



Rastko Ćirić

PRIRUČNIK
ZA GAJENJE
DOMAĆEG
METAMORFA

(Metamorphus Domesticus)

HOME-BRED
METAMORPH
(Metamorphus Domesticus)
CULTIVATING
MANUAL



BIBLIOTEKA



TRI TAČKE

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Beograd, 2001.

Rastko Ćirić
Yugoslavia

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BIB-UNESCO Albin Brunovsky WORKSHOP
Bratislava, 2001

Prva faza: Seme

I

Seme je veličine
klikera. Zeleno
jezgro, zvano »srce«,
izgleda kao da lebdi.
U stvari, povezano je
hiljadama nevidljivih
niti za koru koja
potseća na kavez.

Sadi se u meko peskovi-
to tlo. Rupa se može
iskopati prstom pod
uglom od 45°.

Seme pustiti da se
otkotrlja na dno kanala,
pa rupu pažljivo
zatrpati.

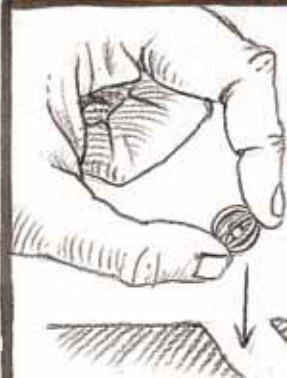
Potrebno je strogo se pri-
državati režima zalivanja.
Na kalendaru se vidi
kojim danima treba seme
diskretno zaliti.

Phase one: Seed

1



The seed is the size of a marble. The green core, i. e. heart, seems to be floating. In fact, it is attached to the cage-like shell by thousands of invisible threads.



Let the seed roll down to the bottom of the tunnel and cover it with soil carefully.

It is necessary to keep up the watering régime strictly. On the calendar breeders can see which days the seed should be lightly watered.



It should be planted in soft sandy soil. Breeders may dig the hole with a finger, at an angle of 45 degrees.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14

Druga faza: Krila

2

Posle dve nedelje
dva listića
izbijaju iz
zemlje.

Dvadesetog dana iz-
laze još dva izdanka.

Listovi se pretvore
u krila, a izdanci
u oči.

Dostigavši zrelost druge
faze, stvorenje će vizue-
lnim putem ispitati
visinu prostorije. Uz
pomoć nogu i krila
premešće se dok visina
iznad njega ne bude naj-
manje 2 m.

Krila nastala od listova.

Telo liči na gužvu
korenja, unutar kojih
se nalaze skrivene
kese.

Rep predstavlja
atavizam i
nema nikakvu
funkciju.

Noge nastale od korenja.

Phase two: Wings

2

After two weeks, two small leaves pop up from the ground.



On the 20th day, two more shoots appear.



The leaves turn into wings and the shoots into eyes.



Reaching maturity in the 2nd phase, the creature visually examines the height of the room. With the help of its wings and legs it displaces itself until the space above it is at least 7ft.



Wings out of leaves.

Its body resembles a bundle of roots with hidden bags inside.



Its tail is atavistic and has no function at all.

Legs out of roots.

Treća faza: Balon

3

Kese unutar tela
počinju da se pune
vazduhom. Vazduh se greje toplotom tela
i stvorenje se polago diže nagore.

Posle nekoliko dana telo
je veliko i liči na balon.

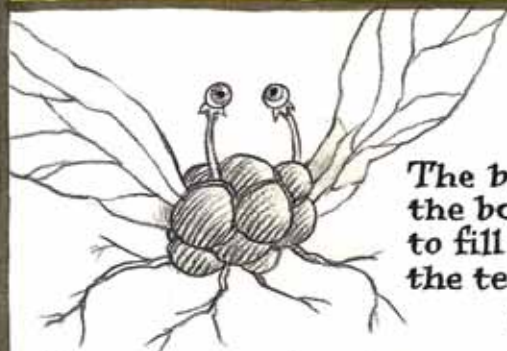
Odgajivačima se
preporučuje da
pričvrste jedan
od korenova za
podlogu, da m.
ne bi odleteo.

Krila i korenovi zakržljavaju, a
pipci s očima se umnožavaju.

Kad se krila osuše
i otpadnu, to znači
da je ova faza
završena.

