

TRACING THE TAXONOMIC JOURNEY OF OSTRACODS: 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.



1746

1185. MONOCULUS antennis capillaceis multiplicibus,
testa bivalvi.
Habitat in *piscinis & paludibus.*
DESCR. Testa semine Brassicæ major, evata, oblongiuscula, utrinque æqua-

INSECTA. APTERA.

345

qualis, antice gibba & parum retusa. adeoque omnino Conchæ; sed in conchis apertura est a latere tenuiore & cardo ubi gibba magis est; contra vero in hac; hæc extraëta ex aquis tota clauditur, ut crederes semen cuiusdam plantæ; in aquis dum hiat, jurares concham esse. Celeriter fertur per aquas, uti reliqui inonoculi. testa cinerea, impura est. dum aperit testam, exserit multos capillos æquales, albidos, in altera extremitate aperituræ; hos capillos motitando fertur agilis per aquas, nec quiescit antequam vel cochleam vel aliquod terrestre reperit, hic consedit cum sociis lubenter, & pedibus supra hoc corpus incedit & affigitur. totum corpus intra testam latet, dum quiescit.

1748

68

INSECTA

APTERA.

202. MONOCULUS. Pedes primores ramosi, natatorii.

Oculus I, ex tribus compositus.

Corpus crusta tectum.

1. Apus. Fn. 1181.

2. Abyssus satanæ. Fn. 1182.

3. Pulex arborescens. Fn. 1184.

4. Concha pedata. Fn. 1185.

- Wasserwurm mit baumförmigen
Sühlhörnern.

INSECTA APTERA. Monoculus. 635

Apus. 3. M. testa subcompressa antice retusa poslice truncata, cauda bifeta. *Fn. svec.* 1181.
Frisch. inf. 10. t. 1.
Aet. angl. 40. p. 150. t. 1. f. 2.
Schäff. monogr. 1756. t. 1-6.
Habitat in Europæ fossis, piscinis.

Pulex. 4. M. antennis dichotomis, cauda inflexa. *Fn. svec.* 1182.
Swamm. quart. 66. t. 1.
bibl. t. 31. f. 1, 2, 3.
Schäff. monogr. 1755. t. 1. f. 1-8.
Joblot. micr. 1. pp. 2. t. 13. f. P. Q. R.
Habitat ubique in aquis dulcibus, tanta saepe in copia, ut appareat sanguinea. *Amæn. acad.* 3. p. 320.

Pediculus. 5. M. antennis dichotomis, cauda reflexa. *Fn. svec.* 1183.
Habitat in Europæ aquis dulcibus.

quadricornis. 6. M. antennis quaternis, cauda recta bifida. *Fn. svec.* 1184.
Baker. micr. t. 9. f. 1, 2.
Blank. inf. 149. t. 13. f. B.
Joblot. micr. 1. pp. 2. t. 14. f. C. D.
De Geer act. Stockb. 1747. t. 6. f. 2.
Aet. angl. abbrev. 2. p. 258. t. 20. f. 5. 6.
Rox. inf. 3. t. 98. f. 1, 2, 4.
Habitat in Aquis Europæ.
Ovaria tanquam uvae binæ petiolatae adhaerent.

concha- 7. M. antennis capillaribus multiplicibus, testa bivalvi.
ceus. *Fn svec.* 1185.
Habitat in aquis dulcibus.

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.

