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Doubtful Syllables in Iambic Senarii

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DOUBTFUL SYLLABLES IN IAMBIC SENARII.

PROFESSOR TUCKER in the *C.R.* vol. xi. pp. 341 *sqq.* has revolutionized our notions of 'doubtful syllables': we have now learned that such syllables are normally short, and that lengthening is the licence.

I have no quarrel with this general statement of the facts, for I have been at the pains carefully to record (in iambic senarii only) all the words with doubtful syllables, and the result, exclusive of augments and reduplications, is: words never long, 403; words short and long, 81; words never short, 80. If we add augments and reduplications we get 616 words never long.

Prof. Tucker gave a list of 183 words (I omit 7 augments and one reduplication for the present) whose doubtful syllables appear on occasions long. Of these 16 do not occur, and 10 are not long, in iambic senarii, and we are left with 157. I add four new words, making a total of 161.

Half-statistics are dangerous things. It is not enough to record the instances of lengthening: we must also take account of cases where the syllable is short or common (*i.e.* the syllable lies in the first, third, or fifth foot), and if we do this we shall find quite a new complexion thrown on the matter.

I will give the result first: of these 161 words, 80 *are never short*; 15 are more often long than short; and 15 are as often long as short. Thus 110 of them *may* be lengthened with a perfectly clear conscience (*i.e.* over 67 per cent.), and 50 per cent. *must* always be kept long.

The figures for τέκνον come out in the proportion 3 short: 1 long. If we admit this proportion to justify lengthening, we may add 26 to the 110, and 84 per cent. of the list have no terrors for the iambic writer—he may lengthen them 'habitually.'

I have omitted, as does Prof. Tucker, the *Rhesus*, *Cyclops*, and *Iphigenia in Aulis* in these calculations. Their statistics are: 62 words never long; 22 common only; 21 short and long; and 17 long only. Thus 38 appear long on occasions, of which 17 are never short; 4 more often long than short; and 7 as often long as short; *i.e.* 28 *may* be lengthened and 17 *must* be.

In the matter of augments and reduplications Prof. Tucker's case is conclusive. The exact figures (in iambic senarii) are: augments, 213 short and 168 common=381, against 8 lengthenings; reduplications, 135 short and 245 common=380, and only one lengthening.

Prof. Tucker (p. 341) speaks of 'the temptations of τεθνάναι and ἔθνος.'

It is a curious fact that the latter never occurs in iambic senarii, and the former only in the corrupt *Agam.* 539. The form *τεθνεώς* appears once (*Choeph.* 682), and it would seem that this syncopation was avoided in the infinitive and participle by the tragedians. Probably *κατθανεῖν-ών* filled its place.

He further mentions 'the common words *ἀγρός* and *ἐρυθρός*,' of which the former 'occurs with lengthening but twice,' and the latter 'not at all (long).' A reference to the tabulated list below will show that *ἀγρός* only appears 9 times—thrice short, twice long, and four times common—while *ἐρυθρός* never occurs at all in iambic senarii.

That epic influence was not always at work, and that convenience decided the quantity on occasions, is shown by the words *ἀκροθίνια* (four times long, never short) and *Ἀφροδίτη* (twice long and thrice short).

Though I am shaken by augments and reduplications, I am still somewhat of a 'stubborn reader,' and harbour suspicions that the occurrence of the cretic $\sim \cup \sim$ in iambic senarii has something to do with the frequency with which the 'doubtful syllable' was kept short.

If the Athenian felt it proper in the theatre to pronounce *μακρός*, *πικρός*, *σφοδρός*, and *ἐλαφρός* short, is it not surprising that *μακρώτερος*, *πικρώτερος*, *σφοδρώτερος*, and *ἐλαφρώτερος* never became literary forms?

