

• *References*: "Herpetologische Zeichnungen aus dem Nachlass Rösels von Rosenhof," by F. Leydig, *Verhandl. Naturhist. Ver. Preuss. Rheinl. Westfal. Regierungsbez. Osnabrück*, 35: 1-41, 1878; "August Johann Rösel von Rosenhof," by W. Hess, *Allg. Deut. Biogr.*, 29: 188-189, 1889; L. C. Miall, 1912 (pp. 293-303); "August Johann Roesel von Rosenhof," by A. Geus, *Dict. Sci. Biogr.*, 11: 502-503, 1975; "Roesel von Rosenhof—Insecten-Belustigung," ed. by E. Bauer, Müller & Schindler, Stuttgart, 80 pages, 1985; Adler, 1986 (pp. 324, 328). • *Portrait*: From Roesel von Rosenhof, "Insecten-Belustigung," vol. 4 (ed. by C. F. C. Kleemann), 1761. • *Signature* (printed form): From Roesel von Rosenhof, "Ranarum," 1758.

LINNAEUS, Carl (1707-1778).

Carl Linnaeus (sometimes Carolus Linnaeus; from 1762, Carl von Linné), the great Swedish botanist who classified the world's plants and animals and introduced binomial nomenclature, was born 13 May 1707 at Södra, in Rashult province. As a boy he was tutored in botany by his father, a country parson, who had taken his surname from a famous Swedish lime-tree—Linnæus—that grew near his home. In 1727, Carl Linnaeus entered the University of Lund to study medicine and in the following year he transferred to the University of Uppsala where he first developed his new system of plant classification based on type of sexual organs. After several field trips in Sweden, he travelled abroad (1735-1738) to England, France, and Holland, published his first important works, and met many influential persons including Albertus Seba. During this time he also finished his medical degree at the University of Harderwijk in Holland (1735), and published the first edition of "Systema Naturæ" (1735) including a description of his procedures, based partly on those of Conrad Gessner.

Despite his developing fame, no academic position awaited him in Sweden, so he practiced medicine in Stockholm. Finally, in 1741, he was offered a professorship at the University of Uppsala, which he held until his death, in Uppsala, on 10 January 1778. In 1747 he was appointed physician to the Swedish Royal family and was elevated to the nobility, in 1762. Besides his major books, Linnaeus was an incomparable teacher and supervisor of doctoral students. He extended his influence through them and their collections in distant lands: Pehr Kalm in North America, Fredrik Hasselquist in Egypt and Palestine, Pehr Forskål in Arabia, Petrus Löfling in Venezuela, Pehr Osbeck in China and the East Indies, and C. P. Thunberg in Japan, to name the principal ones.

Linnaeus was a driven man who was enormously ambitious and had a great capacity for work. He was a brilliant observer, but he was so dogmatic and philosophical in his effort to classify Nature in a simple scheme—derived, ultimately, from Aristotelian logic—that he saw himself as a prophet summoned by God to proclaim the true dogma. Egocentric, Linnaeus persecuted those, like Georges Buffon, who despised the artificiality of his system so that they never fully appreciated its practical benefits. Nevertheless,

Linnaeus, inspired by John Ray, the English clergyman and naturalist, was the first to use species as a clearly-defined concept, but he saw them as fixed and unchangeable entities created by God, although his views on immutability changed over time.

Linnaeus's abhorrence of amphibians and reptiles is well known—he once wrote of them "*Terribilia sunt opera Tua, o Domine!*" or, in translation, "Terrible are Thy works, O Lord!"—yet of necessity they figured in the various editions of "Systema Naturæ" (first edition through 12th, the last prepared by him, 1735-1766). Besides naming numerous genera and species from throughout the world, Linnaeus defined the class Amphibia; although he had already done so in previous editions, officially the name dates from the tenth edition of the "Systema" (1758; reprinted 1956) since that edition was later selected by taxonomists as the starting point for zoological nomenclature.

Linnaeus's definition of "Amphibia" included not only amphibians and reptiles but cartilaginous fishes, which in later editions of his "Systema" he transferred to the Amphibia based on misconceptions about their gill structure. Numerous translations and emendations of the "Systema" appeared during and after Linnaeus's life, the most important of which, herpetologically, were those by Martinus Houttuyn (1764), P. L. Stadius Müller (1774), and J. F. Gmelin (1789, the so-called 13th edition of Linnaeus, to which Gmelin added descriptions of new species and to whom authorship is credited), and John Walcott's atlas of 1788[-1789].



Carolus Linnaeus

Carl - Linné