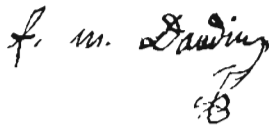


**DAUDIN, F.-M. (1774-1804).**

François-Marie Daudin, born in Paris on 24 or 25 March 1774, was a French amateur naturalist with great promise who, nevertheless, had a tragic career. A childhood illness crippled his legs and, thus, at an early age, he devoted himself to physics and natural history but the latter became predominant. This was a time of great ferment in France, both politically and scientifically. Georges Buffon had died in 1788 and now the Linnaean opposition, which wished to classify all organisms according to binomial principles, dared to emerge. During and immediately following the French Revolution, important herpetological treatises were published in Paris by L.-J.-M. Daubenton (1784), B.-G.-É. de Lacepède (1788-1789), P.-J. Bonnaterre (1789-1790), and C.-N.-S. Sonnini and P.-A. Latreille (1801), but the most comprehensive of them was that by Daudin.



Daudin's first major work, "Traite Élémentaire et Complet d'Ornithologie" (1800), was the first true handbook of birds, combining Linnaean systematics with Buffonian natural history, including both anatomy and physiology. However, Daudin's greater interest was herpetology, and in his few remaining years he published three different titles on the subject. He was ably assisted in this work by his wife, Adele Daudin, who also did much of the artwork. But his books were not commercial successes and this, coupled with personal financial problems, led to despair. The Daudins eventually died of tuberculosis, he only a few weeks after his wife, both early in 1804, in Paris. He was not yet 30 years old.

Daudin's first herpetological book, written according to the same plan as his "Ornithologie," is little known and was never completed. "Histoire Naturelle des Quadrupèdes Ovipares" (1800) was to have extended to 30 parts, each with six plates and accompanying text, but only the first two parts, on frogs, appeared. Commercial circumstances interrupted publication, but the text and plates were later re-used in his less elaborate but still respectable review of the frogs of the world, "Histoire Naturelle des Rainettes, des Grenouilles et des Crapauds" (1802), issued in both quarto and folio editions and with 38 plates (either handcolored or uncolored).

Daudin's most extensive herpetological work, and the one on which his reputation rests, was the "Histoire Naturelle, Générale et Particulière des Reptiles" (1801-1803), in eight volumes with 100 plates, issued in editions with handcolored or uncolored plates or both; a reprint, in which the type was reset in most volumes, was published later. This book, part of the so-called Sonnini edition of Buffon's encyclopedia, was the standard herpetological reference of its day, acknowledged even by Daudin's grudging critics like Georges Cuvier, and was not

superseded until the "Erpétologie Générale" of A.-M.-C. Duméril and Gabriel Bibron (1834-1854).

For this book, Daudin stated that he had examined over 1100 specimens belonging to 517 species, triple the number catalogued by Count de Lacepède only 25 years before; his genera were well defined, better than Lacepède's or those in Sonnini and Latreille's "Histoire Naturelle des Reptiles," but they were not yet in natural order, something that did not occur for the genera of reptiles until Duméril and Bibron. Linnaean nomenclature was used throughout. New and familiar genera—for example, *Eryx*, *Python*, *Bungarus*, *Lachesis*, *Erpeton*, and *Ophisaurus*—were named by Daudin and are often cited as from his "Reptiles," but several had been described earlier by him in Parisian journals. Thus, despite his personal handicaps and the fact that he was an amateur and not a formal member of the academic community, Daudin, while still in his twenties, managed to produce one of the great classics of herpetology.

• *References*: "Daudin (François-Marie)," by G. Cuvier, *Biogr. Univers. (Michaud) Ancien. Mod.*, new ed., 10: 161-162, 1855; "Daudin (François-Marie)," by St. Le Tourneur, *Dict. Biogr. Franç.*, 10: col. 266-267, 1965; Harper, 1940. • *Signature* (1803): Library, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, courtesy V. Van de Ponsele.

**BOJANUS, Ludwig Heinrich (1776-1827).**

Bojanus, a veterinary anatomist and author of the finest iconography of the turtle, was born in Buchsweiler (now Bousville), France, in what was then the province of Alsace, on 16 July 1776, but he soon moved to Darmstadt. He attended the University of Jena (M.D. 1797) and then