I append the list of 161 words in iambic senarii. Augments and reduplications are not included, and no instances are cited from the *Rhesus*, *Iphigenia in Aulis*, and *Cyclops*. I have placed an asterisk against those words whose doubtful syllable is always long, more often long than short, or as often long as short.

| | AESCHYLUS. | SOPHOCLES. | EURIPIDES. | TOTAL. |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | $\sim \quad \cong \quad -$ | $\sim \quad \cong \quad -$ | $\sim \quad \cong \quad -$ | $\sim \quad \cong \quad -$ |
| <i>ὑβρίζειν</i> | 2 . 1 . 0 | 4 . 2 . 1 | 20 . 6 . 3 | 26 . 9 . 4 |
| <i>ἐφ-*</i> | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 1 . 0 . 2 | 1 . 0 . 3 |
| <i>καθ-*</i> | | 0 . 0 . 2 | 0 . 0 . 6 | 0 . 0 . 8 |
| <i>ἐγκαθ-*</i> | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| <i>ὑβρις</i> | 4 . 2 . 0 | 8 . 2 . 2 | 8 . 5 . 1 | 20 . 9 . 3 |
| <i>ὑβριστής</i> | 1 . 0 . 0 | 2 . 0 . 1 | 4 . 0 . 0 | 7 . 0 . 1 |
| <i>ἀβρότης*</i> | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| <i>ἀβρός*</i> | | | 1 . 0 . 3 | 1 . 0 . 3 |
| <i>νεβρίς*</i> | | | 1 . 1 . 1 | 1 . 1 . 1 |
| <i>ὄβριμος*</i> | 0 . 0 . 1 | | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| <i>ἀγρός</i> | | 3 . 1 . 1 | 0 . 3 . 1 | 3 . 4 . 2 |
| <i>ἀγρόθεν*</i> | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| <i>ἀγραυλος*</i> | | 0 . 0 . 1 | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| <i>ἀγρηνος*</i> | 0 . 0 . 1 | | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| <i>ἀγριωπός*</i> | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| <i>ἀγριος*</i> | 0 . 0 . 3 | 0 . 1 . 9 | 4 . 0 . 14 | 4 . 1 . 26 |
| <i>ἀγρεύειν*</i> | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| <i>ἄγρα</i> | | 2 . 2 . 0 | 7 . 1 . 1 | 9 . 3 . 1 |
| <i>ὑγραίνειν*</i> | | | 1 . 0 . 1 | 1 . 0 . 1 |

