

Abstract: The goal of this paper is to present a peculiar distribution of words in the third verse of the Sapphic strophe, and to suggest a possible explanation for it. The paper begins with a account of the general metrical concepts applied, including a succinct presentation of the metrical approach introduced by Dale 1969, 41-97 and developed by Sicking 1993, which the author uses in the rest of the text. The third section describes the corpus and the methodology applied in its analysis and, finally, in the fourth section the author presents and studies the data. The conclusion of this study is that there was, in the third line of the Sapphic strophe, a 'prosodical bridge' restricting the ascending-masculine endings generated by final words with the shape $\sim - -$.

Keywords: Sapphic strophe, Sappho, Alcaeus, Aeolic metre, Metrical law.