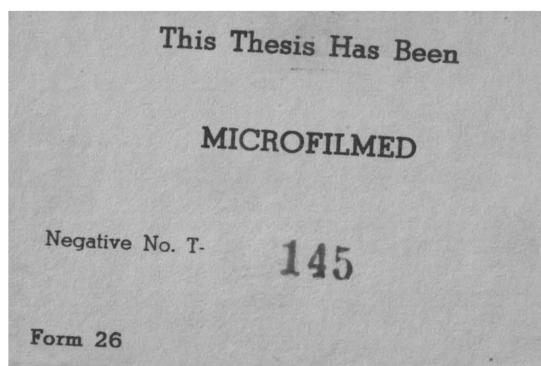
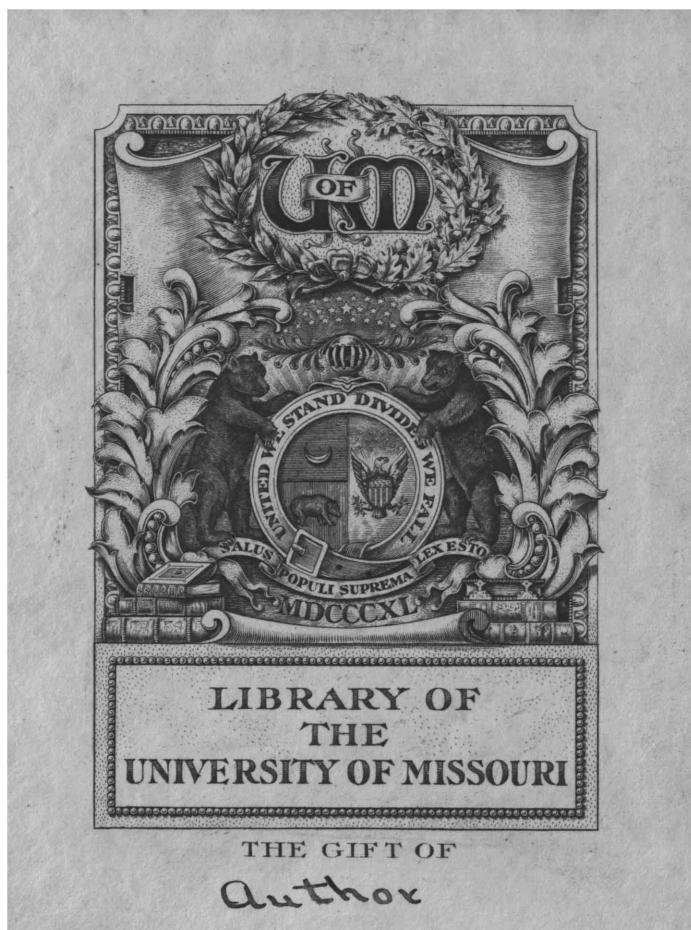


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- SOUND EFFECTS in LUCRETIUS -

A Thesis submitted to the Graduate
Committee of the University of Missouri
in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Arts
by
Laura Alice Boyd.

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- THESIS -

When the Greek philosophers first began to write down the results of their investigations they chose verse as the medium thro' which to present their ideas to the world. This was very natural for poetry was the medium then most in use. But as philosophical thought became more abstract and involved, they could no longer be hampered by the restrictions placed upon the poet and so used prose. Poetry might serve for Xenophanes and Empedocles to set forth their theories of first beginnings but when Plato and Aristotle wished to present their broad teachings, they did not try to express their thought in poetic form but used the more simple and direct prose.

Why then should Lucretius so many years later choose to clothe his thought in the more difficult verse ? His master, Epicurus, had been content with prose, and Epicurus was in most things Lucretius' divine model.

This paper seeks to give a partial answer to this question by showing that Lucretius was interested not only in presenting his thought clearly but in giving it a poetic dress. The man Lucretius had an innate love for assonance, alliteration, and the rhythm of stately verse and so he chose the medium which appealed to him as the most natural way in which to express his teachings. The

difficulties of his task were recognized by the poet for
in I:136-40 (1) he says - -

"nec me animi fallit Graiorum obscura reperta
difficile inlustrare Latinis versibus esse,
multa novis verbis praesertim cum sit agendum
propter egestatem linguae et rerum novitatem"

Again in I:830-4 - -

"Nunc et Anaxagorae scrutemur homoeomerian
quam Grai memorant nec nostra dicere lingua
concedit nobis patrii sermonis egestas,
sed tamen ipsam rem facilest exponere verbis."

The last verse he proves for although he complains that
he has no Latin equivalent for the "homoeomerian of
Anaxagoras, he states the teaching clearly enough - -

In III:258-62 - -

"Nunc ea quo pacto inter sese mixta quibusque
compta modis vigeant rationem reddere aventurem
abstrahit invitum patrii sermonis egestas;
sed tamen, ut potero summatis attingere, tangam."

Whether he is brief or not he explains an intricate
question as clearly as any Greek writer in prose or verse
would be likely to do.

But however much Lucretius realized the difficul-

(1) Bailey's numbering of the verses is used throughout.

ties of his undertaking in two places he shows that he believes he has mastered them --

I:933-4 --

"deinde quod obscura de re tam lucida pango
carmina,musaeo contingens cuncta lepore."

And in IV:8-9 where the words are repeated

In none of the passages mentioned above does Lucretius give us any idea that the matter of versification added to the difficulty of the undertaking.

The metre which was chosen for this poem is the dactylic hexameter. This Lucretian hexameter occupies an important place in the history of Latin verse coming as it does between that of Ennius, who first brought it into prominence and that of Vergil, who carried it to perfection. Lucretius' sense of sound and love of rhythm is shown by some of his innovations.

In Latin and Greek hexameters alike the rhythm depends largely on the caesura. On the observance of this caesura and a great variety in the verse form depends the grace and charm of both Latin and Greek heroics. Very few cases of a violation of this rule can be found in Homer, Lucretius, or Vergil. But Lucretius does not conform to some other usages which are observed with great care by Vergil. For instance, the first two feet are often marked

off from the rest of the verse in the following unusual way - These examples are taken at random from the six books - With two dactyls at the beginning:-

- I:109 - religionibus atque
VI:1272 - omnia denique sancta
II:1151 - vix animalia parva
II:1146 - nec tuditantia rem

With a spondee and a dactyl --

- I:72 - ergo vivida vis
VI:1099 - aut extrinsecus ut
I:778 - at primordia gignundis
IV:1191 - praetermittere et humanis

With a dactyl and a spondee --

- III:251 - Sive voluptas ut
V:1178 - non temere ulla vi

With two spondees --

- II:540 - vis est, quarum nos
III:374 - nam cum multa sunt

The last two classes are not nearly so large as the first two and Munro intro.p 13 (1900) notes that with one exception (III:527) a monosyllable always follows such an order of words. There is however at least one other verse in which a monosyllable does not follow a diaeresis after the second foot when it is a spondee -

III:328 - "haud facile est quin intereat natura quoque eius"

Another peculiarity of the Lucretian verse is his fondness for having the fourth foot one word. In the first few verses of the poem we find several examples of this usage - -

3 - quae mare nавigerum, quae terras frugiferentis

7 - adventumque tuum, tibi suavis daedala tellus

8 - summittit flores, tibi rident aequora ponti

28 - quo magis aeternum da dictis, diva, leporem

29 - effice ut interea fera monera militai

Lucretius makes free use of elision and seems to stand very near Vergil in this respect. Some of the verses where more than one elision takes place are - -

I:171 -

materies ubi inest cuiusque et corpora prima

I:431 -

corpoе seiunctum secretumque esse ab inani

II:169 - tanto opere humanis rationibus admoderate

II:179 -

confirmare aliisque ex rebus reddere multis

II: 982 -

inde alia ex aliis musquam consistere ut ausis

V:451 -

in medio atque imas capiebant omnia sedes

While these elisions are found in all parts of the verse Lucretius seems to have especial fondness for

binding the fourth and fifth feet thus - -

I:827 - permittato ordine solo

II: 954 - minus olate acriter ictu

III:777 - deridiculum esse videtur

Closely connected with the subject of rhythm is the question as to whether Lucretius consciously used rhyme in his poem. In considering the rules which govern rhyme in Latin Wolfflin (1) says that many of the apparent rhymes in Latin are not so at all. For instance, two short syllables (calcaribus and montibus) are not sufficient according to our understanding - but there must be two long or a long (accented) and a short syllable. "Natus" and "gratus" would then be a correct rhyme and "ratus" and "gratus" would be permissible.

