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GIJS C. KRONENBERG

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Short note

Museum Boltenianum ... pars prima continens animalia in spiritu vini adservata ... (c.1797, Hamburg): bibliographic and nomenclatural notes

KEYWORDS: Joachim Friedrich Bolten – *Boltenia ovifera* – German natural history collections – Mollusca – Peter Friedrich Röding – *Vorticella*.

In the late 1790s, Peter Friedrich Röding (1767–1846), a dealer in natural history specimens (“Naturalienhändler”), compiled a catalogue (Röding 1798; Sherborn and Sykes 1906) of the shell collection of the Hamburg physician Joachim Friedrich Bolten (1718–1796). There has been quite some debate concerning this catalogue, its authorship, date of publication, availability of names, editions and printings (Fischer 1859; Keferstein 1862; Semper 1876; Sutor 1877; Dall 1899, 1904, 1915; Iredale 1921; ICZN 1926, 1956; Rehder 1945; Winckworth 1945; Turner 1958; Petit 2013; Kronenberg and Wieneke 2020).

The title *Museum Boltenianum sive catalogus cimeliorum e tribus regnis naturae ... pars secunda continens Conchylia sive Testacea univalvia, bivalvia et multivalvia* implied that there was a first part (*pars prima*), but references to this part are very scarce and sometimes erroneous. Dall (1889: 302) commented that “The first part I have never seen, and it related to the anatomical and alcohol collection” while Rehder (1945: 52) quoted a notice from *Intelligenzblatt der Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung* of 16 January 1799 that stated (translation by Rehder): “It may further be remarked that although ‘2nd part’ is printed on the title page of the list, it is nevertheless not incomplete. For the list of the preserved specimens, etc (already sold) comprised the first part.”

Keferstein (1862: 169) noted: “Die erste Ausgabe ist ... angegeben als pars secunda continens Conchylia bezeichnet, ob eine pars prima ... ist mir nicht bekannt. [The first edition is ... designated as pars secunda continens Conchylia, whether there is a pars prima ... is unknown to me.]” This was echoed by Dall (1915: 1): “The original issue was a 16mo of viii and 199 pages without plates, and is stated on the title-page to be ‘*Pars secunda*’; the ‘*Pars prima*’ having contained probably the two catalogues of minerals and art objects which follow the shells in the edition [*sic*] of 1819.” This latter remark by Dall (1915) apparently contradicts what he wrote in 1889 (see above).

Three copies of *Museum Boltenianum ... pars prima continens animalia in spiritu vini adservata e classibus cunctis item siccata quaedam integra et fragmenta zoologica ...* have been traced. One, from the library of Sir Joseph Banks, is in the British Library, London;¹ another copy is in University library of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany;² and the third copy is present in the University and state library of Darmstadt, Germany.³

Table 1. Species names available from *Museum Boltenianum ... pars prima*.

Page No.	Item No.	Species Name	Authority	Reference/ Source
8	88	<i>Lacerta Temapara</i>	Seb[a]	“Thes. Tom. I. tab. 88. fig. 4.”
8	90	<i>Lacerta Amboinensis</i>	Seb[a]	“Thes. tab. 94. fig. 1. ”
8	93	<i>Lacerta Taraguira</i>	Seb[a]	“Thes. Tom. I. tab. 90. fig. 7. ”
10	130	<i>Raja Pristobatos</i>	“nobis”	“Conr. Gesner de aquatilibus pag. 944.
11	136	<i>Balistes macrolepidotus</i>	Seb[a]	“Thes. Tom II. tab. 24. fig. 17. ”
11	139	<i>Tetrodon guttatus</i>	“nobis”	none, brief description
14	169	<i>Cyprinus Chilon</i>	“nobis”	“Rondelet hist. Pisc. Tom. 2 pag 154. Cyprino Carpioni multum adfinis ...”
17	192	<i>Terebella subuculata</i>	“nobis”	“Penicillum marinum Seb. Thes. Tom. 3. tab. 16. fig. 7. a. & b. ”
30	4	<i>Asterias radula</i>	“nobis”	“Link [sic] tab. 1. f. 1. ”
30	4a	<i>Asterias radula</i>	“nobis”	“Link [sic] tab. 8. f. 10. ”

