοδιώκτης. In my view, the double sigma in Κνισσοδιώκτης can be explained as a fictive epicism: cf. real alternations in epic diction such as ἐτέλεσα/ἐτέλεσσα, ὅσος/ὄσος, etc.

sacrificial victims’/‘chaser of roast’/‘chaser of fat’/‘one who craves...’/‘one who rushes toward...’. Mouse name transmitted at v. 232).

Glei (1984: 190) mentions, for comparison with the ‘Homeric’ Κνισσοδιώκτης, two parasite names in Alciphron’s epistolary corpus: Ἑκτοδιώκτης (‘Sixth-hour chaser’; *Ep.* 3.1), which shares with Κνισσοδιώκτης the ending -διώκτης, and Κνισόζωμος (‘Roast-gravy’; *Ep.* 3.3). Knorr (1875: 19) and Sondag (1905: 43) show how Ἑκτοδιώκτης alludes to a parasite who chases/strictly observes the sixth hour, that is, the time of lunch. In my view one must consider the possibility that the first member has temporal value and that Ἑκτοδιώκτης is therefore someone ‘who chases at the sixth hour/at lunchtime’. Knorr, *ibid.*, adds that perhaps, with Ἑκτοδιώκτης, Alciphron simultaneously intended to allude to the ἐκτεύς, i.e. the medimnus, since, he explains, parasites at religious functions might also have been called ἐκτεοδιώκται, because one had to collect an ἐκτεύς of barley for sacrifices²¹. Sondag (1905: 32), in discussing Alciphron’s Κνισόζωμος, clarifies that ζωμός functions as a kind of jocular nickname for a plump individual or one who presents himself first at table²². We note that Κνισόζωμος, unlike Κνισσοδιώκτης, belongs to the class of [N N]_N endocentric determinative compounds. Yet the semantic similarity between Κνισσοδιώκτης and Κνισόζωμος is evident. Lorenzoni (1990: 161) also compares, on the basis of a certain semantic allusiveness, Alciphron’s parasite name Καπνοσφράντης (‘Smoke-sniffer’; *Ep.* 3.13) with the ‘Homeric’ Κνισσοδιώκτης: both Καπνοσφράντης and Κνισσοδιώκτης refer to attentiveness to the smoke of food coming from kitchens²³, with the difference that Κνισσοδιώκτης points to a particular and especially enticing smoke, namely that of roast meat. We observe that Καπνοσφράντης, like Κνισσοδιώκτης, belongs to the class of unbound SCs: agentive compounds in -της. In my view, we may compare with the ‘Homeric’ Κνισσοδιώκτης also another parasite name in Alciphron’s letters, likewise built on the noun κνίσα, namely Εὔκνισος (*Ep.* 3.17): Sondag (1905: 32) seems to think that this compound refers to a parasite fond of roast meat; accordingly, I think, the name should be interpreted as ‘good roast’. Knorr (1875: 20) maintains that the meaning of Εὔκνισος seems to be roughly «Bratenfreund». In my view, one should take into account the possibility that the element -κνισος in the compound instead alludes to the parasite’s

²¹ The name Ἑκτοδιώκτης, as Knorr (1875: 19) notes, was emended by Seiler (1853: 81 and 313) to Ἑτνοδιώκτης (‘Pulse-purée chaser/craver’): according to Seiler (1853), *ibid.*, Ἑτνοδιώκτης would denote a parasite of the lowest social class who is content even with pulse purée, i.e. the food of the very poor. Ἑτνοδιώκτης has not met with scholarly approval.

²² Sondag, *ibid.*, recalls for this use of ζωμός, by way of example, Anaxandrides fr. 35 K.-A. (fragment of the comedy *Odysseus*) and Aristophon fr. 5 K.-A. (fragment of the comedy *Iatros*).

²³ For Καπνοσφράντης cf. also Sondag (1905: 40).

physical constitution, hence to a stout/fleshy individual: I would therefore render Εὔκνισος as 'good fat'/'flourishing fat', by metonymy from κνῖσα. Εὔκνισος, unlike Κνισσοδιώκτης, is to be traced back to the class of [A N]_N endocentric determinative compounds. It is, I think, noteworthy that in the manuscript tradition the name of the parasite in question is also attested with double sigma (Εὔκνισσος)²⁴.

