

# Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers

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## Hypsicles of Alexandria

Flourished Alexandria, (Egypt), 150 BCE

Hypsicles was a mathematician and astronomer, active in Alexandria in the first part of the second century BCE. His book *On Rising Times* used a Babylonian arithmetic scheme to calculate the rising times for zodiac signs, adapted to the latitude of Alexandria. This work was the first in Greek to use sexagesimal arithmetic and to divide the ecliptic into 360° of arc. Hypsicles also wrote the so-called *Fourteenth Book of Euclid's Elements*, which dealt with the icosahedron and the dodecahedron.

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### Selected References

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