

Pain and pleasure:  
Greek deformations on the  
botanical terminology of the ms.  
Vat. Lat. 4418

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2n Congrés Internacional d'ARDIT

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# Codex Vat. Lat. 4418

- Miscellaneous manuscript
- Italy, s. XI
- Caroline minuscule, several hands
- Medical content
- Personal use

# Content of Vat. Lat. 4418

- Galenus, *Ad Glauconem de medendi methodo* L. I-II (ff. 1r-8v, 25r-48v, 9r-24r)
- Galenus, *Liber tertius* (ff. 24r-24v, 49r-67v)
- <Aurelius, *De acutis passionibus*> (ff. 67v-79v)
- <Aesculapius>, *Liber quintus* (ff. 80r-101v)
- Galenus, *De podagra* (ff. 101v-107v)
- <*Sapientia artis medicinae*> (ff. 107v-109r)
- Vindicianus, *Epistula ad Pentadium* (ff. 109r-110r)

# Content of Vat. Lat. 4418

- *Item alia prognostica Ypocratis designis tysicorum et pleureticorum sic probabis* (f. 110v)
- Pharmacopoeia (ff. 111r-143v)
- **Medical and botanical glossary** (ff. 143v-148v)
- Verses on the Egyptian days (f. 149r)
- Non identified work (f. 149v)
- Phlebotomy lunar calendar (f. 149v)
- <*Dynamidia L. I-III*> (ff. 150r-171r)

# Knowledge of Greek medicine

- Latin medical and botanical terminology: Greek origin
- s. XI: recuperation of Greek medicine through Arabic works
- Importance of Latin translations, 2 neuralgic centres:
  - Salerno (Constantin the African)
  - Toledo (Gerard of Cremona)
- Fixation of a Latin specialised terminology
- Glossaries are not theoretical works, they are fundamentally practical tools

# Vat. Lat. 4418: Medical and botanical glossary

- 576 glosses, 2 columns, alphabetical order
- Work of reference, prescriptive nature
- Content:
  - medicinal plants
  - minerals
  - animals and animal substances
- Notable presence of Greek words

# Types of glosses

- atrafax (ἀτράφαξυς); iarim (ἰάριν); mirmix (μύρμηξ); ophis (ὄφις)
- meconus onigru *idest* papauer ortense; organu *idest* colena; tridax *idest* lactuca
- hydor imbrion *idest* aqua pluuiialis; stear *idest* ade[p]s porcinus
- amilu *idest* tritici sucus quod in estiuo componitur tempore; quercus *idest* arbor ferens glandes

# Greek deformations and alterations

Most common phenomena

- - Iotacism
  - Loss of aspiration
  - Vocalic change
  - Devoicing and sonorantisation
- Paronymic attraction
- Change of gender
- Formation from the genitive
- False etymologies
- Palaeographical errors



# Anticrocu

- Gloss 35: **anticrocu** *idest*  
flos ambuci
- *Carthamus tinctorius* L.  
(‘safflower’)
- Diosc. gr. 4, 188  
(gr. κνήκος, ‘yellow’)
- ἄνθος κρόκω ὅμοιον  
(κρόκος, ‘saffron’)



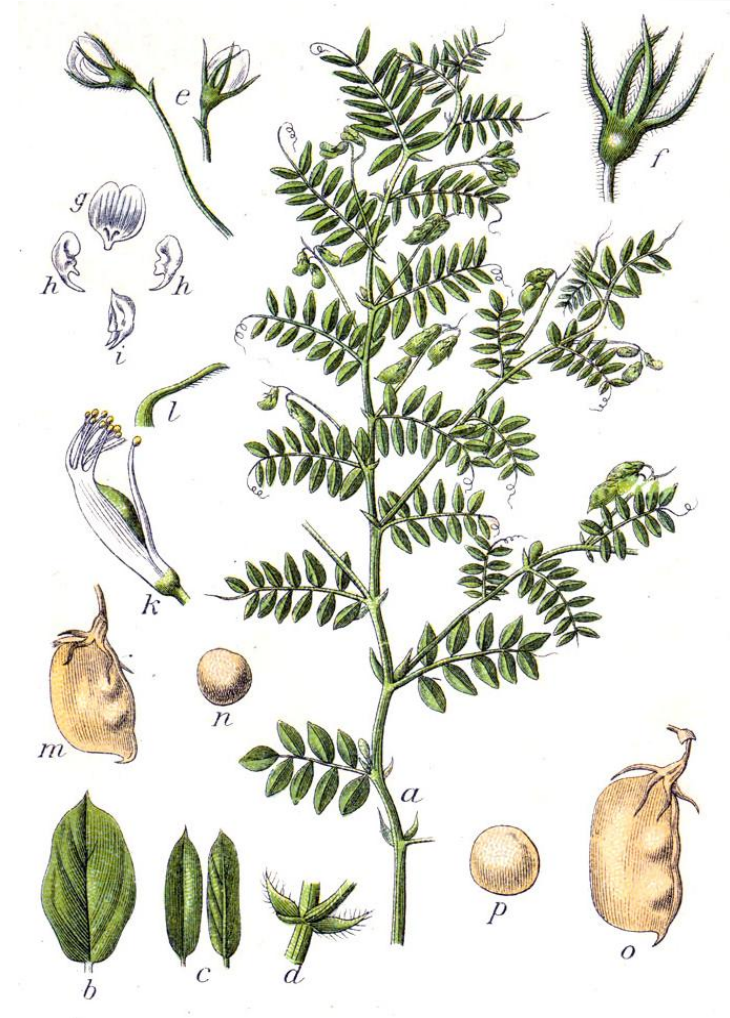
# Concerion

- Gloss 142: **concerion**
- *Cichorium intybus* L. ('chicory')
- gr. κιχώρεια (Diosc. gr. 2, 132)
- cocurion .i. intuua  
(*Gloss.* III 555, 27)
- cocorion idest intuba agreste  
(*Gloss.* III 538, 5; 621, 33)
- cocerion .i. intiba agrestis  
(*Laud Herbal Gloss.* 396)
- **concerion idest intiba agrestis**  
(*Vat. Lat.* 4418)



# Agus

- Gloss 81: **agus** *idest* lenticula
- *Lens culinaris* Medik ('lentil')
- gr. φακός (Diosc. gr. 2, 107)
- Gloss 237: **facus** *idest* lencula
- CORRECTION:  
[F]agus *idest* lenticula  
Facus *idest* len[ti]cula



# Examples of doublets

- actis-hyctis (gr. ἄκτῃ) *Sambucus nigra* L. uel *Sambucus ebulus* L.
- cimofabion-cynocéfalon (gr. κυνοκεφάλιον) *Antirrhinum orontium* L.
- eusenio-eozomon (gr. εὐζωμον) *Eruca vesicaria* L.
- canibri-kambris (gr. κράμβη) *Brassica* L.
- ediosmon-hydicismon (gr. ἡδύοσμον) *Mentha silvestris* L.
- criidi-krite (gr. κριθή) *Hordeum sativum* L.
- silomacar-xiloniacor (gr. ξυλόμακερ) *Rheum officinale* L.

# Conclusions

- Lack of knowledge → errors and deformations
- Medical and botanical glossaries are a practical tool
- Objective: better understanding of the theory, deciphering obscure medical texts and their terminology

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