Example 8. V2 compound ending in -κοίτης: Βορβοροκοίτης ('Mud-dweller'/'one who lies in the mud'. Frog name attested at vv. 226 and 230).

Glei (1984: 190) and Hosty (2013: 221 and 2020: 173) compare with the 'Homeric' Βορβοροκοίτης the name of a parasite in Alciphron, Βορβορόζωμος ('Mud-broth'; *Ep.* 3.42), a compound which, according to Ludwig (1896: 98), Alciphron created precisely on the basis of the 'Homeric' name²⁵. According to Knorr (1875: 15), with the compound Βορβορόζωμος the epistolary author sought to sketch a parasite who presents himself first at table (ζωμός) and appears particularly filthy and repugnant (βόρβορος)²⁶. Sondag (1905: 32) is of the opinion that Βορβορόζωμος must either be understood according to Knorr's reading, or denotes a parasite who, driven by hunger, devours even the most wretched food²⁷. We observe that Βορβορόζωμος, unlike Βορβοροκοίτης, belongs to the class of [N N]_N endocentric determinative compounds.

Example 9. V2 compounds ending in -χάρης: Λιμνοχάρης ('Marsh-delighter'. Frog name attested at v. 212); Ὑδροχάρης ('Water-delighter'. Frog name documented at v. 227).

Alciphronian names to be compared, in my judgement, with Λιμνοχάρης and Ὑδροχάρης are those of the parasites Στεμφυλοχαίρων ('Pomace-delighter'; *Ep.* 3.10)²⁸, Οἶνοχαίρων ('Wine-delighter'; *Ep.* 3.36), and Γυμνοχαίρων (perhaps 'Delighting in the bare/shaven (cheeks)'; *Ep.* 3.30: as

²⁴ Although the form Εὔκνισος has sometimes been accepted by scholarship, Εὔκνισσος too has at times found favour and is adopted in the most recent edition of Alciphron's letters (Ozanam 2004).

²⁵ Knorr (1875: 15) had already left open the possibility that Alciphron, in devising Βορβορόζωμος, drew inspiration from the 'Homeric' Βορβοροκοίτης. From Sondag's (1905: 93) perspective, however, the comparison established by scholarship between Βορβοροκοίτης and Βορβορόζωμος is weak, since in the *Batrachomyomachia* name βόρβορος refers to something quite different, namely the frogs' habitat.

²⁶ For the comic-derived nickname ζωμός, cf. the paragraph on Κνισσοδιώκτης.

²⁷ Sondag (1905), *ibid.*, recalls, in support of this reading of Alciphron's compound, a passage of Philemon (fr. 82 K.-A., fragment of the comedy *Stratiotes*) in which it is said that a quarrel arises among the diners over the fish served and they seize river fish that eat mud (ἰχθὺς ποταμίους ἐσθιόντας βόρβορον).

²⁸ For Στεμφυλοχαίρων cf. Sondag (1905: 34).

Seiler 1853: 379–380 and Sondag 1905: 38 explain, this last name would refer to the fact that, as one learns from the content of the letter itself, the parasite in question takes pleasure in a shaved beard—that is, a beard trimmed perfectly and not in patches, as the barber has done while mocking his customer)²⁹. We observe that Στεμφυλοχαίρων, Οίνοχαίρων, and Γυμνοχαίρων, like Λιμνοχάρης and Ὑδροχάρης, all three belong to the class of V2 compounds. Also clearly formed from the root of the verb χαίρω—and therefore comparable to the two *Batrachomyomachia* compounds—are the names of Alciphron's parasites Πατελλοχάρων ('Pan-delighter'; *Ep.* 3.18) and Τραπεζοχάρων ('Table-delighter'; *Ep.* 3.10), on which cf. Sondag (1905: 36 and 38)³⁰.

Example 10. V1 compounds beginning with Λειχο-: Λειχήνωρ (in all probability 'Licker' and not 'Man-licker', i.e. here the element -ήνωρ functions as a kind of suffix that adds no meaning to the name as such: cf. the patronymic suffix -ίδης in the legend. Mouse name documented at vv. 202 and 216); Λειχομύλη ('Mill-licker'. Mouse name attested at v. 29); Λειχοπίναξ ('Plate-licker'. Mouse name transmitted at vv. 100 and 230).

