

**Zeitschrift:** Candollea : journal international de botanique systématique = international journal of systematic botany  
**Herausgeber:** Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève  
**Band:** 8 (1939-1941)

**Artikel:** Dates of publication of the Candolle's "Prodromus"  
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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-880493>

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# DATES OF PUBLICATION OF DE CANDOLLE'S "PRODROMUS"

BY

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De Candolle's *Prodromus Systematis naturalis Regni vegetabilis* (8vo; Paris, 1824-1873), usually cited as 'DC. Prod.', is still a work of outstanding importance to systematic botanists. Many new species were among the 58,975 described in its twenty-one volumes, and while its title of *prodromus*, 'forerunner or messenger' (from *prodromos*, 'running forward with speed, going in advance') designates it merely as a preliminary survey of the vegetable kingdom to be followed by more elaborate monographs, nevertheless it contains the last comprehensive revision of many an important genus. *Aristolochia* (15. I. 432-498: 1864), *Begonia* (15. I. 278-406: 1864), *Campanula* (7. II. 457-489: 1839), *Euphorbia* (15. II. 7-187: 1862), *Limonium* (12. 634-673: 1848) and *Solanum* (13. 27-387: 1852) are examples.

Planned and begun by Augustin Pyramus de Candolle (1778-1841), the 'DC.' of botanical abbreviations, the work was carried on and brought to an end, the monocotyledons remaining untouched, by his son Alphonse Louis Pierre Pyramus de Candolle (1806-1893), usually cited as 'A. DC.', with the help of his grandson Anne Casimir Pyramus de Candolle (1836-1918), cited as 'C. DC.', and thirty-two other botanists. The three Candolles<sup>1</sup> together wrote 5,950 of its 13,194 pages, Jean Müller (of Aargau) 1,144, George Bentham 1,133. An appendix in vol. 17. 303-314 (1873) gives a short history and analysis of the work.

On the title-pages of the later volumes the month and year of

<sup>1</sup> Augustin Pyramus's great-grandson, the fourth botanical member of this distinguished Genevese family, Augustin de Candolle (1868-1920), took no part in the *Prodromus* or its successor, the *Monographiae Phanerogamarum. Prodromi nunc Continuatio nunc Revisio* (9 vols; Paris, 1878-1896).

The persecution of the Huguenots, which enriched England, Prussia and Switzerland with so many of the most intelligent, skilled and religious of the citizens of France, caused Pyramus de Candolle, the progenitor of the Genevese branch of the ancient Provençal house de Candolle, to take refuge at Geneva and set up a printing press nearby in 1591. He

publication is usually stated, but on the earlier volumes the year alone is given. To settle some nomenclative problems this information is not sufficient. Fortunately it can be supplemented or checked by reference to contemporary Paris publications (the *Bibliographie de France* and the *Comptes Rendus des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences*, Paris) as well as the unpublished library accession registers of the Linnean Society of London. The *Bibliographie* is an official book trade journal recording the publication of new French works, usually within a fortnight or so of their issue. The *Comptes Rendus* contain lists of works presented to the Académie at its weekly meetings. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, it seems reasonable to accept the volumes of the *Prodromus* as having been published within a week or so of their formal acceptance by the Académie, especially as their notice in the *Bibliographie* is usually within twelve days, sometimes within two days of this.

The volumes of the *Prodromus*, with contents, approximate dates of issue<sup>2</sup>, references to the *Bibliographie* (B. F.) and *Comptes Rendus* (C. R.) and dates of receipt by the Linnean Society of London (rec. by L. S.) are as follows :-

Vol.

