

Johannes Gustavus Justander (1764–1833) – Demonstrator in Botany at old Åbo Akademi

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Justander was in order the third Demonstrator in Botany (1789–1794) at Åbo Akademi. The main duty of demonstrators were to instruct medical students on the subject of medicinal plants. Justanders personal history is not well known. He defended to both Carl Niclas Hellenius and Pehr Adrian Gadd one theses, and supervised one himself, in order to obtain a docentship at Åbo Akademi. In that one new species, *Festuca obliqua*, and its four varietes are described as new. These validly published names have completely been overlooked. All material was probably lost at the Great Fire of Åbo in 1827.

Introduction

Johan Gustaf Justander, Phil.Mag., was born ca. 1764 (Lagus 1895). His parents were Observer in Astronomy, Phil.Cand. Johan Justander and Anna Maria Hernmarck. Obviously unmarried. He died at Stockholm on the 12 April 1789.

In spring 1778 Justander graduated from Åbo secondary school. He studied natural sciences from 1778 to 1786 at Åbo Akademi with at least botany as one of his major subjects, under the supervision of Demonstrator in Botany Carl Niclas Hellenius (1745–1820) (ennobled 1816 von Hellenius), Professor in Economic and Natural History in 1793–1816 and Pehr Adrian Gadd (1727–1797), Professor in Chemistry 1761–1787. [see footnote in Väre (2014: 17) concerning history of names of Åbo Akademi].

To Hellenius Justander defended his Pro Exercitio -theses *Specimen calendarii florae et faunae Aboënsis* ("Fauna and flora calender of Åbo region") on 6 May 1786 (Hellenius & Justander 1786) and on 26 May 1782 to Gadd his Pro Gradu -thesis *Chemiske och botaniske anmärkningar om lin- och hampe-växterna samt deras beredning* ("Chemical and botanical notes on flax and

hemp and their processing") (Gadd & Justander 1788). Justander obtained his Phil. Mag. -degree on 22 June 1786.

Career

Curator of Åbo Akademi students' association from Åbo area during 1790's. Demonstrator in Botany 1789–1794 after Ander Dahl (Väre 2015, this volume). Justander supervised one doctoral theses, in order to obtain docentship at Åbo Akademi, on 4 June 1791 (Justander & Tamlander 1791). In 1794 Justander left Åbo Akademi, and moved to Stockholm. His personal history is poorly known, but he worked there at least as a bookseller and librarian.

Theses

In his Pro Exercitio -thesis a few rare species at Åbo area are mentioned, e.g. *Gypsophila muralis* and *Helianthemum vulgare*, today *H. nummularium* (Hellenius & Justander 1786). The key issue was to present phenological observations, to sup-

port farmers in decision making e.g. concerning the proper timing to sow grain. Obviously Justander himself made at least some of the observations (Kihlman 1895). The theses supervised by Gadd was purely practical in purpose. The state authorities in Sweden encouraged to economic activity.

Justander supervised a theses *Observationes historiam plantarum Fennicarum illustrantes* ("Clarifications on the history of Finnish plants") (Justander & Tamlander 1791) (Fig. 1). The theses was defended by becoming vicarian of Akaa, Finland, Zacharias Tamlander (1771–1828). Genera *Agrostis*, *Aira*, *Circaea*, *Festuca*, *Poa* and *Veronica* are presented, totally 25 taxa characterised. It was the first attempt in Finland to present grasses. *Festuca obliqua* and its four varieties are described as new taxa; viz. var. *grandiflora* sive *arenaria*, var. *caerulescens* f. *subpicata*, var. *purpurascens* f. *argillacea* and var. *planifolia*. It was suggested with a questionmark, that *Poa arenaria*? Retzius (1779) might represent same taxon. That name is nomen superfluous, to *Poa maritima* Fl. Danica 251, viz. *Puccinellia maritima* (Huds.) Parl.

Var. *caerulescens* had been collected by Anders Dahl, Justanders predecessor as Demonstrator in Botany, at Björkö, Bohulän, Sweden. Dahl had used the name *Festucae fluitantis marina*, which is synonymous to *Catapodium maritimum* (L.) C. E. Hubb. However, that species does not grow in Sweden. Perhaps it was *Puccinellia maritima*, or just *Glyceria fluitans* (L.) R. Br. Var. *planifolia* had been collected in Finland at Stor-Heickilae prope Aboam [Iso-Heikkilä, Turku]. These name have completely been overlooked, but were validly described. All material was lost at the Great Fire of Åbo in 1827.

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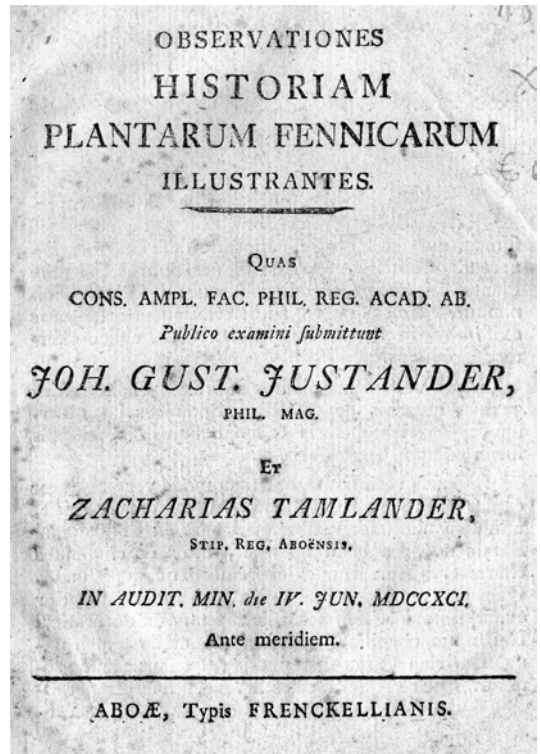


Fig. 1. Title page of *Observationes historiam plantarum Fennicarum illustrantes*, supervised by Johannes Gustavus Justander.

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