

GRAVENHORST, J. L. C. (1777-1857).

Johann Ludwig Christian Carl Gravenhorst, German entomologist and zoologist, was born in Braunschweig on 14 November 1777. His interest in insects began very early, since two of his school teachers were entomologists. Thus, when he entered the University of Helmstädt to study law (1797), his mind was already on zoology and, due to his late father's fortune, he was able to indulge his passion. He then transferred to the University of Göttingen (1799) where he was trained by J. F. Blumenbach. On returning to Helmstädt in 1801 he received a Ph.D. for an entomological thesis. He then returned to Braunschweig for some years of private study, interrupted by an important few months in Paris (1802) working with Georges Cuvier, P.-A. Latreille, and Alexandre Brongniart. Later he used his financial resources to obtain a large private natural history collection, that of Lampe in Hannover, which contained many reptiles and amphibians.

Gravenhorst became a professor at Göttingen in 1805 and the next year published his famous "Monographia Coleopterorum," which went through many editions until 1840 and established his entomological reputation. Thereafter, he published numerous books and papers, the most famous of which were on parasitic wasps but also several on herpetology. He went to the University of Frankfurt (Oder) as Professor of Natural History in 1810 and in the following year moved with the university, as did his colleague, J. G. Schneider, when it became the University of Breslau. Gravenhorst became director of the museum there

and donated to it his extensive personal collections, about which he wrote in many of his herpetological publications. Due to serious physical and mental illnesses, beginning in 1825 and worsening in the 1840s, he gradually reduced his scientific work; indeed, he wrote nothing new after 1842 and published only existing manuscripts. He was a comparative anatomist by training who highly valued the importance of morphology in classification. He retired completely in 1856, and died in Breslau (now Wrocław, Poland) on 14 January 1857.

Besides some short papers (beginning 1825), Gravenhorst published four major herpetological titles, the earliest of which was "Deliciae Musei Zoologici Vratislaviensis" (1829; alternate title "Reptilia Musei Zoologica Vratislaviensis"), covering the turtles and amphibians in the Breslau collection. This is an elaborate work, worldwide in coverage, and with 17 large, highly detailed plates, most of them handcolored; unfortunately the promised part on lizards and snakes was never issued. The other three titles are extensive monographs, all published in the *Nova Acta* (1833, 1837 [1838], 1847 [1851]) and concerning lizards from all parts of the world.

• *References*: "Dr. Joh. Ludw. Christian Gravenhorst," by K. Letzner, *Jahr.-Ber. Schlesischen Gesellsch. Vaterländ. Kult.*, 35: 111-115, 1857 (1858); "Joh. Ludwig Christian Gravenhorst," by J. Carus, *Allg. Deut. Biogr.*, 9: 616, 1879; "Johann Ludwig Christian Carl Gravenhorst," by G. Uschmann, *Neue Deutsch. Biogr.*, 7: 12-13, 1965. • *Portrait*: Courtesy Library, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. • *Signature*: Courtesy Library, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.


WIEGMANN, A. F. A. (1802-1841).

Arend Friedrich August Wiegmann, German zoologist and member of a family of biologists, was born on 2 June 1802 in Brunswick, Braunschweig, where his father, the botanist A. F. Wiegmann, was Professor of Natural History. Young Wiegmann trained in medicine and philology at the University of Leipzig and then went to study with Hinrich Lichtenstein at the University of Berlin, where he was put in charge of the herpetological collection of the zoological museum directed by Lichtenstein. Wiegmann became a professor at Cologne in 1828 and at the University of Berlin two years later. Besides his major interest in herpetology, he also published on mammals and crustaceans. His son, C. A. F. Wiegmann, also followed a zoological career. A. F. A. Wiegmann published a general zoology text with J. F. Ruthe (1832, second edition 1843) and in 1835 co-founded a major German natural history journal, *Archiv für Naturgeschichte*. He died of tuberculosis at the young age of 38, on 15 January 1841.

In addition to several shorter papers in journals, Wiegmann published two major herpetological works, both in 1834. "Herpetologia Mexicana," a large folio of 60 pages and 10 handcolored plates (reprinted 1969), was the first major post-Linnaean monograph on the herpetofauna of Mexico. The book consists of two rather unrelated parts,