Further, since the Latin is an inflected language there must be very many similar forms ; for example, all the verbs of the first, second, and fourth conjugations will rhyme with each other because not only do they have the same ending, re, but they also have the same accent on their vowels. Then adjectives must agree with their nouns so that if such agreement of sound constituted rhyme the school boy who writes his exercises correctly would be a

(1) Archiv fur Lat. Lex. I, page 350

poet. There must be a certain skill exercised in bringing together rhyming words and we must take into consideration aside from the ending and inflectional ending the similarity of a letter or a syllable of the stem.

Lachmann (1) in his commentary says that such verses as III:747 - "quod si immortalis foret et mutare soleret" and V:832-3 - -

"namque aliud putrescit et aevo debile languet porro aliud succrescit et e contemptibus exit". are not really rhyme but rather syntactical parallelism.

If we apply these strict rules to De Rerum Natura we find that there is practically nothing which we may call rhyme and the few examples which are found are probably accidental rather than intended rhymes. These restrictions cut down very materially the number of rhymes in classical Latin, but it may be well for us to consider some of the apparent rhymes that are found in Lucretius - -

First we may note the following examples in which consecutive verses end with the same word - -

I:66-7 -

"primum Graius homo mortalis tollere contra est oculos ausus primusque obsistere contra".

I:393-4 -

"errat; nam vacuum tum fit quod non fuit ante et repletur item vacuum quod constitit ante".

(1)- Lachmann : Commentary, page 182, on III:747.

- I:793-4 - continuo hoc mors est illius quod fuit ante
quapropter quoniam quae paulo diximus ante
II:597-8 - montivago generi possit praebere ferarum
quare magna deum mater materque ferarum
III:429,30 - praestat et a tenui causa magis icta movetur
quippe ubi imaginibus fumi nebulaeque movetur
IV:315-316 - inde ad nos elisa bis advolat, aut etiam quod
circum agitur, cum venit, imago propterea quod

There are a number of consecutive verses which have
verb forms with the same inflectional endings - -

The Imperfect Indicative , cf., -

- I:92,3 - pet^ebat - quibat - V:1441-2 - redibat , pet^ebat X
I:107-The Imperfect Subjunctive - viderent , valerent
I:164-5 tenerent , solerent - I:682-3 tenerent ,
crearent.

The Present Indicative (active) -

- I:279-80 - raptant , propagant - I:642-3 cernunt , possunt
II:419-20 ^{per}cognoscunt.
-cogunt - IV:8,9 - pergo , pango ; 1269-70 -
repugnat , retractat ; 1205-6 - haerent (plu-
perfect subj.), noscent
III:401-2 - linguit , remansit (perf Ind.)

The Present Indicative (passive) -

- I:763-4 - creantur , dissoluntur ; 999-1000 - geruntur
suppeditantur ; IV:744-5 - creantur , feruntur ;
VI:456-7 - gregantur , feruntur ; III:26-27 dispiciantur
(pres. subj) geruntur

The Perfect Indicative -

IV:476-7 - crearit , probarit ; V:708-9 - fulsit ,
vidit ; 822,3 - creavit , fudit

The Infinitive (active) -

II:907-8 - manere , habere ; IV:425-6 - pertemptare ,
creare

The Infinitive (passive) -

I:543-4 - creari , revocari ; IV:364,5 - moveri ,
imitari

The Present Participle -

VI:1161 - coactans , fatigans

In considering the other instances of similar
endings of verses we ~~will~~ ^{shall} examine those found in the
second book as illustrative of the whole poem --

II:42-3 , constabilitas , animatas ; 44,5 - religiones ,
timores ; 99-100 - ictu , conciliatu ; 209-210 - cernis
omnis ; 257-8 potestas , voluntas ; 272-3 ictu , coactu
334-5 formis , figuris ; 381-2 nobis , ignis ;
385-6 figuris , ignis ; 393-4 elementis , plicatis ;
417-8 odores , colores ; 462-3 possis , elementis ;
487-8 omnis , laevis ; 496-7 possis , formis ;
501-2 colore , lepore ; 508-9 deteriores , meliores ;
533-4 illis , remotis ; 601-2 leones , decentes ;
620-1 mentis , furoris ; 654-5 vocamen , orbem ;
680-1 una , dona ; 688-9 ipsis , verbis ;

714-15 caecis , plagis ; 846-7 odorem , liquorem ;
940-1 creatis , convenientis ; 987-8 dictis ,disertis ;
1004-5 omnes , colores ; 1103-4 nocentis , merentis

In most of the above cases the rhyme seems hardly noticeable. More effective are consecutive verses ending in the same sound which is ^{REPEL} ~~expated~~ in some other part of at least one of the verses -

I:132-3 -

et quae res nobis vigilantibus obvia mentis
terrificet morbo affectis somnoque sepultis

II:731-2 -

percipe,ne forte haec albis ex alba rearis
principiis esse ante oculos quae candida cernis

III:981-2 -

ipsa quoque ex aliis,dehinc constare elementis
inde alia ex aliis,nusquam consistere ut ausis

V:455-6 -

omnia enim magis haec e levibus atque rotundis
seminibus multoque minoribus sunt elementis

There are a few instances of rhyme within the lines. I have found only seventy-one (71) examples in the six books. The following will be enough to illustrate --

III:55 -

quo magis in dubiis hominem spectare periclis
61 - iuris et interdum socios scelerum atque ministros

- 124 - noscere ut hinc possis non aequas omnia partis
205-corporibus parvis et levibus atque rotundis
229 - scire licet perquam pauxillis esse creatam
244 - nec magis e parvis et levibus est elementis
577 - tegmine et electis extra vitalibus auris
591 - quam prolapsa foras enaret in aeris auras
829 - adde quod in nigras lithargi mergitur undas
1031 - ac pedibus salsas docent super ire lacunas
1051 - ebrius urgeris multis miser undique curis

An examination of the above examples which we may consider typical of his use in the whole poem, would seem to show that Lucretius did not make use of rhyme as an ornament to his style. The seeming examples found are due to the demands of a highly inflected language rather than to conscious effort on the poet's part.

While this is true of rhyme, a love of assonance is a marked characteristic of Lucretius. He seems to delight in repeating a word or an expression a great many times. For example-

I:617-18

quippe ubi dimidiae partis pars semper habebit
dimidiam partem nec res ^{inicit} praefuit ulla

A still better example of such repetition is found

I:865-874 -

ex alienigenis rebus constare putetur,
ossibus et nervis sanieque ^{et} sanguine mixto

praeterea quaecumque e terra corpora crescent

si sunt in terris, terram constare necessest
ex alienigenis, quae terris exoriuntur.

transfer item, totidem verbis utare licebit.

in lignis si flamma latet fumusque cinisque
ex alienigenis consistant ligna necessest.

praeterea tellus quae corpora cumque alit, auget

ex alienigenis, quae lignis exoriuntur.