Phase three: Balloon

3



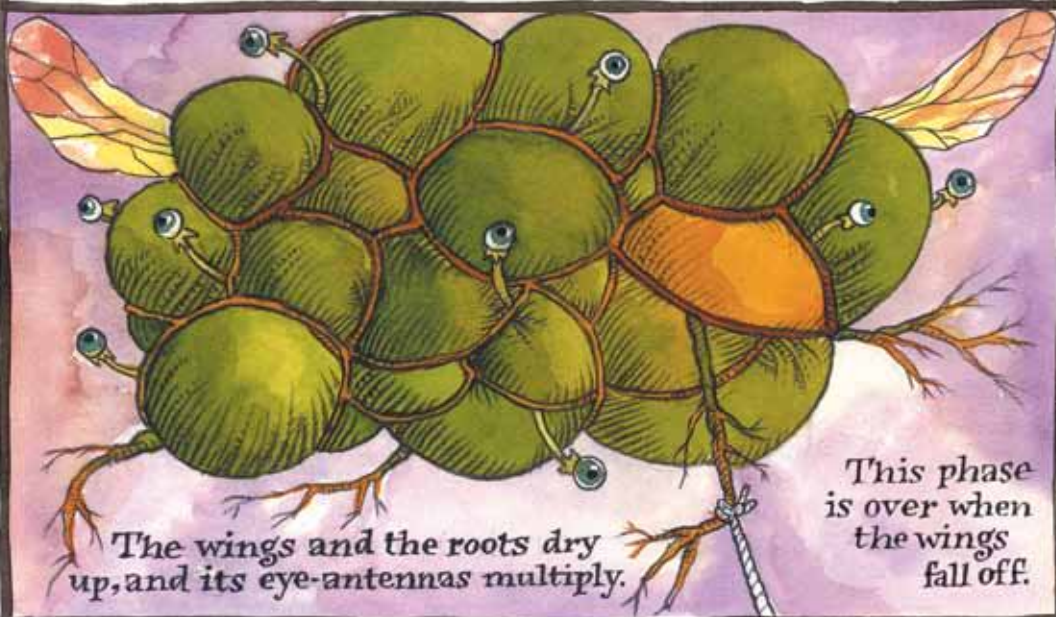
The bags inside the body start to fill with air. The air is warmed by the temperature of the body, so the creature slowly rises upwards.



Several days after, its body becomes huge, resembling a balloon.



It is highly recommended that breeders tie down one of the roots to prevent it from drifting away



The wings and the roots dry up, and its eye-antennas multiply.

This phase is over when the wings fall off.

Kad mu otpadnu krila, stvorenje pada na zemlju i razdvaja se na mnoštvo bića koja potsećaju na insekte. Odgajivači treba da uoče jedinku zlatno-žutog tela, s dva mala peraja i da ga uhvate. Ostali insekti će se osušiti i uginuti za 10 minuta!

Noge, koje su se razvile unutar balona počinju da se brzo kreću. Svi insekti istovremeno beže, svaki na svoju stranu.

Peraja liče na riblja

Neparan broj nogu uzrok je nespretnog šepavog hoda.

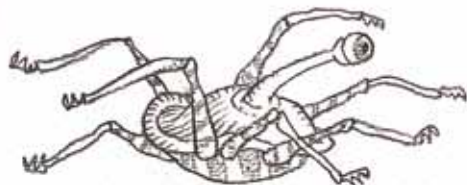
Phase four: Insect

4



After the wings fall off, the balloon falls down on the ground breaking up into a number of beings that resemble insects. Breeders should find and capture the one with a golden-yellow body and two small fins.

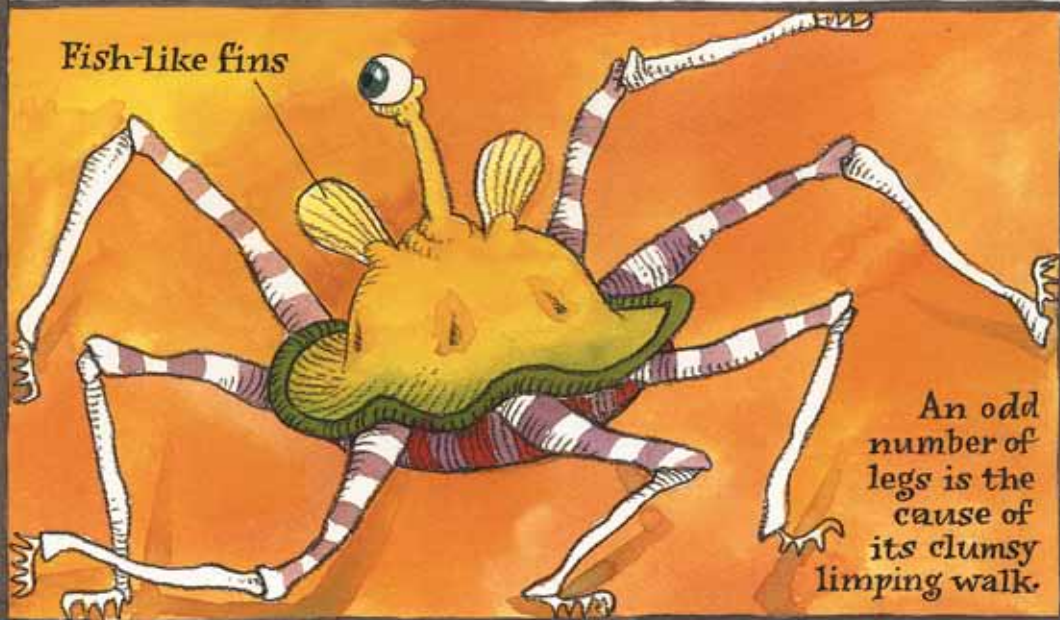
The rest of the insects will dry up & drop dead in 10 min.!



