

Dating of the Livraisons and Volumes of d'Orbigny's *Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle*

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ABSTRACT

Recent evidence of pagination, contents, and number of signatures per livraison of Charles d'Orbigny's 13-volume *Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle* is presented. Accurate completion dates of all the 13 volumes are also given.

In April 1839, a prospectus was sent to potential subscribers and libraries by the French publisher C. Renard of Paris announcing the forthcoming publication of the *Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle*, edited by Charles D. V. d'Orbigny. The prospectus offered the publication for sale by livraison and stated that the entire work would comprise 6–8 volumes in octavo and be issued in 120 livraisons. By the time the *Dictionnaire* was completed 10 years later, it consisted of 13 volumes and 150 livraisons.² A 2nd edition was published from 1867 to 1869 (see Stafleu & Cowan 1981 for details). Sherborn and Palmer (1899) and Iredale (1937) give information on reissues. According to the *Bibliographie de la France*, d'Orbigny co-authored, with M. de Wegmann, an abridged *Dictionnaire*, which appeared in 2 volumes, 1842–1844 in 80 livraisons. Copies of this *Dictionnaire* were not available for examination during this study.

As with other "Dictionnaires" published in the late 1700s and 1800s by French naturalists, this one was actually more of an encyclopedia of natural history terms and taxonomic names than a dictionary of definitions. Because the *Dictionnaire* lists numerous generic names of plants and animals, it takes on nomenclatural importance. Stafleu and Cowan (1981) mention that there are new botanical taxa described in the *Dictionnaire*; and there are many type designations for zoological genera throughout the 13 volumes, some of which are earlier than those generally accepted (see Evenhuis and Thompson 1990 for a list of the Diptera genera). The evident nomenclatural significance of this *Dictionnaire* necessitates finding the date of issue for each of the livraisons.

Previous works giving dates for the livraisons and volumes of the *Dictionnaire* include Sherborn and Palmer (1899), Iredale (1937), and Stafleu and Cowan (1981). Sherborn and Palmer's (1899) dates came primarily from the presentation dates of the *Dictionnaire*'s various livraisons at meetings of the Société Géologique de la France. They qualify the dates given for most of the livraisons in volumes 1–6 by their statement that actual publication dates may be months previous to the date of presentation to the Société. Stafleu and Cowan (1981) give dates of receipt for most (but not all) of the 13 volumes as recorded in the *Bibliographie de la France*

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2. The Académie des Sciences, Paris lists receiving livraisons 150 and 151 on 5 November 1849. Livraison 151 contained the figure legends to the plates contained in the 3-volume atlas.

(abbreviated hence forward as *BF*) but give no dates for the separate livraisons. Iredale (1937) points out that some livraisons were reviewed in the *Revue Zoologique de la Société Cuvierienne* from June 1839 to February 1847, often giving dates of publication earlier than those recorded in Sherborn and Palmer (1899). The reviews in the *Revue Zoologique*, in some cases, mention generic names, natural history terms entered in the *Dictionnaire*, or pagination. This allows some idea as to how many pages may make up a livraison and can give a more accurate date for nomenclatural actions such as type designations or proposals of new names that may have taken place in the *Dictionnaire*. Iredale (1937) presumes that either 48, 64, or 96 pages made up a livraison. Based on evidence supplied in the *BF* (see Table 2), the actual number of pages per livraison was generally 32, 48, 56, or 64. Sherborn and Palmer (1899) recommend that the dates of the completed volumes be used for dating because at that time the contents of each livraison were not known. Nomenclatural rules, however, necessitate that the earliest date possible be used, especially when one may wish to invoke the Law of Priority for homonymies or synonymies.

I have researched the listings of receipt for the livraisons of the *Dictionnaire* in the *BF* and the *Compte Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences, Paris (CR)*, the dates of which are recorded in Table 2. Stafleu (1967) mentions that a date of receipt in the *BF* for a publication based in Paris can be taken as the actual publication date. That is not always the case with livraisons of the *Dictionnaire* because, in a few cases, the articles in the *Revue Zoologique* and receipt dates in the *CR* can precede the *BF* receipt date by as much as a few weeks or even a month or two. Some of the listings in the *BF* include the actual feuille (signature) numbers for a livraison or how many feuilles were received per livraison. Because each feuille in the *Dictionnaire* consisted of 8 pages and the feuilles are numbered at the bottom of each starting page, it is possible to calculate how many pages made up a particular livraison or group of livraisons that were mentioned by the *BF*. For those livraisons that were reviewed in the *Revue Zoologique*, which mentioned genera or other entries in the *Dictionnaire*, it is possible to estimate the minimal number of feuilles that included *at least* those entries mentioned in the *Revue Zoologique*. Pagination for those livraisons are in italics when it is possible that the actual pagination might be more or less than is listed.

