

TRACING THE TAXONOMIC JOURNEY OF OSTRACODS: FROM LINNAEUS TO LATREILLE, THROUGH MICHELI-TARGIONI TOZZETTI'S COLLECTIONS

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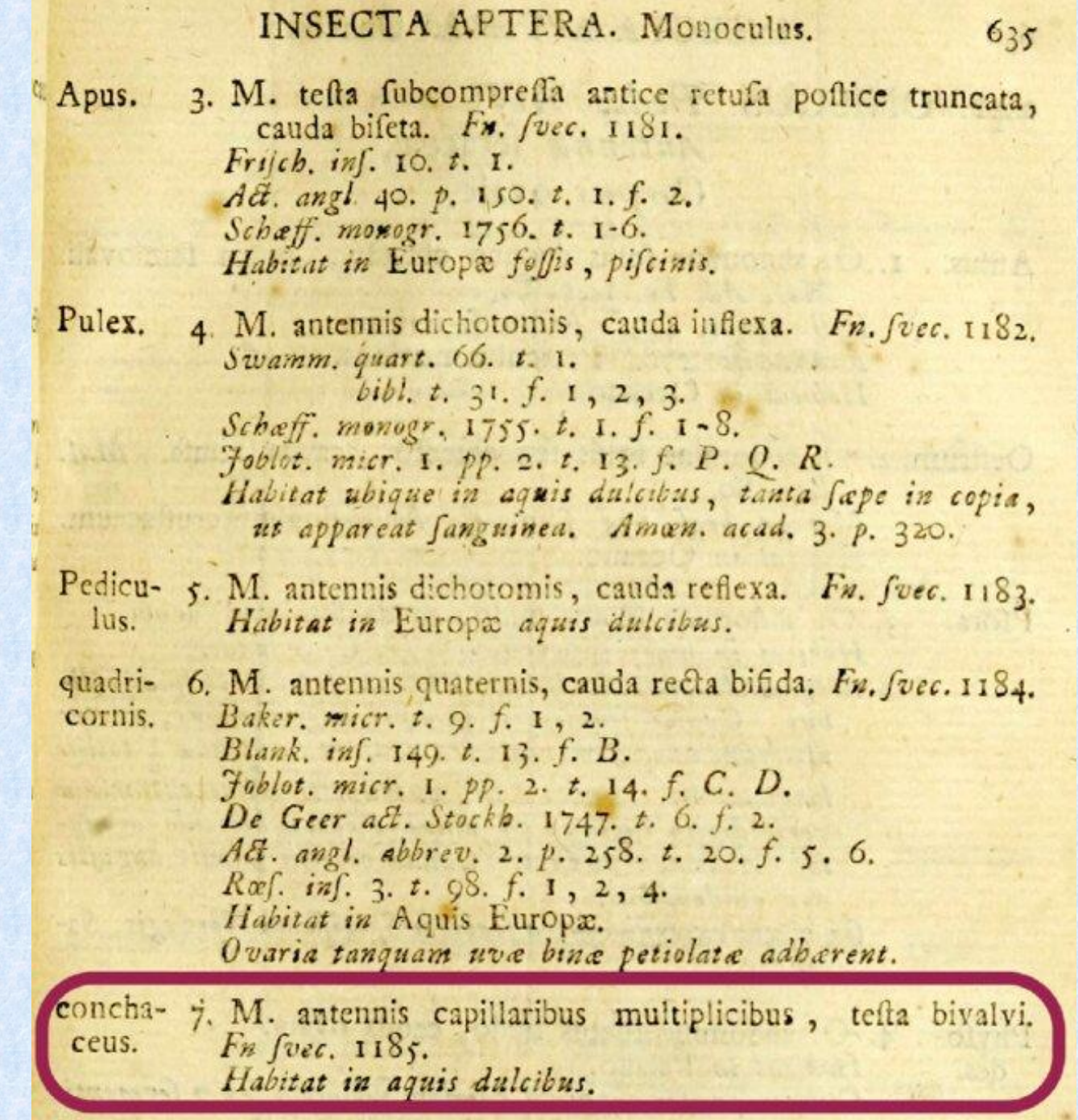
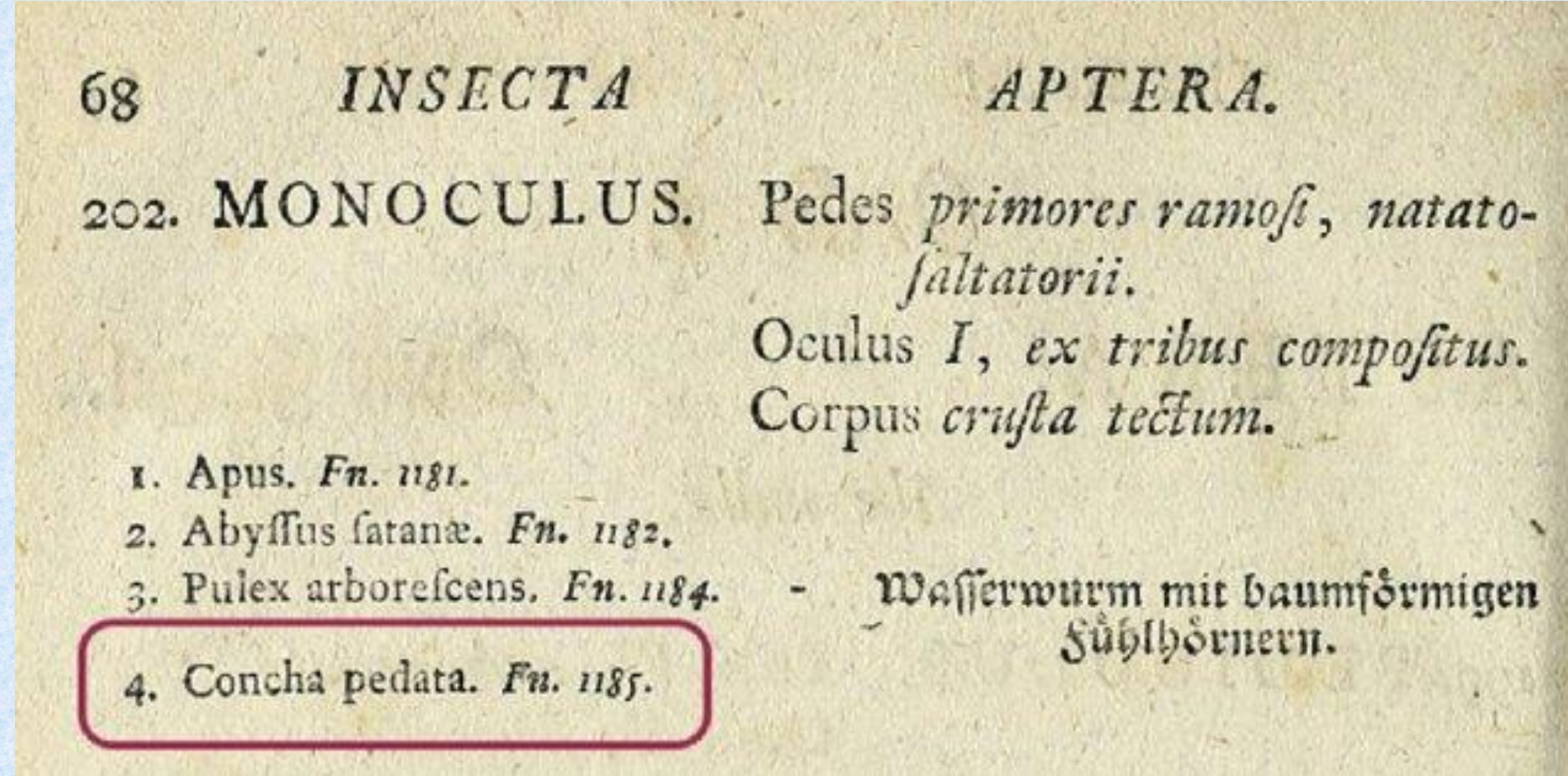
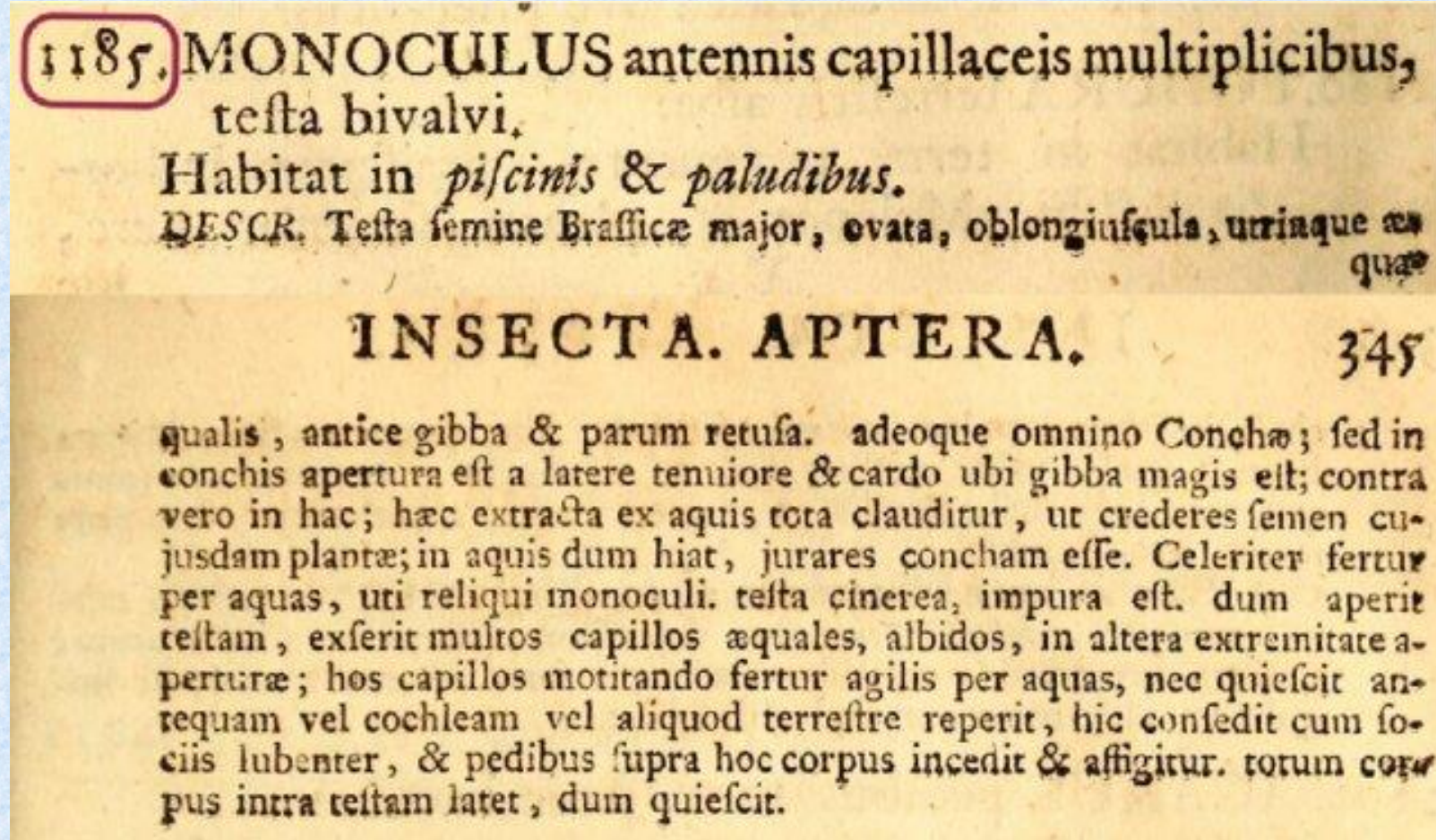
In 1746, Carl Linnaeus described the ostracod genus under the name *Monoculus*, considering it as an apterous insect in his work *Fauna Svecica*. In *Systema Naturae*, he called the first ostracod *Monoculus* as *Concha pedata*, describing it as an «aquatic worm with tree-horned antennae». Linnaeus later referred to the same species as *Monoculus conchaceus*, demonstrating a developing understanding of these organisms. Müller renamed Linnaeus's *Monoculus conchaceus* as *Cypris pubera*. This change indicated a shift from Linnaeus's broader category of *Monoculus* to a more refined classification under *Cypris*, signifying an early step towards the modern classification of ostracods. Latreille formally established the Subclass Ostracoda. This was a significant step, as it provided a clear taxonomic rank for these organisms, distinct from the categories previously used.

