

accounts were taken from living fishes, and hence were not to be readily interpreted by workers in the closet with preserved specimens.

In order to do justice to Rafinesque's work, it is necessary, in the words of Girard (Proc. Ac. Nat. Sc. Phil. 1856, 167), "that one should go to the very ground trodden by Rafinesque himself, his book in hand, during all seasons of the year, aye, even for years in succession, to enable us to discriminate between what Rafinesque really observed and what is imaginary".

Rafinesque's work has been well summed up by Professor Agassiz:

"Nothing is more to be regretted for the progress of natural history in this country than that Rafinesque did not put up somewhere a collection of all the genera and species he had established, with well-authenticated labels, or that his contemporaries did not follow in his steps, or at least preserve the tradition of his doings, instead of decrying him and appealing to foreign authority against him. Tracing his course as a naturalist during his residence in this country, it is plain that he alarmed those with whom he had intercourse, by his innovations, and that they preferred to lean upon the authority of the great naturalists of the age, then residing in Europe, who, however, knew little of the special natural history of this country, than to trust a somewhat hasty man who was living among them, and who had collected a vast amount of information from all parts of the States, upon a variety of objects then entirely new to science. From what I can learn of Rafinesque, I am satisfied that he was a better man than he appeared. His misfortune was his prurient desire for novelties and his rashness in publishing them, and yet both in Europe and America he has antedated most of his contemporaries in the discovery of new genera and species in those departments of science which he has cultivated most perseveringly, and it is but justice to restore them to him, whenever it can be done". (Am. Journ. Sc. Arts, 1854, p. 354.)

In regard to the descriptions of fishes made by Rafinesque from "drawings by Mr. Audubon", I am informed by Dr. Kirtland, on the excellent authority of Dr. Bachman, that several of the monsters described by Rafinesque (such as *Aplocentrus*, *Pogostoma*, *Eurystomus*, etc.) were drawn by Audubon with a view to a practical joke on the too credulous ichthyologist. That being the case, it is but justice to Rafinesque's memory to let those names drop from our systematic lists without prejudice to him.

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