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**Cover Legend:** “Branch of Banana Tree with Caterpillar and Moth,” Plate 12, *Metamorphosis Insectorum Surinamensium*, Maria Sibylla Merian (1647–1717), The Hague, 1705. Maria Sibylla Merian’s success as a respected scientist, painter, and entrepreneur was nothing short of a miracle. She was born in Frankfurt at a time when Galileo’s trial for heresy (1633) was still a fresh reminder of the power of the Church, and when Germany broke the record for the number of witch hunts in Europe. Her field was entomology, with a special interest in the life cycle and morphology of caterpillars and the host plants on which they fed. In an era when the concept of metamorphosis went against Church dogma and insects were considered “beasts of the devil,” Merian’s three scholarly publications established her as a pioneer in the field. Her most famous book was a study of flora and fauna of Suriname, a Dutch colony on the northeast coast of South America. Merian, aged 52, set out on the two-year expedition funded by her successful shop in Amsterdam. The resulting publication, a compendium of scientific and cultural information, became a landmark, consulted by Alexander Von Humboldt (1769–1859) for his explorations in South America and cited by Linnaeus over 100 times. Czar Peter the Great purchased 300 of Merian’s watercolors on vellum for his famous cabinet of curiosities. More recently, after years of neglect, Merian has regained her rightful place in the history of naturalist illustration. She has also become a feminist icon. The cover illustration, one of 60 hand-colored copperplate engravings from the Suriname treatise, is in the Dutch still-life tradition, a combination of detailed naturalism, linear precision, and limpid coloration. The moth is shown in various stages of development, from chrysalis to pupa to caterpillar to adult. Even the banana plant ripens on the page, from unripe green to flourishing yellow. The hot cochineal red, made from the shells of beetles, is a characteristic feature of Merian’s work and reminds us of the torrid setting, of which Carmen Miranda reminded us: “bananas like the climate of the very, very tropical Equator.” It is therefore not surprising that, although many tried, it was impossible to propagate the species (*Musa paradisica sapientum*) in Europe until 1736, when Linnaeus finally succeeded in Holland. It took a while, but like targeted gene delivery, science found the way. Image courtesy MBL/WHOI Library, Woods Hole, Massachusetts; legend by Ann Weissmann, Exhibitions Curator.