Ludwich (1896: 98) compares the compounds Λειχομύλη, Λειχοπίναξ, and Λειχήνωρ with the name of Alciphron's parasite Τραπεζολείκτης ('Table-licker'; *Ep.* 3.9)³¹. Particularly clear is the shared semantic allusiveness of Λειχοπίναξ and Τραπεζολείκτης. We note that Τραπεζολείκτης, unlike the three *Batrachomyomachia* names, belongs to the subclass of unbound SCs: agentive compounds in -της. For the comparison of Λειχομύλη, Λειχοπίναξ, and Λειχήνωρ with Alciphron's Λειχοπίναξ, a comparison hinted at by Ludwich (1896: 98), cf. the paragraph on Λειχοπίναξ. Ludwich (1896: 98) also places Λειχομύλη, Λειχοπίναξ, and Λειχήνωρ in parallel with Alciphron's Χυτρολείκτης, again on the basis of the shared verb λείγω. For further observations, cf. the following paragraph, devoted to Λειχοπίναξ.

²⁹ It should be noted that the transmitted Γυμνοχαίρων has sometimes been emended by scholarship: Herel apud Wagner (1798: 202) proposed Γαμοχαίρων ('Wedding-delighter'; Wagner 1798, *ibid.*, notes that *exoptatas enim vel maxime fuisse ditiorum nuptias, ex Ep. 49. liquere*) or alternatively Δειπνοχαίρων ('Meal-delighter'); Knorr (1875: 16) proposed Γαροχαίρων ('Garó-delighter'/'fish-sauce-delighter'); Hercher apud Knorr (1875: 16) proposed Ἀμνοχαίρων ('Lamb-delighter'). Hercher himself, however, in his edition (1873: 91), opted for Γυμνοχαίρων. Today editions tend to adopt the reading Γυμνοχαίρων.

³⁰ Ozanam (2004: 103 and 110), however, renders Τραπεζοχάρων and Πατελλοχάρων as «Charon-des-tables» and «Charon-des-plats», thus connecting the second part of the compounds with the name of the mythical ferryman.

³¹ Wölke (1978: 212) likewise notes, more generally, that Alciphron's Τραπεζολείκτης is comparable with certain *Batrachomyomachia* names. For Τραπεζολείκτης cf. Sondag (1905: 38–39).

Example 11. Λειχοπίναξ; cf. supra.

Scholarship³² notes that the name Λειχοπίναξ reappears identically in Alciphron's letters for a parasite (*Ep.* 3.8)³³. Guastella (1988: 96) observes that Alciphron's parasite name Χυτρολείκτης ('Pot-licker'; *Ep.* 3.18) seems a perfect fusion of the two *Batrachomyomachia* names Λειχοπίναξ and Ἐμβασίχυτρος (cf. infra)³⁴. Alciphron's anthroponym does indeed present elements of both the poem's 'Homeric' names, but in reversed order. For Χυτρολείκτης, unlike Λειχοπίναξ, places the verb λείγω in second position³⁵. The noun χύτρα/χύτρος, which in Ἐμβασίχυτρος stood in second position, appears in first position in Χυτρολείκτης. Finally, we note that the semantic allusiveness shared by Λειχοπίναξ and Χυτρολείκτης is perhaps stronger than that linking Ἐμβασίχυτρος and Χυτρολείκτης: Λειχοπίναξ and Χυτρολείκτης both refer to the act of licking kitchen utensils, albeit different ones; Ἐμβασίχυτρος and Χυτρολείκτης, by contrast, allude to two different actions. Schmitt (2022: 174) compares the 'Homeric' Λειχοπίναξ with Alciphron's parasite Πινακόσπογγος ('Plate-sponge'; *Ep.* 3.27), since this name too, like Λειχοπίναξ, plausibly indicates the act of licking the plate: Sondag (1905: 36) clarifies that Πινακόσπογγος refers to the fact that the parasite in question cleans plates like a sponge, i.e. leaves no food residue. We may observe that in Πινακόσπογγος the noun πίναξ, unlike in Λειχοπίναξ, appears in first position. Moreover, Πινακόσπογγος, unlike the 'Homeric' name, belongs to the class of [N N]_N endocentric determinative compounds³⁶. I would also mention here, as a parallel to Λειχοπίναξ, the name of another Alciphronian parasite, namely Λοπαδέκθαμβος³⁷ ('one who strikes the dishes/pans with amazement'³⁸ or 'one who is seized with amazement at dishes/pans'/'one who stands dumbfounded

