

SUMMARY

An allusion to Callimachus in Vergil's *Aeneid* II 10 - 11.

In this brief paper I try to illustrate a Callimachean reminiscence within a passage that is predominantly Homeric. In view of the fact that "Virgil's technique is flawlessly Callimachean even if his subject-matter, formally, is not" (N. Horsfall, *A Companion to the Study of Virgil*, Leiden - N. York - Köln 1995, p. 105) I suggest that the Vergilian expression *breviter audire* (*Aen.* II 11) is drawn from Callimachus' *Hecale* (fr. 40.4 Hollis = fr. 253.4 Pf. *τυτθὸν ἀκοῦσαι*). In addition, the attachment of an infinitive, rather than a gerund, to the substantive *amor* (*Aen.* II 10: *sed si tantus amor casus cognoscere nostros / et breviter Troiae supremum audire laborem*) may possibly owe something to the Callimachean expression *θυμὸς ἀκοῦσαι* (*Aetia, inc. lib.* fr. 178, 21 - 22 Pf.).

What the present analysis suggests is that the Callimachean intertext offers a plausible explanation to the puzzling expression *breviter audire*.