- 1 (Ranuncul.-Coriar.); mid **Jan. 1824**; B. F. **13**. 55 (24 Jan. 1824).
- 2 (Celastr.-Rosac.); mid **Nov. 1825**; B. F. **14**. 775 (19 Nov. 1825).
- 3 (Calycanth.-Grossul.); mid **March 1828**; B. F. **17**. 228 (22 March 1828).

died 1626 but the date of his birth is unknown because the registers of his place of origin, Frejus, were burnt by the Arabs. He took part in the defence of Geneva against the Duke of Savoy in 1602 and he negotiated with Henry IV of France on behalf of the Genevese printers in 1609. He transferred his business (the *Typographia Caldoriana*, commemorating in its name the Neapolitan offshoot of the Candolles) to Yverdon in 1617. In memory of this able and active man it became a family custom for the eldest son to bear the name Pyramus. Edmond Boissier came likewise of a Huguenot family which fled from France to Geneva. See E. H. Gaullieur, *Etudes sur la Typographie genevoise du XV<sup>e</sup> au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècles*, 182-196 (1855); *Mémoires et Souvenirs de Augustin Pyramus de Candolle*, 6-7 (1862).

<sup>2</sup> Jan. (janvier, Januar, gennaio); Feb. (février, Februar, febbraio); March (mars, März, marzo); April (avril, April, aprile); May (mai, Mai, maggio); June (juin, Juni, giugno); July (juillet, Juli, luglio); Aug. (août, August, agosto); Sept. (septembre, September, settembre); Oct. (octobre, Oktober, ottobre); Nov. (novembre, November, novembre); Dec. (décembre, Dezember, dicembre).

Vol.

- 4 (Saxifrag.-Dipsac.); late **Sept. 1830**; B. F. **19**. 661 (2 Oct. 1830),
- 5 (Calycer.-Compositae): early **Oct. 1836**; C. R. **3**. 436 (for 3 Oct. 1836), B. F. **25**. 491. (8 Oct. 1836).
- 6 (Compositae); early **Jan. 1838**; B. F. **27**. 23 (13 Jan. 1838). C. R. **6**. 68 (for 15 Jan. 1838), rec. 1 Feb. 1838 by L. S.
7. I. (Compositae); late **April 1838**; C. R. **6**. 628 (for 30 April 1838), B. F. **27**. 215 (5 May 1838), rec. 23 May 1838 by L. S.
7. II (Stylid.-Monotrop.); late **Dec. 1839**; B. F. **29**. 8 (4 Jan. 1840), C. R. **10**. 43 (for 6 Jan. 1840), rec. 15 Feb. 1840 by L. S.
- 8 (Lentibul.-Asclepiad.); mid **March 1844**; C. R. **78**. 485, 496 (for 18 March 1844), B. F. **33**. 147 (23 March 1844), rec. 28 March 1844 by L. S.
- 9 (Logan.-Borrag.); early **Jan. 1845**; C. R. **20**. 65 (for 6 Jan. 1845), B. F. **34**. 31 (18 Jan. 1845), rec. 20 Feb. 1845 by L. S.
- 10 (Borrag.-Scrophul.); early **April 1846**; C. R. **22**. 615 (for 6 April 1846), B. F. **35**. 192 (18 April 1846), rec. 20 April 1846 by L. S.
- 11 (Orobanch.-Myopor.); late **Nov. 1847**; C. R. **25**. 863 (for 29 Nov. 1847), B. F. **36**. 605 (11 Dec. 1847), rec. 8 Dec. 1847 by L. S.
- 12 (Selag.-Plumbag.); early **Nov. 1848**; C. R. **27**. 535 (for 13 Nov. 1848), B. F. **37**. 583 (18 Nov. 1848), rec. 27 Nov. 1848 by L. S.
13. I (Solan.-Plantag.); mid **May 1852**; C. R. **34**. 778 (for 17 May 1852), B. F. **41**. 303 (22 May 1852), rec. 28 May 1852 by L. S.
13. II (Phytolacc.-Nyctag.); early **May 1849**; C. R. **28**. 610 (for 7 May 1849), B. F. **38**. 250 (19 May 1849), rec. 23 May 1849 by L. S.
14. Fasc. 1, pp. **1-492** (Polygon.-Geissolom.); mid **Oct. 1856**; rec. 23 Oct. 1856 by L. S.; C. R. **43**. 824 (for 27 Oct. 1856), B. F. **45**. 1146 (8 Nov. 1856).  
Fasc. 2, pp. **493-706** (Thymel.-Santal.); late **Nov. 1857**; C. R. **45**. 855, 907 (for 23 Nov. 1857), rec. 7 Dec. 1857 by L. S.; Gard. Chron. **1857**. 840 (12 Dec. 1857).
15. I (Laur.-Stackhous.); early **May 1864**; C. R. **58**. 836 (for 2 May 1864), B. F. **53**. 238 (21 May 1864), rec. 23 May 1864 by L. S.
15. II Fasc. 1, pp. **1-188** (Euphorb.); late **Jan. 1862**; B. F. **51**. 51 (1 Feb. 1862), C. R. **54**. 287 (for 10 Feb. 1862), rec. 19 Feb. 1862 by L. S.  
Fasc. 2, pp. **189-1286** (Euphorb.); late **Aug. 1866**; B. F. **55**.

