

Schlegel was one of the most prominent naturalists of his era, concerned with fundamental questions of the definition of species, the relationship of systematics to physical geography, and the biological meaning of variation. It was he who first used trinomial nomenclature (beginning in 1844). However, like most of the older generation of German ornithologists, he was a lifelong opponent of Darwinism, and he even eschewed the use of microscopes. He died in Leiden on 17 January 1884.

• *References*: "Levensschets van Hermann Schlegel," by G. Schlegel, *Jaarboek Koninkl. Akad. Wetensch.*, Amsterdam, 97 pages, 1884; E. Stresemann, 1975 (pp. 192-219). • *Portrait and signature* (1842): Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, courtesy Marinus S. Hoogmoed.

### DUMÉRIL, Constant (1774-1860).

André-Marie-Constant Duméril, physician and anatomist, was the greatest taxonomic herpetologist of his era. He was born in Amiens (Somme), France, on 1 January 1774, and showed an early interest in nature, especially insects and salamanders. He began his medical training in 1793, at the École Secondaire de Médecine in Rouen, specializing in anatomy, but in 1795 transferred to the École de Santé in Paris. By 1799, he had been promoted to chief of anatomical work there, and in 1801 he became Professor of Anatomy and Physiology. During this same period he continued his zoological work and became associated with the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, in particular with the comparative anatomist Georges Cuvier, only five years Duméril's senior.

In 1803, Count de Lacepède, who held the professorship (or head) of ichthyology and herpetology at the museum, resigned due to his preoccupation with political work. Cuvier nominated Duméril for the post, and he reluctantly accepted but only on condition that he be regarded as temporary; eventually, on Lacepède's death in 1825, Duméril became official head, a position he relinquished, in turn, to his son, Auguste Duméril, in 1857. Thus, Constant Duméril's service to the museum spanned 54 years, during which time French domination of world herpetology reached its zenith, due largely to him.

In view of Duméril's enormous productivity at the museum it is easy to forget that he continued his medical duties throughout, only coming to the museum to teach. In fact, he was a very popular lecturer and once remarked that this was the most personally satisfying aspect of his work. Cuvier and Achille Valenciennes were responsible for the rapidly growing collections, but when Cuvier died in 1832, Valenciennes assumed the professorship of malacology, leaving Duméril without assistance. Fortunately for Duméril and for herpetology, there was already someone on the museum's staff, Gabriel Bibron, who perfectly complemented Duméril's talents. Duméril's interest was clearly at the level of higher taxa and classification, as demonstrated in his first major work, "Zoologie Analytique" (1806), which covers all animals and shows the relationships of the genera; indeed, species are not mentioned at all.

France at this time, under Napoleon, was enormously powerful, both militarily and economically, and the museum's collections were to grow as a direct result. France's victorious generals of the empire brought back large collections, even to the extent of emptying the shelves of museums in the conquered countries under the guise of "loans" or even as "gifts" of the grateful people to the French. This was also a time of great voyages and expeditions, for commercial as well as military purposes, when the European powers began to develop overseas possessions, and France was preeminent. All of the booty was returned to Paris and there came under the control of one man: Constant Duméril. Together with his primary assistant, Gabriel Bibron, Duméril proceeded to produce a project of enormous scope, a detailed review of the world's herpetofauna, based on the then-largest herpetological collection.

Duméril himself was responsible for the grand design and arrangement of genera—the first natural arrangement of genera ever undertaken for amphibians and reptiles—and thus one of the classical monuments of descriptive zoology. He was assisted in the generic arrangement by a young German, Michael Oppel, who was his student in 1807-1808. Bibron's responsibility was the description of species. The result was the "Erpétologie Générale ou Histoire Naturelle Complète des Reptiles" (1834-1854), in nine volumes (bound in ten, since volume seven is in two parts) plus an

