



finished his M.D. degree but then continued his zoological research under the guidance of Henri Milne-Edwards, himself a student of Georges Cuvier. Vaillant received his doctorate in natural sciences in 1865. Except for four short papers on the anatomy of amphibians (1862-1863), all of his publications before 1872 were on invertebrates, but this quickly changed. Auguste Duméril, who held the professorship in reptiles and fishes at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, died in 1870. Vaillant was invited to assume his duties; however, he could not do so formally because Émile Blanchard, who held the position temporarily, wished to keep it. Blanchard had authored an atlas of vertebrate anatomy (1852-1864), which included a series of 20 plates on reptiles, and in 1871 described and named the Chinese giant salamander. Eventually, however, Vaillant prevailed (1875).

Vaillant thus came to hold the chair of Count de Lacepède and the Dumérils and to inherit responsibility for the then-largest collections of reptiles and fishes in the world, but at a time of grave peril. Because of the German siege of Paris, most of the specimens had to be removed from their showcases and many of them, especially the all-important types, were dispersed to basements and cellars around Paris for safekeeping. Vaillant supervised this work and their later reinstallation in the museum, but scarcely had this been completed than it was recognized that the collections had outgrown their quarters and new galleries

were needed. The new buildings were occupied in 1889; Vaillant again supervised the transfer of the collections. In addition to these administrative duties, he was in charge of the reptile menagerie and the aquarium. Despite these many responsibilities, Vaillant continued his research, now devoted to fishes and reptiles, and received many honors. He died in Paris on 24 November 1914, ironically during a new German bombardment, just as when his career at the museum had begun in 1870.

Vaillant published over 260 titles, of which nearly 90 are herpetological. His special interests were the systematics and anatomy of living and extinct turtles and crocodiles, but as a result of the living collections in the menagerie, he also published on reptilian behavior and physiology. His most magnificent work in herpetology, co-authored with Guillaume Grandidier, was the volume on turtles and crocodiles (1910) in the "Histoire Physique, Naturelle et Politique de Madagascar" series, with its exquisite colored plates. Regrettably, no other herpetological volumes were issued in this series.

• *References*: "Léon Vaillant," by E.-L. Bouvier, Bull. Soc. Philomath. Paris, ser. 10, 9: 53-56, 1917; "Le Professeur Léon-Louis Vaillant (1834-1914)," by L. Roule, Arch. Mus. Hist. Nat., 4: 1-14, 1929. • *Portrait*: Courtesy Brooks M. Burr. • *Signature* (1893): Smithsonian Institution Archives, courtesy William Cox.

DUGÈS, Alfredo (1826-1910).

Dugès, the Father of Mexican Herpetology, was born Alfred Auguste Delsescautz Dugès, in Montpellier, France, on 16 April 1826. He attended the university at Montpellier where his father, Antoine L. D. Dugès, author of several herpetological works, including a major study on amphibian osteology (1834, republished 1835), had been a professor. Later, he completed his M.D. at the University of Paris (1852). Dugès emigrated to Guanajuato, Mexico, in 1853, where he established a gynecological practice. Concurrently he was Professor of Natural History and director of the museum at the State College of Guanajuato. Despite his isolation from other research centers and some personal handicaps, including lifelong deafness, Dugès established himself as the leading vertebrate biologist in Mexico, with special emphasis on herpetology. His brother, Eugenio Dugès, also emigrated to Mexico and became a well-known entomologist. Alfredo Dugès made collections together with his brother, who also lived in Guanajuato, and often they were accompanied by Alfredo's students, especially on Sundays.

Alfredo Dugès was the first person to summarize the Mexican herpetofauna in Linnaean terms and was virtually the sole link between the early explorers and the modern era. He described 40 new reptiles and amphibians, of which nearly half are recognized as valid today, and also published on all other vertebrate groups, insects, and botany. His herpetological collections are still largely intact at the museum, later renamed "Museo Alfredo Dugès," at the University of Guanajuato. He died in Guanajuato on 7 January 1910.