Sources

C. Gesner, 1558. *Historiae animalium liber IV ...* Frankfurt.

J. H. Linck, 1733. *De stella maris liber singularis*. Leipzig.

G. Rondelet, 1554. *Libris de piscibus marinis ...* Lyon.

A. Seba, 1734–1764. *Locupletissimi rerum naturalium thesauro ...* 4 volumes. Amsterdam.

There is no indication of an author or editor on the title-page of *Museum Boltenianum ... pars prima*, nor is there any accompanying preliminary text. Bolten probably kept a handwritten catalogue of his collection so it would have been comparatively easy for any literate person to copy this into a catalogue that could be typeset by a printer. In *Pars prima*, a few species names were accompanied by “nobis” (see Table 1), a designation generally indicating an author’s own epithet, but this is not encountered in *Pars secunda*. As *Museum Boltenianum ... pars prima* is a binominal work, these names are available (ICZN 1999). This is also true for some other names introduced earlier in the non-binominal works by Albertus Seba (1665–1736) (see Table 1).

The title-page of *Museum Boltenianum ... pars prima* (Figure 1) is almost identical to that of the second part, except for some of the wording and the ornamental strip above the imprint; as with the second part, it was printed by Johann Christian Trapp and issued in Hamburg. The verso is blank. The text occupies 34 pages, the first (unnumbered) page has an ornamental head-piece (Figure 2). The catalogue is divided into two sections, the first being “Animalia in spiritu vini adservata [Animals preserved in spirits of wine]” containing Mammalia (pp. [1]–5); Amphibia (including Reptilia) (pp. 5–11); Pisces (pp. 11–14); Insecta (pp. 14–15); “Vermes” (pp. 16–18) which includes “Ord. II. *Mollusca*” (pp. 16–17) although the organisms listed are not all part of the phylum Mollusca as currently defined. Two entries in this section are of particular interest:

Gen[us] 287. *Ascidia*.

187 !! *Ascidia clavata*; Gmel[in]. sp. 23. Vorticella Boltenii, a beato possessore primum in singulari epistola ad Linnæum descripta.

188 !! *Ascidiae clavatae* anatome.

Item 187 clearly referred to the zoophyte that Bolten had described, but not named, in his publication, *Illustrem systematis naturae authorem Carolum a Linné ... Epistola de novo quodam zoophytum genere* (Bolten 1771), and therefore would constitute the type

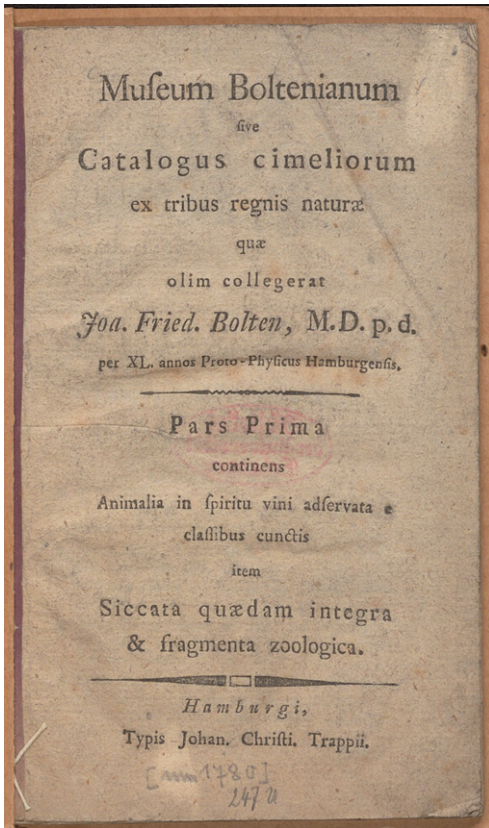


Figure 1. *Museum Boltenianum ... Pars prima* (Hamburg, c.1797): title-page. Note the erroneous date (1780) added in pencil. University Library Erlangen-Nuremberg, NTG. A 316[1]. © Reproduced with permission.

