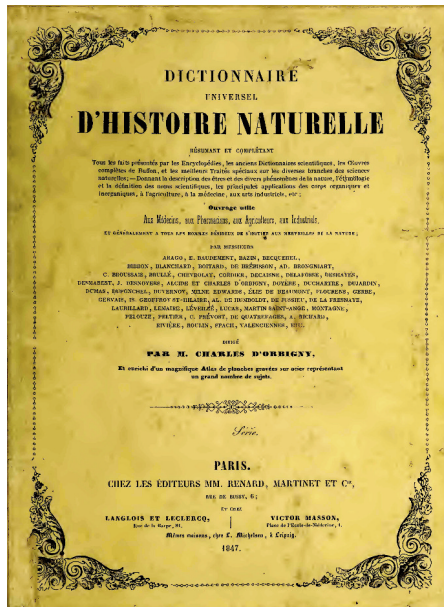


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CHARLES D.V. D'ORBIGNY'S "DICTIONNAIRE
UNIVERSEL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE":
PROPOSED DATES FOR LIVRAISONS, WITH
ITEMIZED CONTENTS OF EACH

NEAL L. EVENHUIS



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Charles D.V. d'Orbigny's "Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle":
 proposed dates for livraisons, with itemized contents of each. Neal L.
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Charles D.V. d'Orbigny's "*Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle*": proposed dates for livraisons, with itemized contents of each

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Abstract. Dates of publication for all 150 livraisons of the text volumes of Charles D.V. d'Orbigny's 1839–1849 *Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle* are given and the contents of each livraison are itemized.

INTRODUCTION

Almost 30 years ago in this journal, Evenhuis (1990) researched and presented the dates of publication for almost all the 150 *livraisons* (each labelled as "Série" on the wrapper) of Charles D.V. d'Orbigny's *Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle*, published from 1839 to 1849 in 13 volumes. Various published records of receipt of the *livraisons* of the work examined at that time often gave only the *livraison* number but not the pages included nor the contents. Therefore, an incomplete table of contents and only pages of a few *livraisons* were able to be presented by Evenhuis (1990). A re-examination of the work and further research into publication dates of the *livraisons* since 1990 has led to more accurate dates for virtually all the 150 livraisons of the and the contents of each *livraison* or sets of *livraisons* received by societies and publishers and recorded in the periodical literature. The results are presented here and are intended to augment that 1990 work.

Background to the work and its importance in biological taxonomy

One of the results of the Age of Enlightenment in 18th century Europe, and especially France, was a number of "*dictionnaires*" and "*encyclopédies*" produced by numerous different publishers, which were intended to "enlighten" (educate) the public while simultaneously allowing scientists to make some extra money on the side by being contracted by editors or publishers in publishing chapters or entries in these multi-volume works [cf. Evenhuis (2003) regarding the background and history to the prodigious *Encyclopédie Méthodique*].

One such *dictionnaire* was the *Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle*, edited by Charles D.V. d'Orbigny and published in 13 volumes plus 3 separate volumes of atlas from 1839–1849. Dozens of scientists and other experts were contracted by d'Orbigny to fill out these volumes with entries for various subjects on natural history, especially short entries defining generic names in both plants and animals.

Besides acting as a major references for the knowledge of general natural history at the time, many of the taxonomic entries included descriptions of novel taxa and also specified explicitly the type species of many nominal genera. In some cases, these typifications were the earliest for nominal genera that had been proposed without having had a



Figure 1. Front wrapper of volume 2 of the atlas showing the blank area in front of “*Série*” for inserting by hand the number of the *livraison* (*série*). The date on the wrapper is not the date of the volume, but was a scrap wrapper used to contain the plates for this purchase. Source: Wellcome Library, UK via Biodiversity Heritage Library.

