

**KREFFT, Gerard (1830-1881).**

Born Johann Gerhard Louis Krefft (see Note) in Brunswick, Braunschweig, on 17 February 1830, Gerard Krefft became one of Australia's first naturalists and the Father of Australian Herpetology. Originally intending a career in business, he emigrated to the United States in 1851 and briefly supported himself as an artist in New York City



*Gerard Krefft*

before embarking for Australia in July 1852 to join the gold rush. He was a miner until 1857 when he moved to Melbourne and was hired by Frederick McCoy at the National Museum as a collector and artist. Later, after returning for a short period to Germany (1858-1859), he became Assistant Curator at the Australian Museum in Sydney, and in 1861 was promoted to Curator (or director).

Krefft had a continuing feud with the museum's trustees, in particular with their chairman, William J. Macleay, himself a sometimes herpetologist, and was fired in 1874. He refused to leave and barricaded his office; later, he was literally carried out while still sitting in his chair and unceremoniously deposited in the street, the door locked behind him. Not to be dissuaded in an act he considered illegal, Krefft set up a rival "Office of the Curator of the Australian Museum," sued the trustees, and won a large financial settlement, but was not permitted to resume his curatorship. He never resumed serious scientific work, although he wrote natural history articles regularly for the Sydney newspapers. He died in Woolloomooloo, a Sydney suburb, on 19 February 1881.

Krefft's interests were very broad, including both vertebrates and invertebrates as well as paleontology. His single most important discovery was of the Australian lungfish (*Neoceratodus forsteri*) of the Queensland swamps. Of some 100 technical papers published by Krefft, 26 are on herpetological topics (published during the period 1862-1876). He wrote two classic books, the first of their kind for Australia: "The Snakes of Australia" (1869) and "The Mammals of Australia" (1871, reprinted 1979). The government being unwilling to fund the former title, Krefft paid for the printing of 700 copies himself. It was issued in two versions, with plain or with beautifully handcolored plates, and its continuing importance to herpetological work in Australia justified its reprinting in 1984.

• *References*: "Gerhard Krefft, ein Braunschweiger Naturforscher," by F. Grabowsky, Braunsch. Mag., 1: 36-40, 1896; "Johann Gerhard Louis Krefft," by P. Zimmerman, Allg. Deut. Biogr., 51: 373-374, 1906; "Johann Ludwig Gerard Krefft," by P. Serle, Dict. Austr. Biogr., 1: 506-507, 1949; "The Life and Work of Gerard Krefft (1830-1881)," by G. P. Whitley, Proc. Royal Zool. Soc. New S. Wales, 1958-59: 21-34, 1961 (addendum, same journal, 1967-68: 38-42, 1969). • *Portrait* (about 1857): Australian Museum, courtesy Harold G. Cogger. • *Signature* (about 1860): Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, courtesy Rainer Günther. • *Note*: German and Australian biographical sources differ on the details of Krefft's given names.

**BOCAGE, J. V. Barbosa du (1823-1907).**

José Vicente Barbosa du Bocage, distinguished zoologist and politician, was born on 2 May 1823 in Funchal, on the Portuguese island of Madeira off the Moroccan coast. He studied medicine and mathematics at the University of Coimbra (1839-1846) and, after some political disturbances, became Professor of Zoology at the Polytechnic School (now part of the University of Lisbon) in 1849. Later, in addition to medical duties, he became Director of the Zoological Section of the National Museum of Lisbon which in 1905 was renamed "Museu Bocage" in his honor.

The museum had been founded in 1772 by Domenico Vandelli, describer of the leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), but it was Bocage who truly built the collections. Most specimens were obtained by the museum's many collectors in Portuguese colonies in Africa, Asia, and South America, but Bocage, a gifted diplomat, even obtained some by convincing the French to send many specimens to compensate for the collections stolen from Lisbon in 1807 during the Napoleonic occupation. The latter were summarily requisitioned by É. Geoffroy Saint Hilaire and taken to Paris for study and description by French naturalists including Georges Cuvier, who euphemistically referred to the specimens in print as "don du Musée de Lisbonne," a gift indeed! Besides Bocage's zoological work—he is better known as an ornithologist than as a herpetologist—he founded the Geographical Society of Lisbon and became a trusted counsellor to the Crown and Minister of State. He died in Lisbon on 3 November 1907.