

Abstract: The Latin noun *ceparius*, recurring only in Lucilius' fragment 195 M. (*lippus edenda acri assiduo ceparius cepa*), has been considered by critics as derived from *cepa* ('onion') and has been generally interpreted as meaning 'onion-eater' or, less frequently, 'onion-seller' or 'onion-grower'. Taking full advantage of the witness offered by a Xth century *glossa* (Gloss. 5.565.5: *ceparius ortulanus*), the author of this essay suggests that *ceparius* is a perfect synonym for *holitor* and κηπουρός, and that it is etymologically connected not with the Latin word *cepa*, but with the Greek κήπος ('hortus').

Keywords: *Ceparius*, *Cepa*, Κήπος, *Hortus*, Lucilius.