Linnaeus

1746

1748

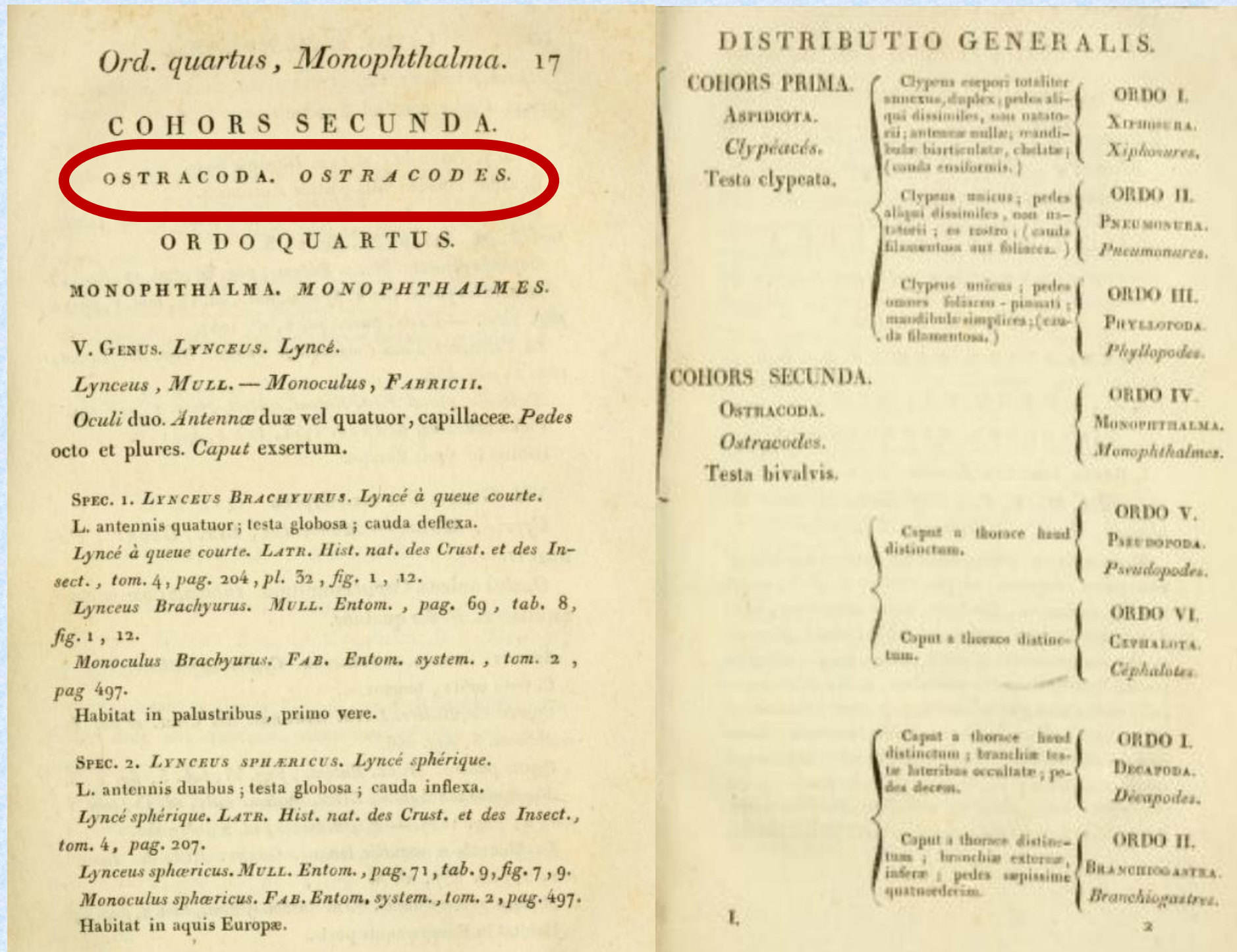
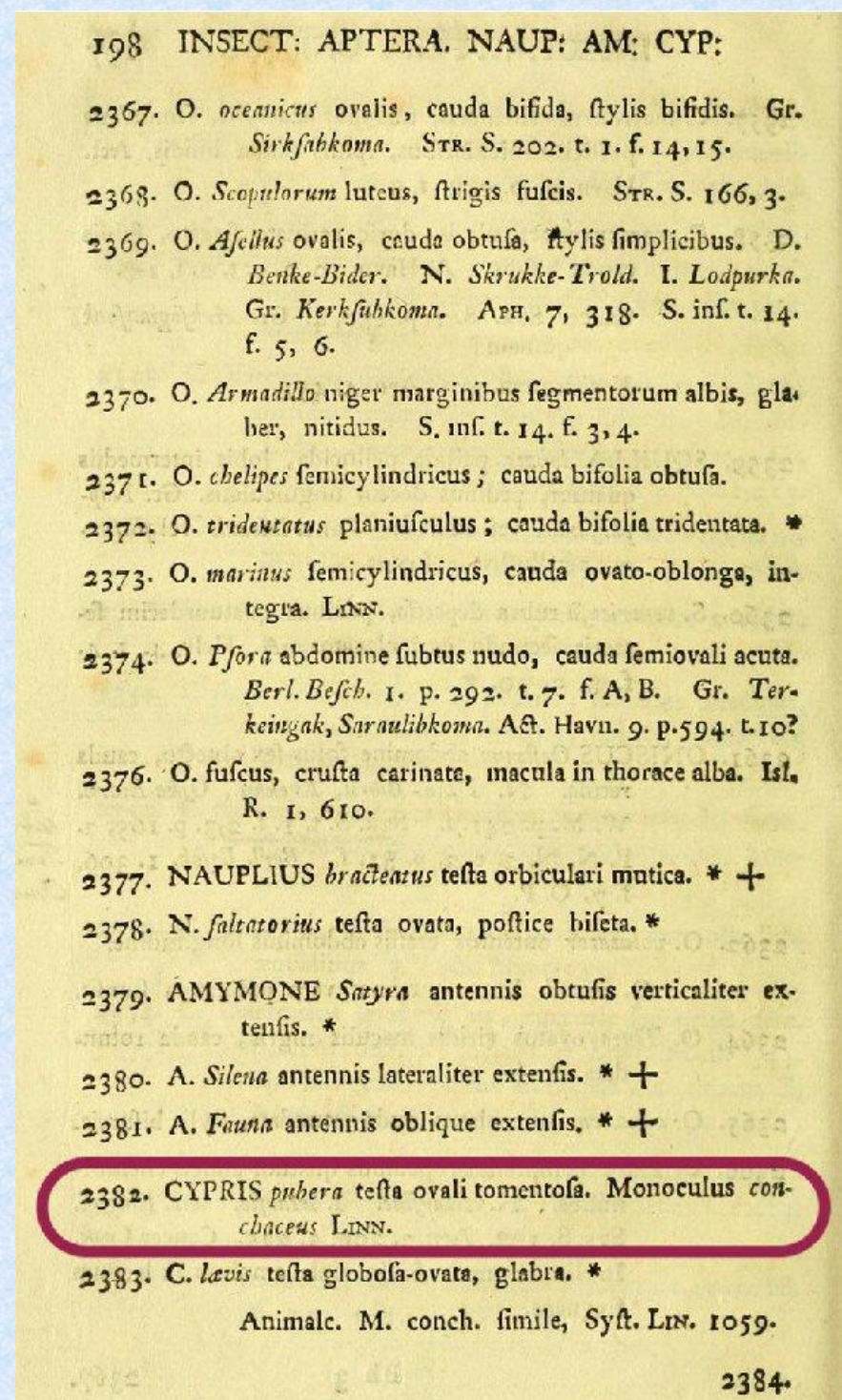
1758



During the period from Linnaeus to Latreille, scientific collections would have likely shown variability in classification, reflecting the evolving understanding of these organisms. Scientists often used a combination of established taxonomy and personal observations or regional conventions. The precise adherence to Linnaeus or deviation from it would have varied based on individual scientists' perspectives, regional scientific communities, and the availability of Latreille's work.

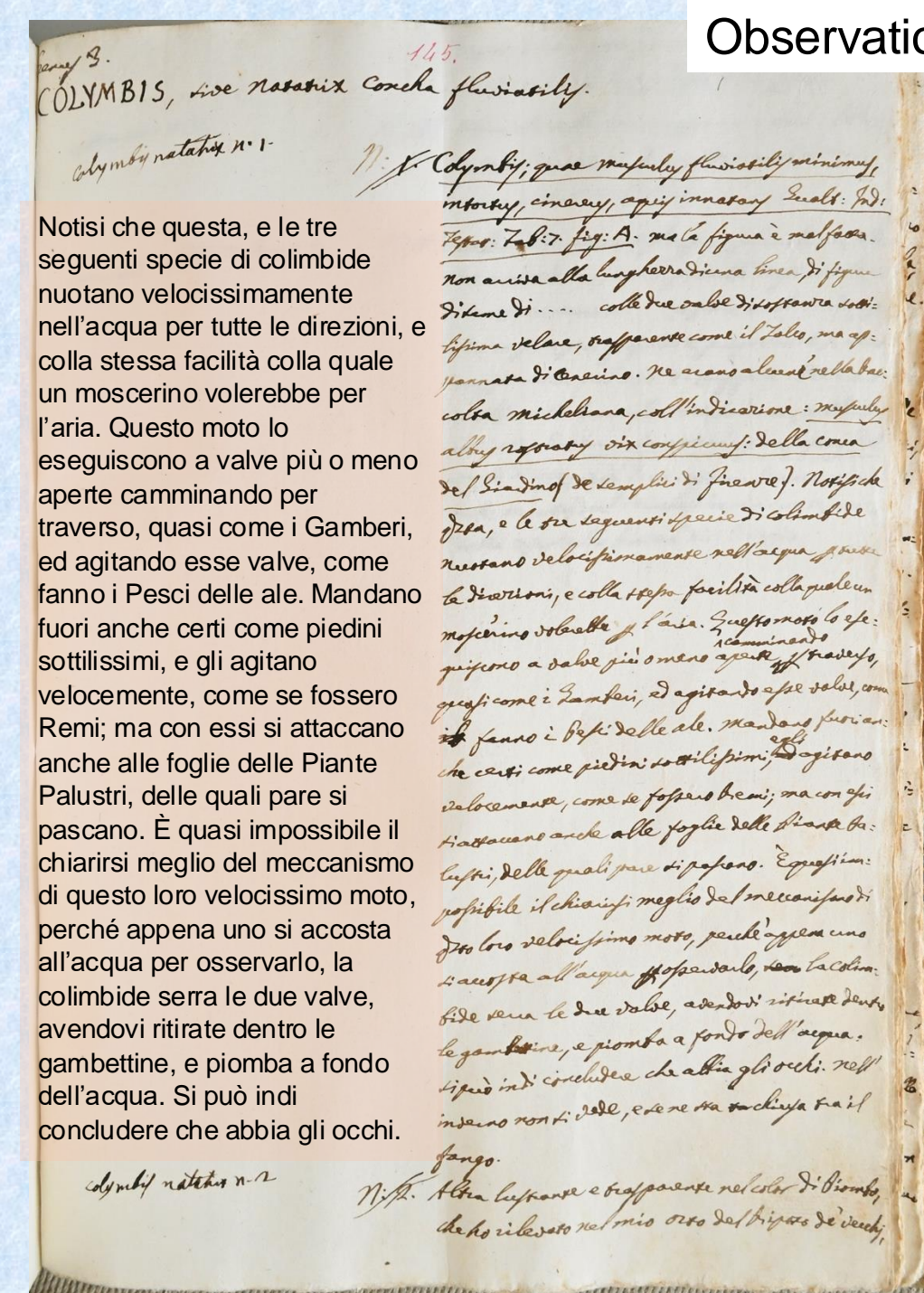
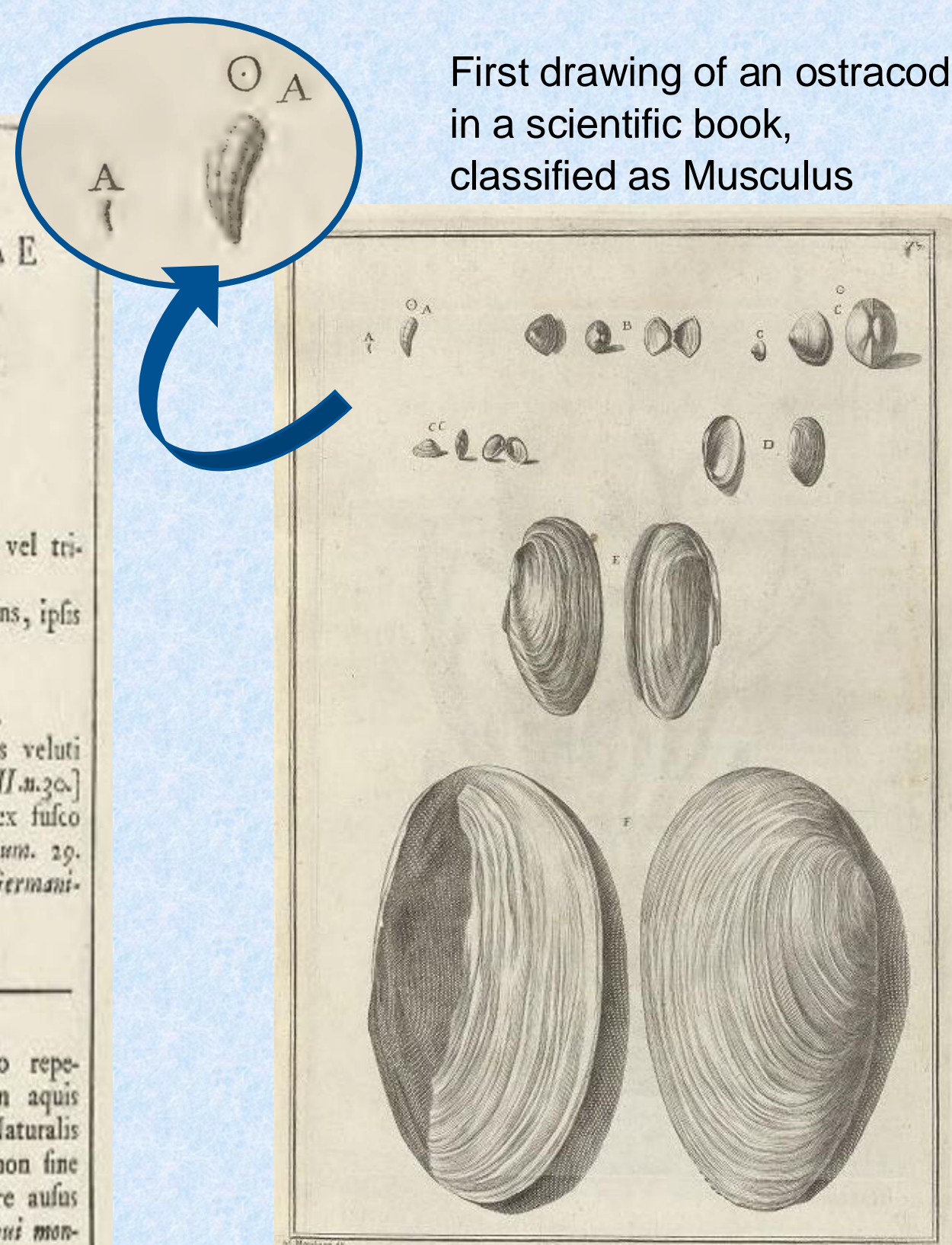
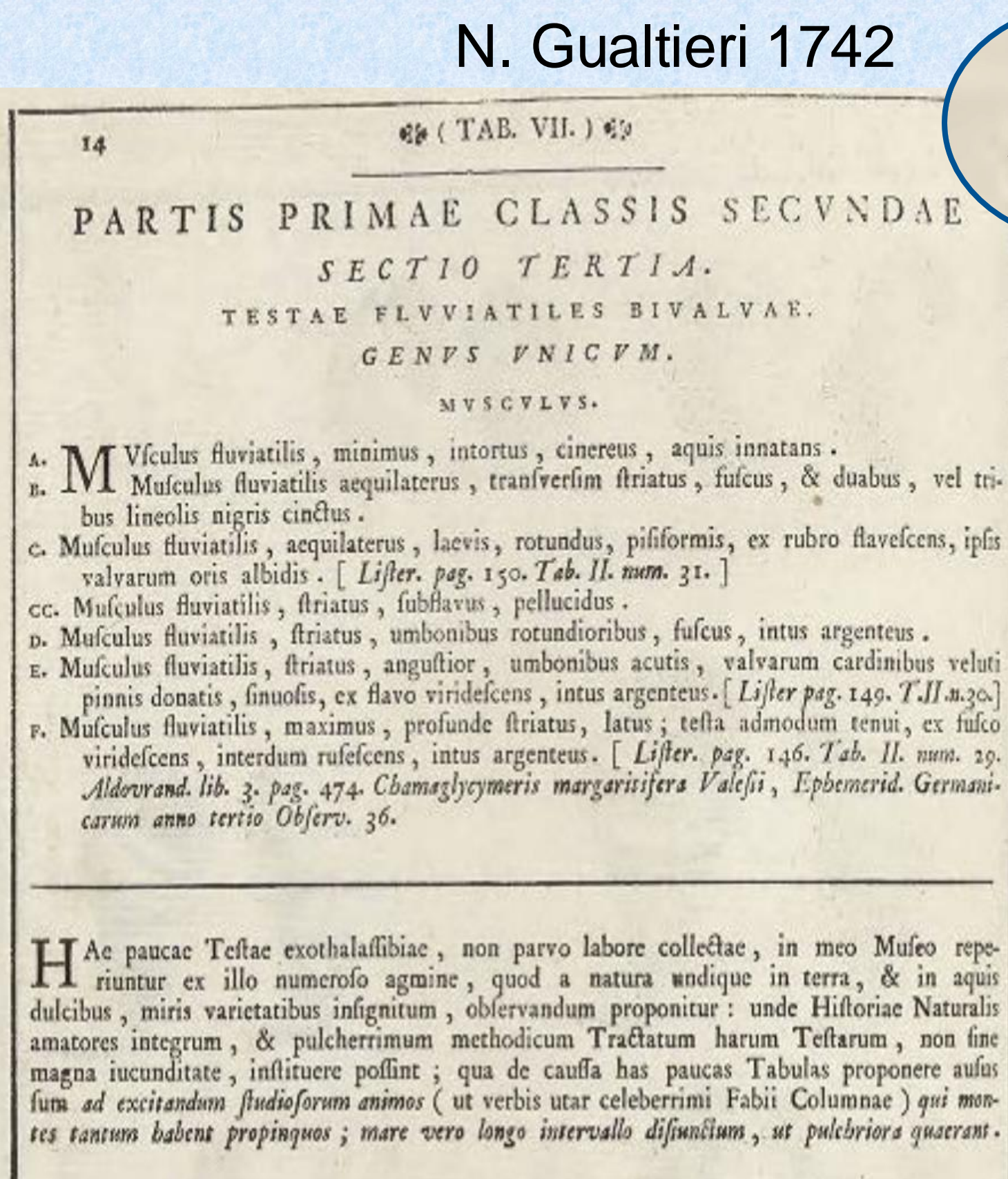
O.F. Müller 1776

P. A. Latreille 1806