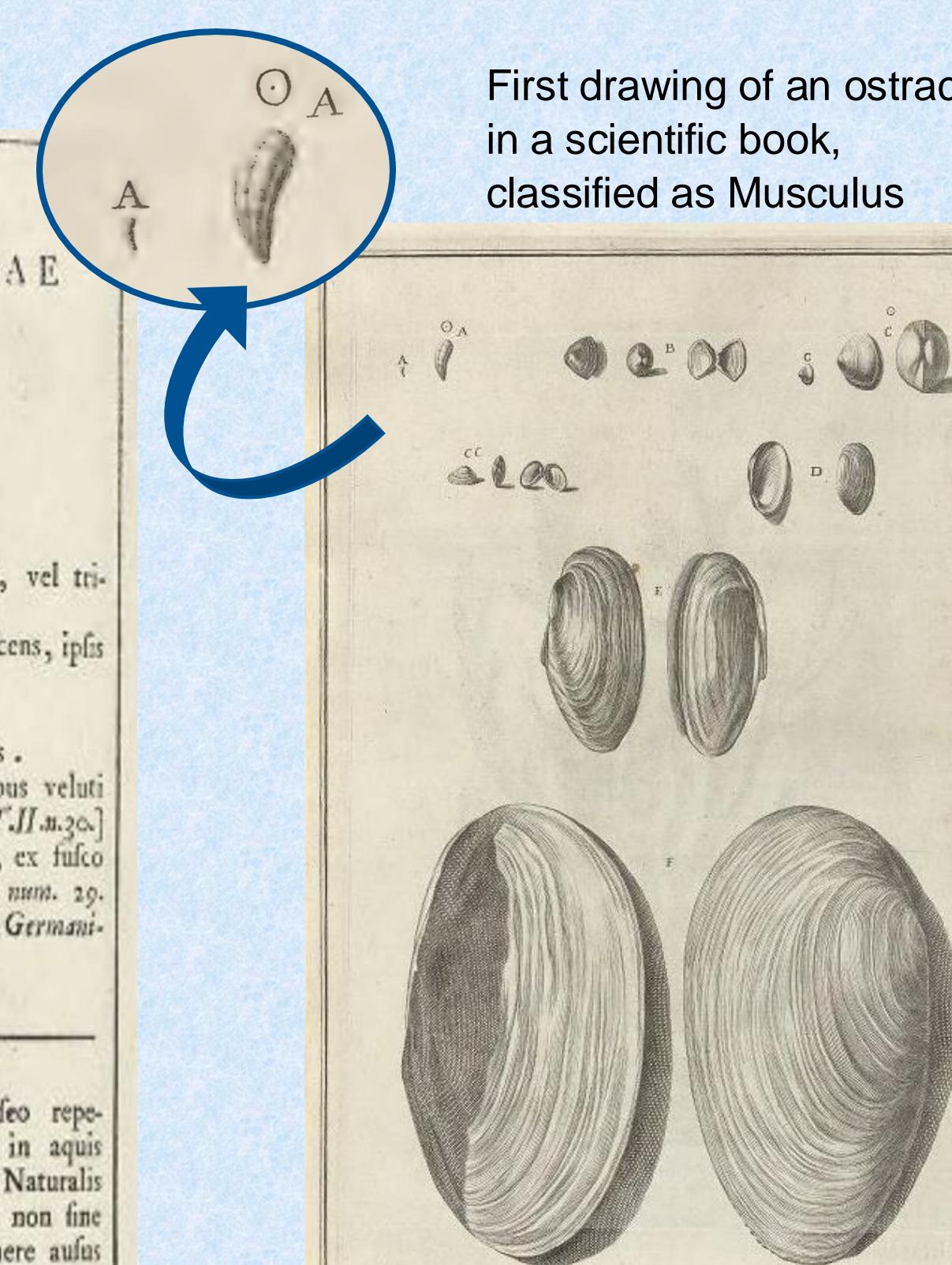
O.F. Müller 1776

P. A. Latreille 1806

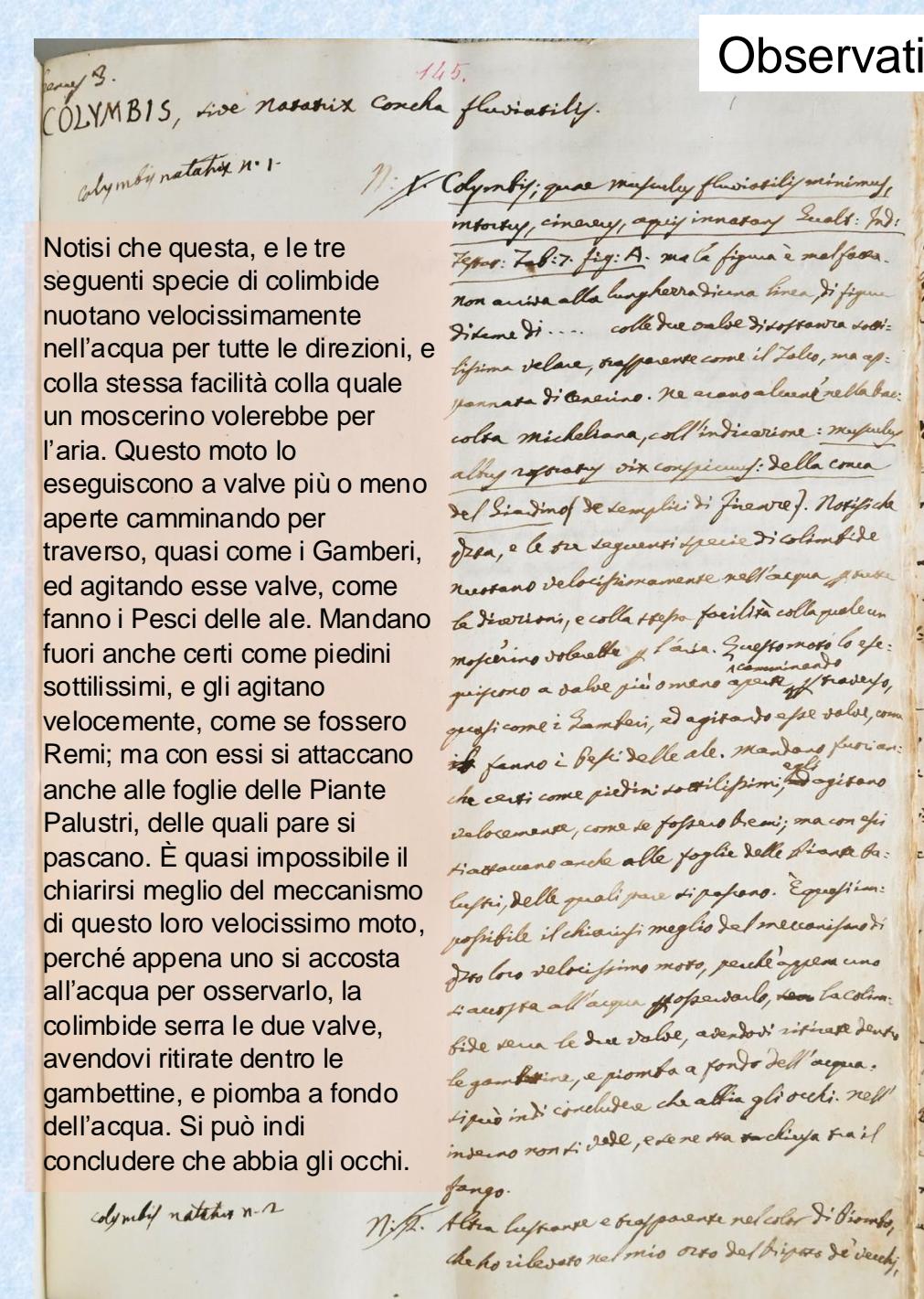
The cultural atmosphere of Florence in the 1700s was a rich tapestry of artistic, scientific, and intellectual activity, reflecting both the enduring legacy of the Renaissance and the influences of the Enlightenment. Building on the foundations laid by Galilei and other Renaissance scientists, the 1700s 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 Gran 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)