³² Guastella (1988: 96), Glei (1984: 146), Fusillo (1988: 105), Hosty (2013: 221 and 2020: 173), Ludwich (1894: 21), Schmitt (2022: 174), Ludwich (1896: 98 and 393), Wölke (1978: 212 and 272); Torné Teixidó (1999: 42 and 288).

³³ Sondag (1905: 36 and 93) had already made the same observation, later reiterated by Lorenzoni (1990: 161).

³⁴ Sondag (1905: 93) had likewise remarked on the similarity between Ἐμβασίχυτρος and Χυτρολείκτης.

³⁵ Cf. what is said supra on Τραπεζολείκτης.

³⁶ Ludwich (1896: 98) and Sondag (1905: 36 and 93) had already compared the 'Homeric' compound with Alciphron's Πινακόσπογγος, but reported the latter name in the likewise transmitted form Πινακοσπόγγισος ('Plate-sponger', V2 compound < σπογγίζω): the variant Πινακοσπόγγισος is adopted, e.g., by Ozanam (2004).

³⁷ Λοπαδέκθαμβος is also transmitted in the form Λοπαδέχθαμβος, adopted, e.g., by Sondag (1905: 37). In editions of Alciphron's letters one usually opts for Λοπαδέκθαμβος.

³⁸ This interpretation of the name is adopted, e.g., by Sondag (1905: 37).

before dishes/pans'³⁹; *Ep.* 3.1): in this case too, the shared semantic allusiveness with the *Batrachomyomachia* name is evident. Λοπαδέκθαμβος, unlike Λειχοπίναξ, is to be counted among V2 compounds, within the subclass of unbound SCs: agentive adjectives and nouns in -ος.

Example 12. V1 compound of the *τερψίμβροτος* type beginning with Ἐμβασί-: Ἐμβασίχυτρος ('one who enters the pots'/'one who embarks into the pots'/'one who mounts the pots'. Mouse name transmitted at vv. 137, 209, 226, and 230).

For the comparison between Ἐμβασίχυτρος and Alciphron's *Χυτρολείκτης*, a comparison hinted at by Ludwich (1896: 98), cf. the paragraph on Λειχοπίναξ. Wölke (1978: 212) states in general terms that Alciphron's parasite name Ἐφαλλοκύθρας ('one who leaps onto the pots'⁴⁰; *Ep.* 3.28; note the aspiration metathesis in the second member) can be connected with some *Batrachomyomachia* name: the strong semantic allusiveness shared with Ἐμβασίχυτρος is evident, and had already been highlighted by Sondag (1905: 36)⁴¹ and by Knorr (1875: 20). We observe that Ἐφαλλοκύθρας, like Ἐμβασίχυτρος, belongs to the class of V1 compounds, but, unlike the name in our poem, falls within the *φερέοικος*-type subclass, i.e. it does not present the suffix -σι- after the verbal root. I consider it appropriate also to underscore the semantic allusiveness shared by Ἐμβασίχυτρος and Alciphron's Πατελλοχάρων, for which cf. Example 9: both names refer to delight in kitchen utensils. Likewise undeniable, in my view, for the same reason, is the semantic allusiveness between Ἐμβασίχυτρος and Λοπαδέκθαμβος, on which cf. the paragraph devoted to Λειχοπίναξ.

Example 13. V1 compound of the *τερψίμβροτος* type beginning with Τρωξι-: Τρωξάρτης ('Bread-gnawer'. Mouse name documented at vv. 28, 104, 109, 250, and 252, and conjectured by Häberlin apud Ludwich 1896: 157 at v. 102).

³⁹ This is probably the correct exegesis, also in relation to the position of the accent (cf. compounds of the *ὀρεσίτροφος* type) and the rarity of the active value of the root. Ozanam (2004: 95) renders Λοπαδέκθαμβος as «Fou-d'Assiette».

