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*Final title:*

Beginning reading Pausanias' *Periegesis*. The *Periegesis* and other works of geographical description.

*Final abstract:*

The genre of the *Periegesis* is problematic, irrespective of whether it is brought into a generic category together with other works or is assumed to be *sui generis*. This paper argues that temporarily abandoning the scholarly habit of reading texts synoptically rather than subjecting oneself to one of the most fundamental characteristics of any text, viz. its linearity, may bring new light to the problem of the genre of the *Periegesis*. At the very beginning of the *Periegesis* there are strong generic signals pointing to definite generic affiliations. Though slightly modified later, these generic ties established at an early stage continue to play an active part in the structuring of the text.