The cultural atmosphere of Florence in the 1700s was a rich tapestry of artistic, scientific, and intellectual activity, reflecting both the enduring legacy of the Renaissance and the influences of the Enlightenment. Building on the foundations laid by Galilei and other Renaissance scientists, the 1700s in Florence saw continued interest in scientific exploration and discovery. It was in this context that Pier Antonio Micheli created fundamental botanical collections - he is recognized as the father of mycology - but he also collected minerals and animal specimens. Niccolò Gualtieri, physician of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, published the *Index Testarum Conchyliorum*, illustrated with 100 engravings. The importance of this collection is evidenced by the fact that it was studied by Linnaeus, who used many of these shells as "type" specimens in the 10th edition of his *Systema Naturae*. Giovanni Targioni Tozzetti was a friend of Gualtieri and Micheli's natural pupil and upon his death bought his collection. The ostracod specimens preserved at the MZUF are the oldest known, and Targioni Tozzetti's nomenclature (*Colymbis*) and observations are of great interest when it was still unclear where to place these organisms in the Animal Kingdom.

P. Micheli (1679-1737) - G. Targioni Tozzetti (1712-1783)



DI CAMUGLIANO 111
 se per abbrancare il cibo, e molti di quei Delinnetti da quali starfallano le Zanare. La più particolare specie d'Insetto che vi trovisi, e che ho osservato anche in molte altre acque simili, sono certe Teste, o Muscoli d'acqua dolce minutissimi, immotatoleché quattro di essi appena uguagliano la mole d'un granello di Sale. Hanno il guscio di due pezzi testacei, o vogliamo dire lapidei, non già