In these ten verses the expression "ex alienigenis" occurs four times and each time it is placed first in the verse. The word "terra" in different forms is repeated three times in two consecutive verses while "ligna" is found three time in the last four verses, and "necessest" is twice placed at the end of a verse, and "constare" is used twice in the first four verses.

In Book II:54-59 this method of repetition has been used very cleverly in order to make the notion of fear a more vivid one -

"omnis cum in tenebris praesertim vita laboret
nam veluti pueri trepidant atque omnia caccis
in tenebris metuunt, sic nos in luce timemus
interdum, nilo quae sunt metuenda magis quam
quae pueri in tenebris pavitant finguntque futura
hunc igitur terrorem animi tenebrasque necessest

Each verse of this passage has one or more words in it which express fear either as to its cause or result. The same verses are repeated, ⁽⁵⁵⁻⁵⁹⁾ in III:87-91 while in VI:595-

599 the same idea is expressed in a different way - -

"concutit invitos cogens tremere atque movere
ancipiti trepidant igitur terrore per urbis
tecta superne timent, metuunt inferne cavernas
terra iung dissoluat natura repente"

The impression made by the two sections is very different and no doubt the poet meant that it should be so because the fear described in the first instance is a fear without any real foundation such as children feel in the dark but the second passage describes the terror which comes over men when disaster looms up before them.

In III:177-183 the repetition is that of sound rather than any word. The prefix "per" is used here four times while the "p" sound is often repeated -

"is tibi nunc animus quali sit corpore et unde
constiterit pergam rationem reddere dictis.
principio esse aio persubtilem atque minutis
perquam corporibus factum constare.id ita esse
hinc licet advertas animum ut pernoscere possis
nil adeo fieri celeri ratione videtur,
quam sibi mens fieri proponit et incohata ipsa."

The use of "persubtilem" is unusual and seems to have been done for the sake of the assonance because "subtilissimum" would have been a much more common word to have used. Rhyme is found in the expression "fieri celeri" in next to the last verse.

III:188-9 gives us an example of a chiastic arrangement of words which is effective --

"momine uti parvo possint impulsa moveri
namque movetur aqua et tantillo momine flutat."

Another example of the use of assonance is found in IV:491-5 --

"et quod molle sit et gelidum fervensve sorsum
et sorsum varios rerum sentire colores
et quaecumque colorib' sint coniuncta videre
sorsus item sapor oris habet vim, sorsus odores
nascuntur, sorsum sonitus."

The play here is on the sound of "s" and "^ce" while the words "sorsum" and "colores" are repeated several times.

In VI:527-30 the verses are very closely bound together by carrying the words over into the verse following the one in which they first occur -

"cetera quae sursum crescent sursumque creantur
et quae concrescent in nubibus omnia prorsum
omnia, nix venti grando gelidaeque pruinæ
et vis magna geli, magnum duramen aquarum".

Such repetition would be considered a stylistic fault if found in the works of an English author or writer but this rule does not seem to have affected Latin authors nor were such repetitions monotonous to them.

In IV:475 there is a repetition of the same stem--
"unde sciat quid sit scire et nescire vicissim".

IV:1259 is interesting because it shows the peculiar order of the words by which the poet sought emphasis. The order is not that of a simple chiasmus however but is rather juxtaposition -

"crassane convenient liquidis et liquida crassis".

The prefix "bi" is used for emphasis in V:1299-
1300 --

"quam biiungo curra belli temptare pericla
et biiugos prius est quam bis coniungere binos"

Certain words seem to have had an especial attraction for Lucretius - cf - I:813-816 -

"certis ab rebus, certis aliae atque aliis ^{al} ^{res} res,
nimirum quia multa modis communia multis
multarum rerum in rebus primordia mixta
sunt, ideo variis variae res rebus aluntur". -

where the word "res" is found six times in four verses, and the whole sentence is remarkable for its interlocked arrangement of the words "aliae atque aliae" - "multa" - "multis" "multarum" - "variis variae".

I:893-7 is another illustration of this same usage --

"quorum nil fieri quoniam manifesta docet res

scire licet non esse in rebus res ita mixtas
verum semina multimodis immixta latere
multarum rerum in rebus communia debent.

Here "res" is repeated five times in three verses.

Aside from such examples as this there are a number of single verses where the word "res" is found more than once -

- I:359 - pondere res rebus nilo maiori figura ?
984 - postremo ante oculos res rem ~~seque flamma exenti~~^{linix videtur.}
IV:130 - quaecumque ab rebus rerum simulacra recedunt
225 - usque adeo omnibus ab rebus res quaeque fluenter
V:435 - nec similis nostris rebus res ulla vider^e
VI:931 - usque adeo omnibus ab rebus res quaeque fluent^e

In these examples the juxtaposition of the words is to be noted.

Many examples of the repetition of omnis res are also found - cf -

- I:26 - omni~~s~~ omnibus
172 - ex omnibus omnia
810 - omnis omnibus
876 - omnibus omnis

II:337 - omnibus omnia - This same expression is repeated in II:340- 694 - 734 - 111~~s~~ ; V:233

II:892 - omnibus omnino
IV:708 - omnibus omnes

V:383 - omnis omnibus

Two forms of "alius" recur in thirty-eight (38) different verses - -

alias aliis in I:358-802 ; V:327 alias alii.
aliis alioque - I:822
aliis aliud - II:507-510,1004 ; III:283-965 ; VII:994
alia ex aliis - II:691,982
alid ex alio - III:970 ; V:1305,1456
alias alii - IV:496,1157
~~ex aliis aliae~~ - IV:604 ; VI:521 aliis aliae.
aliis alius - IV:633,684 ; VI:1117
aliis aliis - V:~~1~~:658 ; alia ex alia - VI:~~1~~:821
alias aliud - IV:1039
alios aliis - II:1075
alias alii - IV:1249
alios atque alio - V:303
aliis alia - V:500 ; ex alioque alius - V:829
alias alio - V:1081 ; alia atque alia - V:1096 X
aliam atque aliam - V:1367 ; aliis alias - VI:186,773
alioque alius - VI:915 ; aliis alios - VI:1236
aliis alium - VI:1247

In addition to these verses I have found eighty-two others which have two consecutive words with the same stem. The poet's fondness for similarity of sounds often led him to the repetition of a word altho'it did not add to the meaning of the passage and so is faulty according to our ideals - for example - I:893-4 "docet res" - "scire licet non esse in rebus res ita mixta". Again, I:976 "exempta fine" is used with 978 - "finique locet se" and

979 - "non est a fine profectum". In I:975 we have "effugium paecludit" with 983 - "effugium prolatet". In II:714 "caecis corporibus fugiunt e corpore" and in 1018 "discrepant res; sic ipsis in rebus"

III:364 - Lumina luminibus

379 - corpora in corpore

451 - validis quassatum est viribus aevi corpus et
obtusis ceciderunt viribus artus

VI:718 - Cogentes sursus replent coguntque manere

Many other examples similar to these may be found but these are perhaps enough to illustrate the usage

The figure above all others in which Lucretius seems to have taken delight is alliteration. He shows this even in his use of compound words. Greek always retained the right of forming compounds but Latin soon began to limit this right. Lucretius is among the last of the Latin writers to make free use of this privilege. In VI:129 he uses the word "perterrīcīpus" and Cicero in his Orator (164) quotes the word from an old poet and condemns it for "asperitas" as well as "versutiloquus". It is in regard to his alliterative compounds that we will have to do however, and we find that some of them are ἀπαξ λεγόμενον as "frugiferentis" in I:3. There are a number of other

compounds found as - "fluctifrago" in I:305 ; "fl^oriferis" in III:11 ; "pennipotentum" II:878 , V:789
"circum caesura" IV:647 ; "vulgivagaque" IV:1075 X
"velivolis" V:1442

frondiferas occurs three times - I:18 , 256 ; II:359 (frondiferum)
quandoquidem is used in twenty-two places - cf -

I:296 , 587
II:969 , 980 , 1087 , 1145
III:457 , 471 , 557 , 881
IV: 100 , 166 , 322 , 393 , 1225
V:145 , 582 , 1133
VI:47 , 492 , 958 , 1035

Multimodis is used eleven times -

I:895 ; II:1055-1060 ; III:115 , 588 , 620 , 856 ; IV:
644 , 1155 ; V:1406 ; VI:996

(He shows this even in his use of compound words.)