| | AESCHYLUS. | SOPHOCLES. | EURIPIDES. | TOTAL. |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| | υ ς - | υ ς - | υ ς - | υ ς - |
| ὕγρότης* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| Φλεγραιός* | ο . ο . Ι | | | ο . ο . Ι |
| ἔδρα | 8 . 6 . ο | 12 . Ι . Ι | 20 . 4 . Ι | 40 . 11 . 2 |
| συνεδρία* | ο . ο . Ι | | | ο . ο . Ι |
| προσεδρία* | | | ο . ο . 2 | ο . ο . 2 |
| προσεδρεύειν* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| ἐφεδρεύειν* | | | ο . ο . 2 | ο . ο . 2 |
| σύνεδρος* | | ο . ο . Ι | | ο . ο . Ι |
| πάρεδρος* | | | 2 . ο . 2 | 2 . ο . 2 |
| πρόεδρος* | | ο . ο . Ι | | ο . ο . Ι |
| ἐφεδρος* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| ιδρύειν* | ο . ο . Ι | | 2 . 2 . 2 | 2 . 2 . 3 |
| καθ-* | | | ο . ο . 2 | ο . ο . 2 |
| ἐγκαθ-* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| ἀνίδρυτος* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| *Ἀδραστος | 2 . ο . ο | Ι . ο . ο | 15 . 9 . Ι | 18 . 9 . Ι |
| αἰδρις* | ο . ο . 2 | | | ο . ο . 2 |
| ἐπιδρομή* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| κέδρος | | | 2 . Ι . Ι | 2 . Ι . Ι |
| κέδρινος* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| δλέθριος | 3 . ο . ο | Ι . ο . Ι | 2 . ο . Ι | 6 . ο . 2 |
| δλεθρος* | | ο . ο . 3 | 4 . ο . 2 | 4 . ο . 5 |
| ῥέεθρον* | ο . ο . Ι | | | ο . ο . Ι |
| λαθραῖος | Ι . ο . ο | Ι . ο . ο | Ι . 2 . Ι | 3 . 2 . Ι |
| μέλαθρον* | ο . ο . 4 | ο . ο . Ι | 6 . ο . 22 | 6 . ο . 27 |
| *Ἐρυθραί* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| πατρός-ί | 51 . 9 . 4 | 65 . 18 . 47 | 126 . 37 . 71 | 242 . 64 . 122 |
| πάτριος* | | ο . ο . Ι | Ι . ο . ο | Ι . ο . Ι |
| πατρικός* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| πατροφόντης* | | ο . ο . 2 | | ο . ο . 2 |
| πατρόθεν* | | ο . ο . Ι | | ο . ο . Ι |
| πατρώος | 19 . 2 . Ι | 29 . 9 . 3 | 47 . 6 . 4 | 95 . 17 . 8 |
| πατρίς | Ι . Ι . ο | 6 . ο . Ι | 28 . Ι . 8 | 35 . 2 . 9 |
| πέτρα | 9 . 2 . ο | 5 . Ι . Ι | 24 . 7 . 4 | 38 . 10 . 5 |
| πέτρος | ο . Ι . ο | 7 . ο . Ι | 14 . 3 . 4 | 21 . 4 . 5 |
| πετρήρης* | | ο . ο . Ι | | ο . ο . Ι |
| λατρεύειν* | ο . ο . Ι | Ι . ο . Ι | | Ι . ο . 2 |
| μηλοτρόφος* | ο . ο . Ι | | | ο . ο . Ι |
| γηροτρόφος* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| ἀπότροπος* | Ι . ο . ο | | ο . ο . Ι | Ι . ο . Ι |
| *Ἀτρεΐς* | ο . Ι . Ι | ο . Ι . 3 | 3 . 8 . 4 | 3 . 10 . 8 |
| *Ἀτρείδης | 5 . ο . ο | 20 . ο . 9 | Ι . ο . ο | 26 . ο . 9 |
| ισοτριβής* | ο . ο . Ι | | | ο . ο . Ι |
| ἀλίτριος* | | ο . ο . Ι | | ο . ο . Ι |
| μέτρον | | | 5 . ο . Ι | 5 . ο . Ι |
| ἀμέτρητος* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| ἄτρυντος* | ο . ο . Ι | Ι . ο . ο | | Ι . ο . Ι |
| προτρέπειν* | | | ο . ο . Ι | ο . ο . Ι |
| ἐποτρύνειν* | | ο . ο . Ι | | ο . ο . Ι |
| θυγατρός-ί | | | 19 . ο . 11 | 19 . ο . 11 |

