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*La scienza allo stato nascente. Merleau-Ponty e Sellars sull'immagine scientifica della natura*

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This paper deals with the role played by science in the elaboration of a philosophical image of nature. In particular, I will consider two alternative approaches. On the one hand, I will look at Sellars' distinction between the manifest image of man, stemmed from common sense framework, and the scientific image, which involves the postulation of imperceptible entities to explain the behaviour of perceptible things. On the other hand, I will focus on Merleau-Ponty's redefinition of the Husserlian distinction between the natural dimension of lifeworld and the artificial horizon of scientific attitude. I will show that Sellars' scientific realism turns out to be a mere reduction of Nature to complexes of physical particles; by contrast, Merleau-Ponty's emergentism describes Nature as an articulated structure divided in different layers, each of them understood as a self-organizing totality. Accordingly, I claim that Merleau-Ponty's rehabilitation of Philosophy of Nature, as an attempt to think the complexity of reality, becomes an inquiry on the way through which "Science" arises from the symbolic and virtual behaviour of that living organism called "man".