The legs, which have developed inside the balloon start to move rapidly. The insects try to escape in all directions.



Fish-like fins



An odd number of legs is the cause of its clumsy limping walk.

Peta faza: Riba

5

Flašu
ostaviti
otvorenu.

Stvorenje pažljivo ubaciti
u flašu punu umereno
slane vode.

Oko se postepeno usađuje
u telo.

Krajevi nogu pretvaraju se
u peraja

Stvorenje upija vodu celom
površinom kože i raste.

Kad
nestane
vode, flašu okrenuti
horizontalno.

Phase five: Fish

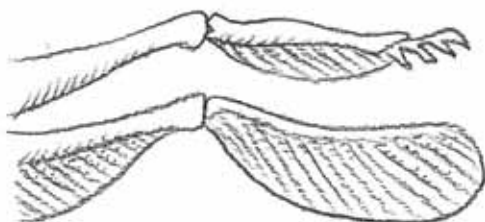
5



Put the creature carefully into a bottle full of medium-salty water.



The eye gradually retracts into the body.



Leg-ends turn into fins.



The bottle should be left open.

The creature grows as it absorbs water through the entire surface of its skin.

When all the water is absorbed, turn the bottle in a horizontal position.

Šesta faza: Zmija

6

U toku
nedelju dana
riboliko stvorenje toliko se
izdužuje da meri skoro 2 metra.

Razvijaju se okrugla
usta načičkana
oštrim zubima.

Takođe, pojav-
ljuje se još
neko-
liko očiju.

Neki odgajivači
vole da, zabave radi,
prave »smešne grimase«
deformišući meka usta stvorenja.

To može biti veoma
opasno, pa se moraju
koristiti debele
zaštitne rukavice.

Posle transforma-
cije sam će izaći
iz flaše.

Phase six: Snake

6

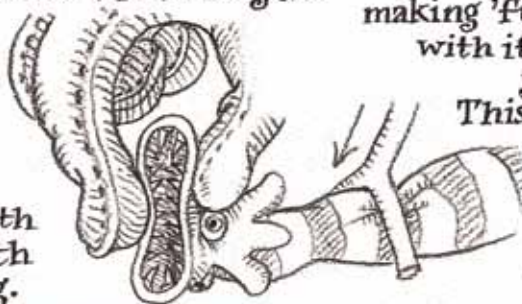


In a week's the fish-like creature is so elongated that it measures 7 ft in length.

Also, several more eyes develop.



A roundish mouth full of sharp teeth starts developing.



Some breeders have a habit of making 'funny faces' with its soft mouth just for fun. This may be very dangerous, so thick protective gloves have to be used.



After the transformation, it comes out of the bottle.

Sedma faza: Uroboros

7

U ovoj fazi stvorenje mora
da se izoluje zbog svoje
agresivnosti.

Ubrzo će početi da
proždire svoj rep,
a zatim i celo
svoje telo.

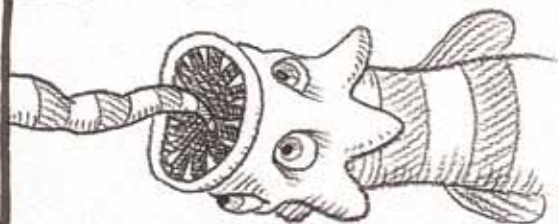
Na kraju, od stvorenja ostaće
samo pljosnata glava koja
potseća na morsku zvezdu.

Oči se
zatvaraju i
stvorenje
upada u stanje
hibernacije.