membranosi, articolati come negli altri Muscoli, di color rossiccio lucente, i quali osservati col Microscopio, appaiono simili a' semi di Fagioli Romani. Il loro di tali minutissimi viventi è mirabile; poiché a guscio aperto muoiono volentieri per tutti i versi, e quando vedono avvicinarsi loro qualche corpo, del quale temono, ferrano i gusci, e piombano al fondo. Questo è un esempio singolare ne' Testacei; anzi di tal genere, non è stata descritta altra specie, per quel che fin a mia notizia, che una dal Dottor Niccolò Gualtieri, il quale nel bellissimo Catalogo de' Testacei del suo Museo la chiama: *Musculus fluviatilis minimus, intortus cinereus, aquis innatans*. T. 7. A. Ambedue queste specie di *Muscolo palestre* si trovano in altre acque stagnanti, e anche vicino a Firenze, ed io ne conservava la razza in un vaso del Giardino de' Semplici, dove si coltivano diverse Piante acquatiche. E' credibile, che questi Animalietti, per eseguire il loro veloce nuoto, facciano giocare le due valve, in quella guisa che i Pesci fanno delle loro Pinne, e oltre di ciò abbiano dentro di loro qualche veltica con aria: ma per quanto diligente io abbia stato per osservare col Microscopio la loro struttura, non mi è riuscito giammai, perchè subito che uno fe gli accolta, essi ferrano il guscio. Soamente ho potuto ve.



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Today, the class Ostracoda includes many genera and species, categorized primarily based on the shell morphology, appendage structure, and genetic data. This shows a refined understanding that continues to evolve as more information becomes available.

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