The sounds of certain letters never seemed to grow tiresome to Lucretius and he repeats them many times.

Not only does he find pleasure in the repetition of a single letter to bring about striking effects but he never seems to weary of combining different letters in effective ways.

Certain combinations of sounds seem to have been especially pleasing to the poet's ear and he never seems to weary of them. Combinations of words where "c" and "q" occur are very numerous -

I:119 - quae clara clueret , 169 - quia certis quaeque

creantur , 177 - quod cumque creatur , 242 - corpore quo-
rum contextum , 320 - quae corpora decadent in tempore
quoque , 356 - qua...corpora quaeque^ī , 381 - corpora quae-
que , 386 - corpora quod , 449 - quae cumque cluent ,
480 - qua constat , 484 - concilio quae constant , 487 -
credere quicquam , 518 - quae corpore constat , 522 -
complerent quaecumque , 575 - quorum condenso , 588 - nec
commutatur quicquam quin omnia constent , 675 - quoniam
certissima corpora quaedam sunt quae conservant , 684 -
sunt quedam corpora quorum concursus , 748 - consistere
quicquam cum....cuiusque cacumen , 751 - quae cernere non
quis , 780 - nequid quod contra.., quominus..queat..quodcum-
que creatur , 798 - quaedam corpora constituas , 818 -
cum quibus et quali...contineantur , 873 - quae corpora
cumque , 909 - cum quibus et quali...contineantur , 998 -
quo quasi confluere , 1020 - quoniam cogi disiecta ,
1043 - conservare...quaecumque est conciliata sudere enim
crebro , 1078 - quicquam consistere quam quavis , 1077 -
quo corpora cum , 1085 - quasi...quae corpore contineantur
II:4 , careas quia cernere suave est , 79 - quasi cursores
140 - quae...cernere quimus , 291 - quasi cogatur , 306-
coorta queat , 424 - contra quaecumque....constat , 486 -
cum...quae in corpore , 541 - quoque uti concedam quam-
libet , 716 - quae neque conecti quoquam , 760 - semina
quaeque cum quibus et quali..contineantur , 859 - cetera

quae cum ita sunt , 936 - nec quicquam commutari sine conciliatu , 1008 - cum quibus et quali...e ntineantur 1016 - cum quibus et quali sint...quaeque locata , 1061 - coluerunt ea quae coniecta , 1151 - creat quae cuncta creavit

III:106 - corpus quod cernitur , 313 - quaedam clementius aequo , 348 - quoniam coniunctast causa salutis coniunctam quoque...consistere , 389 - quaeque corpora quae...culices et cetera , 440 - quippe...corpus quod...quasi constitit.. cum cohibere nequit conquassatum ex aliqua , 747 - crescit cum corpore quoque.

IV:493 - quaecumque coloribus sunt coniuncta , 663 - cognoscere quaeque quippe ubi cui fibris , 714 - in corpore quaedam semina quae cum sunt oculis , 859 - cibum quaevit cuiusque , 1065 - collectum in corpora quaeque , 1118 - cum sibi quid cupiant...contingere quaerunt

V:126 - cum quovis corpore , 778 - cum quasi conivent , 796 - quoniam sunt cuncta creata , 1422 - convertere quisse VI:165 - quam cernant oculi quia semper , 389 - quo cui- quest cumque , 465 - coorta et condensa queant , 846 - quasi concrescit...scilicet ut coeundo , 1110 - quae cum quattuor

Scarcely less frequent are the intermingling of "s" and "c" sounds - -

II:439 - semina confunduntque inter se concita sensum , 448 - acie constant ictus contemnere sueta , 469 - cum

squalida constant , 697 - inter se consistere summa possunt , 72⁷ - solum corpora seiungunt , 853 - concoc-
tosque suo contractans , 1100 - caelique serena concutiat sonitu ,

III:324 - corporis est custos et causa salutis , 392 - sentiscent concussa...lumina corporibus , 508 - cur.. credis

sine corpore , 683 - sanguine cresse si...cavea per se sibi.., solam convenit ut sensu corpus , 731 - sine corpore cum sunt sollicitae , 925 - cum corruptus homo ex somno se colligat , 1049 - somnia cernere cessas sollicitamque

IV:67 - cum sint in summis corpora , 394 - cum permensa suo sunt caelum corporis claro , 510 - sequi contraria quae sint , 539 - si cum summost clamore profusus , 619 - ac siccare coepit , 995 - sequuntur...saepe cervorum simulacra , 1067 - servare sibi curam certumque , 1221 - suo celant in corpore saepe , 1274 - sua causa consuerunt scirta

V:312 - sibi cumque senescere credas , 631 - cum si quis .. cursum , 892 - canibus succinetas seminarinis corporibus Scyllas et cetera.

VI:160 - cum semina...excussere suo concursu , 343 - quae Sint - semina cumque 527. cetera que sursum crescent sursumque creantur et quae concrescunt , 1285 - cum sanguine saepe

There are several cases where the sounds of "p"
and "c" are mingled -

III:871 - putescat corpora posto , V:426 - possent con-
gressa creare propterea , 443 - partes coepere paresque
cum paribus , 525 - per caelum pascentes corpora passim ,
IV:952 - palpebraeque cadunt paplitesque cubanti , VI:73 -
placida cum pace quietes constitues , 645 - cerentes
pavida complebant pectora cura , 1269 - paedore et pannis
cooperta perire corporis

In II:708 we find an interesting combination of "c" and "g" where the pairs of words beginning with "c" are separated by the words which have "g" for their initial letter - "certis certa genetris & creata conservare genus
crescentia".

"c" and "l" are shown in V:779 - convisunt clara
loca candida luce

"c" and "v" are found in V:208 - vitai causa
valido consueta

In IV:282 we find "s" and "g" thus used - sentire
queamus quam speculum. sed ubi speculum quoque sensimus
ipsūm

The union of "p" with other letters seems to have
been another favorite of the poet's

"m" and "p" -

II:109 - multaque praeterea magnum per ; 133 -
prima moventur...per se primordia ; 471 - mixta putas
magis....principiis , 659 - multarum potitur primordia
rerum multa modis multis , 775 - numquam in marmorū

possunt migrare , 1105 - multaque post mundi
IV:43 - post mortem posses , 891 - paulatim moles protrudiatur atque movetur
VI:589 - multae per mare pessum , 1182 - multaque praeterea
mortis

Combinations of "p" and "q" occur --

IV:197 - quasvis penetrare queant res, Et quasi permanare
per , 120 - quid praeterea primordia quaeque , 338 - propterea quia cum proprietor , 522 - quo pacto quisque , 670 -
quae penetrata queunt , VI:169 - quam plaga per