⁴⁰ According to Knorr (1875: 20), Alciphron's parasite name may also be equivalent, more generally, to 'one who leaps upon food'. Knorr (1875), *ibid.*, specifies that in Ἐφαλλοκύθρας the verb ἐφάλλομαι plausibly assumes the sense 'to spring upon something in order to steal it'.

⁴¹ Sondag (1905: 36) specifies that κύθρα is a form used in the koine: cf. Bettarini (2017: 89–93) for cases of aspiration metathesis already documented in the Ionic of Hipponax, among which κύθρος (fr. 118 Dg.) is included. As Knorr (1875: 20) points out, Alciphron's parasite name in question is also transmitted in the Ionic form Ἐφαλλοκύθρη. As Knorr (1875), *ibid.*, further adds, the reading Ἐφαλλοκύθρας was emended by Reisk (1829: 27) and Seiler (1853: 144) to Ἐφαλλοχύτρας. The most recent edition of Alciphron's letters, Ozanam (2004: 121), adopts Ἐφαλλοκύθρης.

For the comparison between Τρωξάρτης and Alciphron's Ἀρτεπίθυμος, made by Ludwich (1896: 98), cf. the paragraphs on Ἀρτοφάγος and Ἀρτεπίβουλος. For the parallel between Τρωξάρτης and Alciphron's Ἀρτοπύκτης, likewise made by Ludwich (1896: 98), cf. the paragraph on Ἀρτοφάγος.

Example 14. V1 compound of the τερψίμβροτος type beginning with Φυσί-: Φυσίγναθος ('Cheek-inflator'. Frog name attested at vv. 17, 56, 68, 84, 93, 119, 142, 146, and 250).

In the case of Φυσίγναθος, a compound referring to a physiological characteristic of frogs—the inflating of the cheeks in order to produce croaking—for a comparison with Alciphron's onomastics, besides Γνάθων, a simplex name of a parasite (*Ep.* 2.32 and 3.8)⁴², we should, in my view, also recall a second parasite, namely Μονόγναθος ('Only-jaw'/'All-jaw', i.e. 'one who thinks only of his own stomach'; *Ep.* 3.41, fragmentary letter)⁴³: as Sondag (1905: 29) explains, the name refers to the fact that the individual who bears it is nothing but his own jaw—that is, a particularly voracious person. We note that Μονόγναθος, unlike Φυσίγναθος, belongs to the class of [A N]_N endocentric determinative compounds. We observe that, in the case of Alciphron's 'speaking' names, the noun γνάθος therefore refers to a markedly different characteristic from that to which it alludes in Φυσίγναθος, namely the insatiability of the individuals in question.

Example 15. Names ending in -άρπαξ ([N N]_N endocentric determinative compounds or V2 compounds)⁴⁴: Μεριδάρπαξ ('Portion-thief'/'piece-thief'/'share-thief (of food)' or 'one who snatches portions/pieces/shares (of food)'. Mouse name documented at vv. 260, 261a, and 273); Ψιχάρπαξ ('Crumb-thief' or 'one who snatches crumbs'. Mouse name attested at vv. 24, 27, 105, 141, and 234).

Glei (1984: 198), Guastella (1988: 96), and Ludwich (1896: 98) compare Μεριδάρπαξ with the simplex name of Alciphron's parasite Μεριδᾶς (*Ep.* 3.25)⁴⁵.

⁴² Ludwich (1896: 98) had already compared Alciphron's Γνάθων with the *Batrachomyomachia*'s Φυσίγναθος, which in his view supplied the epistolary author with the impetus for the name he employed.

⁴³ The name in question is also transmitted in the form Μονογνάθειος, which is sometimes adopted. Ozanam (2004: 132) opts for Μονογνάθιος, likewise a variant of the manuscript tradition.

⁴⁴ It is not possible to determine with certainty whether the compounds in -άρπαξ are to be considered as built on a nominal base (< ἄρπαξ) or a verbal base (< ἄρπάζω).

⁴⁵ Sondag (1905: 30 and 93) had likewise placed Alciphron's name in parallel with that of the *Batrachomyomachia*.

