

Reinhardt published numerous other herpetological studies, particularly on snakes. One of these (1843), based on the snake collection at the Royal Natural History Museum which he began to curate informally in 1840, described numerous new species collected by Danish traders in West Africa ("Guinea") and other places, including the Puerto Rican *Epicrates inornatus*, *Bungarus flaviceps* of Southeast Asia, and the well-known African spitting cobra (*Naja nigricollis*). In 1863 (English translation 1955), he described the peculiar egg-eating snake of India and Bangladesh (*Elachistodon westermanni*), and other papers by him concern such diverse topics as skeletal anatomy of crocodylians and apical pits of snake scales. There is some confusion in the literature, however, since his father also published on vertebrates, including reptiles (e.g., he described the distinctive Southeast Asian colubrid *Xenodermus javanicus* in 1836, which is sometimes credited to the son).

• *References*: "Oversigt over Dansk Entomologis Historie," by K. L. Henriksen, *Entomol. Meddel.*, 15: 1-578, 1921-1937 (see pp. 212-215, 1926); "Undervisningen i Zoologi ved Københavns Universitet," by R. Spärck, *Festskr. Københavns Univ., Copenhagen*, 301 pages, 1962 (see pp. 72-77); Papavero, 1973 (p. 366); "Johannes Theodor Reinhardt," by R. Spärck, *Dansk Biograf. Leks.*, 12: 128-129, 1982. • *Portrait* (about 1880): From Spärck, 1962. • *Signature* (1860): Adler collection.



H. Burmeister *H. Burmeister*

BURMEISTER, Hermann (1807-1892).

Carl Hermann Conrad Burmeister, a distinguished German entomologist who became one of Argentina's leading naturalists, was born in Stralsund, near the Baltic coast, on 15 January 1807. He was educated at the universities of Greifswald and Halle, the latter granting him the M.D. and Ph.D. in 1829. He published many works during these early years, mostly entomological, with his major title "Handbuch der Entomologie" (1832-1855), in five volumes, being a classic. Burmeister became Professor of Zoology at the University of Halle but due to the political disturbances of 1848-1850, when he sided with the "Liberals," he was forced to leave and went to Brazil, where he explored Minas Gerais (1850-1852), and also to Uruguay and Argentina (1856-1860).

In 1862, Burmeister emigrated to Buenos Aires and became founding director of the Museo Público de Buenos Aires, the national museum of natural history, where he spent the remainder of his career, retiring just a month before his death, in Buenos Aires, on 2 May 1892. During his tenure as director, the national collections grew rapidly in all branches of natural history including paleontology, an area in which Argentina is particularly rich and a subject that became a special interest to him.

Burmeister's early interest in entomology continued throughout his life, but his interests broadened to include vertebrate paleontology and physical geography. His major book on living vertebrates, "Systematische Übersicht der Thiere Brasiliens" (1854-1856), in three volumes, covered

only mammals and birds. Herpetologically, besides some shorter papers and more comprehensive works which include reptiles in part, Burmeister published two books: "Der fossile Gavial von Boll," (1854), co-authored with E. d'Alton, which included a major review, with excellent plates, of living crocodylians, and "Erläuterungen zur Fauna Brasiliens" (1856), a large folio atlas of 32 plates, 22 of them beautifully handcolored, of Brazilian mammals and frogs.

• *References*: "Prof. Hermann Carl Conrad Burmeister [sic], Hon. F.E.S.," by R. McLachlan, *Entomol. Month. Mag.*, 28: 221-222, 1892; "Carlos Germán Conrado Burmeister. Reseña Biográfica," by C. Berg, *Anal. Mus. Nac. Buenos Aires*, 4: 315-357, 1895; Papavero, 1973 (pp. 292-293). • *Portrait*: From Berg, 1895. • *Signature* (early form on left, about 1850): Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, courtesy Rainer Günther; (later form on right, 1874): Smithsonian Institution Archives, courtesy William Cox and Alan E. Leviton.

GÜNTHER, Albert (1830-1914).

Albert Carl Ludwig Gotthilf Günther was an eminent ichthyologist who also specialized in herpetology. He was born in Esslingen, Württemberg, on 3 October 1830 and entered the theological school at the University of Tübingen in 1847. Although he took holy orders in the Lutheran Church four years later, his attention quickly turned to medical studies because of his longstanding interest in natural history and the teaching of Wilhelm von Rapp at Tübingen. He received a doctorate in philosophy and arts in