N. Gualtieri 1742



First drawing of an ostracod in a scientific book, also first name Mysidula



Observations about ostracods

ods

DI CAMUGLIANO 121

se per abbrancare il cibo , e molti di quei Delfinetti da' quali sfarfallano le Zanzare. La più particolare specie d' Insetto che vi trovai , e che ho osservato anche in molte altre acque simili , sono certe *Telline* , o *Muscoli* d' acqua dolce minutissimi , inmodotalechè quattro di essi appena uguagliaano la mole d' un granello di Panico . Hanno il guscio di due pezzi testacei , o vogliamo dire lapi-dei , non già membranosi , articolati come negli altri *Muscoli* , di color rossiccio lustrante , i quali osservati col Microscopio , appariscono simili a semi di Fagioli Romani . Il moto di tali minutissimi viventi è mirabile ; poichè a guscio aperto quotano velocemente per tutti i versi , e quando vedono avvicinarsi loro qualche corpo , del quale temano , serrano 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 sia 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 *Muscole palustre* si trovano in altre acque stagnanti , anche vicino a Firenze , ed io ne conservava la razza in un vaso del Giardino de' Semplici , dove si coltivano diverse Piante aquatiche . E' credibile , che questi Animaletti , per eseguire il loro veloce nuoto , facciano giocolare le due valve , in quella guisa che i Pesci fanno delle loro Pinne , e oltre di ciò abbiano dentro di loro qualche vescica con aria : ma per quante diligenze io abbia usato per osservare col Microscopio la loro struttura , non mi è riuscito giammai , perchè subito che uno se gli accosta , essi serrano il guscio . Salmente ha notev-



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 is gathered.

Gualtieri, N. (1742) *Index testarum conchyliorum quae adservantur in museo Nicolai Gualtieri*. Albizzini, Florence, 23 pp., 110 pls.

Latrelle, P.A. (1802) *Histoire naturelle, générale et particulière des Crustacés et des Insectes. Familles naturelles des genre. Ouvrage faisant suite à l'Histoire Naturelle générale et particulière, composée par Leclerc de Buffon, et rédigée par C.S. Sonnini, membre de plusieurs Sociétés savantes. de L'imprimerie de F. Dufart, Paris*. 2: 382 p., XV pls.

Linnæus, C. (1746) *Fauna Svecica sistens animalia sveciae regni: quadrupedia, aves, amphibia, pisces, insecta, vermes, distributa per classes & ordines, genera & species. Cum, differentiis specierum, synonymis autorum, nominibus incolarum, locis habitationum, descriptionibus insectorum*. Laurentii Salvii, Stockholm, 411 pp.

Linnæus, C. (1748) *Systema naturæ sistens regna tria naturæ, in classes et ordines, genera et species redacta tabulisque æneis illustrata. 6th Edition*. Kiesewetter, Stockholm, 275 pp.

Linnæus, C. (1758) *Systema naturæ per regna tria naturæ, secundum classes, ordines, genera, species, cum characteribus, differentiis, synonymis, locis. 10th Edition*. Laurentii Salvii, Stockholm, 824 pp.

Müller, O.F. (1776) *Zoologiæ danicæ prodromus, seu animalium Daniæ et Norvegiæ. Indigenarum characteres, nomina, et synonyma imprimis popularium. Typis Hallageriis, Havniae, 282 pp.*

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