

# "Sword of Dardanos" gem: Aphrodite, Psyche, Eros, voces (A) Eros and Psyche, voces (B)

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cbd-Number</b>               | CBd-4265                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Collection</b>               | IT_Perugia, Museo Archeologico Nazionale dell'Umbria                                                                                                 |
| <b>Inventory</b>                | 1526                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>References</b>               | Mastrocinque, SGG II, no. Pe 16; Vitellozzi 2010b, no. 518                                                                                           |
| <b>Former Collections</b>       | Guardabassi, Mariano (1823-1880)                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Material</b>                 | magnetite (black)                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Dimensions</b>               | 21.8 x 16.2 x 3.3 mm                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Iconography</b>              | Aphrodite; Eros; globus; torch, burning; Psyche; clothing: tunic; gesture, embrace; clothing: garment; clothing: mantle; wreath; jewellery: bracelet |
| <b>Divine Names &amp; Voces</b> | Ἴάω; voces, unidentified; Ἄδωναί, variants; Ἴακώβ                                                                                                    |



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**Description:** Upright oval, both sides flat. Shape 8-9. Black magnetite. Surface abraded, small part broken off from the upper edge. Previously in the Guardabassi collection.

**A:** Aphrodite wearing a short tunic with a mantle and a bracelet on her right hand, sitting on the back of the winged Psyche, grabbing her garment with her right hand and raising a wreath with the left. Psyche, facing to the right, is dressed in a long garment. Below, Eros standing on a globus, raising a torch to burn Psyche's belly. Inscription above Aphrodite's head:  $\alpha\chi\mu\alpha[\gamma\epsilon\rho\alpha\rho]\phi\epsilon\rho\mu\epsilon\iota$  → unidentified voces. Inscription around Eros:  $\pi|\alpha\kappa\alpha\pi\alpha\kappa\alpha|\alpha\delta\omega\nu\alpha\iota\epsilon|\beta\alpha\sigma\mu\alpha\chi\alpha\rho|\alpha\kappa\omega\iota\alpha\kappa|\omega\beta\iota\omega$  → voces including Ἄδωναί, Ἴακώβ and Ἴάω.  
**B:** Eros and Psyche embracing each other, Psyche wearing a long garment. Inscription under the ground line:  $\eta\eta\eta\eta\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma|\eta\eta\eta\eta\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma\sigma$  → unidentified voces.

The gem largely corresponds to the practice known as the "Sword of Dardanos" described in PGM IV 1716-1743. See also [CBd-1555](#). (Alterations from P. Vitellozzi in Vitellozzi 2019 are based on close observation of the gem by Á. M. Nagy and P. Vitellozzi, 2019.)

**Bibliography**  
[SGG II](#), 110, Pe 16.  
[Vitellozzi 2019](#).