"p" and "s" -

VI:195 - speluncasque velut saxis pendentibus structas
cernere, quas venti cum

VI:1185 - sollicitae porro plenaeque sonoribus

"p" and "l" -

I:14 - pecudes persulant pabula laeta , 291 - cum flumen
procubuere quamlibet in partem , 373 - quia post loca
pisces linquant, quo possint

II:875 - pabula laeta in pecudes , 1032 - praeclara luce ,
1159 - pabula laeta

III:107 - laetamur parte latenti

IV: 208 - pervulgant lumina caelum

Considering the alliteration of single letters in their alphabetical order we find that there is only one case in which the letter "b" is employed. This is in IV:
546 - barbara bombum

C -

There are certain phrases which we find repeated a great number of times. Twenty times the phrase "cum corpore" is found - I:755 - 774 ; III:639 - 667 - 700 - 807 ; IV: 84 - 549 ; V:352 - 364 - 904 ; VI:439 - 631 - 1059 - 1268 Five times another word beginning with "c" follows - I:348 - cum corpore cernas ; III:601 - cum corpore collabefiunt - 759 - cum corpore cunctae - 769 - cum corpore quoque IV:31 - cum corpore compta. In III:838 the expression "cum corporis" is found.

The reason that may account for the very large number of times that this expression occurs is the nature of the theme. In order to treat his subject the poet must use this phrase many times but this is scarcely sufficient to account for all the cases which occur.

Three times "cum" is placed next to "corpus" altho' its grammatical relation is with the verb. III:580 - cum corpus nequeat - IV:44 - cum corpus...dederint ; IV:939 - cum corpus vapulet. Five times "cum corpora" is found - II:391 - 217 ; III:121 ; V:901 ; VI:350

In considering the alliterations throughout the different books the examples are too numerous to be given in their entirety as only some of the more striking have

been enumerated and the number of the others has been merely indicated.

I:177 - cum conflexerant...quod cumque creatur ; 903 - cum conflexerere creant , 521 - contra corpora certa

II:34 - calidae citius decedunt corpore , 104 - corpora constituent et cetera , 120 - concilius et discidiis exercita crebris conicere , 267 - copia concir^e..concita , 322 - candor consistere colli , 323 - cum loca cursu camporum complent^{similares tientes;}, 416 - cum scena croco Cilici , 712 - corpora discedunt conexaque convenientis , 755 - colore cave contigas , 906 - consistere corpore creta , 1030 - caeli clarum...colorum^e

III:106 - corpus quod cernitur , 324 - corporis est custos est causa salutis , 731 - sine corpore cum sunt , 740 - conexae neque consensus contagia , 747 - crescit cum corpore quoque , 794 - constat corpore certum , 845 - qui comptu coniungioque corporis.

IV:52 - cuiusque claret^{cum} ^{secundum partem} , 171 - caeli complesse cavernas , 394 - ^{cum...} caelum corpore claro , 400 - circum cursare columnae 456 - caligine caeca cernere censemus , 647 - circum caesura coeret , 668 - corpora conveniebant...conveniant et cetera , 809 - cernere cooperunt contendere , 851 - cognita causa credier , 1043 - certa cietque continuo , 914 - in culpa cum sis neque cernere possis , 936 - conchis aut callo...cortice tectae.

V:60 - consistere corpore creta , 138 - constat corpore certum , 393 - cernere certant cum semel , 468 - corpore concreto circumdatus , 562 - coniuncta...cum corpore , 595 - compleat et calèdo...cuncta , 654 - cursum convertere cogit , 702 - citius consuerunt confluere , 779 - convi-sunt clara loca candida luce , 784 - circum collis campos-que , 891 - confieri credas Centauros , 1380 - carmina cantu concelebrare , 600 - convenient et sic coniectus... confluit ex uno capite.

VI:95 - capiam cum...coronam , 127 - cava corpore circum , 252 - caeli complesse cavernas , 389 - quo cuiquest cumque 501 - corpus cum sanguine crescit , 644 - cum caeli scintillare , 954 - circum caeli lorica coeret , 1091 - cladem conflare coorta , 1096 - cum casu sunt...coorta , 1188 - croci contacta colore , 1274 - cuncta cadaveribus cælestum

There are in all four hundred and fourteen (414) alliterations of the letter "c" which I have found. Of this number three hundred and seventeen (317) use the letter as an initial twice and the remaining ninety seven (97) have three or more words through which the alliteration runs

D. The alliterations ~~on~~ "d" are not so numerous as those in "c" but we have chosen the following examples --

The phrase "delubra deum" is found six times in the last two books. Three times in V:308 , 1186 ; VI:75 - the

words are in this order and three times ; in VI:951 - 417 -

1272 the order is reversed

I:86 - ductores Danaum delecti , 559 - disturbans
dissoluensque , 1039 - debent dissolui...defecit

II:172 - deducit dux...dia

III:323 - dignam dis degere , 477 - discessit diditus ,
500 - docui divisa...disiectatur...distracto.

IV: "dum diditur" occurs twice in this book , 629 , 955.

V:53 - de divis dare dictis , 82 - didicere deas , 926 -
durius ut decuit ...quod dura , 1320 - deripiebant deplex-
aeque dabant

VI:951 - denique...dissepta domorum , 979 - dicere de -

I have found seventy eight (78) alliterations in "d"
and of this number sixty six (66) use the initial letter
twice and twelve times it is used more often

F. I:725 - ferat flammæ fulgura , 900 - flammai fulserunt
flare , 979 - foras fertur non est a fine profectum
II:58 - finguntque futura , 103 - fera ferri , 254 - fati
foedera , 475 - faveam fluat , 526 - formarum finita ,
590 - frigora fontes , 596 - fluvios frondis , 875 - fluvii
frondes

III:72 - funere fratris , 432 - ferreque fremum , 458 -
fessa fatisci , 586 - fundamenta foras , 754 - falsa fertur
897 - factis florentibus , 943 - finum facis , 983 -
ferat fors . 1006 - fetusque ferunt , 90 - figuntque futu-
ra

IV:69 - fuerint et formai servare figuram , 581 - finitimi
fingunt et faunos , 621 - flexa foramina , 680 - fissa
ferarum , 738 - facta figuris , 889 - facilest factu , 1105
flore fruuntur , 1176 - fugitant furtimque , 1280 <sup>femina
factis</sup> _{fact...}

V:14 - fertur fruges , 187 - flectat fortuna , 110 -
fundere fata , 261 - flumina fontis , 308 - ^fessa fatisci
785 - florida fulserunt , 868 - fungere feras , 945 -
fluvii fontesque , 1053 - facto facilest , 1094 , flammis
fulgere , 1099 - flammai fervidus , 1340 ^{difficiunt} _fera fata ,
1342 - fieret foedumque futurum , 1368 - fructusque feras
VI:213 - faciunt flammae fulgere , 217 - faciunt fulgorem ,
270 - fremitus et fulges ^ffiunt , 681 - flamma foras
vastis dituae fornacibus efflet , 719 - flabra feruntur
flumine

Altogether there are ninety examples that I have found of alliterations of this letter and of this number seventy nine (79) have the letter used twice and three-fold repetitions number eleven

G- I:227 - genus generatim

II:63 - gignant genitasque , 300 - gigni gignentur ,
759 - genus gigmunt

III:3 - Graciae gentis

V:1061 - gaudia gliscunt

VI: ⁵²⁹ grando gelidaeque , 539 - gremio gerere

There were only eight of these alliterations found in the entire work and it is interesting to note that they all consist of only two words

L - I:261 - ludit lacte

II:146 - liquida^s loca , 398 - lactisque liquores

III:453 - ^{dolixat} lingua labat , 687 - leti lege

IV: 347 - luce lacessuntque , 786 - locoque longe

838 - longe linguae , 1165 - loquacula lampad-
dium

V: 12 - clara luce locavit , 14 - liberque liquoris

75 - lacus lucos , 226 - locum lugubri , 299 - loca lux

432 - lumine largo , 575 - ^{luminaque} loca lumine lustrans , 610 -

lampade lucens , 698 - lumine lustrans , 758 - labatur

lumine , 770 - loca luminibus , 950 - lubrica proluvii

larga lavere , 989 - ^{alvia} linquebant lamentis lumina , 1069 -

lingua lambare , 1259 - levique lepore , 1400 - lascivia
laeta , 1437 - luna suo lustrantes lumine

VI:178 - loca lumine , 284 - luminibus lustrans loca ,

900 - ad lumina limum , 1208 - limina leti , 1248 -

lacrimis lassi luctuque.

