



Gustav Heinrich Kirchenpauer (1808–1887) of the City of Hamburg, and his research on hydroids and bryozoans

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Abstract

Gustav Heinrich Kirchenpauer was born 2 February 1808 in Hamburg, and he died in that city on 3 March 1887. In 1810 he was taken with his family to St. Petersburg, Russia, to escape economic hardships during the occupation of Hamburg and continental blockade of the United Kingdom by Napoleon. He attended secondary school and university in Dorpat (Tartu), Estonia, and earned a doctorate in law from Universität Heidelberg in 1831. Kirchenpauer returned to Hamburg in 1832 as a lawyer and journalist, gaining recognition as a specialist in international trade. He later served as senator, federal council representative, and seven-time Bürgermeister (mayor) of the city. One of his avocations was natural history, especially taxonomy of hydroids and bryozoans. While he published only six papers with information on Hydrozoa, Kirchenpauer described and named eight genera and 77 species and subspecies of hydroids. Three familiar genera (*Abietinaria*, *Lytocarpia*, *Macrorhynchia*) and nearly half of the species he founded are still recognized as valid. In four papers dealing at least in part with Bryozoa, he named and described one new genus and 26 new species-group taxa in that group. Hydroids and bryozoans studied and described by Kirchenpauer came from many parts of the world, especially Australia, the western Pacific and mid-Pacific islands, South Africa, Europe, the Russian Far East, and the eastern South Atlantic. Kirchenpauer was awarded an honorary doctorate from Universität Kiel in 1876 for his scientific contributions. One family, one genus, and four species have been named in his honour.

Key words: biography, Bryozoa, Hydrozoa, marine biology, natural history, taxonomy, zoology

Introduction

Natural history was an avocation for several eighteenth and nineteenth century pioneers in the study of hydroids and bryozoans. Among them were clerics (John Fleming, 1785–1857; Thomas Hincks, 1818–1899; Alfred Merle Norman, 1831–1918), physicians (George Johnston, 1797–1855; Thomas Strehill Wright, 1818–1876), and merchants (John Ellis, 1710–1776; Joshua Alder, 1792–1867). Contributions to taxonomy of these groups by Gustav Heinrich Kirchenpauer, lawyer, journalist, statesman, historian, and seven-time Bürgermeister of the Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg (Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg), are briefly addressed here. Kirchenpauer's hydrozoan work focused on leptothebate hydroids, especially plumularioids and sertularioids.

Methods

Publications by Kirchenpauer were compiled from the *Royal Society of London Catalogue of Scientific Papers* (1800–1863, 1864–1873, 1874–1883, 1884–1900), *The Zoological Record* (volumes 1–42), a bibliography on invertebrates by Thompson (1885), and bibliographic works on hydrozoans by Bedot (1910, 1912, 1916). Dates of publication were determined from the works in which they appeared, or from other sources.

Names of genus- and species-group taxa established by Kirchenpauer (Tables 1, 2) were taken from his publications, and from generic names included in *Nomenclator Zoologicus*. These are listed as originally established except for hyphenated specific names (*Dynamena grosse-dentata*; *Aglaophenia multiplicato-pinnata*), and one