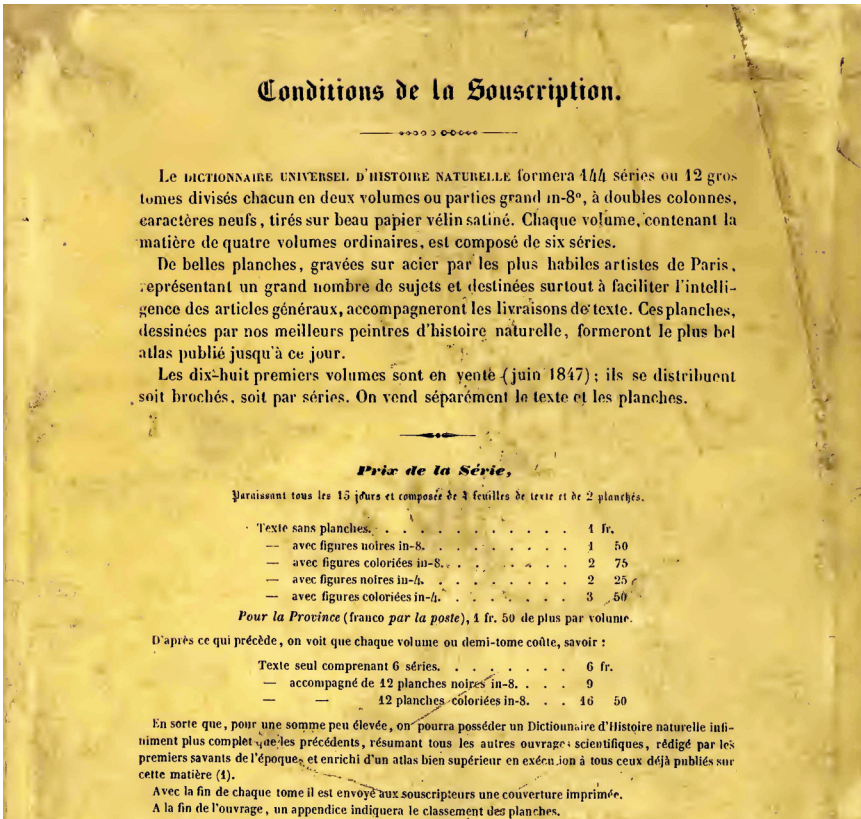


Figure 2. Back wrapper of volume 2 of the atlas showing the information on frequency of publication and date of publication of the first 9 *livraisons* (= *dix-huit volumes*). Source: Wellcome Library, UK via Biodiversity Heritage Library.

type species originally designated. For example, Evenhuis & Thompson (1990) gave a list of those type designations just for generic names of Diptera, 37 of which were earlier than previously known.

Given the taxonomic and nomenclatural importance of this and other contemporary dictionaries and encyclopedias that were issued in parts, it is important to be able to accurately date the issuance of each of those parts of these works. The proposed dates of publication given here for the d'Orbigny's *Dictionnaire Universel* encompass all but six of the 150 *livraisons* comprising the text volumes.

PUBLICATION OF THE *DICTIONNAIRE*

Wrappers

Since my original publication of the dating of this work in 1990, a few wrappers have come to my attention that give information about how the work was intended to and actu-

ally published. The wrappers found were apparently used to cover text and plates of a purchase after the original issuance of the volumes. For example, the wrappers used for the atlas volumes include one without a date (for Atlas volume 1), one with an 1845 date (for Atlas volume 3), and two with a June 1847 date on the back wrapper (Atlas volumes 2, 4) and were most likely scrap that were used for covers. None of those wrappers give contents and the two (dated June 1847) that have “*Série*” on the cover with a blank area in front to allow for a handwritten number have no handwritten number (Fig. 1). It is assumed that this was the form of wrapper used for each *livraison* when originally issued and the *livraison* number would be written in front of “*Série*”. If so, there is obviously no room on the wrapper for the contents to be printed, pasted, or handwritten, thus it is assumed that such information was not included with the wrappers but could only be ascertained from examination of the original material within each wrapper.

Frequency of publication

The backs of the wrappers that were found give information on intended total *livraisons* (= *séries*) and plates, frequency of issuance, and prices for subscribing (cf. Fig. 2). As with most works published in parts over a number of years, the initial estimate of total *livraisons* increased with subsequent volumes. The back wrapper for the completed volume 1 in 1841 indicated that there would be 8 “*tomes*” consisting of 2 “volumes” each and comprising a total of 30 *livraisons*. The following year, that estimate increased to 96 *livraisons*. Toward the end of the project, the estimated number of *livraisons* was 144 in 12 “*tomes*”. In actuality, the 12th volume contained *livraison* 145 and 5 more *livraisons* made up the last volume 13. The last *livraison* (151) contained no textual matter, but only the legends to the plates in the Atlas volumes.

