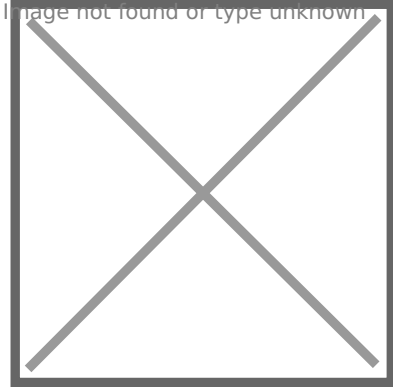


David Sedley's "Epicurean Theories of Knowledge From Hermarchus To Lucretius And Philodemus"

Post by "Cassius" of August 22, 2024 at 4:48 PM

Thanks to Godfrey for this link:



[Epicurean theories of knowledge from Hermarchus to Lucretius and Philodemus](https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/4003-david-sedley-s-epicurean-theories-of-knowledge-from-hermarchus-to-lucretius-and/?postID=31887#post31887)

Epicurean theories of knowledge from Hermarchus to Lucretius and Philodemus
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I note that it contains reference to something we've mentioned briefly lately, Epicurean criticism of Democritus and others who tended toward skepticism:

own *Against Colotes*. None of Colotes' chosen targets – Democritus, Parmenides, Empedocles, Socrates, Melissus, Plato, Stilpo, the Cyrenaics and Arcesilaus – were criticised for their ethical positions, as one might have predicted, but entirely for the support that their epistemology and metaphysics allegedly lent to scepticism, and specifically, to scepticism about human cognitive access to physical reality.⁷ The last target attacked by Colotes, though anonymous, is unerringly recognized by Plutarch as the New Academy of Arcesilaus, presented as advocating universal suspension of judgement (ἐποχή). Yet, intriguingly, there is reason to think that the treatise was composed, not in the vicinity of the Athenian Academy, but in Alexandria. This much is suggested by its opening dedication to Ptolemy II (Plutarch., *Adv. Col.*, 1107E), and by a flattering peroration in which the Alexandrian king was warned against the dangers to law and order posed by the ruinous non-Epicurean philosophies listed (1124C). We should infer