

THE MEDITERRANEAN CEPHALOPODA IN A. TARGIONI TOZZETTI COLLECTION  
(1869).

\*M.Borri, \*\*P.Mannini, \*\*C.Volpi

\* Museo Zoologico "La Specola" e \*\* Istituto di Zoologia dell'Università - Via Romana 17 - Firenze

An A.Targioni Tozzetti work entitled "Commentario sui Cefalopodi Mediterranei del Regio Museo di Firenze" was published in 1869 in Malacological Bulletin. It is the material illustrated in this publication that is generally considered as Targioni Tozzetti collection, which is at present kept in the Zoological Museum "La Specola" of the University of Florence.

The specimens forming this collection have different origins: some of them were presented by scholars such as V erany, as well as by friends of T.T. such as Lessona, Panceri and De Filippi, or by institutions such as the Museum of Liverpool; other specimens were either purchased in Florence and other towns or collected by T.T. himself in different Italian areas. Some specimens were acquired by the Regio Museo of Florence many years before Targioni Tozzetti's publication. The single specimen of Octopus verany present in this collection, for instance, is perhaps one of the oldest items of the collection; it was probably purchased by Granduca Leopoldo II during the IIIrd Meeting of the Italian scientists that took place in Florence in 1841. After 1869 the entries of Cephalopod collection at Regio Museo were reduced so much that they reached a nearly complete stasis from 1900 up to 1980, when the interests of the Museum turned again to the Cephalopods.

The importance of the T.T. collection is due to the fact that it is one of the few "historical" collections created with scientific

purposes that is still in existence and may be it is the oldest as it was started at the very beginning of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century. Unfortunately, Targioni Tozzetti's work contains several inaccuracies and mistakes concerning the collection numbers; therefore, the identification of the different species or single specimens presents great difficulties, worsened by the great wearing of the old labels glued on the glass vases; in fact these labels are often illegible and in some cases completely faded. The specimens are more than 100 and nearly all of them are in good condition, except for a few.

Targioni Tozzetti follows in his work the classification suggested by Woodward in his conchological manual, partially modified according to Steenstrup (1861) and Keferstein (1866) so that the new systematic scheme may rightly be ascribed to the same author. On the other hand, his systematic arrangement was criticized by Jatta above all for the inadequacy of the characters used to discriminate the different families. He lists 19 species of decapods and 14 species of octopods (non considering the type of the tropical Octopus incertus T.T.), of which only 13 and 8, respectively, are considered valid according to the modern taxonomy. The new species described by T.T. (3 decapods and 5 octopods) are discussed below.

#### DECAPODA

Loligo mediterranea. T.T. considers the true Loligo vulgaris Lamk.

1798 as an oceanic species, replaced in the Mediterranean Sea by L. mediterranea; actually the latter is based on a big sized specimen of L. vulgaris Lamk. 1798.

Rossia panceri. The type is based on a male specimen sent to T.T. by Panceri, who had correctly identified it as Rossia macrosoma (Delle Chiaje, 1829); anyway T.T. himself doubted if the characters of his supposed new species were to be ascribed to sexual dimorphism.

Sepiola major. As far as we know, no information but the original description is available for this taxon, which is only represented by a badly preserved specimen. Further research is needed to clarify the exact systematic status of this species.

## OCTOPODA

Octopus troscheli is a big sized specimen from Chioggia of Octopus vulgaris Lamk., 1798.

Parasira catenulata is synonymous of Ocythoe tuberculata Raf., 1814.

Parasira tuberculata is synonymous of Ocythoe tuberculata Raf., 1814.

Eledona aldovrandi is synonymous of Eledone cirrosa (Lamk.), 1798.

Eledona octopodia is synonymous of Eledone cirrosa (Lamk.), 1798.

Remark of interest is the presence of some specimens in the collection of Enoploteuthis owenii Ver. = Abralia verany (Ruppell, 1844); such a species is not easily collected and is poorly represented in the museums. Moreover, a specimen of Sepia officinalis L. 1758 from Chioggia, more than 80 cm long (with tentacles), as well as 2 specimens of Chiroteuthis verany (Ferussac, 1835) and 2 of Ancistroteuthis lichtensteini (d'Orb., 1839) are also present in this collection.

At present the Zoological Museum "La Specola" is carrying out the revision of the whole T.T. collection whose historical/scientific importance we have tried to outline in this preliminary contribution.

## REFERENCES

- JATTA, G.-1896. I Cefalopodi viventi nel Golfo di Napoli. Fauna und Flora des Golfes von Neapel und der angrenzenden Meeres-Abschnitte. Mon. n. 23. 268 pp. XXXI plates.
- NAEF, A.-1921-1923. Cephalopoda. Fauna und Flora des Golfes von Neapel und der angrenzenden Meeres-Abschnitte. Mon. n. 35. 917 pp. XIX plates.
- TARGIONI TOZZETTI, A.-1869. Commentario sui Cefalopodi Mediterranei del Regio Museo di Firenze. Bollettino Malacologico Italiano, anno II. 67 pp. Tav. VI-VII.

