

2 **arsineum*, **galbeum*, **rusceus* – Cato *Origines* F 113 P.

The three glosses **arsineum*, **rusceus*, and **galbeum* all derive from a single fragment from Cato's *Origines*, which is quoted by Festus (Verrius) in the lemma **ruscum*.¹ They are taken up only to a limited extent in modern research.² The content of the text—it is the first in the Latin language to describe the garment of a Roman woman—has been discussed in detail in A 2. That chapter argues that all three incomprehensible words originated from a corruption of the text (*arsineum* = *argenteum*; *rusceus* = *russeus*; *galbeum* = *galbinum*). Therefore, this section only adds something about their history and their origin.

The history of the glosses is relatively short. There is no trace of them in Varro. This is easy to explain: Cato's *Origines* were not ancient enough when scholarly 'glossography' started with Varro's teacher Sextus Aelius Stilo in the latter part of the second century BCE. Cato's literary fame and interest in his work probably only began at the end of the Roman Republic. At that time, the historian Sallustius (86–35 BCE) maintained (mocking contemporary authors) that Cato was the most accomplished Roman author and used him as a paradigm of style. The first point to which we can trace back the origin of the three glosses in question is Verrius as epitomized by Festus.³ For **arsineum* and **galbeum*,⁴ we have only the very short and not very informative version of Festus (Verrius) given by Paulus Diaconus. In the case of **ruscum*, however, we have the full version of Festus himself (a version of Paulus being missing this time). Festus begins with a reference to Verrius, and the quotation contains all three glosses. This suggests that Verrius' quotation of the *Origines* is their origin. If my argument in chapter A 2 is correct, all glosses are due to textual corruptions in Verrius' copy of Cato.

1 Festus p. 320.21–23 L.

2 Cf. on the **arsineum* GRD (2007) 12.

3 Cf. on them the Introduction to part D pp. 588–589 and D 5 p. 643.

4 Paulus/Festus p. 19.7: *arsineum ornamentum capitis muliebris* [the **arsineum* is an ornament of the female head]; p. 85.12 L.: *galbeum ornamenti genus* [the **galbeum* is a kind of ornament].

