

Die Wurzeln einer bayrischen Herpetofaunistik im 18. und beginnenden 19. Jahrhundert

Festvortrag anlässlich der 25-Jahrfeier des LARS-Bayern am 11.11.2006 in München

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Sonderdrucke (pdf) über: www.lars-ev.de

The origins of Bavarian herpetofaunistics in the 18th and beginning 19th century

The first herpetofaunistic activities in Bavaria within its present day boundaries may be traced back very early to the Free Imperial City of Nuremberg, then culturally and economically leading in the German Empire: JOHANN PAUL WURFFBAIN (1683) in his predominantly anatomical, medicinal and emblematic book »Salamandrologia« depicted *Salamandra salamandra*, *Triturus cristatus* and *Triturus alpestris* and published first also their exact localities from Nuremberg territory. AUGUST JOHANN RÖSEL von ROSENHOF, as well as field researcher, engraver and illustrator of his work »Über die Frösche des hiesigen Landes/Historia Naturalis Ranarum Nostratum« has obtained a worldwide acceptance. Aside the unrivaled quality of frog figures his data on discovery, occurrence and life history of these animals, like *Pelobates fuscus*, are outstanding. LAURENTI (1768) described new and still valid species after this toad and also *Bufo calamita*, and so turned RÖSEL's (and also WURFFBAIN's) drawings into prominent documents of European faunistics and systematics. JOHANN WOLF, teacher in Nuremberg, was the most important author of the issues 2–4 (1799, 1802, 1805) in STURM's wonderfully hand coloured »Fauna Deutschlands Dritte Abtheilung Amphibien«. By his herpetological studies in the field around Nuremberg he detected that the males and females, phenotypically different in *Lacerta agilis* and *Triturus vulgaris* as well, represent the same species in each; he also stated first the specific difference of the Nuremberg viviparous lizard (*Lacerta crocea* Wolf in Sturm, 1805) from *Lacerta agilis*.

At the end of the 18th century in the ancient electorate of Bavaria and its immediate environments three works of the biologically and philosophically educated Jesuit FRANZ von PAULA v. SCHRANK enclose herpetologically important contents. Of eminent historical importance there are his »Naturhistorische Briefe« (1785), then new to Central Europe, but today almost forgotten, are comprising a nearly complete, commented herpetofauna (from Berchtesgaden). Aside two original descriptions, after the new systematics of LAURENTI, *Seps atra* (may be *Zootoca vivipara*) and *Bufo salsus* (»Salt toad« = *Bombina variegata*; probably originating from the drain of a saline), *Proteus tritonius* Laurenti, 1768 deserves attention: It is the larva of *Triturus alpestris*, being raised to generic rank by SONNINI & LATREILLE (1801) (»*Ichthyosaura*«), and now of a quite unexpected systematic actuality. SCHRANK's »Fauna Boica« (= Fauna of Bavaria) edited in three volumes, comprises in its first volume (1798) for the first time an extensive chapter on the herpetofauna of the then electorate of Bavaria, based upon the author's own researches in most cases.