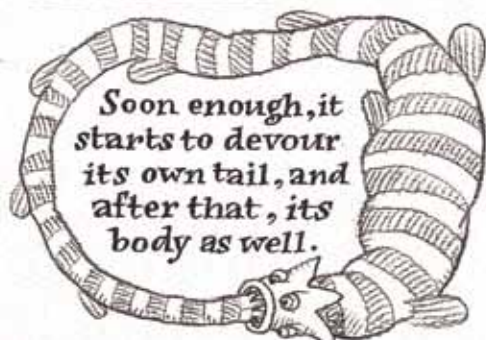
Odgajivači
treba da
premeste m.
na ravnu, osunčanu
zemlju, očiš-
ćenu od kamenja.

Phase seven: Uroboros

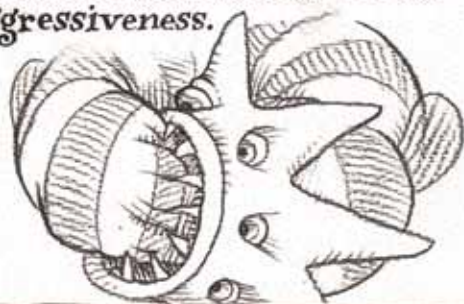
7



In this phase, the creature has to be isolated because of its aggressiveness.



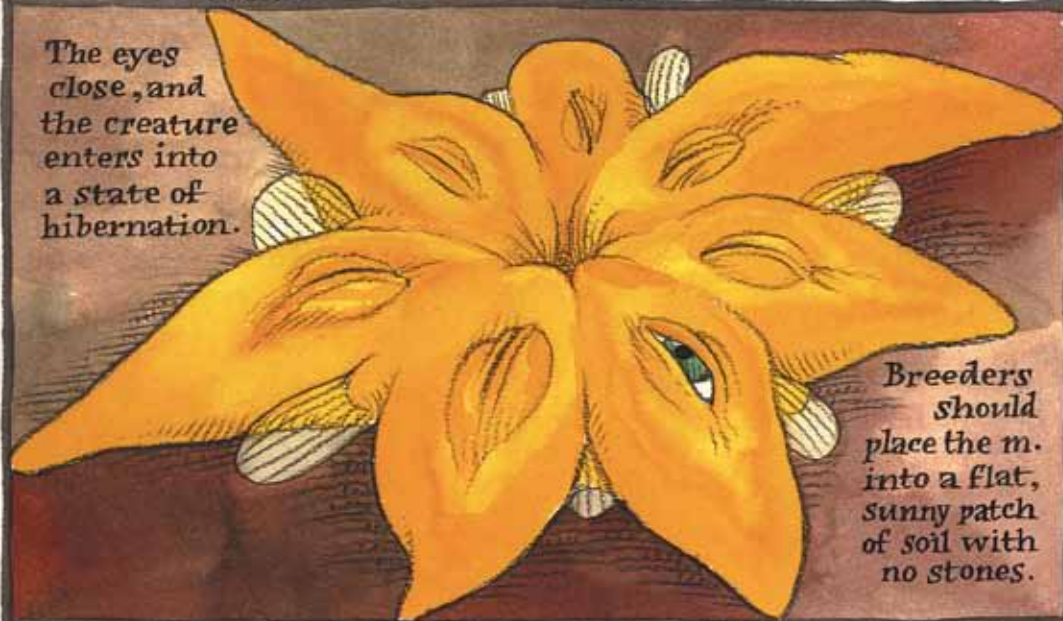
Soon enough, it starts to devour its own tail, and after that, its body as well.



Finally, only the flat head of the creature, resembling a sea-star, remains.



The eyes close, and the creature enters into a state of hibernation.



Breeders should place the m. into a flat, sunny patch of soil with no stones.

Iz usta zvezde izrašće tvrdi
izdanak nalik na drvo. Na
vrhu će se razviti lopta
prekrivena
trnovima.

Lopta je zapravo jaje, veličine
kokošijeg. Zaštićeno je jakim
zelenim hlorofilnim trnovi-
ma koji dodatno hrane ž
umance.

Svaki
trn je povezan
s jezgrom jajeta i
hrani fetus.