Table 1 gives beginning and ending terms, pagination, and dating presently known for the volumes. The date given is when the last livraison of a particular volume was issued and not necessarily the date when the completed and bound volume was issued, which was probably later. Table 2 gives the details of contents, pagination, and dating for the livraisons. It is hoped that listing the beginning and ending entries for many of the livraisons will aid taxonomists in obtaining the earliest possible date for type designations or other nomenclatural actions found on those pages. For livraisons that were not recorded in the *BF*, *CR*, or listed in Stafleu and Cowan (1981), the dates given by Sherborn and Palmer (1899) should be used until further evidence of dating is discovered.

The author requests readers to supply him with any information they may have that will provide more accurate dating of these livraisons and fill gaps in data in Table 2.

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Table 1. Total pages, contents, and dates of receipt of volumes of the *Dictionnaire*.

Vol.	Contents	Pages	Date	Reference*
I	AAL—APHLOMIDÉES	232**+649	September 1841	I
II	APHODIE—BYZENUS	795	30 July 1842	SC
III	CAAMA—CLAVIGERE	744	7 July 1843	SC
IV	CLAVIJA—DICTYMÉNIE	752	20 May 1844	SP,CR
V	DICTYNES—GALENIA	768	22 March 1845	BF
VI	GALÉODE—HYSTRIX	792***	22 December 1845	CR
VII	IACARETINGA—MARTAGON	808	9 November 1846	CR
VIII	MARTE—OIDIUM	766	6 February 1847	SC
IX	OIE—PHORMIUM	776	17 July 1847	SC
X	PHORODESMA—REPTATION	760	27 December 1847	CR
XI	REPTILES—STELLIO	816	9 September 1848	SC
XII	STELLION—VANCOUVERIE	816	7 July 1849	SC
XIII	VANDE—ZYSEL	384	5 November 1849	CR

*Abbreviations: BF = *Bibliographie de la France*; CR = *Compte Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences, Paris*; I = Iredale 1937; SC = Stafleu & Cowan 1981; SP = Sherborn & Palmer 1899.

**Discours préliminaire.

***This volume has 16 pages added (numbered as "176bis" to "191bis") in the entry "géographie, zoologique," which apparently had material added after the original feuilles had been printed.

Table 2. Contents, pagination, and dates of issue of livraisons of the *Dictionnaire*.

Vol.	Livr.	Feuilles	Pages	Contents (minimum)	Date	Reference ^a
I	1	1-3 ^{*b}	1-48	AAL-ACCROISSEMENT (part)	29 June 1839	BF
	2	4-5 ^{*b}	49-80	ACCROISSEMENT (concl.)-ACIDES (part)	August 1839	I
	3				[no date known]	
	4				16 March 1840	SP
	5				March 1840	I
	6				15 June 1840	SP
	7	20-25 ^{*b}	305-400 ^c	ALTERNANCE (concl.)-AMPOULAOU (part)	July 1840	I
	8	26-28 ^{*b}	401-448	AMPOULAOU (concl.)-ANATOMIE (part)	August 1840	I
	9				2 November 1840	SP
	10	33-34 ^b	514-530	ANIDIENS (concl.)-ANISOMELES (part)	23 November 1840	CR
	11				November 1840	I
	(12)	?19-29	?145-232	?Discours	September 1841	I) ^d
(12)	?36-41 ^{*b}	561-649	ANOMOTHECA-APHLOMIDÉES (plus 1 unnumbered page of errata)	September 1841	I) ^d	
II	13	1-?	1-?	APHODIE-?	1 February 1841	SP
	14				5 April 1841	SP
	15	12-13	177-200	ARTHROSTIGMA-ASARCA (part)	6 September 1841	CR
	16	?-16 ^{*b}	?-256 ^c	?-ASTEROCHOETE (part)	8 November 1841	SP
	17	17-20 ^{*b}	257-320	ASTEROCHOETE (concl.)-ATTAGIS (part)	November 1841	I
	18				24 January 1842	SP
	19				7 February 1842	SP
	20				21 March 1842	SP
	21				4 April 1842	SP
	22				16 May 1842	SP
	23				20 June 1842	SP
	24	46-50 ^{*b}	721-795	BRAMIA (concl.)-BYZENUS (plus 1 unnumbered page of errata)	30 June 1842	BF
III	25	1-4 ^{*b}	1-64	CAAMA-CALMARET (part)	22 August 1842	CR
	26	5-8 ^{*b}	65-128	CALMARET (concl.)-CANTHARIDE (part)	1 September 1842	I
	27	9-11 ^{*b}	129-176	CANTHARIDE (concl.)-CARNASSIERS (part)	10 October 1842	CR
	28	12-15 ^{*b}	177-240	CARNASSIERS (concl.)-CAULINITES (part)	7 November 1842	CR
	29	16-19 ^b	241-296	CAULINITES (concl.)-CERCOPITH-EQUE (part)	November 1842	I
	30				2 January 1843	SP
	31				30 January 1843	CR

