



## Revised dates of publication for the *Zoologie* portion of Webb & Berthelot's *Histoire Naturelle des Îles Canaries* (1836–1844)

Neal L. Evenhuis

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-2704, USA;  
neale@bishopmuseum.org

### Abstract

Dates of publication are given for *livraisons* of the *Zoologie* portion of Webb & Berthelot's *Histoire Naturelle des Îles Canaries*, based primarily on receipt notices at the Académie des Sciences in Paris and correspondence from Sabine Berthelot to Philip Barker-Webb, and are earlier than those listed by Stearn (1937). Dates and contents of each *Zoologie livraison* are presented. Additionally, the first accurate date of publication is presented for the first *livraison*.

lsid:zoobank.org:pub:1522D8CF-859B-48DC-80BA-B4AFD48D33AA

### 1. Introduction

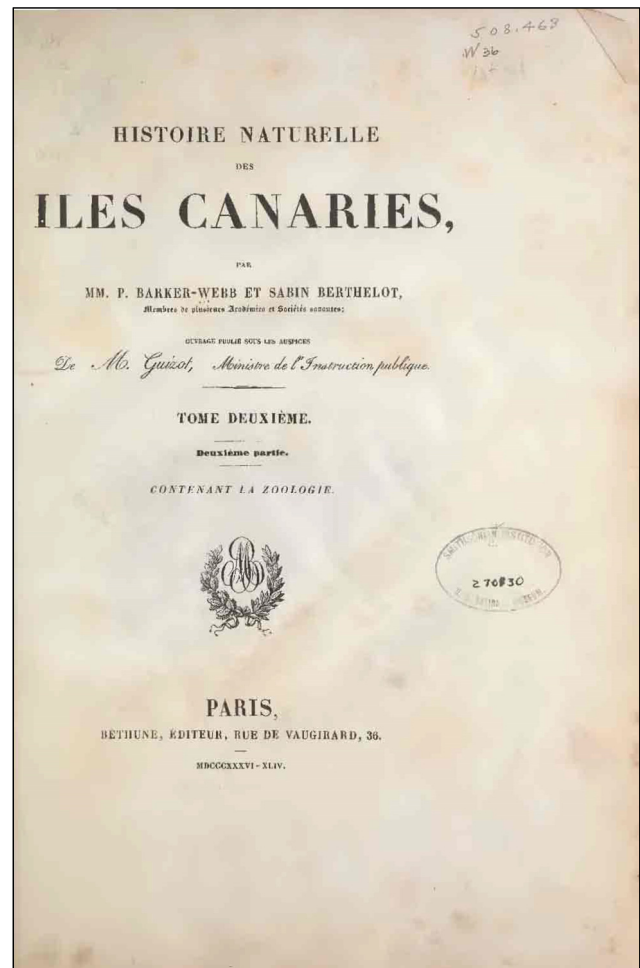
Botanist William Stearn (1937) gave an excellent accounting of the dates of publication and contents of the zoology and botany volumes of Webb & Berthelot's *Histoire Naturelle des Îles Canaries*. The *Histoire* was published in 106 *livraisons* from 1835 to 1850 and covered ethnology, geography, zoology, and botany. Stearn researched many contemporary recording journals for notices of the various *livraisons* but was most fortunate to have found an unpublished list (*Elenco*) among Philip Barker Webb's herbarium and library in Italy, which gives dates of publication for *livraisons* 2–86. The first *livraison* was dated by Stearn based on a prospectus of the *Histoire* in the September 1835 issue of the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles. Botanique*, which states that work was intended to start [= first *livraison* to be issued] on 15 November 1835. The last twenty *livraisons* (87–106) had dates proposed by Stearn based on dates of billing by the London bookseller Hippolyte Baillièrre who sold *livraisons* to the British Museum as they were received. In a much later reprisal of his work almost 40 years earlier, Stearn (1973) provided a few additional details concerning this work, but the dates he proposed for the *livraisons* dealing with the *Zoologie* remained unchanged. Relancio & Breen (2006) gave a detailed history of the project and brief biographies of the contributing authors. They followed Stearn (1937) for dating.