Up through 1844, the intention was to issue *livraisons* every 20 days to contain both text (3 to 4 *feuilles*) and plates (2). This may have been the case at the beginning, but records of receipt at various societies and recording journals shows a more varied issuance of *livraisons* and in some cases issued on a monthly basis instead of every 20 days.

DATING OF THE WORK

The first to attempt dating of the volumes and *livraisons* of this *dictionnaire* were Sherborn & Palmer (1899). Their dates derived primarily from presentation of *livraisons* at the meetings of the Société Géologique de la France. Staffleu & Cowan (1981) also provided dating, theirs being of the volumes (not the *livraisons*) based on dates recorded in the *Bibliographie de la France*. Iredale (1937) gave dates of publication of some of the *livraisons* based on their notice and/or review in the *Revue Zoologique de la Société Cuvierienne*, some dates of which were earlier than those recorded by Sherborn & Palmer (1899). Evenhuis (1990) summarized the dating research of previous workers and added new dating evidence in tabular form, adding many dates deriving from receipts of *livraisons* announced at the meetings of the Académie des Sciences in Paris. Despite the effort made at attempting to obtain as accurate as possible dates at that time, a number of gaps in pagination of *livraisons* existed and as a result, no accurate listing of the contents of every *livraison* could be made.

During the subsequent 29 years, further research has been done and, given the knowledge of how many *feuilles* comprised a *livraison* or set of *livraisons*, some of which was unknown in 1990, a more complete set of dates of the 150 *livraisons* of text can be

made. This results in being able to also provide the starting and ending terms in each *livraison*. This new dating and contents adds significantly more accuracy to the dates of many type designations made in the *Dictionnaire* and may be considered as minimum publication dates until better dating is found for each *livraison*. The results of the dating are presented in Table 1.

Dating of the plates in the three-volume atlas still remains a mystery. No further information has come to hand that would help pinpoint the dates of each plate based on which *livraison* in which they were included. Until unbound *livraisons* of text and plates are found with the original wrappers, the dates of the plates remain unknown.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A number of colleagues have been involved to one degree or another regarding his study, which has last many years. They are thanked for their help and for the many discussions that have transpired. Chris Thompson is thanked for his initial help with the original study in 1990 and the infectiousness of his bibliographic zeal has forever victimized me as a fellow bibliophile—resistance was futile. The late Lu Eldredge spent many mornings in my office discussing over coffee the importance of dictionaries and encyclopedias in taxonomy and nomenclature and is thanked for a critical reading of a late iteration of this paper, which helped improve it immensely.

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Table 1. Contents, pagination and dates of publication for livraisons of the *Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle**

