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Additional dates of Sir Andrew Smith's *Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa*

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Abstract

We update the collation of the dates of publication of Smith's *Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa* provided by Waterhouse (1880) and Barnard (1950, 1952). In the case of nine parts, we are able to provide more accurate dates of publication (including day-dates for seven of these parts). For workers of invertebrate taxonomy, we provide an accurate date of publication for W. S. Macleay's volume on *Annulosa*.

Key words: Dates of publication, *Zoology of the Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle*, *The Athenaeum*, *The Spectator*, *The Literary Gazette*

Introduction

Andrew Smith (b. 1797, d. 1872) published the *Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa* in 28 parts between 1 July 1838 and 30 November 1849 (Table 1). Information from the prospectus (see notes accompanying Table 1) suggests that each part would contain about ten engraved plates and an unspecified number of pages of letter-press. The final tally of plates (Table 1) shows that this plan of publication appears to have been followed, for the most part.

All the parts (except part three) contained plates engraved with figures illustrating one of the four 'classes': "Aves", "Mammalia", "Pisces" and "Reptilia". These plates (275 in total, Table 1) were accompanied by unnumbered pages of caption text. Dickinson *et al.* (2011: 148) indicated that "[i]n the absence of any information on when the text appeared new names can only be dated from the parts based on the plates included in each part".

The third part on the "Annulosa" (invertebrates) was authored by William Sharp Macleay (b. 1792, d. 1865). The text pages accompanying this part were numbered.

Upon completion, the plates (and accompanying text) of each 'class' were compiled and bound (Macleay 1838; Smith 1838–1849a–d) (Table 2). The title-pages for each of these bound volumes simply give the title of 'class' and not a volume number. This has led to some uncertainty in citing this work. For example, the order given by Nissen (1968: 385) (i.e. Mammalia, Reptilia, Aves, Pisces and Annulosa), is not usually followed by other authors, who list the Reptilia and Aves as volumes "3" and "2", respectively (e.g. Woodward 1913: 1942).

A statement by Smith himself in the Preface to the Mammalia (pp. iii, iv) supports our hypothesis that it was not the intention that each 'volume' be officially numbered: "The plates, as it will be observed, have been published in five divisions, viz., Mammalia, Aves, Reptilia, Pisces, and Invertebratae. Those of each division have been numbered independently, and the letterpress descriptions left unpagged, in order that they may be arranged according to the particular view of purchasers. An index to each division is given, so that zoologists may, if disposed, have the plates arranged in four volumes:—Volume 1, Mammalia; 2, Aves; 3, Reptilia; and 4, Pisces and Invertebratae".

examined), also lists 52 plates (1–17, 19–36, 38–53; 8bis is not listed). The plate captions are numbered 1–8, 8bis, 8–17, 19–36, 38–53.

The date of publication of the last plate (the 52nd which was numbered as “53”) is not known and therefore cannot be placed in our table. The caption accompanying the plate states “*Scotophilus dinganii*.—Smith. Mammalia.—Plate LIII. ... *Vespertilio Dinganii*, Smith.—South African Quarterly Journal, New Series, vol. i. 1832”. As the name *Vespertilio dinganii* was first made available in Smith (1833: 59) which antedates the Mammalia in the *Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa* (Smith 1838–1849a), we see no need to seek an accurate date of publication for this plate.

It should also be noted that Nissen (1968: 385) stated that Mammalia plate 22 was not printed and that plate 23 was doubled. No other workers have mentioned this change in the Mammalia plates.

Appendices

Woodward (1913: 1942) listed that an “Appendix” accompanied the Reptilia volume. Ulber (1999: 2) discussed that this 28-page appendix was probably published together with part 28 of the *Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa* (Table 1).

A second appendix was alluded to on the third unnumbered page of the descriptive text accompanying Mammalia plate 1 (*Rhinoceros keitloa*): “For a more detailed account of the manners and habits of this species, we may refer to the Appendix hereafter to be published”. We have found no evidence that this appendix was ever published.

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