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<http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/dating/sherbornia/index.html>



**Figure 1.** Title page of volume 2, part 2 of the *Histoire des Îles Canaries*.

In my research of this publication conducted for my Diptera bibliography (Evenhuis, 1997), I found that the notices of *livraisons* of the *Histoire* at meetings of the

**Conditions de la Souscription.**

**AVIS DE L'ÉDITEUR.**

Jusqu'ici, les ouvrages du genre de celui que nous allons éditer n'avaient pu, à raison de leur prix, être acquis que par les bibliothèques publiques ou par des savants privilégiés. Désirant répondre aux vœux désintéressés des auteurs, nous avons voulu, malgré le luxe de la partie iconographique, le grand nombre de planches et les frais d'exécution, faciliter l'acquisition de cet ouvrage à tous les amis des sciences. A cet effet, nous avons diminué considérablement le prix ordinaire des livraisons. Ainsi, en comparant, d'après l'énoncé de nos conditions, les livraisons que nous promettons aux souscripteurs avec celles des ouvrages analogues, on verra qu'elles offrent un avantage dans le nombre des planches et en même temps une diminution de la moitié sur le prix.

L'*Histoire naturelle des îles Canaries* se composera de trois volumes grand in-4°, divisés par parties, et sera accompagnée d'un atlas de 25 à 30 planches de grande dimension. L'ouvrage en entier contiendra environ 300 gravures ou lithographies.

Le premier volume se composera de *Miscellanes historiques*, et contiendra l'Introduction ou l'Analyse de la conquête des Canaries, les Tableaux statistiques et la Relation du voyage.

Ce volume pourra être vendu séparément.

Le second volume comprendra la Géographie, la Géologie et la Zoologie.

Le troisième volume embrassera dans son ensemble la Flore générale des Canaries, c'est-à-dire la Géographie botanique et la Phytographie.

L'ouvrage se composera de 50 livraisons de 3 à 4 feuilles de texte avec 5 à 6 planches correspondantes. Il paraîtra une livraison tous les quinze jours, qui sera remise aux souscripteurs au prix de 6 francs, sur beau papier et caractères neufs, à dater du 15 novembre.

**ON SOUSCRIT :**

**A PARIS, CHEZ BÉTHUNE, ÉDITEUR,**  
RUE DE VAUGIRARD, 36;

POUR TOUTE L'ALLEMAGNE, LA SUISSE, L'AUTRICHE ET LES ÉTATS DU NORD,  
**A LA LIBRAIRIE DE B. HERDER,**  
A CARLSRUHE, FRIBOURG ET LEIPZIG.

**A LONDRES, CHEZ BARTHÈS ET LOWELL.**

IMPRIMERIE DE BÉTHUNE ET PLON, RUE DE VAUGIRARD, 36. »

Figure 2. Extract from the prospectus giving the intended method of issuance.

Académie des Sciences in Paris and published in the *Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires de l'Académie des Sciences* were apparently missed by Stearn (1937), and in many cases have dates that are earlier than his dates based on Webb's *Elenco*. Additionally, correspondence from Berthelot to Webb examined during this study contained some dates of publication that predated even the notices at the Académie des Sciences. In Evenhuis (1997) I presented dates of publication only for *livraisons* that dealt with Diptera. All the *Zoologie livraisons* are dealt with here.

### Method of publication

The *Zoologie* portion of the *Histoire* is found in *Tome deuxième, deuxième partie* (Fig. 1) and has separately authored and paginated sections: introduction (including mammals, amphibians, and annelids); reptiles; ornithology; ichthyology; mollusks, echinoderms, foraminiferans, other marine invertebrates ("Polypiers"); and "*Animaux articulés*" (including insects, arachnids, myriapods, and crustaceans). Table 1 gives a breakdown of authors and pages for each section and articles within in each section. The sections were intended to be bound into *Tome*

*deuxième* upon completion, but many were also issued/sold separately after they were completed. Some copies of the *Zoologie* have the separately paginated sections bound in different orders (i.e., some have *Reptiles* preceding *Entomologie*; others have *Reptiles* preceding *Ornithologie*).