Vol.	Livr.	Feuilles(discours)	Pages (discours pp.)	Contents	Date of Publication	Source
1	1	1-3*	1-48	Aal-Accroissement	29 June 1839	BF
	2	4-5*	49-96	Accroissement-Acides	August 1839	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	3	6-8*	97-128	Acides-Adenostema	[Aug 1839-16 Mar 1840]	
	4	9-12*	129-192	Adenostema-Agave	16 March 1840	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	5	13-16*	193-256	Agave-Alchimie	March 1840	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	6	17-20*	257-312	Alchimie-Alun	15 June 1840	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	7	21-24*	313-384	Alun-Amphidesma	July 1840	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	8	25-28*	385-448	Amphidesma-Anatomie	August 1840	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	9	29-30*	449-480	Anatomie-Ancylonotus	2 November 1840	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	10	31-32*(1-10)	481-512(1-80)	Ank ylonotus-Anidiens (discours - part)	16 November 1840	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	11	33-34*(11-18)	513-544 (81-144)	Anidiens-Anneles (discours - part)	November 1840	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	12	35-41*(19-29)	545-649 (145-232)	Anneles-Aphlomidées (discours- concl.)	January 1841	Sherborn & Palmer
2	13	1-4*	1-64	Aphodie-Araignée de Mer	1 February 1841	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	14	5-8*	65-128	Araignée de Mer-Argyrocom	5 April 1841	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	15	9-12*	129-192	Argyrocome-Articules	6 September 1841	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	16	13-16*	193-256	Articules-Asterochoete	8 November 1841	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	17	17-20*	257-320	Asterochoete-Attagis	November 1841	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	18	21-24	321-384	Attagis-Axe	24 January 1842	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	19	25-28	385-448	Axe-Baloghia	7 February 1842	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	20	29-32	449-512	Baloghia-Bec	21 March 1842	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	21	33-36	513-576	Bec-Biophloeus	4 April 1842	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	22	37-40	577-640	Biophloeus-Boleum	16 May 1842	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	23	41-43	641-688	Boleum-Bourgeon	20 June 1842	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	24	44-50*	689-795	Bourgeon-Byzenus	30 June 1842	BF
3	25	1-4*	1-64	Gaama-Calmaret	22 August 1842	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	26	5-8*	65-128	Calmaret-Cantharide	1 September 1842	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	27	9-12*	129-192	Cantharide-Carpocapsa	10 October 1842	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	28	13-16*	193-256	Carpocapsa-Celtidées	7 November 1842	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	29	17-20*	257-320	Celtidées-Cerf	November 1842	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	30	21-24	321-384	Cerf-Chameau	2 January 1843	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	31	25-28	385-448	Chameau-Cheiroptères	30 January 1843	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	32	29-32	449-512	Cheiroptères-Chèvres	6 March 1843	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	33	33-36	513-576	Chèvres-Chimie	10 April 1843	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	34	37-40	577-640	Chimie-Chouette	24 April 1843	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	35	41-43	641-688	Chouette-Cinclodes	29 May 1843	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	36	44-47	689-744	Cinclodes-Clavigere	1 July 1843	BF
4	37	1-8	1-64	Clavija-Cochon	31 July 1843	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	38	9-16	65-128	Cochon-Comarophagus	4 September 1843	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	39	17-24	129-192	Comarophagus-Conoteuthe	2 October 1843	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	40-41	25-40	193-320	Conoteuthe-Crapaud	November 1843	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	42	41-48	321-384	Crapaud-Crustacés	26 December 1843	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	43-44	49-64	385-512	Crustacés-Cylindrique	19 February 1844	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	45	65-72	513-576	Cylindrique-Dahlia	4 March 1844	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	46	73-80	577-640	Dahlia-Décandrie	8 April 1844	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	47	81-88	641-696	Décandrie-Déribie	29 April 1844	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	48	89-95	697-752	Déribie-Dictyménie	20 May 1844	Soc. Géol. Fr.

* items in red are changes to or information new to the original table of dates and contents in Evenhuis (1990); items in square brackets and highlighted in yellow are interpolated dates for livraisons for which dates could not be found. Abbreviations: BF = Bibliographie de la France; CR = Comptes Rendus.

Table 1 (continued). Contents, pagination and dates of publication for livraisons of the *Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle**

