

TWO GREEK MILITARY WRITERS IN AELIANUS TACTICUS: EUPOLEMUS OF HYPATA AND EUANGELUS OF TANAGRA

by

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ABSTRACT: The first chapter of Aelian's *Tactics* contains a list, which seems to be in roughly chronological order, of previous writers on the military art. Following Alexander II of Epirus (272–c. 240 BC) and coming before Polybius (200–118 BC), Aelian lists Clearchus, Pausanias and Euangelus. Later in the same list after Polybius but before Poseidonius the Stoic (135–51 BC) come Eupolemus and Iphicrates. This paper attempts firstly, to identify Euangelus with Euangelus of Tanagra, *archōn* of the Boeotian League c. 240–225 BC. Secondly, it attempts to identify Eupolemus with Eupolemus of Hypata, who held the post of *stratēgos* of the Aetolian League in 176/175 BC, fought at Cynoscephalae in 197 BC and was possibly the eyewitness source of information for Polybius on that battle. Other possible identifications of authors in Aelian's list are then discussed.

INTRODUCTION

The composition of the work usually termed the *Taktikē theōria*, or more simply *Taktika* (BRODERSEN 2017: 10), written by an otherwise unknown author, one Aelian “The High Priest”, known to us as Aelian “Tacticus” in order to distinguish him from other authors of the same name. Whilst it is certainly dedicated to the Emperor Trajan (AD 98–117), it is dated differently by various authorities; to AD 101 (WHEELER 1978: 354), to between AD 106 or 107 and 113 (DAIN 1946: 19), after AD 106 (BRODERSEN 2017: 11), or to circa AD 110 (STADTER 1980: 40). The first Chapter of this work contains a list of previous writers on the military art (at 1, 2; transl. by DEVINE 1989: 44). It runs as follows:

The theory has been elaborated by Aeneas (who also composed a considerable number of strategic books, of which Cineas the Thessalian made an epitome) in great detail, and by Pyrrhus of Epirus, who composed a treatise on tactics, and by Alexander his son, and by Clearchus, as well as by Pausanias, by Euangelus, and by Polybius of Megalopolis, a man of multi-faceted learning and the companion of Scipio, by Eupolemus and by Iphicrates. The Stoic Poseidonius also wrote a tactical theory, and many others, some in introductions, like Bryon, others in large-scale works. All of these we have consulted and consider too commonplace to be worthy of particular mention.