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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Transitional tropes: the nature of life in European romantic thought -- "Unchanging but in form": the aesthetic episteme of Erasmus Darwin -- "Not without some repugnancy, and a fluctuating mind": Trembley's polyp and the practice of eighteenth-century taxonomy -- "Art thou but a worm?": Blake and the question concerning taxonomy -- A diet of worms; or, Frankenstein and the matter of a vile romanticism.
Sommario/riassunto	From antiquity to today, the ubiquitous and multiform worm provokes an immediate discomfort and unconscious distancing: it remains us against them in anthropocentric anxiety. So there is always something muddled, or dirty, or even offensive when talking about worms. Rehabilitating the lowly worm into a powerful aesthetic trope, this book proposes a new framework for understanding such a strangely animate nature.