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Autore	Nappi Carla Suzan <1977->
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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- List of Illustrations -- Ex-Voto -- Note on Conversions -- Prologue: A Curious Instinct, A Taste for Ink -- 1. Conception: Birth of a Naturalist -- 2. Generation: Anatomy of a Naturalist -- INTERLUDE. Here Be Dragons: A Reader's Guide to the Bencao gangmu -- 3. Transformation: Elements of Change -- 4. Transformation: Sprouts of Change -- 5. Transformation: Bodies of Change -- 6. Transformation: Creatures of Change -- Conclusion. Rot and Rebirth: The Afterlife and Reincarnation of a Naturalist -- Appendix A. Li Shizhen, Lidai zhujia bencao [Bencao works through the ages] -- Appendix B. Contents of the Bencao gangmu [Systematic materia medica] -- Notes -- Glossary of Chinese Characters -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	This is the story of a Chinese doctor, his book, and the creatures that danced within its pages. The Monkey and the Inkpot introduces natural history in sixteenth-century China through the iconic Bencao gangmu (Systematic materia medica) of Li Shizhen (1518 - 1593). In the first book-length study in English of Li's text, Carla Nappi reveals a "cabinet of curiosities" of gems, beasts, and oddities whose author was devoted

to using natural history to guide the application of natural and artificial objects as medical drugs.

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