

ON THE COLOUR OF PEPPER

Giuseppe Giangrande

King's College, London

El autor aporta nuevos materiales en apoyo de su tesis defendida en *Habis* 20 (1989) respecto a *Lithica* 721.

Some further material is furnished in order to explain the mss. reading in *Lithica* 721, in addition to what the author wrote in *Habis* 20 (1989).

The following material will be, I hope, found useful by the reader in addition to what I wrote in *Habis* 20 (1989), 62, in order to explain the mss. reading χρυσο-χιτώνα in *Lithica* 721.

As is clear from *RE*, s.v. *Pfeffer*, 1423, 40 ff., Pliny (*N.H.* 12.28) knows two varieties of pepper, *album* and *nigrum*; the same is the case with Dioscorides, who (*Mat. Med.* II, § 159) is acquainted with these two varieties (μέλαν and λευκόν). On the other hand (*RE*, *art. cit.*, 1423, 40 ff.). Theophrastus knows two varieties of pepper, which he calls μέλαν and ὑπέρυθρον. The colour ὑπέρυθρον (*RE*, *art. cit.*, 1421, 47 ff.) is “keineswegs eindeutig auf den schwarzen Pfeffer”; in the phrase κέλυφος ... ὑπέρυθρον the word κέλυφος denotes the “Schale” (*RE*, *art. cit.*, 1421, 60) and corresponds exactly to the *Hinterglied* χίτωνα in the compound χρυσοχιτώνα as used in *Lithica* 721. Orpheus, in *Lithica* 721, alludes to pepper in its two varieties mentioned by Theophrastus: one of these varieties was

ON THE COLOUR OF PEPPER

μέλαν (= μελαγχροίην, *Lith.* 721), whilst the other had a red “Schale” (κέλυφος ... ὑπέρυθρον = χρυσοχίτωνα, *Lith.* 721, “with a red shell”).

In sum: the epithet χρυσοχίτωνα, in *Lithica* 721, is perfectly sound, whether it refers to the “skin” or to the “shell” of the kind of pepper Orpheus has in mind.