The diphthong /ɔu/ became /oː/ and then /uː/ by the third century BC (see pp. 39–40). On the use of <o> in place of <u> in *poplicos* > pūlicus and words derived from it, see Chapter 17. It is possible that *iodicauerunt* (Kropp 11.1.1/26) in a curse tablet from Carthage, in the second century AD, for iūdicāuērunt < *ioudik*- is an old-fashioned spelling representing the mid-point of the change (at any rate, no other explanation springs to mind). Since we have long /uː/ in the first syllable, this spelling cannot be explained by confusion of /ɔː/ and /u/. At least in legal texts, derivatives of iūs were particularly favoured for this (Decorte 2015: 160–2), although use of <o> for /uː/ rather than <ou> was never common, even in the archaic period.