

Notes on C.S. Rafinesque Schmaltz's (1810) *Caratteri di alcuni nuovi generi e nuove specie di animali e piante della Sicilia*

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Recently the library of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, acquired a copy of the rare publication by C.S. Rafinesque Schmaltz entitled: *Caratteri/di alcuni nuovi generi/e nuove specie/di animali/e piante della Sicilia/con varie osservazioni sopra i medesimi*. This copy is most interesting in that it contains two title pages, the one dated 1809, the other 1810, and by being uncut and not bound. A study of this copy revealed some interesting facts about the publication of the book which, as far as we can ascertain, were not known before, and which are partly in contradiction to Fitzpatrick's (1911) account of this work.

In our collations the inferred page numbers of unnumbered pages are cited in parentheses (round brackets), the pages before the inferred page 1 being cited in small roman numerals. In this way we differ from Fitzpatrick (1911) who cited all unnumbered pages in square brackets and in roman numerals.

Fitzpatrick (1911: 69, under nos. 16 and 17) already indicated that two title pages exist of this work. The 1809 title page was reproduced by him as pl. 3 of his publication, the 1810 title page as pl. 4. When discussing the copy of Rafinesque's work, present in the Library of Congress, Fitzpatrick (1911: 69) stated: "The work evidently was issued in two parts. The first part having the above [= the 1809] title and the pages [i–iv], 3–69, [70 blank]. The second part consequently had pages [ia–iva], 71–105 [106 blank], and the following [= the 1810] title . ." (the remarks in this citation, intercalated in square brackets and beginning with the sign =, are ours; the other bracketed indications are in the original text of Fitzpatrick's). Fitzpatrick could not assign the 20 plates to either of the two parts.

The copy now present in the Leiden Museum contains the complete text (pp. 3–105) and all the plates (pls. 1–20). There are six preliminary pages: (i) a half title: *Caratteri/di alcuni nuovi generi e nuove specie/di animali e piante della Sicilia*; (ii) its verso with the motto: "*La Sicilia presenta agli occhi del Naturalista/Contemplatore un campo vasto di osservazioni e scoperte*"; (iii) the 1810 title page, which has been reproduced by Fitzpatrick (1911) as pl. 4; (iv) its verso, which is blank; (1) a dedication "*Al Sig./D. Antonino Bivona/Bernardi,/Barone di Alta Torre/ [etc.] . . .*"; (2) its verso, which is blank. These six unnumbered preliminary pages are followed by the text, which occupies pp. 3–106, of which pp. 70 and 106 are blank and unnumbered. When the copy was taken apart for binding it showed that pp. (i) to (iv) (i.e., the two title pages with their versos) together formed half a sheet, and that pp. (1), (2), and 3 to 8 formed a complete sheet; this is followed by twelve more sheets (pp. 9–16, 17–24, 25–32, 33–40, 41–48, 49–56, 57–64, 65–72, 73–80,

81–88, 89–96, 97–104); the work ends with a single loose leaf containing pp. 105 and the blank page (106).

Around this copy, as a kind of cover, was folded a half sheet consisting of four pages: (1) the 1809 title page, which is reproduced by Fitzpatrick (1911) as pl. 3; (2) its verso, which only bears the motto: "*Et moi aussi je veux devenir un Emule des Linneus*"; page 7; and page 8. We carefully checked, when the copy was taken apart, that these four pages actually did form part of a single half sheet and were attached to one another.

In comparing the pages 7 and 8 of the 1809 sheet, which from now on we will indicate as 7' and 8', with those of the 1810 copy, we found numerous small differences. Page 7', for instance, starts with the words "zio nudo . . .", while p. 7 starts with "vicino alla Roccella . . .", the latter words being found on p. 7' in line 2 from the top. Page 8' starts with the words "me di due intermedj . . .", which in the 1810 copy are found on the one but last line of p. 7 "squame, i due intermedj . . .". Evidently pp. 7' and 8' are two lines behind pp. 7 and 8. Interestingly, however, pages 8 and 8' end in exactly the same manner ". . . di squame co-", in the middle of the word "coda", the text of p. 8 being more widely spaced than that of p. 8'.

The fact that pp. 7' and 8' are attached to the 1809 title page shows that the first sheet of the 1809 "edition" must have consisted of the title page, its verso and pp. 3' to 8', of which 3' to 6' have not been seen by us, and neither appear to have been mentioned in the literature. Therefore, there is no space here for a dedication as included in the 1810 copy. Unless a loose half title was attached before p. (1'), we cannot see how Fitzpatrick arrived at 4 preliminary pages, (i) to (iv), before p. 3'. As shown by the collation of the 1810 edition given in the third paragraph of the present paper, 6 preliminary pages (i) – (iv), (1), (2) are present here, not 4 as supposed by Fitzpatrick. Evidently, Fitzpatrick incorrectly thought that two of the preliminary pages of the 1810 edition were printed in 1809, but our copy clearly disproves this. Moreover, Fitzpatrick is mistaken in his assumption that the book was issued in two parts, and that the first of these parts (the 1809 part) consisted of the (four) preliminary pages and pages 3 to 69 and (70). An examination of the sheets in our Leiden copy showed that the ninth sheet (signature i), containing p. (70), included pp. 65 to 72, and thus p. (70), being not the last page of the sheet, consequently cannot be considered the last page of part 1. Fitzpatrick's errors are understandable as the copy of the Library of Congress is bound, and only the fact that in our copy the separate sheets could be examined made it possible for us to detect these errors.

