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John A Fossa* (fosfun@digicom.br), UFRN - Natal, Brazil. *Getting an Angle on the Stars in Ancient Babylon.*

The Babylonian tablet known as Plimpton 322 is generally regarded as recording Pythagorean Triples as well as the cosecant of one of the angles in the corresponding triangles. The criteria of selection and disposition of the triangles on the list will be explained. The column interpreted as the cosecants will be reinterpreted as similarity constants in the calibration of a simple instrument for measuring the position of stars. Finally, it is conjectured that the tablet originally contained a column, now lost due to damage, recording this calibration. (Received September 07, 2000)