

Maria Sibylla Merian, *The Caterpillar, Marvelous Transformation and Strange Floral Food* (1683)

Abstract

These illustrations are taken from Maria Sibylla Merian's *The Caterpillar, Marvelous Transformation and Strange Floral Food* [*Der Raupen wunderbare Verwandlung/ und sonderbare Blumennahrung*], where they appear as plates 8, 21, and 34. The illustrations show insects in their various stages of development – from caterpillar and cocoon to butterfly. They also introduce the plants that served as their main food sources. A true artist-naturalist, Merian sketched and colored these delicate copperplate images herself, having based them on observations recorded in her *Leningrader Studienbuch* [*Leningrad Book of Notes and Studies*]. Merian's rare combination of aesthetic and scientific talents set her apart from her peers.

Source





Source: Maria Sibylla Merian, *Der Raupen wunderbare Verwandlung/ und sonderbare Blumen-nahrung : worinnen/ durch eine gantz-neue Erfindung/ Der Raupen/ Würmer/ Sommer-vögelein/ Motten/ Fliegen/ und anderer dergleichen Thierlein/ Ursprung/ Speisen/ und Veränderungen/ samt ihrer Zeit/ Ort/ und Eigenschaften*, Volume 2. Frankfurt/Main and Nuremberg, 1683, Plates 8, 21, 34. ThULB. Available online at: <https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:urmel-23d3a153-f5of-4176-b13c-df30790ba79a3>

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