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THEOPHRASTUS

CHARACTERS

EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION,
TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY

BY

JAMES DIGGLE

*Professor of Greek and Latin
Cambridge University*



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PREFACE

I owe an especial debt to three scholars. Jeffrey Fish transcribed for me in the most minute detail the section of *P. Herc.* 1457 containing sketch no. V. I am deeply grateful to him for selflessly undertaking and so meticulously executing this long and demanding task. How much it has benefited me will be apparent to readers of the commentary. Ioannis Stefanis generously supplied information about the readings of the later manuscripts, loaned me his photographs of A and B, and sent me a copy of an unpublished text and apparatus criticus of his own. I found that in a few places he and I had independently hit upon the same conjecture. I should have assigned sole credit to Professor Stefanis, had he not requested that I publish these conjectures under our joint names. Paul Millett, from whom (as the commentary attests) I had already learned so much, read the whole typescript, saved me from several slips, and at other points sharpened my argument.

I am grateful to Martin Ruehl for procuring photocopies of more than a score of older books and pamphlets from libraries in Germany; and, for a similar service in Greece, to Dimitrios Beroutsos, Georgios Christodoulou, Daniel Jakob, and Antonios Rengakos. Nigel Wilson kindly lent me his photographs of V and sent me some comments on its script. Geoffrey Arnott answered questions on pheasants and monkeys, Sir James Beament on botany and entomology, and Paul Cartledge on historical problems. I am also indebted, for advice or help of various kinds, to John Dillery, Bruce Fraser, Nikolaos Gonis, Ioannis Konstantakos, Luigi Lehnus, Marianne McDonald, Stephen Oakley, Dirk Obbink, Michael Reeve, Jeffrey Rusten, and Anne Thompson; to Muriel Hall, copy-editor, for her care and vigilance; and for generously undertaking to read the proofs, to Stephen Oakley and Frederick Williams.

Two matters of numeration. First, 'fr. 100 Fortenbaugh' is shorthand for fr. 100 in W. W. Fortenbaugh, P. M. Huby, R. W.

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Sharples, D. Gutas (edd.), *Theophrastus of Eresus: Sources for his Life, Writings, Thought and Influence* (Leiden etc. 1992–). Second, I have numbered the sections of the Greek text afresh. Section-numbers were first added by the Leipzig editors (1897), and these were modified by Diels (1909). My numbering reflects what I take to be the main divisions within the text.

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