

(only), the name is given in what is believed to be the Latin nominative: Josephus Nicolaus Laurenti. Unfortunately, in the 1966 reprint of the thesis version of Laurenti's book, the final *i* in his name has been omitted. On inquiry to the Archives of the University of Vienna, Kurt Mühlberger, the University Archivist, has determined that Laurenti himself consistently used the spelling "Laurenti" in all of his university records and that it is, in fact, the nominative form. • *Note 2:* Cloquet (1819, p. 28) and Fitzinger (1823, p. 631) seem to be the first persons to state in print that Winterl might have been the real author of the "Specimen Medicum," and numerous later authors have simply repeated the statement. Neither author provided evidence for their remark. However, the earliest published statement about Winterl's involvement presents a very different picture. Jöcher and Adelung (1810, col. 1393) stated that Professor "Winterle" [sic] published his [=Laurenti's] "Synopsis Reptilium." Winterl was Laurenti's fellow student and received his own M.D. degree from Vienna the previous year (1767); possibly he supervised Laurenti's book through the press or paid for its printing.

SCHNEIDER, J. G. (1750-1822).

The German philologist and naturalist Schneider was born on 18 January 1750 in Kollmen (now Collm), near Oschatz, just east of Leipzig. To his name, Johann Gottlob Theaenus Schneider, he sometimes added "Saxo" in honor of his native land, Saxony. He studied philology, especially the Greek classics, and natural history at universities in Leipzig (beginning 1769), Göttingen (1772), and finally at Strassburg, where he received his Dr.Phil. degree (1774). In 1776, he became Professor of Philology at the University of Frankfurt (Oder), where he produced a large number of translations and commentaries on classical works, including Aristotle's "Historia Animalium" (1811, in four volumes) and Nicander's "Theriaca" (1816), and became one of the foremost philologists of his day. When his university was transferred to Breslau (today Wrocław, Poland) in 1811, he moved with it and, not liking to teach, in 1814 he accepted the post of university librarian. He died in Breslau on 12 January 1822.

Even though Schneider's zoological projects were strictly secondary to his literary work, he made several important contributions. Partly this is due to the early date at which he worked, but also to the fact that he used proper Latin binomial nomenclature at a time when many others, especially the French, who were still laboring under the shadow of Georges Buffon, did not or did so only in a desultory manner. Moreover, because of his classical training, Schneider's works were well researched and referenced to the literature, with learned digressions into the classical authors. His first major herpetological title, "Allgemeine Naturgeschichte der Schildkröten" (1783; two small supplements in 1787 and 1789) was largely an historical review of cheloniology, to which he added a short systematic section including first descriptions of several well-known turtles: *Chrysemys picta*, *Chelus fimbriatus*, and *Trionyx ferox*. In 1790-1792 he published "Amphib-



iorum Physiologiae" which, despite its title, was devoted largely to lizard systematics.

Schneider's major herpetological title, "Historiae Amphibiorum" (in two volumes, 1799 and 1801; reprinted 1968), was a world review of amphibians and reptiles, and in it he named numerous new species and genera; to mention a few of the best known new taxa, *Crocodylus porosus*, *C. siamensis*, and *Paleosuchus trigonatus* among crocodylians and the boids *Candoia carinata*, *Eryx conicus*, *Morelia amethystina*, and *Python reticulatus*. Most of the specimens he used for this book were in the Museum Lampianum in Hannover, purchased long before by his university colleague, J. L. C. Gravenhorst, and moved to Breslau in 1811, coincidentally with Schneider himself. Later, he published several monographs on major groups, including geckos (1812) and boas (1821).

• *References:* "Memoria Joh. Theaeni Schneideri," p. 337-350. In F. L. C. F. Passow, *Opuscula Academica*, F. C. G. Vogel, Leipzig, 1835; "Johann Gottlob Schneider," by H. A. Pierer (ed.), *Universal-Lexikon, Vollständ. Encyclop. Wörterbuch*, 20: 60-61, 1835; "Johann Gottlob (Theaenus) Schneider," by R. Hoche, *Allg. Deut. Biogr.*, 32: 125-127, 1891; "The Precursors in Cetacea," by G. Pilleri and L. Arvy, *Investig. Cetology*, vol. 12, Brain Anatomy Institute, Bern, 1981 (pp. 88-92). • *Portrait:* From Pilleri and Arvy, 1981, courtesy G. Pilleri. • *Signature:* Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, courtesy Rainer Günther.