

Magical gem: Cynocephalus with Harpocrates (A) Aphrodite (B) Inscription (C)

CBd-Number	CBd-1391
ID-Number	US-AA-KMA_26065
Collection	US Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
Inventory	26065
References	Bonner, SMA D. 196; Michel, DMG, no. 42.1.b_2
Material	jasper, green to black
Dimensions	22 x 17 x 4 mm
Iconography	animal: cynocephalus; gesture, hand raised to mouth; gesture, ithyphallic; Harpocrates sitting on lotus flower; moon, full; solar disk; scarab, with outstretched double wings; Aphrodite anadyomene; moon, crescent
Divine Names & Voces	Ἰάω; Ἀβλαναθανάλβα, variants; vocales, αηριουω



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A: Ithyphallic cynocephalus standing to left on a flying scarab; on the top of his head the full moon with crescent. Both hands raised and extended, holding a little figure of the crowned Harpocrates with left hand raised to his mouth, seated to left on a lotus flower. Inscription on the left and right side of the image: ιαω αηριουω → Ἰάω, the Greek vowel series.

B: Aphrodite standing in contraposto to front; arms raised, wringing her hair.

C: Inscribed: "the ἀβλανατηαναλβα palindrome twice, but with errors each time" (Bonner).

Bibliography

[Bonner, SMA on CBd-1391](#)

[The Kelsey Museum Artifacts Database on CBd-1391](#)

[Michel, DMG, 42.1.b_2.](#)