

# COMMANIPULARES / COMMANIPULI IN ROMAN DACIA AND THE FRAGMENTARY PRESERVED FORMS. TERMINOLOGY

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**Keywords:** Inscription, *commanipularis*, *commanipulus*, *commanuculus*, phonetic variation, vulgar form, Dacia.

**Abstract:** To designate the concept “member of a maniple”, the epigraphic sources center attention on two basic forms – *commanipularis* and *commanipulus* –, which appear in a variety of vulgar variants in the inscriptions from the Roman Empire. The term is attested three times in Dacia (twice at Potaissa, and once at Apulum). It seems that there is a preference here for the use of the corrupt form *commanuculus*, which has analogies only at Rome. Most of the vulgar forms of this term occur in the Roman province Italia (Rome and some regions of Italy). Dacia is one of the other three provinces in which the term is attested in a vulgar form.

**Rezumat:** Pentru a desemna noțiunea de „soldat făcând parte din același manipul”, sursele epigrafice evidențiază două forme de bază – *commanipularis*, respectiv *commanipulus* –, care apar într-o varietate de forme vulgare în inscripțiile din Imperiul Roman. În Dacia, termenul este atestat de trei ori (de două ori la Potaissa, o dată la Apulum). Se pare că aici există o preferință pentru utilizarea formei corupte *commanuculus*, pentru care avem analogii doar la Roma. Majoritatea formelor corupte se concentrează în provincia Italia (Roma și câteva regiuni ale Italiei), iar dintre celelalte provincii în care este atestat epigrafic termenul în cauză, doar în trei se înregistrează forme corupte. Una din aceste provincii este Dacia.

The two variants of the same term for the concept of “comrade”, or, more precisely “fellow member of a century” are attested in more provinces of the Roman Empire.<sup>1</sup> In order to create a statistical overview of the topic across the Empire, I referred to the EDCS<sup>2</sup> on-line database from Frankfurt. The search engine of this database has revealed a number of 79 inscriptions in which the noun *commanipularis*, together with its variants, appears: *commaniplaris*,<sup>3</sup> *commapularis*<sup>4</sup> or *commapulus*, *commanupularis*,<sup>5</sup> *conmanicularis*,<sup>6</sup> *conmanipularis*,<sup>7</sup> *commanipulus*,<sup>8</sup> *commaniplus*,<sup>9</sup> *commanuculi*,<sup>10</sup> *comanpulus*,<sup>11</sup> *conmanipulus*,<sup>12</sup> *comanipulus*.<sup>13</sup> The standard form

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<sup>1</sup> Hispania Citerior, Roma, Latium et Campania (Regio I), Umbria (Regio VI), Venetia et Histria (Regio X), Germania Superior, Raetia, Pannonia Superior, Moesia Inferior, Dacia, Mauretania Caesariensis, Aegyptus, Numidia, Syria.

<sup>2</sup> Epigraphik-Datenbank Clauss-Slaby, www.manfredclauss.de (last accessed 15 June 2010), which totals more than 380.000 inscriptions, from more than 1000 publications, and represents almost the total amount of the Latin inscriptions from the Empire.

<sup>3</sup> AÉ 1986, 532 (Raetia).

<sup>4</sup> AÉ, 1988, 169 (Roma).

<sup>5</sup> CIL VI 2543 (Roma): ... *per heredes / Aelium Restitutum / commanupularem* ....

<sup>6</sup> CIL VI 2625 (Roma): *D(is) M(anibus) / Aelius Timoxe/nus millex (!) c(o)ho(r)tis / septim(a)e praeto/r(e)iae centuria / Clyconiana (!) / Balerio (!) Crispo / conmanicula/rio condam (!) mi/liti fecit ve/ne (!) merente (!)*. This inscription is full of vulgarisms: *millex* (=miles), the abbreviated form *cho* (=cohortis), *septime* (=septimae), *paetoriae* (=praetoriae), *Clyconiana* (=Glyconiana), *Balerio* (=Valerio), *conmaniculario* (=commanipulari) (this form represents a mixture between the third declension in *-aris* and the second declension, having the singular dative desinence *-o*), *condam* (=quondam), *vene* (=bene), *merente* (=merenti).

<sup>7</sup> AÉ 1912 186 (Roma): [*co*]nmanipularis (=commanipularis).

<sup>8</sup> CIL III 6577 (Aegyptus, Alexandria): *Genio sancto / legionis et comma/nipulorum bonorum / Q(uintus) Caecilius Kalendi/nus optio posuit*; CIL V 893 (Venetia et Histria (Regio X), Aquileia): *D(is) M(anibus) / Aurel(ius) Dizo millex (!) / leg(ionis) XI Claud(iae) vixit / ann(os) XXVII milit(avit) ann(os) / quinque obitus in / Mauretania bene / merenti cives et / commanipuli de suo / fecerunt*; CIL VI 323 (Roma): *Herculi Invicto / pro salute DD NN ... Aur(elius) Fabianus signifer et / Val(erius) Firminus optio / ... cum commanipulis libentes votum solverunt*; CIL VI 1055 (Roma): *Imp(eratori) ... coh(ors) IIII vigil(um) ... cum commanipulis suis*; CIL VI 2424 (Roma): ... *Claudius Messianu/s commanipulus / et heres / bene merenti fecit*; CIL VI 2553 (Roma): ... *Aurelius Sextianus com/manipulus et heres eius / contubernali rarissimo / posuit*; CIL VI 2567 (Roma): *M(arcus) Ulpius / Titus commanipulus / et beres eius contu/bernali carissimo / posuit*; CIL VI 2602 (Roma): *D(is) M(anibus) / M(arco) Aur(elio) Luciano mil(iti) coh(ortis) VI pr(aetoriae) (centuria) / Alexandri vix(it) ann(os) XXVIII / mil(itavit) ann(os) VI {h}oriundus ex / provincia Dacia C(aius) Virius / Urbicus her(es), com(m)anipulo / b(ene) m(erenti) f(ecit)*; CIL VI 3010 (Roma): *c{e}o(m)manipul(is) suis*; CIL VI 3028 (Roma): *commanipulis suis*; CIL VI 3029, 3033: *commanipulis*; CIL VI 3075 (Roma): *salvis commanipu/los (!)*; CIL VI 3085 (Roma): [*com*]manipulos ...; CIL VI 32668 (Roma), CIL X 1766 (Latium et Campania (Regio I)): *commanipulus*; AÉ 1909, 15 (Numidia): [*comm*]anipulis.

<sup>9</sup> CIL VI 2436 (Roma): *Maximi/nus Florus comma/nip(u)lus eius / b(eres) f(aciendum) c(uravit)*.

<sup>10</sup> CIL VI 1056 (Roma): *Imp(eratori) ... coh(ors) I vig(illum) ... cum commanuculis suis*.

<sup>11</sup> CIL VI 3060 (Roma): *com(m)an(i)pulo*.

<sup>12</sup> CIL VI 32976: *conmanipuli* (=commanipuli), (in the same inscription: *nerenti* (=merenti)).

<sup>13</sup> CIL VI 37213 (Roma): *comanipuli* (=commanipuli).