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CAPInv. 781: Dioserapi(as)tai

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Peloponnese with Adjacent Islands
ii. Region	Messenia
iii. Site	island Prote

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	Διοσεραπι(ας)ταί (IG V.1 1543, ll. 1-2)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>Dioserapi(as)tai</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	ii (?) - iii (?) AD
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Theophoric: <i>Dioserapiastai</i> : The reading is uncertain.
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V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	IG V.1 1543 (II-III AD?)
Online Resources	IG V.1 1543
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek graffito: Euploia inscription (wish for a safe sea voyage)
i.c. Physical format(s)	Graffito on the rock
ii. Source(s) provenance	Inscribed on the rocks of the island Prote, off the Messenian coast, between Kyparissia and Pylos

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	In IG V.1 1543 the reading of the name of the group appears as [φι]<λ>οσεβά[σ]των ([phi]<l>oseba[s]ton), whilst the majuscule of the text shows that the reading is not at all certain. Sandberg (1954: 9 no. 6) suggests Διοσεραπι(ασ)τῶν, <i>Dioserapi(as)ton</i>. This seems more compatible with the majuscule given in IG. Both suggestions, <i>Dioserapi(as)tai</i> and the earlier reading <i>Philosebatoi</i>, display a cultic element. Generally on the sea routes around the Cape Maleas, see Henning 2002.
iii. Bibliography	Henning, D. (2002), 'Die antike Seehandelsroute um Kap Malea', <i>MBAH</i> 20: 23-37. Sandberg, N. (1954), <i>EYIIA OIA. Etudes Epigraphiques</i>. Gothenburg.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association	Possible
Note	The bad preservation of the inscription, which hampers reading with certainty, and the brevity of the text do not allow any certainty about the nature of the group mentioned.