Trnovi

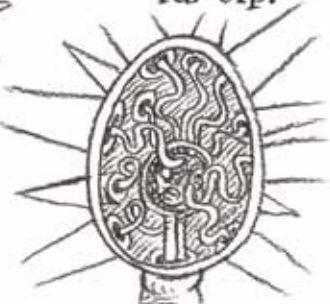
Jaje

Phase eight: Tree

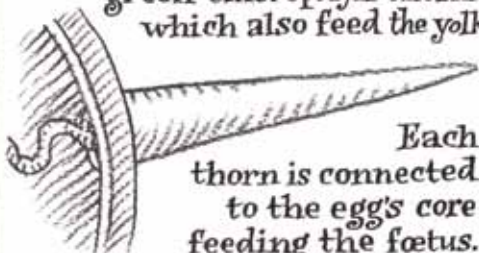
8



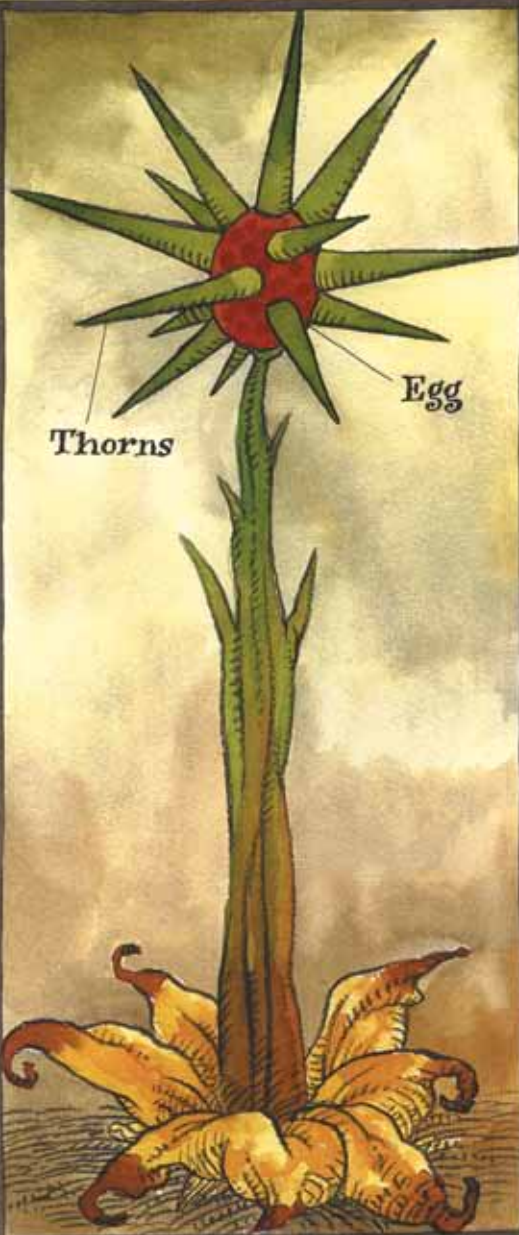
Out of the star's mouth a tree-like hard shoot emerges. A thorn covered ball develops at its tip.



Actually, the ball is an egg, the size of a chicken's. It is protected by strong green chlorophyll thorns which also feed the yolk.



Each thorn is connected to the egg's core feeding the foetus.



Deveta faza: Ptica

9

Kad je razvi-
tak jajeta okon-
čan, stablo
se naglo suši.

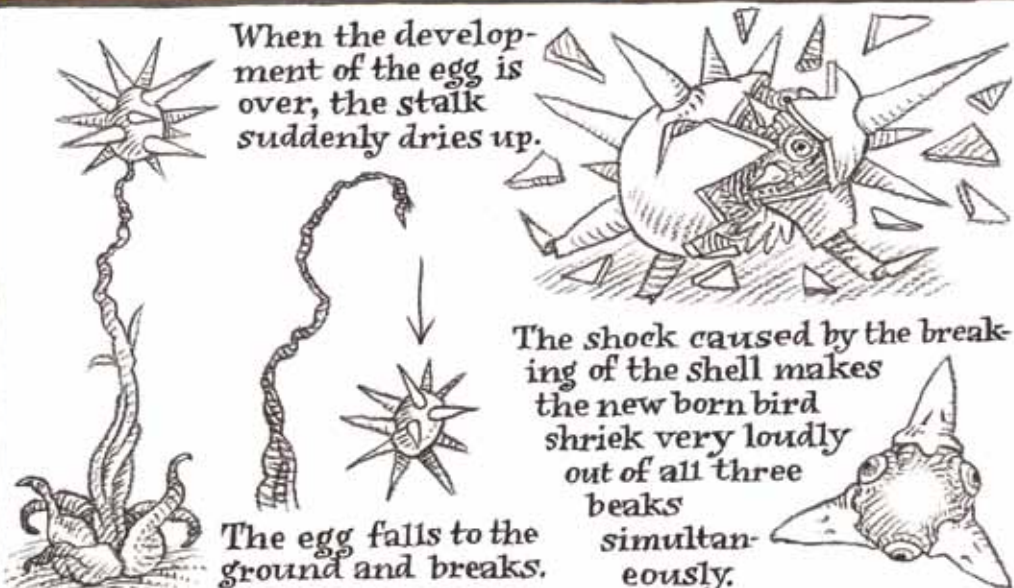
Jaje pada na zemlju
i razbija se

Usled šoka prouzrokovanog
razbijanjem ljuske, ptić
odmah počinje da pišti
izuzetno prodorno
iz sva tri kljuna
istovre-
meno.