Vol.	Livr.	Feuilles	Pages	Contents (minimum)	Date	Reference ^a
					6 March 1843	SP
					10 April 1843	CR
					24 April 1843	CR
		?-43	?-688	?-CINCLODES (part)	29 May 1843	CR
		44-47 ^b	689-744	CINCLODES (concl.)-CLAVIGERE	1 July 1843	BF
IV		1-?	1-?	CLAVIJA-?	31 July 1843	CR
		?-16	?-128	?-COMAROPHAGUS (part)	4 September 1843	CR
		17-?	129-?	COMAROPHAGUS (concl.)-?	2 October 1843	CR ^c
	40-41	?-38	?-304	?-COURLIS (part)	November 1843	I
	42	39-?	305-?	COURLIS (concl.)-?	26 December 1843	CR
	43-44				19 February 1844	SP,CR
	45				4 March 1844	SP,CR
	46				8 April 1844	CR
	47	?-88	?-704	?-DESCRIPTION (part)	29 April 1844	CR
	48	89-94	705-752	DESCRIPTION (concl.)-DICTYMENIE	20 May 1844	SP,CR ^f
V		1-?	1-?	DICTYNES-?	24 June 1844	CR
		?-16	?-128	?-DREPANOPHYLLE (part)	1 July 1844	CR
		17-?	129-?	DREPANOPHYLLE (concl.)-?	12 August 1844	CR ^c
					26 August 1844	CR
	53	?-33	?-264	?-ELEPHANT (part)	23 September 1844	CR ^c
	54				14 October 1844	CR
	55				18 November 1844	SP,CR
	56				16 December 1844	SP
	57				6 January 1845	SP,CR
	58				6 January 1845	SP,CR
	59	?-91	?-728	?-FROMENT (part)	17 February 1845	SP
	60	92-96	729-768	FROMENT (concl.)-GALENIA	22 March 1845	BF
VI ^g		1-?	1-?	GALÉODE-?	28 April 1845	CR
	62				19 May 1845	SP,CR
	63				[before 30 June 1845] ^h	
	64				30 June 1845	CR
	65				23 July 1845	CR
	66-68				3 November 1845	SP
	69-70				3 November 1845	CR
	71				17 November 1845	SP
	72	?-99	?-792	?-HYSTRIX	22 December 1845	CR

Table 2. continued

Vol.	Livr.	Feuilles	Pages	Contents (minimum)	Date	Reference ^a	
VII	73-74	1-?	1-?	IACARETINGA-?	29 December 1845	CR	
	75				[no date known]		
	76				9 February 1846	CR	
	77-78				16 March 1846	CR	
	79-80				20 April 1846	CR	
	81				4 May 1846	CR	
	82				27 July 1846	CR	
	83				17 August 1846	CR	
	84	?-101	?-808	?-MARTAGON	31 August 1846	CR	
	VIII	85-86	1-?	1-?	MARTE-?	21 September 1846	CR
87-88					19 October 1846	CR	
89-90					9 November 1846	CR	
91-92		?-80	?-640	?-NEZ (part)	14 December 1846	CR	
93 ⁱ		81-84	641-672	NEZ (concl.)-NOTARCHE (part)	18 January 1847	CR	
94 ⁱ		85-88	673-704	NOTARCHE (concl.)-NYMPHES (part)	18 January 1847	CR	
95 ⁱ		89-92	705-736	NYMPHES (concl.)-OEIL (part)	6 February 1847	BF	
96 ⁱ		93-96	737-766	OEIL (concl.)-OIDIUM	6 February 1847	BF	
IX		97-98	1-?	1-?	OIE-?	February 1847	I
		99-100				29 March 1847	CR
	101-102				5 May 1847	CR	
	103-104				24 May 1847	CR	
	105-106	?-81	?-648	?-PERROQUET (part)	[no dates known]		
	107	82-89	649-712	PERROQUET (concl.)-PHALENITES (part)	17 July 1847	BF	
	108	90-97	713-776	PHALENITES (concl.)-PHORMIUM	17 July 1847	BF	
	X	109-110	1-?	1-?	PHORODESMA-?	9 August 1847	CR
111-112					6 September 1847	CR	
113-114					11 October 1847	CR	
115-116					25 October 1847	CR	
117-118					[no dates known]		
119-120		?-96	?-760	?-REPTATION	27 December 1847	CR	
XI		121-122	1-18	1-144	REPTILES-ROCCELLE (part)	10 January 1848	CR ^j
		123	19-26	145-200	ROCCELLE (concl.)-RONGEURS (part)	28 February 1848	CR ^j
	124	27-34	201-272	RONGEURS (concl.)-RUPPELLIE (part)	28 February 1848	CR ^j	
	125-126	35-52	273-416	RUPPELLIE (concl.)-SCHIZASTER (part)	[no dates known]		
	127-132	53-102 ^b	417-816	SCHIZASTER (concl.)-STELLIO	9 September 1848	BF	
XII	133	1-8	1-64	STELLION-STROMBIDES	9 September 1848	BF	
	134	9-16	65-128	STROMBIFORMIS-SYNCHRONISME (part)	9 September 1848	BF	