Publication was by *livraison*. Two sets of *livraisons* were issued during the life of issuance of the work: (1) the text and plates in quarto; and (2) the plates of the atlas (which only included landscapes and no biological plates) in grand folio. As stated in various prospectuses, the work was intended to be issued once every two weeks ("quinze jours"). This may have been the original intention but the dates found by Stearn (1937) as well as those advertised by bookseller of the *Histoire*, J.-Albert Mercklein (who advertised in some of the *Feuilletons* of the *Bibliographie de la France*), show that there were delays in issuing *livraisons*, even the earliest ones. Dates found in this study and by Stearn indicate that the first few *livraisons* were issued from between 20 and 38 days after the previous one. Only the 5th, 8th and 9th *livraisons* were issued within two weeks after the previous one; the remainder were issued every one to two months or so until 1842 when the time between

**Table 1.** Authors and sections of the *Zoologie*.

Title	Author(s)	Pages
Introduction	Webb, P.B.	[3]–6, [7]–12
Ornithologie Canarienne	Webb, P.B., Berthelot, S., Moquin-Tandon, A.	[3]–48
Reptiles des Iles Canaries	Gervais, P.	[3]–5
Ichthyologie des Iles Canaries	Valenciennes, A.	[3]–109 + [2]
Mollusques, Échinodermes, Foraminifères et polypiers recueillis aux Iles Canaries	d’Orbigny, A.	[5]–152
Animaux articulés		
Introduction	Brullé, G.A.	[5]–12
Crustacés	Brullé, G.A.	[15]–18
Arachnides, myriapodes et thysanoures	Lucas, H.	[21]–52
Insectes	Brullé, G.A.	[55]–95
Diptères	Macquart, P.J.M.	[99]–119

issuance of *livraisons* was further delayed and was sometimes as much as six months.

There apparently was also a delay in the publication of the first *livraison* over what was initially intended. Stearn (1937) could find no notice of receipt in 1835 of the first *livraison* in the contemporary journals he consulted, but quoted from an extract of the prospectus reproduced in the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles. Botanique*, which stated that the first *livraison* was intended to be issued on 15 November 1835. A complete prospectus was found during this study that gives the same information (Fig. 2). However, an “*Avis de la editeur*” with no date (but assumed to be issued later than the prospectus) that was inserted into a copy of Tome I of the *Histoire* states that the intended start date would be “15 décembre” (Fig. 3). This date corresponds to the advertisement by Mercklein in *Feuilleton* No. 51 of the *Bibliographie de la France* that gave notice of the first *livraison* as being for sale on 19 December 1835 (Anonymous, 1835).

Virtually all the quarto plates for each *Zoologie* section were issued before the text for each respective section, so the dating of each *livraison* and its contents are critical for proper dating and establishing priority of names of taxa depicted on the plates. This method of issuing plates before text might have been intentional since the work was funded by subscribers and colorful plates of plants and animals would be more marketable to subscribers than plain text. Indeed the first *livraison* of the *Zoologie* published included plate 1 of *Ornithologie* in *livraison* 4 on 7 Mar 1836.

### Dating of the *Zoologie*

In researching the dates of publication for this work, I consulted contemporary recording journals but (aside for the notice of the first *livraison* in the 19 December 1835 *Feuilleton*) I could not find any with dates earlier than those recorded by the Académie des Sciences or by Webb’s *Elenco*.