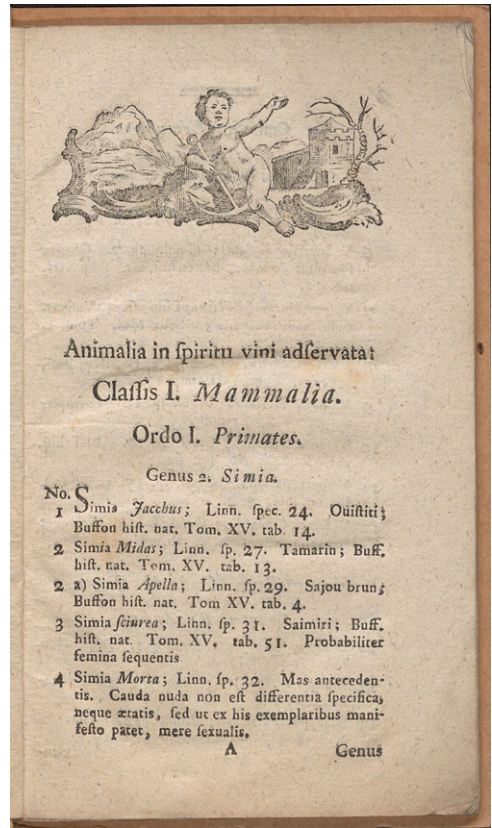


Figure 2. *Museum Boltenianum ... Pars prima* (Hamburg c.1797): first page. University Library Erlangen-Nuremberg, NTG.A 316[1]. © Reproduced with permission.

specimens of both *Vorticella boltenii* (Linnaeus, 1771) and *Boltenia fusiformis* Savigny, 1816, a junior synonym of *Vorticella ovifera* Linnaeus, 1767, currently *Boltenia ovifera* (Linnaeus, 1767). The second section starting on page 19 listed “Insecta qua maximam partem intra cistulas vitreas servata” – insects in glazed boxes – that comprised Coleoptera, Hemiptera and Lepidoptera, as well as Crustacea, Echinozoa, Asterozoa and Holothuria. Mammals, birds (three glass showcases with different birds, tropical as well as European), fossils and animal “fragments” were also specified. In addition to the numerous cross-references to published works by Linnaeus, Fabricius and other authors, many names in this section, especially among Lepidoptera (pp. 21–25), were given without any reference to a published work.

Museum Boltenianum ... pars prima was apparently referred to by Newton (1891: 305) and Melvill (1897: 477) but both were erroneous.⁴

As noted, in January 1799 *Intelligenzblatt der Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung* reported that the items listed in *Pars prima* had been sold as a whole to the “Hamburgischen Gesellschaft zur Beförderung der Künste und Nützlichen Gewerbe” (Meyer 1801).

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NOTES

¹ British Library, London: Shelfmark General Reference Collection B.654.(5.). See also *Museum Boltenianum ...*, *Google Books*. Available at: https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Museum_Boltenianum_sive_Catalogus_cimeli/uiKutxG_9kgC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=prima+continens+animalia+in+spiritu+vini&printsec=frontcover (accessed 15 August 2023).

As *Museum Boltenianum* was not listed in the five-volume catalogue of Banks's library compiled by Jonas Dryander (1796–1800), the copy must have entered Banks's collection after 1799.

² University library Erlangen- Nuremberg, shelf mark: H00/NTG A 316/1, earlier repository unknown.

³ Library of the Technical University Darmstadt, shelf mark 34/212 Bd. 1. This library also holds a copy of the *Museum Boltenianum ... pars secunda* shelf mark 34/212 Bd. 2. Both works originate from the court library of the grand duke of Hessen.

⁴ Newton (1891) listed the *Pars prima* in his references, adding: "A second edition, under a somewhat different title, was published by J. Noodt in 1819." The 1819 publication was a catalogue of *Museum Boltenianum* issued by Noodt (1819) and is a very different work (Petit 2013).

Melvill (1897: 477), in a discussion on the availability of names of Mollusca, mentioned the *Pars prima* as a whole, attributing it to "Joa. Fried. Bolten". However, *Pars prima* did not introduce any new molluscan taxon, so this reference appears to be out of place.

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GIJS C. KRONENBERG

Naturalis Biodiversity Center, P.O. Box 9517, NL-2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands
(email: gijs.kronenberg@naturalis.nl)