Preporučuje se
odgajivačima da se
zaštite tamponima
za uši.

Phase nine: Bird

9



Deseta faza: Rep

10

Kad trokljuna četvoronoga
ptica dostigne punu veličinu,
počinje da joj brzo raste rep.

Rep je sličan pau-
novom, ali u oku
svakog pera razvija
se seme.

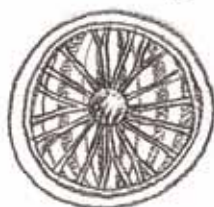
Seme ne treba brati dok
perje ne dostigne jasno
ljubičastu boju.

Phase ten: Tail

10



When the three-beaked four-legged bird reaches its full size, its tail starts to grow rapidly.



The tail is similar to a peacock's but in the eye of each feather, a seed has grown.



The seed should not be picked until the feather becomes bright violet.



Poslednja faza: Seme

II

Seme se
ubira
kad tanke
niti koje
drže jezgro
u sredini postanu
potpuno providne.

Za vreme
branja ptici
vezati noge i kljunove.

Pravilno
ubrano semenje
može dostići veoma
visoku
cenu na tržištu.

The last phase: Seed

11



The seed is ready for picking when the tiny threads which keep the core fixed become totally transparent.



During the picking breeders should tie up the bird's beaks and legs.



Properly gathered seeds may fetch a very high price on the market.

O METAMORFU

Da li je vreme velikih otkrića već prošlo? Ima li na Zemaljskoj kugli još nekog neotkrivenog kutka, da li se negde skrila kakva nepoznata životinja ili tajanstvena biljka? Ima li mesta fantastičnim i zadivljujućim otkrićima u civilizaciji koja je, kako kaže Robert Grejvz, obešćastila najplemenitije oznake poezije, gde zmija, lav i orao spadaju u cirkus, govedo, vepar i losos u konzerve, trkaći konj i lovački pas u kladionice, a sveti gaj u pilanu? Aždaja iz Loh Nesa s pravom se krije. Onog trenutka kada bude uhvaćena postaće vlasništvo multinacionalnih kompanija: u specijalno izgrađenom Nesarijumu (ili Neslendu) zabavljaje publiku vrteći loptu na nosu i tapšući perajama.

Pa ipak, nije sve izgubljeno! Ima još skrivenih tajni prirode. To pokazuje i otkriće Rastka Ćirića koji nam predstavlja tajanstveno biće - metamorfa. Ćiriću,iskusnom kriptobiologu i umetniku, pripada zasluga što je proučio, detaljno opisao i vešto ilustrovao sve faze u životu čudnovatog metamorfa. Posebno je važno što je Ćirić nepobitno dokazao da su neki oblici života, nekada posmatrani kao zasebne vrste, zapravo samo pojedine faze razvoja jednog bića - metamorfa. Navešću samo nekoliko primera: druga faza u životu metamorfa (krilata biljka) vekovima je bila pogrešno interpretirana kao krilata mandragora. Nju je opisao još Dioskorid (I vek naše ere) u svom poznatom farmakološkom delu *De Materia Medica*. Krilata mandragora, kao lek za kožna oboljenja, provlači se kroz čitav niz knjiga o lekovitom bilju, zaključno sa Narodnim učiteljem Vase Pelagića, gde se protiv sramnih udova bolesti preporučuje tucana krilata mandragora pomešana s uljem od miševa.

Četvrta faza metamorfa - insekt takođe je, često i neopravdano, bila brkana sa sasvim drugim bićem - anatemom ili žabom-paučarom. Jedan pogrešno identifikovan metamorf u fazi insekta razbaškario se, tako, u entomološkoj zbirci Univerziteta u Rigi, između četiri obične žabe-paučare uhvaćene u podrumima ruskog manastira Solovki (na ostrvu u Belom moru).

Na ovom mestu, uz sve pohvale Rastku Ćiriću, mora se napomenuti da je njegovo tumačenje druge faze metamorfa prilično problematično. Naime, Ćirić smatra da je rep krilatog bića običan atavizam i da ničemu ne služi. Novija eksperimentalna istraživanja opovrgavaju ovo gledište. Saradnici Kazahstanskog poljoprivrednog instituta u Alma-Ati amputirali su repove metamorfa druge faze i ustanovili da ni jedan bezrepi metamorf nije prešao u treću, balon-fazu. Odsečeni repovi ostavljeni na vazduhu osušili bi se, ali oni zabodeni u zemlju naduvali su se i pretvarali u neobične leteće balone.

