This poem comes to us by way of Athanaeus’ *Deipnosophistae*, where he has a guest say, “καὶ ὁ Ρηγίνος δὲ Ἰβυκός ὑπὸ καὶ κέκρατεν,” *and the Regian, Ibycus, shouts and cries...* It might be a complete poem.

Ibycus was a choral poet, and used the choral dialect mix of Doric, Aeolic and Epic, but different editors seem conflicted about how Doric this poem should be. I have followed Tortorelli very closely on both meter and text, with some reference to Page.

Notice that lines 4–6 are simply an extended run of dactyls, ending with the ibycean pattern of the first three, −○○−.

In the full 12 lines of the poem there are only two finite verbs, one in the final line of each strophe. The rest of the work is handled by participles.


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ἡρί μὲν οἳ τε Κυδώνιαι
μηλίδες ἀρδόμεναι ῥοάν
3 ἐκ ποταμῶν, ἵνα Παρθένον
κήπος ἀκήρατος, οἳ τ’ οἰνανθίδες
αὐξόμεναι σκιεροῦσιν ὄψι’ ἐρεσίν
6 οἰναρέος τε θαλέσθων εἵμοι δ’ ἐρος
οὐδεμίαν κατάκοιτος ὁ-
ραν ἧθ’ ὑπὸ στεροπᾶς φλέγων
9 Ὑφηκικός Βορέας ὀίς-
σων παρὰ Κύπριδος ἀζαλέσσις μονι-
αισίν ἐρεμίνος ἀθαμβής ἐγκρατε-
12 ως πεδοθεν φλάσει ἠμετέρας φρένας.

5 ἀθ’ ὑπὸ τε ὑπὸ
Page, Tortorelli.

1 ἐὰν τό spring; ἥρι dat. in spring. μὲν contrasts with 1.6 ἐμοί δ’ ἐρος. τε ... τε both ... and; the second element is in 1.4, αἳ τ’ οἰνανθίδες, and the verb for both in 1.6, θαλέσθων. Κυδώνιος a ov Cydonian, from the Cretan city Cydon.

2 μηλίς ίδος ἡ apple, but “Cydonian apple” is quince, a fruit with erotic associations. ἀρδόω water, irrigate; passive be watered; drink. ῥοῆ ἡ flow, stream; river; ῥοάν = ῥο’ωμεγαγιρι; partitive genitive representing source for ἀρδόμεναι.

3 ποταμός ὁ river. ἵνα where. Supply ἐστί. παρθένος ἡ maiden, virgin; young woman. It’s not clear who The Maidens are. Some think nymphs, but probably the Muses — nymphs are not famously virginal.

4 κήπος ὁ garden, orchard. ἀκήρατος οὐ undefiled, untouched, pure. οἰνανθίς ίδος ἡ = οἰνάνθη bloom or inflorescence of grape vine; vine.

5 ἀυξῶ make grow, increase pass. grow. σκιερός ἂν giving shade; in the shade; shady. ὑπό under. ἐρνός εος τό sprout, shoot; offspring.

6 οἰνάρεος a ov of vine leaves. θαλέσθω bloom, grow; -οισι = -ουσι, Aeolic present 3.pl.act. ἐμοί here dat. of interest, for me. ἐρος ὁ love, desire.

7 οὐδείς no (one); οὐδεμίαν fem.acc. agreeing with οὐδαν. κατάκοιτος ov in bed; quiet. Supply ἐστί. ὥρα ἡ time; season; the acc. indicating time, in no season.

8 ἅτε as if, just as. στεροπῆ ἡ lightening flash; flash of light; στεροπᾶς = στεροπῆς. φλέγω set on fire; torment; flame, burn.

9 ᾽Θρηκίος Thracian. Βορέας ὁ Boreas, the north wind. ἀίσσω rush.

10 παρά + gen. from (the side of). Κύπρις ίδος ἡ The Cyprian, Aphrodite. ἀζαλέος a ov dry; drying, parching. μανία ἡ madness, frenzy, dat. of manner.

11 ἐρεμνός ἂν murky, dark. ἀθαμβής ἂς fearless. ἐγκρατής ἂς powerful; -έως adv. by force, forcefully.

12 πέδων τό ground, earth; πέδοθεν, with Epic suffix, from the ground, from the root; from the beginning. φλάσω crush. ἤμετέρας = ἐμάς, my. φρήν φρενός ἡ diaphragm but usually heart, soul, often in plural.