The Académie des Sciences faithfully recorded *livraisons* of the *Histoire* up until mid 1841 (missing only the 1st, 5th, 25th, and 52nd *livraisons*), then omitted recording many *livraisons* until 1843 when all *livraisons* were recorded to the end of the work (missing only *livraison* 69). *Livraison* 74 was not recorded as received by the Académie as such, but since the *Elenco* described the contents of that *livraison* as containing the last three plates of the *Ichthyologie* and essentially completing that section, I assume the notice of the entire *Ichthyologie* as being received at the 8 July 1844 meeting of the Académie meant that the 74th *livraison* had to have been issued on or before that date.

I also examined digitized correspondence online from Sabine Berthelot to Philip Barker-Webb (Proyecto Humboldt, 2016) between 1829 and 1849. Some of the letters during the early years of the *Histoire* when Webb was not in Paris gave dates of publication of *livraisons*, one of which was earlier than recorded by the Académie des Sciences and others that were earlier than those listed in Webb’s *Elenco*. Letters during the 1840s that

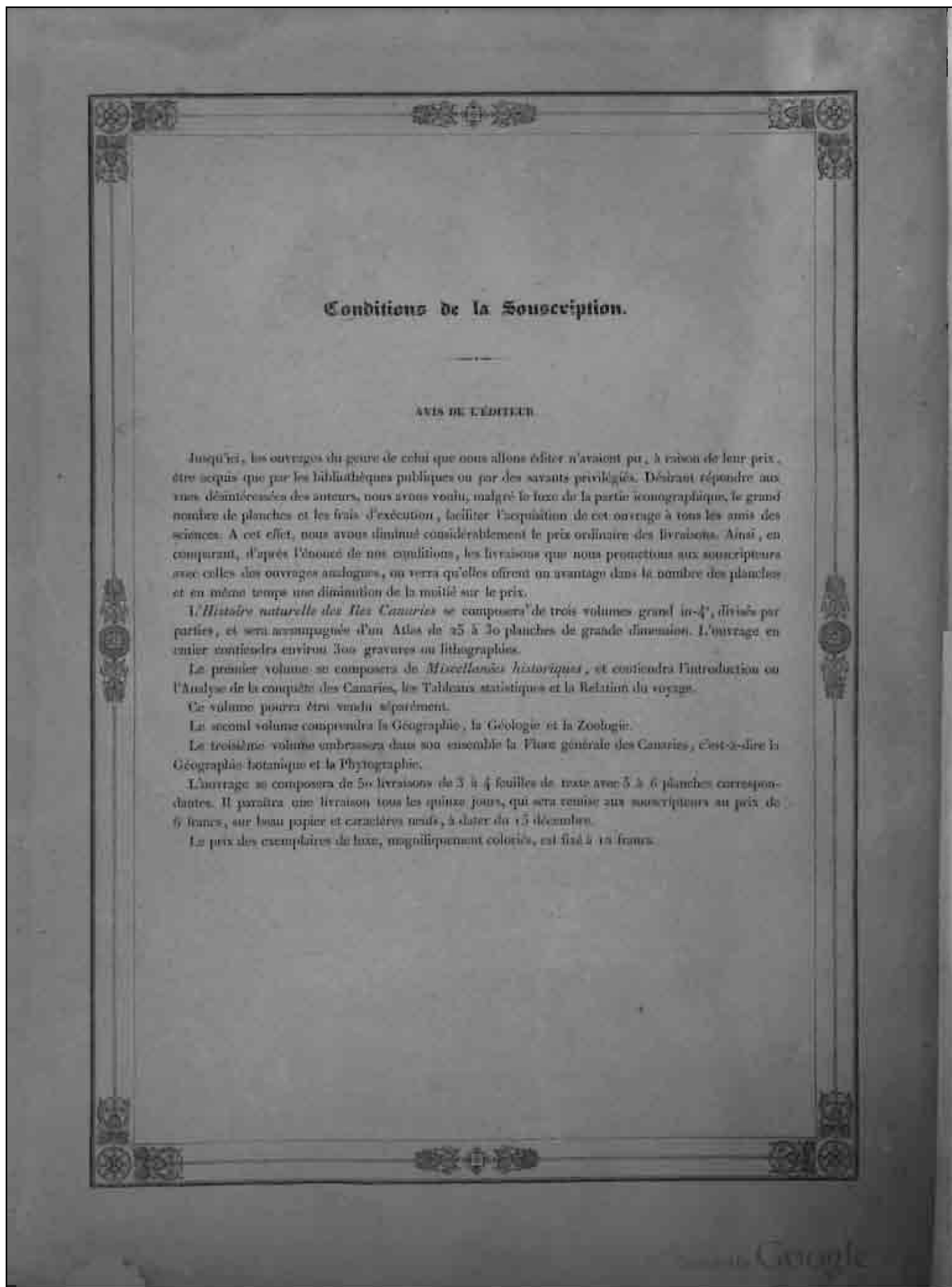
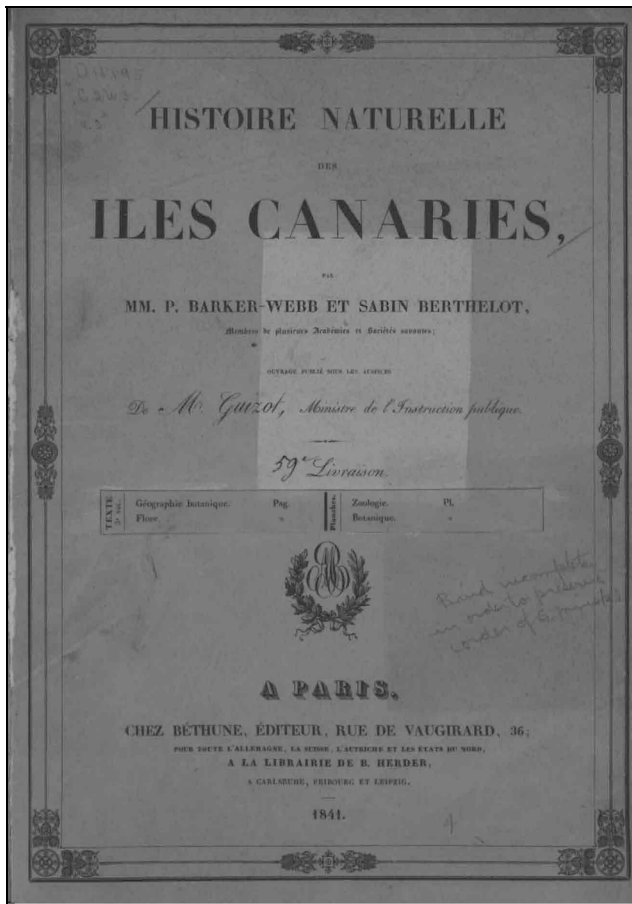


