

## OLD PHENOLOGICAL DATA IN PUBLICATIONS OF CRA-CMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY

SERIE STORICHE DI DATI FENOLOGICI NELLE PUBBLICAZIONI DELLA BIBLIOTECA DEL CRA-CMA

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### Abstract

This paper illustrates the most interesting series of old phenological data contained in publications of CRA-CMA historical library. The books we examine are, in particular:

- Louis Cotte: *Traité de météorologie*. 1774, Paris
- Ministero di agricoltura, industria e commercio: *Osservazioni fenoscopiche sulle piante*. Roma, 1887
- Istituto centrale di statistica del Regno d'Italia: *Periodi di semina e di raccolto per le principali coltivazioni*. Roma, 1937
- Ufficio centrale di meteorologia e geodinamica: *Rivista meteorico-agraria*. Roma, 1879-1917

For these publications, we illustrate main characteristics of phenological data and we give some examples of them.

**Key words:** meteorological data, crops, wild plants, birds, insects.

### Riassunto

Vengono illustrate le più interessanti serie storiche di dati fenologici contenute in testi conservati nella biblioteca storica del CRA-CMA. In particolare vengono esaminati:

- Louis Cotte: *Traité de météorologie*. 1774, Paris
- Ministero di agricoltura, industria e commercio: *Osservazioni fenoscopiche sulle piante*. Roma, 1887
- Istituto centrale di statistica del Regno d'Italia: *Periodi di semina e di raccolto per le principali coltivazioni*. Roma, 1937
- Ufficio centrale di meteorologia e geodinamica: *Rivista meteorico-agraria*. Roma, 1879-1917

Per ogni pubblicazione vengono presentate le caratteristiche principali dei dati e mostrato qualche esempio.

**Parole chiave:** dati meteorologici, piante coltivate, piante spontanee, uccelli, insetti.

### Introduction

CRA-CMA (former UCEA) was established in 1876, with the name of "UFFICIO CENTRALE DI METEOROLOGIA" (CENTRAL METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE), the first national meteorological institution in Italy. In 1879 it was transferred to the present building, named "Collegio Romano" (XVI cent.).

CRA-CMA has an important meteorological and geophysical library; it comes from meteorological and geophysical collections once belonged to the "Collegio Romano Astronomical and Meteorological Observatory", whose establishment dates back to the 1570s by the Jesuits.

Such collections became the core of the CRA-CMA library in 1880, when the "Regio Ufficio Centrale di Meteorologia" was transferred to the Collegio Romano premises, already hosting the "Observatory".

Since then, the library has been enriched by a great many books and periodicals (both national and international) on meteorology, climatology and agrometeorology.

### Old phenological data

Among this old books, some of them concern old phenological data. In particular we will focus our attention on four publications:

- 1) Louis Cotte: *Traité de météorologie*. 1774, Paris
- 2) Ministero di agricoltura, industria e commercio: *Osservazioni fenoscopiche sulle piante*. Roma, 1887
- 3) Istituto centrale di statistica del Regno d'Italia: *Periodi di semina e di raccolto per le principali coltivazioni*. Roma, 1937
- 4) Ufficio centrale di meteorologia e geodinamica: *Rivista meteorico-agraria*. Roma, 1879-1917

#### 1) Louis Cotte: *Traité de météorologie*. 1774, Paris

The oldest of these publications is the «*Traité de météorologie*» (Cotte, 1774) (Fig.1), published in Paris in 1774. The author, Louis Cotte (1740-1815) was a French priest, correspondent of Académie Royal des Sciences. The fourth chapter of his treatise, named "Les Tables des Observations météorologiques & Botanico-météorologiques" presents several tables on phenological data.

These data aren't original observations made by the author, but he reports the observations carried out for 30 years (1741-1770) by Henri Louis Duhamel du Mon-