DOUBTFUL SYLLABLES IN IAMBIC SENARIUM

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| | AESCHYLUS. | SOPHOCLES. | EURIPIDES. | TOTAL. |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| | υ ϰ - | υ ϰ - | υ ϰ - | υ ϰ - |
| Ἀμφιτρύων* | | | 2 . 0 . 2 | 2 . 0 . 2 |
| φαρέτρα* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ἀκροθίνια* | 0 . 0 . 1 | | 0 . 0 . 3 | 0 . 0 . 4 |
| μακρός | 12 . 11 . 0 | 27 . 13 . 3 | 26 . 17 . 0 | 65 . 41 . 3 |
| πικρός | 7 . 2 . 1 | 18 . 2 . 1 | 34 . 20 . 1 | 59 . 24 . 3 |
| πικρότης* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ἄκρος* | 1 . 2 . 2 | 6 . 3 . 8 | 11 . 9 . 12 | 18 . 14 . 22 |
| ἀκραῖος* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ἀποκρίνας* | | 0 . 0 . 1 | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| δάκρυσι | | | 3 . 0 . 1 | 3 . 0 . 1 |
| ἀδακρυς* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ἀρτίδακρυς* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| δάκρυα | 1 . 0 . 0 | 2 . 0 . 2 | 27 . 4 . 15 | 30 . 4 . 17 |
| δακρύειν | 1 . 0 . 1 | 6 . 1 . 1 | 7 . 3 . 2 | 14 . 4 . 4 |
| ἀκραγής* | 0 . 0 . 1 | | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ὀκρις* | 0 . 0 . 1 | | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ἐπίκρανον* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| νεκρός | 9 . 3 . 2 | 19 . 4 . 2 | 97 . 26 . 15 | 125 . 33 . 19 |
| ἀποκρύψας* | 0 . 0 . 1 | | 1 . 0 . 0 | 1 . 0 . 1 |
| πολύχρυσος* | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 1 . 0 . 3 | 1 . 0 . 4 |
| λέχριος* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| Κύπρις | 3 . 1 . 0 | | 22 . 12 . 12 | 25 . 13 . 12 |
| Κύπρος* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| θεοπρόπος* | 0 . 0 . 1 | | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ἄφρων | | 0 . 1 . 0 | 3 . 1 . 1 | 3 . 2 . 1 |
| κακόφρων* | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 2 |
| ἐλαφρός* | 0 . 0 . 1 | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 2 |
| ἄφρός | 2 . 0 . 0 | 1 . 0 . 0 | 3 . 2 . 3 | 6 . 2 . 3 |
| Ἀφροδίτη | | | 3 . 0 . 2 | 3 . 0 . 2 |
| δίφρος | 1 . 0 . 0 | 3 . 2 . 0 | 5 . 0 . 1 | 9 . 2 . 1 |
| Ἀρταφέρνης* | 0 . 0 . 1 | | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| φιλοφρόνως* | | 0 . 0 . 1 | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ὀφρὺς | 1 . 0 . 0 | | 1 . 0 . 1 | 2 . 0 . 1 |
| ὀφρὺν* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ἀριθμός* | 0 . 0 . 2 | 0 . 0 . 2 | 4 . 0 . 12 | 4 . 0 . 16 |
| τοσουτἀριθμος* | 0 . 0 . 1 | | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| κἀναρίθμητος* | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 1 . 1 . 0 | 1 . 1 . 1 |
| ἀριθμεῖν* | | | 1 . 1 . 1 | 1 . 1 . 1 |
| πυθμὴν | 2 . 0 . 0 | 0 . 0 . 1 | | 2 . 0 . 1 |
| πότμος | | 2 . 1 . 1 | 11 . 1 . 2 | 13 . 2 . 3 |
| ἐφετμή* | 0 . 0 . 4 | | | 0 . 0 . 4 |
| ἀτμός* | 0 . 1 . 1 | | | 0 . 1 . 1 |
| ἐρετμά* | | | 2 . 1 . 2 | 2 . 1 . 2 |
| ἐρετμῶσαι* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |

| | ÆSCHYLUS. | SOPHOCLES. | EURIPIDES. | TOTAL. |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| | υ ς - ο . ο . ι | υ ς - | υ ς - 2 . ο . ο ο . ο . ι | υ ς - 2 . ο . ι ο . ο . ι |
| ὀχμάσαι λιχμῶν* | | | | |
| ἄκμή ἄκμαῖος | 2 . ο . ο 2 . ο . ι | 8 . ο . ο ο . ι . ο | 6 . 2 . 2 | 16 . 2 . 2 2 . ι . ι |
| γένεθλον* γενέθλιος* | ο . ο . 3 2 . ο . 2 | ο . ο . 2 ο . ο . ι | ο . ο . ι 2 . ο . ι | ο . ο . 6 4 . ο . 4 |
| σχέτλιος* ἀνατλάς* | ο . ο . ι | ι(?) . ο . 3 | ο . ο . 5 ο . ο . ι | ι(?) . ο . 9 ο . ο . ι |
| κύκλος Κύκλωπες* Ἀμύκλαι* κατακλύζειν* ἄκλεης* Πάτροκλος* κικλήσκειν* δομοκλείν* Ἡρακλέης-ῆς | 4 . 2 . 2 ι . ι . ο | 8 . 4 . ο ο . ο . ι ι4 . ι . ο | 17 . 7 . 2 ι . ι . ι ο . ο . ι ο . ο . ι ο . ο . ι ο . ι . ι ο . ο . ι 15 . 2 . ι3 | 29 . ι3 . 4 ι . ι . ι ο . ο . ι ο . ο . ι ο . ο . ι ι . 2 . ι ο . ο . ι 29 . 3 . ι3 |
| ὄχλος κᾶναμοχλεῖν* | ι . ι . ο | ι . ο . ο | 19 . 9 . 8 ο . ο . ι | 21 . 10 . 8 ο . ο . ι |
| ὄπλον ἔνοπλος* ὀπλίτης ὀπλίζειν πέπλος | ι . 2 . ο 2 . ο . ο 6 . ι . ι | ι4 . ι . 3 ι . ο . ο 3 . ο . 2 | 25 . 9 . ι6 ο . ο . 2 7 . ο . 4 4 . ο . ι 46 . ι7 . ιι | 40 . ι2 . 19 ο . ο . 2 9 . ο . 4 5 . ο . ι 55 . ι8 . ι4 |
| τυφλός | ο . ι . ο | 5 . 7 . ο | 2 . 5 . 5 | 7 . ι3 . 5 |
| πότνια* πίτνειν προσ- | ι . ο . ο ι . ο . ο | ο . ο . ι ι . ο . ο ο . 2 . ο | 3 . ο . 8 15 . 6 . ι 10 . 4 . ι | 3 . ο . 9 17 . 6 . ι 11 . 6 . ι |
| τέκνον ἄτεκνος* ὀκνεῖν κατ-* ἄοκνος* κύκνος κυκνόμορφος* ἀφικνεῖσθαι* | 17 . 3 . ο ι . ο . ο ο . ι . ο ο . ο . ι | 69 . 20 . 32 8 . 5 . 4 ο . ο . ι ο . ο . ι ο . ο . ι | 223 . 31 . 65 3 . ο . 10 2 . ι . ο 2 . ο . ι | 309 . 54 . 97 3 . ο . 10 11 . 6 . 4 ο . ο . ι ο . ο . ι 2 . ι . ι ο . ο . ι ο . ο . ι |
| τέχνη τεχνώμενος* ἶχνος ἰχνεῖν* λίχνος* | 8 . 2 . ο ι . ι . ο | 12 . 3 . ο ι . 3 . ι ο . 2 . ι ο . ο . ι | 9 . 9 . ι ο . 5 . ο 6 . 3 . 5 ο . ο . ι | 29 . ι4 . ι ι . 8 . ι 7 . 6 . 6 ο . ο . ι ο . ο . ι |