Ludwich (1896: 98) maintains that Alciphron took inspiration from the *Batrachomyomachia*'s Ψιχάρπαξ for the creation of the following four parasite names built on the noun ψίξ: Ψιχοκλάστης ('Crumb-breaker', i.e. 'one who breaks up crumbs to eat'; *Ep.* 3.7)⁴⁶; Ψιχοδιαλέκτης ('Crumb-selector', i.e. 'one who, from among the crumbs, chooses those he prefers'/'crumb-gatherer'⁴⁷; *Ep.* 3.9)⁴⁸, and the simplex nickname given to this parasite at the beginning of the same letter, namely Ψιχίων; Ψιχόμαχος ('one who fights to obtain crumbs'⁴⁹; *Ep.* 3.35)⁵⁰. We note that especially strong is the semantic allusiveness shared by Ψιχάρπαξ and Ψιχοδιαλέκτης. We also observe that Ψιχοκλάστης and Ψιχοδιαλέκτης belong to the subclass of unbound SCs: agentive compounds in -της, and Ψιχόμαχος to that of unbound SCs: agentive adjectives and nouns in -ος.

Example 16. Bahuvrihi: Πολύφωνος ('Many-voiced'/'mighty-voiced', i.e. 'Talkative/Noisy'. Frog name documented at vv. 210 and 212).

To be recalled here, by virtue of the shared first element πολυ-, is Alciphron's farmer name Πολύαλλος ('Many-groved'), one of the protagonists of *Ep.* 2.19: as Sondag (1905: 19) explains, Πολύαλλος designates one who possesses or frequents a great number of wooded groves, places of leisure where the aulos was played. Πολύαλλος, like Πολύφωνος, also belongs to the class of bahuvrihis.

Example 17. Simplex names suffixed with -ίδης: Κραυγασίδης (properly 'Son of One who cries/croaks', plausibly pseudopatronymic, hence 'of the stock of those who cry/croak'/'Crier/Croaker'. Frog name attested at v. 243 and also conjectured by Ludwich 1896: 184–185 at v. 247a); Ὠκιμίδης (properly 'Son of Basil', plausibly pseudopatronymic, hence 'of the stock of Basil'/'Basil', but in

⁴⁶ For Ψιχοκλάστης cf. Sondag (1905: 38). The name in question is in fact transmitted in the form Ψιχοκλάστης (a form reported, e.g., by Ludwich 1896 and by Schmitt 2022: 176: cf. n. 50), today usually rejected by scholarship. Metropulos (1855: 140) proposed emending the parasite name to Ψιχοκάπτης ('Crumb-devourer'), arguing that crumbs are already small in themselves and therefore it would make little sense to make them smaller by breaking them. Metropulos' conjecture is, however, generally rejected by scholars of Alciphron.

⁴⁷ For Ψιχοδιαλέκτης cf. Sondag (1905: 38).

⁴⁸ But cf., e.g., Ozanam (2004: 102), who renders Ψιχοδιαλέκτης as «Discute-miette»: perhaps the scholar means 'one who argues over crumbs', i.e. who makes speeches to obtain them (with reference to διαλέγομαι = 'to discuss, to argue').

⁴⁹ Cf. supra Ἀρτοπύκτης.

⁵⁰ For Ψιχόμαχος cf. Sondag (1905: 38). Migoubert (2010: 124) likewise recalls the names of Alciphron's parasites Ψιχοκλάστης, Ψιχοδιαλέκτης, and Ψιχόμαχος, later also mentioned by Schmitt (2022: 176) together with the simplex name Ψιχίων. Wölke (1978: 212) also alludes to Alciphron's Ψιχοκλάστης. Sondag (1905: 38 and 93) had likewise compared the *Batrachomyomachia*'s Ψιχάρπαξ with Alciphron's Ψιχοκλάστης, Ψιχοδιαλέκτης, and Ψιχόμαχος.

the sense 'one who feeds on basil' or 'living amid basil', or again 'basil-coloured/green as basil'. Frog name or mouse name transmitted at v. 214⁵¹ and also conjectured by Ludwich 1896: 179 at v. 221a. Naturally, the reading 'basil-coloured/green as basil' is valid only if the character is a frog).