Figure 3. Avis de la editeur giving intended start date as “15 décembre”.

dealt with the *Histoire* did not give *livraison* dates but instead were apologies by Berthelot to Webb over delays and printing errors. For example, a letter dated 13 September 1840 states that *livraison* 52 was delayed in publication due to a lack of paper for printing. Stearn’s (1937) date from the *Elenco* showed it to finally have been published two months later on 26 November 1840.

Table 2 below gives the earliest dates for each *livraison* of the *Zoologie* portion, which covers *livraisons* 4 (1836) to 74 (1844) and compares Stearn’s (1937) dates. The other *livraisons* deal with botanical subjects and are beyond the scope of this study. Those interested in the dates for the botany *livraisons* will find that the Académie des Sciences has many earlier dates for those *livraisons* as well. Table 3



**Figure 4.** Cover of the wrapper of the 59th *livraison* of the *Histoire*.

gives the contents of each *livraison* [pages and plates taken from Stearn (1937)] in addition to their dates of publication.

### Title page of the *Zoologie* portion

The title page of the *Zoologie* portion in full is as follows:

"*Histoire Naturelle/des/Îles Canaries/par/MM. P. Barker-Webb et Sabin Berthelot,/Membres de plusieurs Académies et Sociétés savantes;/ouvrage publié sous les auspices/M. Guizot, Ministre de l'Instruction publique.* / [ornate rule] / Tome deuxième./ [rule] / Deuxième partie./ [rule] / Contenant la Zoologie./ [ornate flourish] / Paris,/ Béthune, Éditeur, rue de Vaugirard, 36./ [small rule] / MDCCCXXXVI – XLIV."

### Wrappers of the *Histoire* and a Warning on Printed Dates

Stearn (1937) described the wrappers for this work he had seen as containing a *livraison* number, a printed year, and a piece of paper pasted on giving the contents. During this study, I have found two wrappers of this work online (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München copies via Google Books) each of which have a hand-printed *livraison* number, printed year, and a piece of rectangular paper

with a printed template of contents ("*Zoologie*", "*Botanie*", etc.) with spaces for pages and plate numbers, but no specific page or plates numbers added (e.g., Fig. 4). I assume these would be hand-written for each specific *livraison*. It is not known if these two wrappers were issued as each *livraison* was completed but without specific contents being added, or if they represent *livraisons* sold at a later date. The year printed on each of those two wrappers matches the year of publication found in this study for each respective *livraison*.

Stearn (1937, 1973) warned that the dates on wrappers of this work at the British Museum were not to be considered accurate. There were some that predated the years listed for them in the *Elenco*, while others postdated the years listed in the *Elenco*, and some even had a range of years. He stated (1937) that he assumed the publisher was merely saving costs and using whatever wrappers were handy to act as a cover for each *livraison*. I have found this to be the case with other works published in Paris at that time (e.g., d'Orbigny's *Voyage dans l'Amérique méridionale*; see Evenhuis, 1997: 572–574). Wrappers were, at a minimum, only a temporary protecting cover for the contents, which would be rebound later once all parts were received. In this case, the printer had printed up a number of *livraisons* ahead of time with years printed on the covers, but in some cases, these years do not match up to the actual year in which these *livraisons* were issued.

However, this does not discount the importance of wrappers in dating research as they often have pasted onto the front cover a list of the contents of each *livraison* (the two wrappers found here that do not are rare exceptions). Without this list of contents, associating text and plates with *livraisons* and determining accurate dates of issue can be difficult to impossible.

### Webb's *Elenco*

Stearn (1937) was able to examine a manuscript in Webb's copy of the *Histoire* in Florence, Italy that he presumed was written by Webb's herbarium curator, Jean-Louis Kralik, with an Italian title: "*Elenco delle date di pubblicazione*" but with contents listed in French. The *Elenco* gives a list of the 106 *livraisons*, giving the contents of each, but the publication date of only *livraisons* 2–86. The source of the dating is unknown; however, since a number of the dates of notice at the Académie des Sciences are earlier than those recorded in the *Elenco*, it may have been that the dates in the *Elenco* were either dates of receipt by Webb of *livraisons* from the printer, or dates of correspondence from the printer, either of which may have been delayed a few days after copies were presented at the meetings of the Académie des Sciences in Paris.

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**Table 2.** Dates of livraisons of the *Zoologie* of Webb & Berthelot's *Histoire Naturelle des Îles Canaries* (red dates are earliest).