ABOUT METAMORPH

Is the time of great discoveries already past? Is there any undiscovered corner on Earth, is any unknown animal or mysterious plant hidden somewhere? Is there still a place for fantastic and amazing discoveries in a civilization, as Robert Graves says, in which the prime emblems of poetry are dishonored; in which serpent, lion and eagle belong to the circus tent; ox, salmon and boar to the cannery; racehorse and greyhound to the betting ring; and the sacred grove to the saw mill. The Loch Ness monster is right to hide.

From the moment when it is captured, it would become the property of multinational companies: in a specially built Nessarium (or Nessland) it will amuse the public by spinning a ball on its nose and clapping its fins.

Yet, all is not lost! There are still some hidden secrets in nature. Rastko Ćirić's discovery proves it, introducing the Metamorph – a mysterious creature. Ćirić, being both an experienced cryptobiologist and an artist, has to his credit the analysis, detailed description and skillful illustration of all the phases in a life of the strange Metamorph.

Particularly important is Ćirić's irrefutable proof that some forms of life, previously observed as separate species, are in fact specific phases of development of one single creature – the Metamorph. I will mention just a few examples: the second phase in the life of a Metamorph (the winged plant) for centuries was misinterpreted as a winged mandragora. It was already described by Dioscorides in the 1st century B.C., in his famous pharmacological work *De Materia Medica*. The winged mandragora, used medically for skin diseases, is mentioned in a number of books about medical herbs, last but not least in *The Folk Teacher* by Vasa Pelagić, where crushed winged mandragora mixed with mouse oil is recommended for treatment of diseases of shameful limbs.

The fourth phase of the Metamorph – the insect, was also – often unjustly – confused with another creature – the Anathema or Spider-Frog. One wrongly identified Metamorph in its insect phase turned up in the entomology collection of Riga University, placed between four ordinary Spider-Frogs captured in the cellars of the Solovki Russian monastery (on White Sea island).

However, with all respect to Rastko Ćirić, it must be mentioned that his interpretation of the second phase of the Metamorph causes some difficulty. Ćirić considers that the tail of the winged creature is atavistic and has no function at all, whereas recent experimental research contradicts this concept. Employees of the Kasakstan Agriculture Institute in Alma-Ata amputated the tails of second-phase Metamorphs and found that not a single tail-less Metamorph entered the third, balloon-phase. Their cut tails, left in a ventilated space would dry, but those pounded into the ground blew up, transforming themselves into strange flying balloons. It was discovered that these tails have the ability

Utvrđeno je da repovi imaju sposobnost apsorpcije helijuma iz zemljišta, bez čega je nemoguće metamorfovo pretvaranje u treću fazu. Balon se, prema tome, ne puni samo toplim vazduhom iz metamorfovog tela, već i helijumom iz repa. Vredno je spomena da deca u Kazahstanu često metamorfima odsecaju repove i tako dolaze do jeftinih igrački – prirodnih balona punjenih helijumom!

Prelaz iz pete metamorfove (riblje) faze u šestu (zmijsku) praćen je delimičnom evolutivnom regresijom, koja dovodi u pitanje načelo da je ontogeneza kratka rekapitulacija filogeneze. Metamorf se, naime, od košljoribe prvo pretvara u koloustu (koja je primitivniji oblik ribe), pa tek onda u zmiju! Ovakva regresija još je upečatljivija kod pretvaranja uroborosa u drvo, što je metamorfa činilo naročito zanimljivim alhemičarima. Nije potrebno posebno napominjati koliko su metamorfove faze zmiје, uroborosa i drveta bile omiljene u alhemiji. Srednjovekovni alhemičari prepoznavali su povezanost ovih faza u životu metamorfa i nisu se priklanjali opštoj zabludi da su u pitanju posebna različita bića. Promene metamorfa shvatali su kao univerzalni simbol transmutacije materije, od grubih minerala iz zemlje do savršenog filozofskog jajeta.

Unauci je dobro poznato drveće koje rađa ptice ili životinje. Spomenuću samo lupargusku koja pupi na posebnoj vrsti severnog bora, ili biljno jagnje – čuvenog Baromeca. Interesantno je, međutim, da u svom životnom ciklusu metamorf prolazi kroz dve biljne faze: krilatu mandragoru i drvo s bodljikavim jajetom. Trnje bogato hlorofilom, koje hrani jaje, samo je još jedan primer savršene evolutivne adaptacije našeg čudnovatog bića. Stravično pištanje trooke, trokljune ptice koja se izleže iz bodljikavog jajeta potvrđuje pretpostavke da je metamorf u bliskom srodstvu s burmanskim kreštavom mušmulom, ali i sa balkanskim cikavcima. Metamorf u fazi trooke trokljune ptice prikazan je još na hetitskim reljefima (što nas upućuje na njegovo maloazijsko poreklo), a najčuvenija heraldička predstava ove ptice je na zastavi Svetog rimskog carstva iz 1336. O drevnosti metamorfa govori i činjenica da su u Egiptu, u arheološkim slojevima Srednjeg carstva (2040-1640. pre n.e.), pronađene zvečke ispunjene njegovim repnim semenkama.