The history of this publication is given by Rafinesque (1836: 33) in his autobiography *A Life of Travels* (the 1944 reprint of this book in *Chronica Botanica* 8: 291–360 was consulted by us). Rafinesque wrote there: "In 1809 I began to print at my expence my first work, which however, delayed by my journey to Etna and my subsequent sickness was only published in 1810". It seems most likely therefore that in 1809 several sheets were printed, and that, when the work was finished in 1810, Rafinesque decided to reprint the entire first sheet, put in the correct year of publication and added the dedication to Bernardi. Because of this dedication more space was needed, and in order not to have a loose title page, a half title was added so that, instead of a sheet and a single leaf, 1 ½ sheet was needed for the preliminary pages and the text on pp. 3 to 8.

We assume that in 1809 more than one sheet was printed; otherwise Rafinesque would not have gone to the trouble of letting the new p. 8 end at exactly the same point (in the middle of the word coda) as the old p. 8'. It seems impossible to find out exactly how many

sheets were printed in 1809; this question is rather academic as the text printed in 1809 was not published until 1810, so that no nomenclatural problems arise as all names in this publication date from 1810. Still, we have tried to find indications as to the extent of the text printed in 1809. The width of the text area in the various pages might give some indication: in pp. 7' and 8' this width is about 90 mm, while in pp. 7 and 8 it is distinctly smaller, being about 85 to 86 mm. In the second, third, fourth and fifth sheets (pp. 9–40) the text area is 88 to 90 mm wide, in the following sheets (6 to 13) it usually is considerably narrower, the width varying between 84 and 88 mm. A definite break seems to occur between sheets 5 and 6 (pp. 40 and 41). However, the width within a sheet varies somewhat, and the extremes in the two parts come very close (around 88 mm).

When comparing the text on pp. 7' and 8' with that on pp. 7 and 8, numerous minor differences were noted (apart from the different beginnings of the text on each page). Most of these differences were either corrections of printers' errors or lapsus calami, or corrections in Rafinesque's Italian. The only corrections of substance are (1) that on p. 7' under "13. *Sp. SYLVIA Rhodogastra*" the second line contains the words "fulvastro al disotto . . .", which are changed on p. 7 to "rosastra al disotto . . .", and (2) that on p. 7' the last line of Capitolo II ends in ". . . piccola; &c", which on p. 7 is replaced by ". . . piccola, hà il nero del capo diversamente esteso &c."

Some interesting linguistic changes on these pages are the following: the word "testa" is used on p. 7' in par. 11 lines 1 and 5, in par. 15 line 1, on p. 8' in par. 16 line 3, and in par. 18 line 4; in pp. 7 and 8 this word is substituted at the corresponding places by "capo". Furthermore, the expression "una fila di macchie" is used on p. 8' par. 18 lines 2 and 3; in p. 8 this is changed to "un ordine di macchie".

In checking sheets 2 and 3 (pp. 9–24) we found a consistent use of the word "testa", while "capo" was not encountered a single time; "fila di macchie" was not used once, "ordine" was used 5 times, but always to indicate a row of teeth, never of spots. In sheet 4 (pp. 25–32), however, the word "capo" is used very frequently (21 times), mostly as the first word of the description (once misprinted "Corpo") in the genera *Merluccius* and *Blennius*; the word "testa" was found 9 times, but mostly in the middle of the description. It seems possible that in the conspicuous places Rafinesque changed "testa" to "capo", but often overlooked the word "testa" when hidden in the descriptive text. In this sheet we found at least at five places the expression "ordine di punti" used for rows of colour spots, the word "fila" was not used anywhere. Also in sheet 5 and the following sheets the word "capo" was almost exclusively used, although "testa" slipped in once in a while (in sheet 5 there are 6 uses of the word "testa" against 16 of "capo", but 4 uses of testa are on a single half page (p. 36, lower half) in the description of three consecutive species, nos. 93, 94 and 95).

It seems possible to us that in 1809 the first five sheets of the book (pp. (1), (2), 3–40) were set up in type and that of these the first three were definitely printed, while in 1810 the fourth and fifth were available in proof only. In 1810 Rafinesque decided to add a dedication to Bernardi, and, in order not to start the book with a loose leaf, added a half title; the new first full sheet, starting with the dedication, had to be entirely reset up in type. By taking care that this new first sheet ended at exactly the same place as the 1809 first sheet, the second and following sheets printed in 1809 could be used. As sheets 2 and 3 had been definitely printed no corrections could be made anymore in these, while this was still possible for sheets 4 and 5, which were still in the proof stage. Sheets 2 and 3 thus were used as they were, sheets 4 and 5 were corrected and printed, while sheets 1, 5 to 13, the

title pages and p. 105 were all set up in print in 1810; in these sheets the text area being somewhat narrower than in the sheets set up in type in 1809. Of course, this sequence of events is pure conjecture, but it would explain the peculiar situation. As to the plates, like Fitzpatrick, we are unable to give any indication about when these were printed.

A reprint edition of Rafinesque's *Caratteri* was published in 1967, combined with a reprint of Rafinesque's (1810) *Indice d'ittologia Siciliana* in a bound volume. The reprint edition of the *Caratteri* is entirely based on the 1810 version; in this volume the half title, together with the half title of the *Indice*, is printed on one page, the one above the other. The text of the verso of the half title of the *Caratteri*, in the reprint edition is printed on the verso of the full title. Otherwise the reprint edition is exact, although in some places attempts have been made to touch up some of the letters poorly printed in the original.

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