I found thirty one (31) lines which contain such alliterations and only seven (7) of the number have the letter used more than twice. The word "lumen" is found combined in these alliterations seven times - V:299 - 575 -
693 - 758 - 770 - 1437 ; VI:284

Aside from the above examples "longe longeque"
occurs three times - II:106 - III:69 - ~~IV:690~~ - "lumina
luminibus" occurs ^{one} ~~three~~ times ^{lumen lumen accertivis.} also - III:364 ; ^{lumen lumen accertivis.} IV:189 ;
V:283 - "levor levore" in IV:543 ~~we do not however~~
~~consider these as true alliterations, the figure is~~
~~rather anaphora or gemination~~

M - This letter seems to have been a favorite one with the poet - the expression "multa modis multis" is found in many different combinations - I:341 - multa modis multis 726 - magna modis multis miranda , 759 - modis multis , 814 - multa modis communis multis multarum , 1024 - multa modis multis mutata

II:116 - multa minuta modis multis , 660 - multa modis multis , ^{IV:128 multa modis multis} 165 - multa modis multis , 654 - multa rotunda modis multis mutangula , 725 - multa media multis , 861 - multa modis multis , 1220 - multa modis primordia multis V:187 - multa modis multis primordia rerum , 422 - 792 - multa modis multis

VI:508 - multa modis multis , 788 - multa modis multis multarum semina rerum , 996 - multa modis - nineteen times in all this expression occurs. Scarcely less frequently do we find the words "moenia mundi" - Book I:1094 ; II:1045
¹¹⁴⁸ III:16 ; V:119 - 371 - 1213 ; VI:123

Coming now to the general alliterations in "m" --
they are too numerous to be all given here; ~~but~~ only some
of the most striking can be given -

- I:92 - muta mutu , 201 - magnos manibus divellere montis
multaque , 735 - multis multaque minores
- II:465 - minime mirabile , 582 - memori mandatum menti,
906 - mollia mortali , 538 - milibus e multis vallo munitur
eburne
- III:96 - nilo minus ac manus , 144 - ad numen mentis
momenque movetur , 724 - milia multa animarum , 842 - mari
miscebitur et mare , 888 - morte malumst malis mortisque
926 - multo igitur mortem minus
- IV:343 - mobilior multisque minutior et mage pollens
789 - mollia membra movere mollia mobiliter...mittunt ,
902 - magnum magno molimine navem et mavis , 980 - mollia
membra moventis , 1020 - multi mortem obeunt multi de
montibus , 1159 - miseri mala maxima , 1281 - morigerisque
modis et munde ~~corpore culta~~
- V:41 - per nemora ac montis magnos , 96 - moles et machina
mundi , 97 ^{nec me} nova miraque menti , 479 - membra manere...
moveantur , 795 - merito maternum nomen , 1063 - magna
Molossum mollia , 1193 - murmur magna minarum
- VI:565- metuunt magni naturam credere mundi , 576 - magis
mediis, media ^{intra} imaxima , 589 - moenia magnis motibus , 694 -
magna ex parti mare montis , 777 - multa meant inimica , ^{intra}
1183 - animi mens in magore metuque , 1230 - miserandum



magnopere unam , 1292 - implicitum morbo morti damnatus

I have found altogether one hundred and sixtnine (169) examples of alliteration in "m" , of this number one hundred and sixteen (116) use the initial letter twice and fifty three (53),three or more times.

N - I:41 - nam neque nos , 492 - numero natura , 446 - numero natura , 668 - ad nilum nimirum , 996 - mīcē nimirum II:95 - nimirum nullā , 304 nam neque , 578 ^{nōe nox...} neque noctem 744 - notitiam nullō , 793 ^{nullō..} nigro nata , 851 - naturam nullam... nātūrās.

III:19 - nec rubila nimbis , 20 - neque nix , 23 - natura neque , 39 - nigore neque , 151 - nullā novitate , 241 - natura necessit , 316 - mīcē nequeo , 888 - nec nebula mīcē noctu neque , 830 ^{nīl..} nos neque , 852 - mīcē nil ad nos de ~~...~~ nobis attinet , 858 - mīcē Nos

IV:121 - natura necessumst , 152 - nam neque , 368 - nam nil , 172 - nimborum nocte , 385 - naturam noscere , 537 - nigari noctis , 669 - mīcē non , 1026 - mīnquam nisi

V:24 - Nemeamus enim nobis mīcē magnus , 151 - nil nobis 253 - nebula mībiske , 349 - nos nisi , 564 - nec nimio , 688 - nodus nocturnas , 793 , nam neque , 909 - novitatis nomine , 1447 - nostra nequit nisi

VI:484 - mībis nimbosque , 521 - mībis nimbique , 708 - nam neque , 836 - nixori nequeunt , 1099 - mībīs nebulae- que , 1193 - nares nasi

I have found forty five (45) cases, in all of which number thirty nine (39) use the "n" twice and six (6) have it three or more times.

P - The expression "posse putandum est" occurs in II:700 -
809 ; III:310 ; ^{posse putabat} V:752
III:68^s - potuisse putandemst , V:124 - potius praebere ut
posse putentur , 1178 - posse putabant

The alliterations in "p" are too many to allow of their being given in their entirety.

I:14 - pecudes persulant pabula , 144 - possim praepan-
dere , 200 - non potuit, pedibus qui pontum per vada possent
257 - pecudes pingui per pabula , 338 - procedere possit
principium , 411 - plano possum promittere , 483 - porro
partim primordia rerum partim , 529 - porro penitus pene-
trata , 1114 - pernosces parva perdictus
II:96 - primis per profundum , 285 - praeter plagas et
pondera , 288 - pondus enim prohibit nec plagis , 350 -
posset prolem quod posse , 414 - penetrare putas primordia
460 - pugnare uti possint corpus penetrareque , 559 -
placidi pellacia ponti , 635 - pueri circum puerum pernicio-
643 - praesidioque parent decorique parentibus
III:4 - pedum pono pressis , 662 - partem petere ore
priorum , 710 - periit partita per , 826 - prospicere ut

possemis et ut preffere queamus Proceros passus
IV:183 - principio persaepe - Here the letter "p" is found
within each of the alliterated words. 318 - porro pariter..
pedemque ponere , 826 - prospicere ut possemis et ut
proferre...proceros passus , 894 - per patefacta...penetrat
taque , 940 - perveniant plagae per parva .⁷941...primas
partis...prima