Vol.	Livr.	Feuilles(discours)	Pages (discours pp.)	Contents	Date of Publication	Source
5	49	1-8	1-64	Dictynes-Dipteres	24 June 1844	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	50	9-16	65-128	Dipteres-Drepanophylle	1 July 1844	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	51	17-24	129-192	Drepanophylle-Echinorex	12 August 1844	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	52	25-32	193-248	Echinorex-Électricité	26 August 1844	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	53	33-40	249-320	Électricité-Engoulevent	23 September 1844	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	54	41-48	321-384	Engoulevent-Erebia	14 October 1844	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	55	49-56	385-448	Erebia-Espèce	18 November 1844	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	56	57-64	449-512	Espèce-Eurhine	16 December 1844	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	57	65-72	513-576	Eurhine-Fécondation	6 January 1845	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	58	73-80	577-640	Fécondation-Flagellaria	6 January 1845	Soc. Géol. Fr.
59	81-88	641-696	Flagellaria-Fougères fossiles	17 February 1845	Soc. Géol. Fr.	
60	89-96	697-768	Fougères fossiles-Galenia	22 March 1845	BF	
6	61	1-8	1-64	Galéode-Génération spontanée	28 April 1845	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	62	9-16	65-128	Génération spontanée-Géographie zoologique	19 May 1845	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	63	17-24	129-192	Géographie zoologique	[19 May–30 Jun 1845]	—
	64	25-32	193-256	Géologie-Gobe-Mouche	30 June 1845	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	65	33-40	257-320	Gobe-Mouche-Grenadier	23 July 1845	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	66-70	41-80	321-640	Grenadier-Hirondelle	3 November 1845	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	71	81-88	641-704	Hirondelle-Huiles	17 November 1845	Soc. Géol. Fr.
	72	89-99	705-792	Huiles-Hystrix	22 December 1845	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
7	73-74	1-16	1-128	Iacretinga-Lule	29 December 1845	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	75	17-24	129-192	Lule-Lacinulaire	January 1846	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	76	25-32	193-256	Lacinulaire-Laurier	9 February 1846	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	77-78	33-48	257-384	Laurier-Lin	16 March 1846	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	79-81	49-72	385-576	Lin-Magnétisme	20 April 1846	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	82	73-80	577-640	Magnétisme-Mammifères	27 July 1846	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	83	81-88	641-704	Mammifères	17 August 1846	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	84	89-101	705-806	Mammifères-Martagon	31 August 1846	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
8	85-86	1-16	1-128	Marte-Mercure	21 September 1846	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	87-88	17-32	129-256	Mercure-Moineau	19 October 1846	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	89-90	33-48	257-384	Moineau-Moule	9 November 1846	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	91-92	49-64	385-512	Moule-Myologie	14 December 1846	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	93-94	65-80	513-640	Myologie-Nez	18 January 1847	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	95-96	81-96	641-766	Nez-Oidium	6 February 1847	BF
9	97-98	1-16	1-128	Oie-Ophiidiens	February 1847	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	99-100	17-32	129-256	Ophiidiens-Ours	29 March 1847	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	101-102	33-48	257-384	Ours-Pachydermes	5 May 1847	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	103	49-56	385-448	Pachydermes-Paon	24 May 1847	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	104	57-64	449-512	Paon-Paussiles	24 May 1847	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	105-106	65-80	513-640	Paussiles-Perroquet	[24 May-June 1847]	—
	107-108	81-97	641-776	Perroquet-Phormium	June 1847	back wrapper

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Table 1 (continued). Contents, pagination and dates of publication for livraisons of the *Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Naturelle**

Vol.	Livr.	Feuilles(discours)	Pages (discours pp.)	Contents	Date of Publication	Source
10	109-110	1-16	1-128	Phorodesma-Physophorides	26 July 1847	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	111-112	17-32	129-256	Physophorides-Platyomides	6 September 1847	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	113-114	33-48	257-384	Platyomides-Polygnathiens	11 October 1847	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	115-116	49-64	385-512	Polygnathiens-Propagation	25 October 1847	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	117-118	65-80	513-640	Propagation-Pupipares	November 1847	Rev. Zool. Soc. Cuvier.
	119-120	81-96	641-760	Pupipares-Reptation	27 December 1847	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
11	121-122	1-18	1-144	Reptiles-Rocelle	10 January 1848	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	123-124	19-34	145-272	Rocelle-Ruppellie	28 February 1848	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	125-126	35-52	273-416	Ruppellie-Schizaster	[28 Feb-9 Sep 1848]	—
	127-132	53-102	417-816	Schizaster-Stello	9 September 1848	BF
12	133-134	1-16	1-128	Stellion-Synchronisme	9 September 1848	BF
	135	17-24	129-192	Synchronisme-Systeme Cristallins	[31 December 1848+]	—
	136-139	25-56	193-448	Systeme Cristallins-Tenia	2 January 1849	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	140	57-60	449-480	Tenia-Terrain .Geol.	[2 Jan-26 Mar 1849]	—
	141	61-66	481-528	Terrain. Geol-Terre-Tetradynamie	26 March 1849	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	142-143	67-88	529-704	Tetraglenes-Tropidophide	[26 Mar-7 Jul 1849]	—
	144-145	89-102	705-816	Tropidophide-Vancouverie	7 July 1849	BF
13	146-147	1-16	1-128	Vande-Végétaux, plantes	7 July 1849	BF
	148-149	17-40	129-320	Végétaux, plantes-Xolnus	10 September 1849	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
	150	41-48	321-384	Xoride-Zyzel	5 November 1849	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.
Atlas	151			figure legends for plates	5 November 1849	CR Acad. Sci. Fr.

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