

**Abstract:** The extant ancient Greek treatises on music show very striking similarities regarding the explanation of music theory, although they span a time period of seven centuries. The aim of this thesis is to prove that these similarities were not caused by the missing development of music, but rather by the habit of ancient musicologists, who seem to have preferred the information contained in their sources, however old they were, to the description of real musical practice. In this respect Aristides Quintilianus, an author of the 3rd century AD, who wrote three books *On music*, was not different. This thesis includes an explanation of the development of music as it is depicted by contemporary non-musicological writers and notational diagrams, then presents the work of Aristides Quintilianus *per se* as well as in the context of the other ancient Greek musicological research. There is also a translation and a commentary on Aristides's first book, where the musical changes should be present. Finally, by a comparison of some parallel passages found in Aristides's first book and in the rest of the extant musicological treatises, Aristides's sources are exposed.