



DAMASPIA

DAMASPIA (Gk. *Damáspiā* or *-píā*), name of a Persian queen, wife of [Artaxerxes I](#) and mother of his legal heir, Xerxes II (424/3 b.c.e.). She was named only once by Ctesias (in Jacoby, *Fragmente*, vol. III.C, p. 468, frags. 15, 47); according to the excerpts from his text (where Xérxēs is to be corrected to Artoxérxēs, as in two neighboring instances), she died on the same day as Artaxerxes, thence in 424/3 b.c.e.; yet there is no available evidence whatsoever on her age and lineage (for speculations, see König, pp. 80-82). The name seems to reflect the regular feminine formation from the masculine form Avestan *Jāmāspa-*, Middle Persian and Parthian *Z'm'sp*, New Persian *Jāmāsp*, and so on; it surely cannot be derived from “*’*āmāspyā-*” (thus Hinz, p. 90) or from “*dāmāspiūā*” (thus König, p. 81) but must be derived from **Jāmāspī-*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

W. Hinz, *Das altiranische Sprachgut der Nebenüberlieferungen*, Wiesbaden, 1975.

F. W. König, *Die Persika des Ktesias von Knidos*, Graz, 1972.



[H.] Swoboda, "Damaspia," in Pauly-Wissowa, IV/2, col. 2050.