V:5 - pectorē parta...praemia , 18 - poterat sine pāro
pectare , 124 - potius praebere ut posse putentur , 204 -
porro prope partis , 222 - porro puer...projectus , 251 -
principio pars...perusta , 252 - pulsata pedum vi pulver-
is , 256 - praeterea pro parte , 356 - posse per...plaga-
rum , 423 - percita plagis ponderibusque^{533praecepere}...peditemptim
progredientis , 590 - perquam pauxillo posse , 788 - pluma
atque pili primum , 850 - propagando possint procedere ,
856 - potuisse propagando procudere + prolem , 1004 -
poterat placidi pellacia ponti , 1200 - procumbere humili
prostratum et pandere palmas , 1287⁴²X - pondus plumbique
potestas , 1248 - pandere...pinguiset pascua

VI:243 - pecudē prosternere passim , 303 - pariter pene-
trare per , 428 - plerumque petit...plurimaque , 563 -
prodita partum protractae , 1241 poenibat paulo post ,
1264 - protracta...per proque , 1267 - per populi passim
prompta

I have found two hundred and twenty (320) cases
where there are two words in a verse with "p" as their
initial letter ; sixty two times there are more than two,

making in all two hundred and eighty two (282) examples of alliterations in "p".

q - The expression "quo quaeque" occurs in I:158 - 206 - 472 - 482 - 505 - 536 ; IV:1005 ; V:56 - "quos quaeque" is found in I:1023 ; V:421

Different forms of "qui quasi" are numerous -

I:99⁸ - quo quasi , III:498 - qua quasi , 555 - quasi quod
^{50, 187}

IV:35 - quae quasi - lines 50 and 187 repeat the same words - 341 - qui quasi , 950 - quasi quod , VI¹⁴² - qui quasi , 434 - quasi quid , 827 - quasi quendam

I:586 - quid quaeque queant , 701 - quare quisquam , 794 - quapropter quoniam quae

II:37 - qua propter quoniam , 186 - quae quidque , 585 - quic quam quod , 808 - qui quoniam quodam , 1073 - quaeque queat

III:484 - quaecumque queant , 808 - quicquam quod queat
840 - quicquam qui

IV:630 - quicquam quo , 626 - quanto quaeque , 779 -
^{iter quare} quare quod cuique , 962 -- quo quisque

V:545 - quid quaeque queat , 853 - quicquam quod queat ,
586 - quandoquidem quoscumque ,

VI:757 - quadrupedes quoque quo , 1075 - qui non queat usquam

Out of the one hundred and eighteen (118) examples of alliterations found in "q" all but ten have only two words beginning with this letter.

R - The combination of "res" with "redeo" is a common one
I:797 - res redd*it*^{ant} ; II:179 - rebus reddere ; 512 - rebus
reddita , 756 - res red*eat*^{nt}
III:910 -res redit ; V:620 - rebus reddita , 197 - ex
rebus reddere

"Rationem reddere" is another oft recurring phrase
II:763 -987 ; III:178 - 259 ; IV:175 - 512
V:1167 We also have I:~~512~~⁵ - ratio red*idi* ; V:66 - ratio
reddunda ; VI:1000 - ratio red*detur*
I:547 - rebus reparandis , 550 - res reparare , 560 -
reliquo reparari , 748 - rarasque relinquunt ^{ae} ~~res~~ rerum
II:130 - retroque repulsa reverti , 283 - refrenatur
retroque residit , 516 - retroque pari ratione remensumst
III:675 - ⁱⁿretentia rerum , 848 - rursum que redegerit ,
1027 - reges rerum que
IV:295 - recta retrorsum , 310 - retro rursum redit , 322 -
refferri ac resilire ab rebus...reddita , 439 - remorum
recta est et recta , 546 - revorat raucum retro , 865 -
rebus rarescit
V:256 - ripas radentia...rodunt , 277 - retribuat rebus
recreetque , 279 - de rebus et in res recidere , 323 -
recreari cum recipit res , 335 - rerum ratioque repartast ,
1243 - reddere rebus^a, 480 - rebus retractis terra repente
VI:573 - retroque recellit et recipit , 917 - rei rationem
reddere

Eighty six (86) alliterations altogether have been

found in "r" ; of this number sixty nine (69) have the initial letter twice and seventeen (17) have it more often.

S - "Sponte sua" is found in I:214 - 1064 ; II:1059 - 1158 ; IV:28 - 131 - 481 - 736 ; V:79 - 212 - 804 - 872 - 1147
In II:1092 we have "sua per se sponte" - III:33 sponte sua
V:937 - sponte sua satis , 961 - sponte sua sibi ; VI:
1021 - sponte sua sursum

We come now to the alliterations in general --

I:24 - sociam studeo scribendis , 538 - si solida ac sine
1045 - suppleri summa , 1058 - sunt sub...sursum
II:147 - subito soleat sol , 157 - sunt solida primordia
simplicitate , 372 - inter se simile esse , 684 - sorsum
sorsum sapor insinuatur sensibus , 845 - sonitu sterila et
suco

III:145 - sibi solum per se sapit id sibi gaudet , 350 -
superest sequis...sentire , 684 - per se sibi...solam ,
873 - sincerum sonare atque subesse , 883 - sensuque suo
IV:100 - simili specie sunt , 360 - suffugit sensum simul
606 - saepe solet scintilla suos se spargere , 988 - in
somnis sudare....spirareque semper , 1169 - simula Silena
ac saturast

V:63 - sed simulacra solere in somnis , 162 - sollicitare
suis ulla vi ex sedibus , 361 - sicut summarum summa ,
471 - sunt solis...secuta , 482 - succidit et salso

suffudit , 551 - supra qua se sunt , 892 - sanibus succin-
tas semimarinis corporibus Scyllas , 1137 - soliorum et
sceptra superba , 1309 - suis saevos sunt
VI:276 - semina sequi simul , 679 - sint ad summam summai
879 - supra...sita saepe stuppa , 942 - in speluncis saxa
superne sudent , 1018 - sive...sive superne , 1021 -
sponte sua sursum possunt consurgere

The alliterations in "s" that I found number two
hundred and forty four (244). Two hundred and six (206)
have the initial "s" twice and thirty eight (38) have it
three or more times.

T - I:388 - tamen uno tempore totum , 1105 - tonitralia
templa...terraque
II:44 - his tibi tum...timefactae , 618 - tympana tanta
tonant , 745 - tenebris tangimus
III:1 - tenebris tantis tam , 765 - in tenere tenerascere ,
989 - terrai totius
IV:77 - trabesque trementia , 1127 - teriturque thalassima
V:11 - e tantis...tantisque tenebris , 12 - in tam tran-
quillo et tam , 94 - tria talia texta , 805 - tum tibi
terra , 861 - tutelae tradita , 1289 - terrae tractabant
1336 - terrore tumultu , 1850 - textile tegmen . Textile
VI:217 - taetra terrore , 358 - totaque tellus , 587 -
tantum terrarum , 956 - et tempestates terra , 1251 -

temptaret tempore tali , 1280 - totus trepidabat

Ten of the alliterations in "t" have the letter used three times - sixty six have it twice making seventy six examples in all that I found.

