



Correspondence

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:9D4237C6-9224-4F5E-8768-88FA66BA0891

Dates of publication and the organisation of *Versuch einer Naturgeschichte der Krabben und Krebse* by Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Herbst

MARTYN E. Y. LOW

Department of Marine and Environmental Sciences, Graduate School of Engineering and Science, University of the Ryukyus, 1 Senbaru, Nishihara, Okinawa 903-0213, Japan.

E-mail: m.low@me.com

Johann Friedrich Wilhelm Herbst (b. 1743, d. 1807) published an early treatise on carcinology entitled *Versuch einer Naturgeschichte der Krabben und Krebse nebst einer systematischen Beschreibung ihrer verschiedenen Arten* in three *Bände* (= volumes, singular *Band*) between 1782 and 1804 (Herbst 1782–1790, 1791–1796, 1799–1804; Table 1). Each *Band* is comprised of four to eight *Hefte* (= issues or parts; singular *Heft*) (Table 1).

Within each *Heft* are varying numbers of *Bögen* (= sheets, corresponding to signatures or gatherings, singular *Bogen*). The work was published in quarto format, with signature marks appearing every eight pages. The wrapper of each *Heft* (except *Heft* 1 of *Band* 1; Fig. 1A) lists the plates and *Bögen* of text it contains (e.g. Fig. 1B). Each *Heft* (except for *Hefte* 2–3 and *Hefte* 4–5 of *Band* 1, see Table 1) was issued individually and the wrapper of each *Heft* is dated (Fig. 1A, B). Title-pages were also issued upon the respective completion *Band* 1 and *Band* 2 (e.g. Fig. 1C; Anonymous 1790: 267; 1801: 214). These title-pages are also dated (Fig. 1C).

The publisher of *Hefte* 1–7 of *Band* 1 (1782–1788) was “Joh. Casper Fuessly, Zürich” (Fig. 1A). All subsequent *Hefte* (1790–1804) were published by “Gottlieb August Lange, Berlin und Stralsund” (Fig. 1B, C).

With the exception of the *Heft* 1 of *Band* 1 (Fig. 1A), the title on the wrapper of each *Heft* was abbreviated to *Versuch einer Naturgeschichte der Krabben und Krebse &c. &c.* (Fig. 1B). The wrappers (which are technically title-pages) of each *Heft* of *Band* 3 also bear the abbreviated title. The title-pages issued upon the respective completion of *Band* 1 and *Band* 2 have the full title printed on them (e.g. Fig. 1C). No overall title-page for *Band* 3 was issued. When citing individual *Hefte* (except for *Heft* 1 of *Band* 1), or *Band* 3 as a whole, the abbreviated title should therefore be used.

Rathbun (1897: 157) provided a collation of the work, and listed the text pages and plates in each *Heft*, which was reproduced in K. Sakai (1999: 7). Sherborn's (1902: xxix) collation listed only the pages. An updated collation of this work is presented in Table 1. The notes accompanying Table 1 discuss additional information that has been located (including ‘not after’ dates for seven *Hefte*).

The ‘not after’ date for *Heft* 3 of *Band* 2 is particularly informative as it allows for the determination of relative priority between this part of Herbst's work (which was published before 11 May 1793, Table 1) and another important carcinological work that was published in the same year, i.e. Fabricius (1793) (Fig. 1D). The title-page of the second volume of Fabricius' *Entomologia systematica emendata et aucta* bears the date “1793” (Fig. 1D). No information on the exact date of publication of Fabricius (1793) is known, and the last day of the year (i.e. 31 December 1793) is to be accepted as the date of publication (Article 21.3.2 of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, and hereafter the Code; ICZN 1999) (see also Evenhuis 1997: 248; Hemming 1936: 122). At least one stomatopod name described by Herbst (1793a) is synonymous with a name described by Fabricius (1793) (Low & Ng 2012: 47, 48).

In addition to describing new species based on material available to him, Herbst also validated several pre-Linnean names, such as those of Rumphius (Low 2012; Low & Ng 2012). The type material on which Herbst based his descriptions is deposited in the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany (ZMB). A catalogue of the decapod crustacean type material was published by K. Sakai (1999) (see also McLaughlin & Holthuis 2001).

This study was based primarily on a copy of Herbst's work held in the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany (ZMB).