DOUBTFUL SYLLABLES IN IAMBIC SENARII

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| | AESCHYLUS. | SOPHOCLES. | EURIPIDES. | TOTAL. |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | υ υ υ | υ υ υ | υ υ υ | υ υ υ |
| ὑπνος | 8 . 3 . 0 | 4 . 3 . 4 | 7 . 4 . 2 | 19 . 10 . 6 |
| ἄπνος* | 0 . 0 . 1 | | 2 . 0 . 2 | 2 . 0 . 3 |
| ἐνύπνιον* | 0 . 0 . 1 | | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| Θέραπναι* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ἐρίπναι* | | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ἀφνεός* | | 0 . 0 . 1 | | 0 . 0 . 1 |
| ἐπεφνε* | | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 1 | 0 . 0 . 2 |

I add the ten words which, though they occur in iambic senarii, are never long.

| | AESCHYLUS. | SOPHOCLES. | EURIPIDES. | TOTAL. |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| | υ κ υ | υ κ υ | υ κ υ | υ κ υ |
| ὑγρός | 0 . 1 . 0 | 0 . 1 . 0 | 5 . 1 . 0 | 6 . 3 . 0 |
| λάβρα | | 5 . 5 . 0 | 18 . 8 . 0 | 23 . 13 . 0 |
| μετρέιν | | 1 . 1 . 0 | 1 . 0 . 0 | 2 . 1 . 0 |
| μέτριος | | | 8 . 1 . 0 | 8 . 1 . 0 |
| ἀποτρέπειν | | | 1 . 0 . 0 | 1 . 0 . 0 |
| ἀτρύνειν | | 0 . 2 . 0 | | 0 . 2 . 0 |
| διπλόος-οὺς | 7 . 3 . 0 | 19 . 5 . 0 | 11 . 10 . 0 | 37 . 18 . 0 |
| προπίτνειν | | 1 . 0 . 0 | | 1 . 0 . 0 |
| ὄκνος | 1 . 0 . 0 | 4 . 4 . 0 | 4 . 0 . 0 | 9 . 4 . 0 |
| ἰκνεῖσθαι | 1 . 0 . 0 | 6 . 0 . 0 | 6 . 0 . 0 | 13 . 0 . 0 |

H. DARNLEY NAYLOR.