

Epíkouros' On Nature, Book 28 vs. Plato's Cratylus

Post by “Bryan” of February 23, 2025 at 7:38 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

there is a "Natural" word for a banana

Epíkouros says that he and Metrodorus, when they were younger, used to think there was no inherent connection between a word and an object -- particularly for an object of thought only conceived by analogy to the seen.

Yet over time they came to increasingly sympathize with the idea that there *is* an inherent connection (specific to race and location) for "the primary thought according to each word." (10.38a). For example, Epíkouros says "we do not use customary terms out of their bounds, nor while changing words for evident things." (Epíkouros, Peri Phýseōs, Book 28, P.Herc. 1479, fr. 13 [col. 5 sup.])