Ludwich (1896: 98) compares, on the basis of the shared suffix -ίδης, the 'Homeric' Κραυγασίδης and Ὠκιμίδης with Alciphron's farmer name Δρυαντίδας (< δρῦς = 'oak'; *Ep.* 2.8)⁵². We may recall other 'speaking' farmer names in Alciphron that present the same suffix (or the variant -άδης/-ιάδης), namely: the simplex names Δρυάδης (*Ep.* 2.39; equivalent in sense to Δρυαντίδας), Κρηνιάδης (< κρήνη = 'spring'; *Ep.* 2.17), Θρασωνίδης (*Ep.* 2.13; as Sondag 1905: 21 notes, this character prefers military life to the countryside), and Σκοπιάδης (< σκοπός = 'sentinel/lookout'; *Ep.* 2.30)⁵³; the V2 compounds Κωμαρχίδης ('Village-head'; *Ep.* 2.29)⁵⁴ and Ἀγελαρχίδης ('Herd-head'; *Ep.* 2.5)⁵⁵, which allude to agricultural duties; the bahuvrihi Καλλικωμίδης ('Fair-villaged'; *Ep.* 2.32)⁵⁶. 'Speaking' names in Alciphron's epistolary corpus are also the following: Δωσιάδης (< δίδωμι; character in *Ep.* 3.25)⁵⁷, which, as Sondag (1905: 60) explains, evokes the image of the corrupting demagogue, with reference to the 'giving' of δίδωμι; Φοιβάδης, the name of a citharode in

⁵¹ The manuscript tradition at v. 214 presents problems. Ludwich (1894: 19), for example, suggests that Ὠκιμίδης is perhaps to be identified as a mouse. Ludwich (1896: 82) reiterates that we cannot be certain whether it is a frog or a mouse: Ludwich (1896), *ibid.* and p. 386 notes that ὦκιμον is a garden plant that humans eat as a relish, referring to Galen (*De alimentorum facultatibus* 2.56), and for this reason it should not be displeasing to mice.

⁵² For Δρυαντίδας cf. Sondag (1905: 15–16).

⁵³ This is a disputed name. Sondag (1905: 41–42) adopts the other transmitted reading, Σκορπιάδης (< σκορπίος): the scholar, *ibid.*, thinks that the name alludes to an individual who feeds on scorpions and should therefore be moved to the section of parasite letters. Seiler (1853: 339) proposed the conjecture Κοπιάδης from the noun κοπία ('fatigue'): Seiler (1853), *ibid.*, explains that Κοπιάδης would denote, in accordance with the letter's contents, a man tired owing to excessive consumption of wine. Hercher (1873: 77) emended the name to Σκορδιάδης (< σκόρδον = 'garlic'). Ozanam (2004: 87), like Schepers (1905: 48), opts for Σκοπιάδης, considering it a farmer name.

⁵⁴ For Κωμαρχίδης cf. Sondag (1905: 13).

⁵⁵ For Ἀγελαρχίδης cf. Sondag (1905: 13–14).

⁵⁶ In the letter-heading the name is transmitted as Καλλικωμίδης, while at line 1 it appears as Καλλικομίδης ('Fair-haired'). Scholarship is undecided as to which is authentic. Ozanam (2004: 88) opts for Καλλικωμίδης. Sondag (1905: 25) notes that Καλλικομίδης too would be an appropriate name for a farmer.

⁵⁷ The transmitted form of the Alciphronian name in question, which some editors accept, is in fact Δοσιάδης (< δόσις = 'gift').

Ep. 3.19, a name that points to Apollo, the god of the lyre⁵⁸. In all cases, as in the *Batrachomyomachia*, these are of course pseudopatronymics.

Example 18. Ὠκιμίδης: cf. supra.

Scholarship⁵⁹ compares the ‘Homeric’ Ὠκιμίδης, by virtue of the shared noun ὠκιμον, with Alciphron’s parasite name Ὠκίμων (*Ep.* 3.37)⁶⁰.