## Vol.

- 398 (1 Sept. 1866), C. R. **63**. 464 (for 10 Sept. 1866), rec. 24 Sept. 1866 by L. S.
- 16. I** (Daphniphyll.-Garry.); mid **Nov. 1869**; C. R. **69**. 1034 (for 15 Nov. 1869), rec. 19 Nov. 1869 by L. S.; B. F. **58**. 595 (4 Dec. 1869).
- 16. II Fasc. 1**, pp. **1-160** (Cupulifer.-Platan.); late **Dec. 1864**; C. R. **59**. 1105 (for 26 Dec. 1864), B. F. **53**. 614 (31 Dec. 1864), rec. 5. Jan. 1865 by L. S.  
Fasc. 2, pp. **161-691** (Betul.-Dicot. Ordines Omissi); mid **July 1868**; C. R. **67**. 183 (for 20 July 1868). rec. by L. S. 20 July, 1868, Gard. Chron. **1868**, 866 (15 Aug. 1868).
- 17** (Dicot. Ordines Omissi, etc.); mid **Oct. 1873**; C. R. **77**. 866, 956 (for 22 Oct. 1873), rec. 28 Oct. 1873 by L. S.; B. F. **62**. 613 (22 Nov. 1873).

A general index to the genera and families is contained in vol. **17**. 323-493. The immense task of indexing all the names in the work was undertaken by a German botanist, Heinrich Wilhelm Buek (1796-1879) of Hamburg. He published his *Genera, Species et Synonyma Candolleana alphabetico Ordine disposita seu Index generalis et specialis* to vols. **1-4** at Berlin early in 1843 (cf. J. C. Hinrichs, *Verz. Büch. Jan. bis Juni 1843*, 34, Schlechtendal in *Bot. Zeitung* **1**. 276: 21 April 1843), to vols. **5-7. I** at Berlin late in 1840 (cf. J. C. Hinrichs, *Verz. Büch. Juli bis Dec. 1840*, 35), to vols. **7. II-13** at Hamburg late in 1858, or early in 1859 (cf. J. C. Hinrichs, *Verz. Büch. Jan. bis Juni 1859*, 46), to vols. **15-17** at Hamburg in 1874 (cf. J. C. Hinrichs, *Verz. Büch. Juli bis Dec. 1874*, 54). To end the double employ of certain names, he proposed a number of new names in his prefaces<sup>1</sup>. Unfortunately not all sets of the *Prodromus* possess Buek's valuable keys to its contents.

<sup>1</sup> Several of Buek's names conflict with new names proposed for the same homonyms in Ernst Gottlieb Steudel's *Nomenclator botanicus, seu Synonymia Plantarum universalis*, 2nd ed. (Stuttgart & Tubingen, 1840-1841). Of this work sections 1-6, comprising vol. **1**. 1-768 (A-Hippia), were published between June and December 1840 (cf. J. C. Hinrichs, *Verz. Büch. Juli bis Dec. 1840*, 238); sections 7-10, comprising vol. **1**. 769-852, **2**. 1-432 (Hippion-Ranunculus), between Dec. 1840 and April 1841 (rec. 7 May 1841 by L. S. from author; cf. also J. C. Hinrichs, *Verz. Büch. Jan. bis Juli 1841*, 243); sections 11-13, comprising vol. **2**. 433-810 (Ranunculus-end), between June and Dec. 1841 (cf. J. C. Hinrichs, *Verz. Büch. Juli bis Dec. 1841*, 245).