livr.	Acad. Sci. date	Stearn date	Other date	Notes
1	—	15 Nov 1835	<b>19 Dec 1836 (BF)</b>	BF=Bibliographie de la France (Feuilleton No. 51)
2	11 Jan 1836	<b>9 Jan 1836</b>		
3	<b>1 Feb 1836</b>	16 Feb 1836	7 Feb 1836	letter from Berthelot to Webb
4	<b>7 Mar 1836</b>	12 Mar 1836	8 Mar 1836	letter from Berthelot to Webb
5	—	25 Mar 1836	<b>21 Mar 1836</b>	letter from Berthelot to Webb (29 Mar 1836)
6	<b>25 Apr 1836</b>	28 Apr 1836		
7	<b>23 May 1836</b>	26 May 1836		
8	<b>4 Jul 1836</b>	23 Jul 1836		
9	<b>18 Jul 1836</b>	27 Jul 1836		
10	<b>22 Aug 1836</b>	15 Sep 1836	Aug 1836	ad by Arthus-Bertrand dated "août 1836"
11	<b>12 Sep 1836</b>	29 Sep 1836		
12	17 Oct 1836	<b>12 Oct 1836</b>		
13	<b>7 Nov 1836</b>	18 Nov 1836		
14	<b>5 Dec 1836</b>	14 Dec 1836		
15	<b>9 Jan 1837</b>	14 Feb 1837		
16	<b>30 Jan 1837</b>	14 Feb 1837		
17	<b>13 Mar 1837</b>	18 May 1837		
18	<b>22 May 1837</b>	25 May 1837		
19	<b>22 May 1837</b>	27 May 1837		
20	<b>12 Jun 1837</b>	20 Jun 1837		
21	<b>26 Jun 1837</b>	<b>26 Jun 1837</b>		
22	<b>7 Aug 1837</b>	22 Aug 1837		
23	<b>9 Oct 1837</b>	11 Oct 1837		
24	<b>9 Oct 1837</b>	22 Nov 1837		
25	—	<b>22 Nov 1837</b>		
26	<b>20 Nov 1837</b>	22 Nov 1837		
27	<b>22 Jan 1838</b>	7 Feb 1838		
28	<b>26 Feb 1838</b>	7 Mar 1838		
29	<b>2 Apr 1838</b>	4 Apr 1838		
30	<b>7 May 1838</b>	26 May 1838		
31	<b>2 Jul 1838</b>	15 Jul 1838		
32	<b>6 Aug 1838</b>	1 Sep 1838		
33	<b>24 Sep 1838</b>	10 Oct 1838		
34	<b>22 Oct 1838</b>	30 Oct 1838		
35	<b>19 Nov 1838</b>	20 Dec 1838		
36	<b>14 Jan 1839</b>	15 Jan 1839		
37	<b>18 Feb 1839</b>	3 Mar 1839		
38	1 Apr 1839	<b>29 Mar 1839</b>		
39	<b>20 May 1839</b>	23 May 1839		
40	<b>24 Jun 1839</b>	25 Jun 1839		
41	<b>12 Aug 1839</b>	22 Aug 1839		
42	<b>16 Sep 1839</b>	24 Sep 1839		
43	<b>30 Sep 1839</b>	9 Oct 1839		
44	<b>28 Oct 1839</b>	7 Nov 1839		
45	<b>6 Jan 1840</b>	10 Jan 1840		
46	<b>16 Mar 1840</b>	25 Mar 1840		
47	18 May 1840	23 Apr 1840		
48	<b>18 May 1840</b>	1 Jun 1840		
49	27 Jul 1840	20 Jun 1840		
50	<b>27 Jul 1840</b>	30 Jul 1840		
51	<b>27 Jul 1840</b>	30 Jul 1840		
52	—	<b>26 Nov 1840</b>		on 13 Sep 1840 Berthelot says there is a delay due to lack of paper for printing (13 Sep 1840 letter Berthelot to Webb)
53	18 Jan 1841	<b>15 Jan 1841</b>		
54	18 Jan 1841	<b>15 Jan 1841</b>		
55	15 Mar 1841	<b>10 Mar 1841</b>		
56	—	<b>24 Apr 1841</b>		

