

In the year 1829, Eschscholtz,¹ who had made two voyages round the world with Captain Kotzebue, published his system of the Acalephs, the most important work yet published upon this class, as it embodies not only the results of all the investigations of his predecessors, but presents, with great fulness and precision, original investigations made by himself upon all the members of this class now referred to it, with the sole exception of the Hydroids. The figures, though mere outlines, are invaluable for their accuracy. In the following year DeBlainville published a general account of the Zoöphytes, in which the Acalephs occupy a large place; but it can hardly be said to mark a progress in our science, notwithstanding the many additions it contains in the details, for De Blainville² has been led in the classification to make changes which are unjustifiable, and to remove from among the Acalephs a large number of genera which undoubtedly belong to this class. The more recent publications of systematic importance are those of Mertens,³ Brandt,⁴ and Lesson;⁵ and with the latter ends fairly the period of the purely descriptive history of Acalephs. There are, still, many papers published at a later

¹ ESCHSCHOLTZ (FR.), *System der Acalephen, eine ausführliche Beschreibung aller medusenartigen Strahlthiere*, Berlin, 1829, 4to. with fourteen plates. Eschscholtz made two voyages round the world, the first in 1815–1818 as physician on board the brig *Rurick* under the command of Captain Otto von Kotzebue, while Chamisso was naturalist to the expedition. He has contributed several papers to the report of this voyage. The results of the second voyage, in the years 1823–1826, on board the *Predpriaetië* sloop of war, under the command of the same distinguished seaman, are particularly interesting to American naturalists, as, during a prolonged stay upon the north-west coast of this continent, Eschscholtz visited California, and discovered a great many curious animals peculiar to our western Fauna, which are described for the first time in the “*Zoologischer Atlas, enthaltend Abbildungen und Beschreibungen neuer Thierarten, während des Flottcapitains v. Kotzebue's 2ter Reise um die Welt, von Dr. Friedr. Eschscholtz, Berlin, 1829–1833, in 5 Hefte*,” the last of which was edited by Rathke, after the author's death. The name of Eschscholtz is familiar to every lover of flowers, in the elegant plant that now adorns our gardens and which bears his name, the *Eschscholtzia* of California.

The scientific results of the first voyage of Kotzebue were in part published by *Chamisso and Eysenhardt* in *N. Act. Nat. Cur.* X. 1821.

² BLAINVILLE (H. D. DE), *Article Zoöphytes* in *Nouveau Dictionnaire d'histoire naturelle*, Paris, 1830. Republished under the title of *Manuel d'Actinologie*, Paris, 1834, 2 vols. 8vo. fig.

³ MERTENS (H.), *Beobachtungen über die Beröartigen Acalephen*, *Mém. Acad. Pétersb.* 1833.

⁴ BRANDT (J. F.), *Ausführliche Beschreibung der von C. H. MERTENS beobachteten Schirmquallen, etc.*, *Petersb.* 1838, 4to. fig. col., *Mém. Acad. Pétersb.* 6, 11. Also *Prodromus*, etc. 1835.

⁵ LESSON, *Histoire naturelle des Zoöphytes, Acalephes*, Paris, 1843, 1 vol. 8vo. fig. — *Centurie Zoologique*, Paris, 1830, 8vo. fig. — *Tableau de la famille des Zoöphytes Béroïdes*, *Ann. Sc. Nat.* V. p. 254, 1836. Translated in *Proc. Zool. Soc.* III. p. 2. — *Prodrome d'une Monographie des Méduses*, in-4to. de 62 pages, Rochefort, juin, 1837. Edw. Forbes questions the existence of this work; but it was really published, in the shape of autographed sheets, of which, however, a very small number of copies were issued. I myself used it when preparing the *Nomenclator Zoologicus*. The copy I saw belongs to Duméril.