Example 19. Simplex names suffixed with -αῖος, indicating relation/derivation: Σευτλαῖος (< σεῦτλον, properly ‘related to beet’, hence ‘one who feeds on beet’ or ‘living amid beets’, or again ‘beet-coloured/green as beet’. Frog name attested at v. 209 and conjectured by Barnes 1711 at v. 210); Πρασσαῖος (< πράσον, properly ‘related to leek’, hence ‘one who feeds on leek’ or ‘living amid leek’, or again ‘leek-coloured/green as leek’. Frog name transmitted at vv. 232, 235, and 252); Λιμναῖος (< λίμνη, properly ‘related to the marsh’, hence ‘marsh-dwelling’. Frog name transmitted at v. 226 and conjectured at vv. 223 and 223a respectively by Kühn 1883: 21 and by Ludwich 1896: 179); Λιστραῖος (< λίστρον, properly ‘related to the hoe’, hence ‘hoe-like/shovel-like/scrapper-like’, i.e. ‘one who digs/scrapes’. Mouse name or frog name transmitted at v. 226⁶¹); Λιτραῖος (< λίτρα, properly ‘related to a pound’, hence ‘weighing a pound’ or ‘one who gnaws pounds’. Scholars who explain the name as ‘weighing a pound’ are uncertain whether the character in question is a mouse or a frog. Name attested at vv. 214 and 226); Φιτραῖος (< φιτρός, properly ‘related to logs’, hence ‘log-/stump-lover’/‘dwelling among logs/stumps’, or ‘thick-set/sturdy/massive as a log/stump’. Frog name or mouse name documented at v. 226).

Ludwich (1896: 98) compares, on the basis of the shared suffix -αῖος, the ‘Homeric’ Σευτλαῖος, Πρασσαῖος, Λιμναῖος, and Λιστραῖος with the following Alciphronian characters: the fisherman Θυνναῖος (< θύννος = ‘tuna’; *Ep.* 1.14)⁶²; the farmers Ναπαῖος (< νάπη = ‘wooded glen’, a place where shepherds lead flocks to pasture; *Ep.* 2.17)⁶³ and Πετραῖος (< πέτρα/πέτρος = ‘rock/crag’, an element characteristic of rural life; *Ep.* 2.33)⁶⁴. Ludwich’s observation naturally must also be extended to the remaining -αῖος names of the *Batrachomyomachia* recalled here. Other Alciphronian ‘speaking’ names that may be mentioned, again on account of the shared suffix -αῖος, are those of the

⁵⁸ For Φοιβάδης cf. Sondag (1905: 52), who adopts the likewise transmitted form Φοιβιάδης.

⁵⁹ Ludwich (1896: 98), Glei (1984: 187), Fusillo (1988: 123), Hosty (2013: 221 and 2020: 173), Schmitt (2022: 171).

⁶⁰ For Ὠκίμων cf. Sondag (1905: 31).

⁶¹ The manuscript tradition at v. 226 presents problems.

⁶² For Θυνναῖος cf. Sondag (1905: 8–9) and Casevitz (2002: 251).

⁶³ For Ναπαῖος cf. Sondag (1905: 17–18).

⁶⁴ For Πετραῖος cf. Sondag (1905: 18).

fishermen Πρύμναϊος (< πρύμνα = 'stern'; *Ep.* 1.15)⁶⁵ and Γαληναῖος (< γαλήνη = 'calm/sea-stillness'; *Ep.* 1.2)⁶⁶, and that of the farmer Ληναῖος (< ληνός = 'wine press', an agricultural implement; *Ep.* 2.23)⁶⁷.

3. CONCLUSION

From the analysis conducted it clearly emerges that Alciphron, in choosing the names attributed to his characters, deliberately inscribes himself within the preceding comic onomastic tradition, identifiable first and foremost in the *Batrachomyomachia*. At the same time, however, the author shows that he does not limit himself to a mere reuse of this model, but in most cases carries out significant reworkings—both semantic and formal—*vis-à-vis* the names of the frogs and mice in the pseudo-Homeric poem.

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⁶⁵ For Πρύμναϊος cf. Sondag (1905: 8), Casevitz (2002: 251), and Bunsmann (1910: 83).

⁶⁶ For Γαληναῖος cf. Sondag (1905: 6), Casevitz (2002: 251), and Bunsmann (1910: 85).

⁶⁷ For Ληναῖος cf. Sondag (1905: 17).

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