Vol.	Livr.	Feuilles	Pages	Contents (minimum)	Date	Reference ^a
	135	17–24	129–192	SYNCHRONISME (part)-SYSTEME CRISTALLINS (part)	31 December 1848 ^k	
	136	25–28	193–224	SYSTEME CRISTALLINS (part)	2 January 1849	CR
	137	29–39	225–311	SYSTEME CRISTALLINS	5 February 1849	CR
	?	46–58	361–464	TARET (concl.)-TERATOLOGIE (part)	2 January 1849	CR
	?	60–66	479–522	TERRAINS—GEOL.	26 March 1849	CR
	?–143	?–95	?–760	?-UNIO (part)	[no dates known]	
	144	96–102	761–816	UNIO (concl.)-VANCOUVERIE	7 July 1849	BF
XIII	145	1–7	1–56	VANDE-VEGETAUX, FOSSILES (part)	7 July 1849	BF
	146	9–16	57–128	VEGETAUX, FOSSILES (continued)	7 July 1849	BF
	147	17–24	129–192	VEGETAUX, FOSSILES (concl.)- VERONIQUE (part)	7 July 1849	BF
	148–149	25–?	193–?	VERONIQUE (concl.)-?	10 September 1849	CR
	150	?–48	?–384	?-ZYZEL	5 November 1849	CR

^a Abbreviations: BF = *Bibliographie de la France*; CR = *Compte Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences, Paris*; I = Iredale 1937; SP = Sherborn & Palmer 1899.

^b Includes feuille numbers marked with an asterisk (*) (c.g., 28, 28*, 29, 29*, etc.).

^c Following page begins with different typeface and size, and boldface is used for class abbreviations; this is assumed to indicate separation of livraisons.

^d There is no indication whether this livraison contains the Discours or the Dictionnaire text; contents of previous feuilles in this volume lends strong support to it being the last feuille of the Discours; BF received this livraison on 18 December 1841 stating that it contained 11 feuilles; Sherborn and Palmer (1899) record the Société Géologique de France as receiving it on 8 November 1841. I have listed the probable contents of the livraisons for both possible cases (i.e., Discours and text) based on the size of 11 feuilles.

^e Information on the contents of these livraisons are given in the *Revue Zoologique*.

^f BF received this livraison on 1 June 1844 giving the feuille information.

^g This volume has 16 pages added (numbered as "176bis" to "191bis") in the entry "géographie zoologique," which apparently had material added after the original feuilles had been printed.

^h Sherborn and Palmer (1899) record the Société Géologique de France as having received this livraison on 3 November 1845. Because all the livraisons were issued in order and livraison 64 was received by the Académie des Sciences, Paris on 30 June 1845, it can be safely concluded that livraison 63 was issued before 30 June 1845.

ⁱ BF states that feuilles 81–96 were received on 6 February 1847 for livraisons 95–96 at 4 feuilles each; since 8 pages made up each feuille, it is assumed that "93" rather than "95" was intended and that each livraison had 32 pages.

^j Information on the feuille numbers received are provided in the BF.

^k CR records the receipt of feuilles 25–28 (livraison 136) of volume XII on 2 January 1849. Livraison 135 was issued sometime between 9 September 1848 and 2 January 1849. Without any evidence of an issue or receipt date in BF or CR, the last day of 1848 is assumed to be the date of issue until a better date can be obtained.