Uz ovih nekoliko uzgrednih napomena o metamorfu, trebalo bi još jednom pohvaliti istraživački i umetnički rad Rastka Ćirića, koji je svojom studijom Priručnik za gajenje domaćeg metamorfa (*Metamorphus domesticus*), definitivno uvrstio ovo biće u red priznatih i poznatih kriptobioloških vrsta. Onima koji se odluče da slede Ćirićeva uputstva i da uzgajaju metamorfa dao bih samo jedan savet: nikada ga ne terajte da vrti loptu na nosu i da tapše perajima!

A. Peragraš

to absorb helium from the soil, allowing the Metamorph to mutate into the next phase. The balloon, therefore, is not filled only with hot air from the Metamorph's body, but also with helium from the tail. One must mention that children from Kazakstan often cut Metamorphs' tails to make themselves cheap toys – natural helium-filled balloons!

The passage from the fifth Metamorph's (fish) phase to the sixth (snake) phase is marked with a partial evolutive regression, which questions the rule that ontogenesis is a short recapitulation of phylogenesis. The Metamorph is, in fact, first transformed from the skeleton-fish into Cyclostomata (a primitive form of fish), and after that into a snake! This kind of regression is more expressively observed in the transformation of uroboros into a tree, which made the Metamorph extremely interesting for alchemists. It is not worth mentioning to what extent the Metamorph's snake, uroboros and tree phases were popular in alchemy. Medieval alchemists noticed the connection of the phases of the life of a Metamorph and avoided the common prejudice that these forms were different creatures. They considered the changes of a Metamorph as an universal symbol of transmutation of matter, from the rough minerals out of the ground to the perfect philosopher's egg.

In science, trees that grow birds or animals are well known. I will just mention the Barnacle Goose which grows out of a special variety of northern pine, or the Vegetable Lamb – famous Barometz. It is interesting, therefore, that the Metamorph in its life cycle, passes through two plant phases: the winged mandragora and the tree with a thorn egg. The chlorophyll-rich thorns, that feed the egg, are just another example of the perfect evolutionary adaptation of our strange creature. The horrible screeching of the three-eyed, three-beaked, bird that came out of the thorny egg confirms the hypothesis that the Metamorph is closely related to the Screaming Medlar from Burma, but also to the Balkan Screechers. In the three-beaked bird phase, the Metamorph was present already on Hittite reliefs (this reveals its Near East origin), and the best known heraldic usage of that bird was in the flag of the Holy Roman Empire from 1336. Its ancient origin is confirmed by the fact that in archeological layers of the Egyptian Middle Kingdom (2040–1640 B.C.) rattles filled with its tail seeds were found.

After these few informal remarks on the Metamorph, credit should be given to Rastko Ćirić for his research and artistic work; his essay *The Home-Bred Metamorph (Metamorphus domesticus) Cultivating Manual*, definitely classifies this being as an identified and known cryptobiological species. To those who decide to follow Ćirić's instructions and to cultivate the Metamorph, I would give one piece of advice: never force it to spin a ball on its nose and clap with its fins.

A. Peragrash

SADRŽAJ

SUMMARY

Prva faza: Seme	(4)	Phase one: Seed
Druga faza: Krila	(6)	Phase two: Wings
Treća faza: Balon	(8)	Phase three: Balloon
Četvrta faza: Insekt	(10)	Phase four: Insect
Peta faza: Riba	(12)	Phase five: Fish
Šesta faza: Zmija	(14)	Phase six: Snake
Sedma faza: Uroboros	(16)	Phase seven: Uroboros
Osma faza: Drvo	(18)	Phase eight: Tree
Deveta faza: Ptica	(20)	Phase nine: Bird
Deseta faza: Rep	(22)	Phase ten: Tail
Poslednja faza: Seme	(24)	The last phase: Seed
O metamorfu	(26)	
	(27)	About Metamorph

Tekst i ilustracije RASTKO ĆIRIĆ

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TRI TAČKE

Životni ciklus metamorfa,
prilično neobičnog bića
koje se stalno
menja.

An
account
of a life cycle
of the Metamorph, a
considerably strange, ever-
changing creature.

