

Μώδα

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LSJ quote from Hesychius the gloss μώδα ἄλφιτα σίτου and add, following the editor of the text, Kurt Latte, '(Perh. f.l. for Lat. *mola*)'. In fact, Latte bracketed the entire entry in his edition, so confident seems he to have been in his suggestion. However, μώδα is not a *falsa lectio*, since the word is also elsewhere attested, though in a place accessible only to few classical scholars.

The Palestinian Talmud, in a discussion of foodstuffs that may leaven and thus be forbidden at the time of Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, says (Pesahim 3:1, fol. 29d): 'In a pot, in which one has cooked MODA (רַחֵם), one shall not cook of that kind until after the Passover.' Though all the commentators, both traditional and modern,¹ agree that this must be some foodstuff that may leaven, none has noticed that the word, a ἄπαξ λεγόμενον in Rabbinic literature, is Greek. In fact, ἄλφιτον without any qualifier refers to barley-groats (see LSJ s.v.), and it appears that the very uncommonness of making groats from wheat rather than from barley accounts for the rarity of the word: it may have been in use in the market and kitchen, both in Hesychius' Alexandria and in Palestine,² but the absence of any Greek cognates renders its etymology enigmatic.³

¹ I listed these in a Hebrew version of this paper, 'Moda', *Lěšonenu* 71 (2009), 221–2 (Engl. summ. ix).

² We cannot know the ultimate source of either reference, but for whatever it is worth, their final redaction is about contemporary: Hesychius most probably belongs to the 5th c. and the Palestinian Talmud was redacted c. 400.

³ I am very grateful to Ra'anana Meridor for discussing with me this and the next issue.

There remains the matter of the accent. We do not know to what extent the usage of Hesychius is reflected in his sole Ms., Marc. 522 of the 15th c.,⁴ and at any rate he may have regarded the word as not Attic or Lesbian, so that he may not have applied the rule of the circumflex in the penultima before short ultima.⁵

⁴ Latte in his edition, *Prolegomena* viii: Qua fide Hesychius in addendis accentibus se gesserit, propter unici qui aetatem tulit codicis negligentiam cognoscere non iam licet.

⁵ Cf., e.g., E. Schwyzer, *Griechische Grammatik*² i (Munich 1953), 377.