V - "Venti vis" is repeated six times - I:271 - venti vis verberat ; VI:281 - 300 - 568 In VI:510 - 592 the order is reversed and we have "vis venti"

I:72 - vivida vis...pervicit , 202 - vivendo vitalia vincere , 271 - venti vis verberat , 589 - variae volucres 838 - visceribus viscus

II:145 - variae volucres....pervolitantes , 558 - vitare velint neve , 964 - viscere viva

III:217 - per venas viscera nerves , 476 - cum vēni vis pen̄travit , 482 - vemens violentia vini , 948 - vivendo vincere , 1090 - vis vivendo

IV:88 - vulgo volitant , 675 - volvat varius , 1071 - vulgiwagaque vagis Venere , 1131 - veste et vietu convivia 1140 - vultuque videt vestigia , 1210 - vim vicit...vi

V:210 - vertentes vomere , 217 - venterum violento... vexant , 266 - validi verrentes...Venti , 736 - ver et Venus et Veneris , 857 - vides vesci vitalibus , 957 - verbera venterum vitare , 964 - vel violenta viri vis , 993 - viva videns vivo^{viscera}, 1112 - valuit viresque vigebant , 997 - vita

privarant vermina saeva , 1058 - pro vario sensu varia
res voce , 1270 - validi...violentis viribus
VI:115 ^{restom.} volantis Verberibus venti versaunt , 137 - validi
vis...venti , 1140 - vastavitque vias exhausit civibus

I have found one hundred and fifty two (152) examples of such alliteration - one hundred and twenty two (122) have the letter twice and thirty have it three or more times

There are a large number of ^{Cases} times where there are two sets of words which have the same initial letters --
P - C -

I:71 - primus partarum claustra cupiret

97 - perfecto posset clare comitari

II:231 - pro ponderibus casus celerare

545 - progigni possit concepta creari

830 - purpura poenicensque color clarissimu?

III:168 - praeterea pariter...cum corpore

255 - partes per caulas corporis

343 - penitus pereunt convulsi conque putrescant

769 - quoque modo poterit pariter cum corpore quoque

Here in addition to the repetition of the "p" and "c" sounds the verse opens and closes with alliterated words
V:1 - pollenti pectore carmen condere pro

S - C -

II:842 - solo spoliata colore corpora

III:808 - sunt solido cum corpore

925 - cum correptus...^{Homo} se colligat

- IV:1067 - servari sibi curam ^{certum.} ~~corpore~~
- V:352 - sunt solido cum corpore
- 714 - consimilem curusque...sub sole
- 947 - claru^r citat...sitientia saecla
- VI:479 - suffunduntque sua caelum caligine
- 590 - substdere suis ...cum civibus

V - C -

- II:766-7 - venti vertitur..canos carenti
- IV:711 - clara consuetum voce vocare
- VI:1019 - corpora continuo...vacuum vicina

M - C -

- II:906 - mollia mortali consistere corpore creta
- IV:1228 - maternoque mares...corpore creti
- 1280 - morigerisque modis et mente corpore culto
- V:65 - mihi mortali consistere corpore mundum
- 1063 - canum cum ..magna Molossum Mollia
- VI:829 - magna mali...copia circum

Q - C -

- III:824 - quam quod...cum corporis
- III:72 - quia quae....corpora cuique
- V:138 - quod quoniam . .quoque constat corpore certum
- VI:857 - qui queat.....crasso corpore

D - C -

- I:384 - duo de concurso corpora

F - C -

III:1005 - 6 circum cum...fetusque ferunt

VI:307 - fervida fit...cursu cum

T - C -

II:618 - tympana tenta tñant...cymbala circum concava.

VI:322 - tepefacta tamen...commixta calore

358 - concutitur caeli... totaque tellus

956 - tempestates terra caeleque coorta

R - C -

VII:1226 - ratio remedi communis certa

M - P -

V:1151 - metus maculat poenarum praemia

VI: 1241 - poenibat paulo post...morte malaque

P - S -

I:808 - solque sua pro parte

IV:115 - sint subtilia percipe paucis

1267 - pectoribus positis, sublati semina

V:869 - sunt..suo sine pabula parta

938 - sponte sua satis...placabat pectora

. P - D -

II:997 - dulcem ducunt..prolemque propagant

IV:1253 - partu possunt ditescere dulci

P - T -

III:305 - torpet telis perfixa pavoris

P - Q -

III:808 - penetrare pati - quicquam quod queat

823 - pulsa prius quam quid - quaamus

I:998 - quo quasi...ponere possunt

1023 - quos quaeque ... pepigere profecto

V:353 - penetrare pati, ^{quicquam} quod queat

421 - quos quaeque....pepigere profecto

P - V -

IV:723 - veniunt veniant...percipe paucis

V:840 - pedum partim...viduata vicissim

V - Q -

II:1119 - vitalis venas quam quod

V - M -

I:728 - multa munita virum vi

V:1173 - membra movere videbantur vocesque

VI:1224 - vitam vis morbida membris

V - R -

IV: 1272 - recta regione viaque Womeris

V - S -

V:804 - sponte sua ^{victum vitamque.} sibi...valere vivere

VI: 541 - volvere vi...summenaque saxa

V - D - V:1321 - deplexaque dabant...vulnere vices

Q - M - III:89 - metuenda magis quam quae

1029 - qui quondam..mare magnum

Q - D - III:815 - quo quasi..discedere dissoluique

V:56 - doceo dicitis,quo quaeque

360 - quo quasi.. discedere dissoluique

Q - R - III:822 - quia quae...ratione recedunt

I: 623 - quod quoniam...ratio reclamat

Q - N - I:432 - quod quasi - numero natura
II:95 - quod quoniam..nimirum nulla

Q - F - II:254 - quoddam quod fati' foedera

S - R - III:910 - somnum si res reddit

S - F - II:526 - formaarum finita - similes sint
V:945 - sedare sitim fluvii fontesque

S - T - II:147 - subit~~s~~ soleat sol - tempore tali
IV:406 - tibi tum supra sol

L - M - I:261 - ludit lacte mero mentis

T - L - V:12 - tam tranquillo et tam - luca locavit

F - L - V:14 - fertur fruges liberque liquoris
V:1400 - floribus et foliis lascivia laeta

L - R - V:299 - loca lux - rupta relinquit

R - B - IV:546 - revorat raucum retro - barbara bombum

M - T - IV:728 - multo magis - tenvia textu

M - D - V:1860 - duro durarent membra manusque

D - F - V:308 - delubra deum - fessa fatisci

D - T - VI:70 - delibata deum - te tibi
241 - disturbare domos - tig~~a~~ tristesque

The above examples whether quoted or indicated prove that alliteration is a marked characteristic of Lucretius' style and that it could not have been purely accidental that so many consecutive words have the same initial letter.

In many cases alliterated expressions are used because they are needed to set forth the thought, thus it is

not strange that we so often find the phrase "cum corpore" since Lucretius is discussing topics in connection with the body. But when he almost always writes "cum corpus" "cum corpora" altho' the words have no grammatical connection it would seem that he chooses this order of words because the repetition of the sound C pleases him.

We know what free use the earlier writers made of assonance in any form and Lucretius seems to stand near them in this just as he does in the occasional use of archaic words and forms. A striking effect is often produced by alliteration, for example, the comic element is heightened by its use in ^{Plautus'} Capt. 903-5 -

"quanta pernis pestis veniet, quanta labes larido
quanta sumini apsemedo, quanta callo calamitas
quanta laniis lassitudo -"

It is no less striving after effect that causes Vergil in his description of Aeolus' home and the storm in Aeneid I to write (251) "feta furentibus" - 55 - "magno cum murmure montis" - 56 - "circum claustra" - 61 - "metuens, molemque et montes" - 81 - "cavum conversa cuspide" - 82 - "venti velut" - 83 - "terrás turbine" -

In these examples alliteration has its logical place whether it is to bring about a comical effect as in the Plautus example or to describe more vividly the workings of nature as in Aeneid I:50 ff. But what place has it in didactic poetry ?

It may be a question whether alliteration as found

in Lucretius is a fault or virtue, but it seems certain that its frequent use may be traced to two causes - one is the influence of the older writers. It matters not whether Lucretius was conscious or unconscious of this influence he yielded to it just as in his use of archaic words and forms. The other reason that may be ascribed to him is the desire to clothe his thoughts in striking dress in order that they may the more readily gain the attention and be remembered.

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