



### Constant Duméril's *Zoologie Analytique* was published in 1805

Roger BOUR

Reptiles & Amphibiens, UMR 7205 OSEB, Département Systématique & Evolution, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, CP 30, 25 rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris, France. <bour@mnhn.fr>.

André Marie Constant Duméril (1774–1860) was at first an anatomist: on August 7, 1799, he was appointed chief of the anatomical works at the Paris Faculty of Medicine. As such, he helped Georges Cuvier in his anatomical researches, and from 1797 onwards he copied out his lectures; later, starting from 1802, he took the place of Cuvier to teach Natural History. Cuvier was grateful and stimulated him to work at the Paris Museum. Cuvier was convincing and effective: on June 16, 1803, he could offer Duméril a position as assistant of Lacepède<sup>1</sup>, who was head of the herpetological and ichthyological department of zoology. In his turn, Duméril had to be thankful, and he wrote a *Traité d'Histoire Naturelle* (1804), in which his “friend” Cuvier was greatly acknowledged; the author made clear that this work was a Cuvier's “order”.

The following year, Duméril prepared a second book, which only treated zoology, the *Zoologie Analytique*. Thanks to Duméril's copious correspondence, which is presently accessible through a book (Froissart 1984) and an internet site (*Correspondance familiale*, <<http://correspondancefamiliale.ehess.fr>>), we have first hand data about his activities. During the second half of 1805, Constant Duméril was in mission in Spain as physician, with Nicolas René Dufriche Desgenettes (1762–1837), to study an epidemic of yellow fever. The decree for this mission was signed on 17 prairial an XIII (June 6, 1805) by Napoléon, in Milan. The party was ready to leave on July, by stage coach: a last letter from Paris was written by Duméril on 25 messidor an XIII (July 14). The team stayed some days in Bordeaux and left it on July 22; on 7 thermidor an XIII (July 26), Duméril enjoyed Bayonne; they arrived in Madrid on August 10. In September they left Madrid for Toledo, Cordoba (September 17, foreword of *Zoologie Analytique*), Ecija (September 20, dedication to Lacepède) and Sevilla. Duméril and Desgenettes were back in Paris only on December 21. So one may wonder when Duméril could find time to work on his book. Actually the answer was given by himself in another letter of messidor an XIII (June 19 or later) to his father (Froissart 1984: 69): “*J'ai voulu terminer mon ouvrage avant de quitter Paris. J'ai encore à peu près trois pages à écrire pour finir le texte proprement dit. Je ferai passer l'introduction quand je l'aurai composée. Le cousin Dumont se charge de revoir les sept ou huit feuilles qui restent à composer. La publication de cet ouvrage n'aura lieu que pendant mon absence, c'est le seul regret que j'éprouve*”. On July 14, Duméril wrote: “*Ce n'est que d'hier que mon*

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1. There are some discrepancies about Lacepède's name. His full name before the Révolution was Bernard Germain Etienne Médard de la Ville-sur-Ilлон, comte de La Cepède (1756-1825). During the Terreur period, as noble, he left Paris (1793) to live in its suburb, and simultaneously changed his name for Lacepède. The perilous days gone away, he came back (1794) and entered the Museum (1795), keeping the name Lacepède. He always signed himself Lacepède then, but many references changed his name into Lacépède, and this version is the commonest today, possibly because Lacépède is easier to pronounce than Lacepède. Actually various combinations were proposed. For instance Duméril (1804) wrote Lacépède, the dedication of the *Zoologie Analytique* was addressed “À Monsieur de la Cépède”, and in the main text Duméril (1805; 1806) used de la Cepède. Zoological names based on his name have either Cepède or, rarely, Lacepède as root: *Gecko cepedianus* Milbert, 1812; *Lophotus lacepedianus* Bory de Saint-Vincent, 1826.
  2. “*I wanted to achieve my work before leaving Paris. I still have about three pages to write to finish the text itself. I will send the introduction when I have done it. My cousin Dumont is in charge of reviewing the seven or eight sheets that remain to be written. The publication of this work will appear during my absence, the only regret I have*”.

*ouvrage est achevé et terminé pour la rédaction du texte. Il a fallu pour cela que je m'y mette tout entier. Je me reposerai un peu en route*<sup>3</sup>”.

Therefore we can state that the *Zoologie Analytique* was precisely achieved on 13 July 1805, Duméril having just to add his introduction and dedication, written during the travel in Spain. The manuscript and edition were managed by his cousin Charles Dumont de Sainte-Croix (1758–1830). As expected by Duméril, the *Zoologie Analytique* appeared during his travel. At least three journals attested its publication before 1806: *Journal typographique et bibliographique*, 1805, Vol. 9, Nr. 6; *Journal général de la Littérature de France*, 1805, Nr. 11; *Journal de Physique, de Chimie, des Sciences naturelles et des Arts*, Nr. 61 [dated Messidor an XIII (June-July 1805), actually July-December 1805].

Obviously Duméril was unsatisfied of the title page, and additionally he found several typos. A new “edition” appeared some time after his return from Spain. This second printing included an extra page (xxxiii) with errata, and the defective title page was modified with the addition of Duméril’s various honorary memberships. It must be noticed that both title pages bear the year 1806.

The date of 1805 for the original printing of Duméril’s *Zoologie Analytique* was recently pinpointed by (Gregory 2010), who provided an illustration of both title pages. This change has nomenclatural consequences, because the date of publication of the numerous nominal taxa created by Duméril, either vernacular or latin, must be shifted from 1806 to 1805.

## References

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■ Accepted by Alain Dubois: 10 December 2010. – Published: 24 December 2010.

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3. “It was only yesterday that my work was achieved, and the composition of the text completed. This kept me fully busy. I will take a rest en route”.