



Unlike Albert Günther, George A. Boulenger, and other contemporaries, Anderson was foremost a field naturalist. Thus, his publications are full of natural history data and information on the local geography. Besides some 20 herpetological papers, he published three major works. "Anatomical and Zoological Researches . . . of the Two Expeditions to Western Yunnan in 1868 and 1875" (1878[-1879]) was the first extensive monograph on the fauna of Burma and Yunnan, and included the first review of the rich turtle fauna of southeast Asia, illustrated with 21 beautiful handcolored plates of turtles. Anderson's modest "Contribution to the Herpetology of Arabia" (1896; reprinted 1984) was a potpourri of miscellaneous chapters, but still the pioneer and, to this day, the only complete synthesis of Arabian herpetology. His most comprehensive herpetological work, however, was the Reptilia and Batrachia volume (1898; reprinted 1965) in his "Zoology of Egypt" series, containing some of the finest color drawings of reptiles ever published, drawn by P. J. Smit and John Green. This volume remains one of the most competent faunal works in herpetology.

• *References*: "John Anderson," by W. T. Blanford, *Nature*, 62: 529-531, 1900; "John Anderson," by G. A. Boulenger, *Proc. Royal Soc. London*, 75: 113-116, 1905; "John Anderson (1833-1900): A Zoologist in the Victorian Period," by A. E. Leviton and M. L. Aldrich, p. v-xxxv. In Anderson's *Herpetology of Arabia*, repr. ed., Soc. Study Amphib. Rept., Athens (Ohio), 1984. • *Portrait and signature* (1894): From Leviton and Aldrich, 1984.

### BOULENGER, George A. (1858-1937).

George Albert Boulenger was the leading taxonomic herpetologist of his era. Born in Brussels, Belgium, on 19 October 1858, he had an interest from boyhood in animals and flowers, especially roses. He attended the Université Libre de Brussels, graduating in 1880, and in the same year was appointed to the staff of the Musée Royal d'Histoire Naturelle de Belgique as Assistant Naturalist. The museum's collections and library were limited, however, and Boulenger thus had to make frequent trips to Paris and London. In Paris, Fernand Lataste, a naturalist specializing in herpetology, became Boulenger's mentor and his alter ego for life.

During Boulenger's trips to London he so impressed Albert Günther, keeper of zoology at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), that Günther hired him in 1881 as assistant in charge of lower vertebrates, much as he himself had been hired by John E. Gray during a similar visit in 1857. Günther assigned him the task to prepare a new edition of the catalogues of amphibians and reptiles, which Boulenger produced in nine volumes over the period 1882-1896. In addition to this monumental task, which still stands as the most comprehensive review of the world's herpetofauna, covering 8469 species, Boulenger published several other books and hundreds of papers, not only on amphibians and reptiles, but also on freshwater fish. It may safely be said that no person ever was as familiar with the world's species of lower vertebrates as he was.

His work earned him numerous honors: election as Fellow of the Royal Society (1894), honorary doctorates from St. Andrews, Giessen, and Louvain, and in 1935 the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists elected him their first Honorary Foreign Member. The King of Belgium conferred upon him the Order of Leopold in 1937. Boulenger had three sons, two of them biologists; the youngest (Edward George Boulenger) became Director of the Aquarium and Curator of Reptiles at the Zoological Society of London, and his numerous publications are sometimes credited to his father—and vice versa. On retirement in 1920, Boulenger senior returned to Brussels and, taking an honorary appointment at the Jardin Botanique de l'Etat, devoted himself to the study of roses, a subject of interest in his youth and in his free time throughout his life. His major work on this subject was the two-volume book "Les Roses d'Europe" (1924, 1933), but the sequel on American species was unfinished at the time of his death, on 23 November 1937 at St. Malo, Brittany (now part of Ile-et-Vilaine) in coastal France.

Boulenger's contemporaries have noted his incredible memory for specimens, species descriptions, and for the associated literature, which was the key to the great speed at which he worked. He could read six languages well and converse in most of them, and wrote with equal facility, but his manuscripts were never typed and went straight to the typesetter in longhand. Boulenger was a tireless worker with strict self discipline, and he also had great charm: a distinguished figure in the London scientific establishment and a proper Victorian gentleman. Even on collecting trips