Table 2. (continued)

livr.	Acad. Sci. date	Stearn date	Other date	Notes
57	—	18 Sep 1841		
58	—	18 Sep 1841		
59	—	20 Jan 1842		
60	—	20 Jan 1842		
61	—	3 May 1842		
62	4 Apr 1842	3 May 1842		
63	—	25 May 1842		
64	—	25 May 1842		
65	—	23 Aug 1842		
66	—	23 Aug 1842		
67	12 Dec 1842	15 Dec 1842		
68	31 Jan 1843	25 Jan 1843		
69	—	15 Apr 1843		
70	11 Sep 1843	14 Jun 1843		
71	11 Sep 1843	5 Sep 1843		
72	19 Feb 1844	14 Feb 1844		
73	19 Feb 1844	14 Feb 1844		
74	8 Jul 1844†	27 Aug 1844		
<b>totals</b>				

†the entire Ichthyologie (incl. plates) was received on this date



Table 3. Contents of livraisons 1–74 of the *Histoire Naturelle des Îles Canaries*

livr.	Mammifères		Reptiles		Ornithologie		Ichthyologie		Mollusques, etc.		Animaux Articulés		Date of Publication
	pages	plates	pages	plates	pages	plates	pages	plates	pages	plates	pages	plates	
1													19 Dec 1836
2													9 Jan 1836
3													1 Feb 1836
4						1							7 Mar 1836
5													21 Mar 1836
6						2							25 Apr 1836
7													23 May 1836
8													4 Jul 1836
9									1(M)				18 Jul 1836
10													22 Aug 1836
11													12 Sep 1836
12													12 Oct 1836
13											2(E), 1(C)		7 Nov 1836
14									2(M)				5 Dec 1836
15													9 Jan 1837
16													30 Jan 1837
17													13 Mar 1837
18							1						22 May 1837
19							8						22 May 1837
20							11						12 Jun 1837
21							12						26 Jun 1837
22													7 Aug 1837
23							3						9 Oct 1837
24							4						9 Oct 1837
25													22 Nov 1837
26						3							20 Nov 1837
27							13				5		22 Jan 1838
28													26 Feb 1838
29							10						2 Apr 1838
30							7						7 May 1838
31						4							2 Jul 1838
32													6 Aug 1838
33							14						24 Sep 1838
34							17						22 Oct 1838
35													19 Nov 1838
36							18						14 Jan 1839
37							16						18 Feb 1839
38							9						29 Mar 1839
39													20 May 1839
40											1–40	6,7	24 Jun 1839
41								1–24			41–56		12 Aug 1839
42							5	25–48			57–72	4	16 Sep 1839
43			1					49–72			73–88		30 Sep 1839
44											89–119		28 Oct 1839
45								73–104					6 Jan 1840
46								105–136					16 Mar 1840
47								137–143					23 Apr 1840
48													18 May 1840
49									4,5(M)				20 Jun 1840
50											1,3		27 Jul 1840
51													27 Jul 1840
52							15						26 Nov 1840
53							2						15 Jan 1841
54									2(F)				15 Jan 1841
55									1(E)				10 Mar 1841
56													24 Apr 1841
57							6						18 Sep 1841
58													18 Sep 1841
59													20 Jan 1842
60													20 Jan 1842
61									2,3(E)				3 May 1842
62							19		7(M)				4 Apr 1842
63					1–48				3(M), 1(F)				25 May 1842
64													25 May 1842
65									6,7B(M)				23 Aug 1842
66								145–152	3(F)				23 Aug 1842
67							1–8						12 Dec 1842
68								20, 21					25 Jan 1843
69							9–40	22, 23					15 Apr 1843
70							41–56						14 Jun 1843
71							57–96						5 Sep 1843
72							97–104						14 Feb 1844
73	1–12		1–8				105–109						14 Feb 1844
74								24, 25, 26					8 Jul 1844
<b>totals</b>	<b>12 pp.</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8 pp.</b>	<b>1 pl.</b>	<b>48 pp.</b>	<b>4 pls.</b>	<b>109 pp.</b>	<b>26 pls.</b>	<b>152 pp.</b>	<b>14 pls.</b>	<b>119 pp.</b>	<b>8 pls.</b>	

M - mollusques  
E - echinodermes  
F - foraminifères