

infinitives *proculcare* and (*ludibrio sibi*) *habere*. One can imagine 'obterer(e) et' being mistaken for an imperfect subjunctive *obtereret*, and then being changed to a grammatically acceptable *obterit et* in a subsequent copy.¹⁰

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¹⁰ An Ibycus search (kindly done by Professor David Furley) reveals that Lucretius frequently handled the scansion of infinitives by placing them before 'et'. There are seventy-five other instances of the pattern *-ere et* in *De Rerum Natura*, including one of *-erere et* ('gerere et', 6.539).

TWO NOTES ON LUCRETII

6.548–51

et merito, quoniam plaustis concussa tremescunt
 tecta uiam propter non magno pondere tota,
 nec minus fexsultantes dupuis cumque uim†
 ferratos utrimque rotarum succutit orbes.

In place of the corrupt line 550 Bailey (vol. 3, Addenda, p. 1758) would read

nec minus exsultant ipsa ut lapi' cumque uiiai

This comes near to satisfying; but even with *ipsa* the change of subject from *tecta* to *plaustra* is awkward, and *exsultant* is inappropriate to a lumbering *plaustrum* (cf. Virgil, *G.* 1.163 *tardaue Eleusinae matris uoluentia plaustra*).¹ I suggest reading *cisia* instead of *ipsa*. The *cisium* was a fast light two-wheeled vehicle which might well jump up on a rough road; and the first three letters *cis* could have become the *-es* of the MS *exsultantes*. Two further points: *lapis uiiai* is not 'a stone on the road' (Bailey and Rouse/Smith [Loeb, 1982]), but rather the stone of the road, i.e. the paving; and *utrimque* is not 'on one side or the other' (Bailey in notes) but 'on both sides'. There remains Ernout's objection that the suppression of the final *s* of *lapis* (which stands for *lapids**) is unlikely. One can only say that no one would have ventured to introduce by conjecture *pendentibu' structas* or *manantibu' stillent*, but both are found in Lucretius' text (6.195, 943).

6.970–2

barbigeras oleaster eo iuuat usque capellas
 effluat ambrosia quasi uero et nectare tinctus,
 qua nil est homini quod amariu' fronde ac extet.

So the best MSS, with *excet* for *extet* in O. One of the Italian MSS (F) has what is presumably no more than an emendation, *quo...frondeat extet*, and this has been adopted by M. F. Smith in the Loeb edition (1982). The asyndeton can be paralleled, but the second verb, *extet*, is very flat. *qua* and *fronde* should be kept. I believe Bailey was on the right lines when he proposed *fronde uigescat*, but this can be improved on. *uigesco* means not simply to grow but to grow vigorous; a more appropriate word, better suited to a plant, would be *uirescat*.

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¹ Conrad Müller seems to have had the same idea. His text has *nec minus exsultant currus, ubicumque uiiai...*; but this necessitates inserting an additional line of his own composition.