

The Herodotus Encyclopedia

Edited by

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MEGABATES (Gr. Μεγαβάτης, OP **Bagapata*)

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A Persian noble of the Achaemenid clan and cousin of DARIUS I and ARTAPHERNES SON OF HYSTASPES (5.32). His name in Persian means "protected by the gods." Artaphernes assigned Megabates 200 ships with which to attack the island of NAXOS in 500 BCE, in a campaign instigated by ARISTAGORAS (1) of MILETUS. When Megabates attempted to discipline one of the Greek ship captains, Aristagoras rebuked him, claiming that his authority was superior. In retaliation, Megabates warned the Naxians of the impending attack (5.32–33). While some scholars doubt the historicity of this event, Keaveney (1988) places it within the context of hostility and distrust among Persian elites towards influential Greeks. Megabates was the father of Megabazus, a naval commander during XERXES' invasion of Greece (7.97), and of an unnamed daughter whom he may have offered in MARRIAGE to the Spartan commander PAUSANIAS (5.32). It is probably this same Megabates who received payment for a fleet from the PERSEPOLIS treasury during the reign of Darius (Cameron 1948, 95 = PTT 8). He is also likely to be identified with the Megabates whom Thucydides mentions (1.129) as SATRAP of DASCYLEIUM (Schmitt 2012, no. 1).

SEE ALSO: Achaemenids; Ionian Revolt; Megabazus son of Megabates; Naval Warfare; Scylax of Myndus

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MEGABAZUS (Μεγάβαζος, ό) son of Megabates

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Megabazus, son of MEGABATES, was one of the four admirals of the Persian fleet during XERXES' expedition against Greece in 480 BCE (7.97). He might be the same Megabazus sent to SPARTA by King ARTAXERXES I at the time of the Egyptian revolt (460–454 BCE) in order to persuade the Peloponnesians to invade Attica (Thuc. 1.109.2). In the first element of the name, the Old Iranian **Baga-* "god" appears as Greek Μεγα- (cf. μέγας, "big, great").

SEE ALSO: Inaros; Megabazus the Persian; Naval Warfare

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MEGABAZUS (Μεγάβαζος, ό) the Persian

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Persian noble during the reign of DARIUS I. When Darius was returning to ASIA from his