

Rutström, Carol Birger (1758–1826) – Demonstrator in Botany at old Åbo Akademi

Väre, H., *Finnish Museum of Natural History (Botany)*, P.O. Box 7, FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland. E-mail: henry.vare@helsinki.fi

Rutström was in order the fourth Demonstrator in Botany (1794–1798) at Åbo Akademi. His main duty was to instruct medical students on the subject of medicinal plants. In 1794 he supervised a thesis on Swedish cryptogams. It presents 20 species, including descriptions of one new fungal species, *Peziza ucreolata* (later homonym to *P. ucreolata* Vahl) and three lichens. *Peziza urceolata* Rutstr. is considered to be *Lasiobelonium corticale* (Pers.) Raitv. The new lichens were *Lichen anceps*, *L. demissus* and *L. cumatilis*, today *Bacidia rosella* (Pers.) De Not. var. *anceps* (Rutstr.) Ach., *Psora demissa* (Rutstr.) Stein. and *Lobaria amplissima* (Scop.) Forssell, respectively. In 1798 he moved back to Sweden.

Introduction

Carl Birger Rutström, Ph.D., was born at Stockholm, Sweden 22 November 1758. His parents were Th.D., vicarian Anders Carl Rutström and Brita Stjernman. Unmarried. He died at Stockholm on the 13 April 1826.

Young Rutström had a home teacher. He studied natural sciences from 1772 to 1786 at Uppsala University. Rutström defended to prof. Daniel Melanderhjelm (1726–1810) his Pro Gradu -thesis *Dissertatio de viribus planetas in orbitis suis retinentibus* ("On forces keeping planets orbiting") on 16 April 1785 (Melanderhjelm & Rutström 1785). He obtained his Ph.D. degree at Uppsala in 1785 (Krok 1925).

After some further studies at Uppsala, Rutström visited the Netherlands (Harderwijk), and defended his MD -theses *Positiones nonnullae physiologies, medici et botanici argumenti, quas adnuente summo numine* ("Some theses concerning physiological, medical and botanical assumptions") to headmaster Herman Muntinghe (1752–1824) in 21 May 1793 (Muntinghe & Rutström 1793), and obtained his MD -degree. He visit-

ed also England (London) and France, to study plants species that could tolerate Swedish climate (Lindroth 1967). He stayed abroad from 1791 until autumn 1793.

During years at Uppsala Rutström got to know Samuel Liljeblad (1761–1815). In 1788 they made a expedition to Lapland, travelling mainly in Sweden, but also in Finland close to river Muonionjoki area (Anonymous 1827, Sacklén 1822, 1824: 465). Liljeblad became the first to write flora of Sweden in Swedish (Liljeblad 1792, 1798, 1816).

Career in Finland

Rutström was in order the fourth Demonstrator in Botany at old Åbo Akademi, 1794–1798, after Johan Gustaf Justander (Väre 2015, this volume). Justander had turned out to be quite incapable to perform in his position (Lagus 1872). Appointed in 1798 as secretary of Kungliga Finska Hushållningssällskapet ("Royal Finnish Economic Society"), but he never took over this post. He resigned from demonstrator position in 1798, and moved back to Sweden (Anonymous 1827).

In Sweden he acted as vice secretary of Kungliga Patriotiska Sällskapet ("Swedish Patriotic Society") in 1796, ordinary secretary in 1799. Member of Kungliga Vetenskapsakademien ("Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences") in (Sacklén 1822, Cygnaeus 1897a,b).

Spicilegium

At Åbo Akademi Rutström supervised Pro Exercitio -theses *Spicilegium Plantarum cryptogamarum Sueciae* ("Cryptogams of Sweden") (Rutström & Haartman 1794) (Fig. 1). In the beginning notable Swedish scholars on cryptogamy after Carl Linnaeus are listed, viz. Carl von Linné fil. (1741–1783), Andreas Johan Retzius (1742–1821), Olof Swartz (1760–1818), Jakob Friedrich Ehrhart (1742–1795), Pehr Osbeck (1723–1805), Adam Afzelius (1750–1836), Samuel Liljeblad and Erik Acharius (1757–1813). In thesis one fern, *Polypodium* [*Dryopteris cristata*], 14 lichens and four fungal species are characterised. Information on occurrence of *Lichen multifidus* in

islets on the archipelago of Åbo is given. *Lichen multifidus* is synonymous to *Arctoparmelia incurva* (<https://data.nbn.org.uk/Taxa/>; 27.11.2015).

One fungus was described, *Peziza urceolata* Rutstr. He was cited as an author e.g. by Saccardo in *Syllogeus Fungorum* (VIII: 393; XV: 274). However, it is a later homonym of *Peziza urceolata* Vahl (<https://test.dyntaxa.se/Taxon/Info/4804>; 27.11.2015). Today *Peziza urceolata* Rutstr. is considered to be *Lasiobelonium corticale* (Pers.) Raitv.

New lichens were also described: *Lichen anceps* Rutstr. [syns. *Lecidea rosella* (Pers.) Ach. var. *anceps*, *Bacidia rosella* (Pers.) De Not. var. *anceps* (Rutstr.) Ach.]; *Lichen demissus* Rutstr. [syns. *Lepidoma demissum* (Rutstr.) M. Choisy, *Lecidoma demissum* (Rutstr.) G.Schneider & Hertel, *Psora demissa* (Rutstr.) Stein.] and *Lichen cumatilis* Rutstr. [syns. *Lichen glomuliferus* Lightf., *Lobaria amplissima* (Scop.) Forssell] Specimens were collected at northern Halland, Sweden (Rutström & Haartman 1794).

The thesis was defended by the forthcoming Phil.Lic. Johan Gustaf Haartman (1777–1799). His Pro Gradu -theses *De natura salium simplicium* ("The nature of simple salts") (Gadolin & Haartman 1795) was supervised by Professor in Chemistry, Johan Gadolin (1760–1852). Haartman himself supervised a thesis *De tussilagine commentarii botanici* ("Botanical commentaries on *Tussilago* species") in 1797, which was defended by forthcoming Doctor in Medicine, Andreas Johannes Orrström (1774–1847). *Petasites* was at that time included in *Tussilago* (Haartman & Orrström 1797).

Herabrium donation

Rutström donated vascular plants to Åbo Akademi (Hjelt 1896: 342). It consisted of 600 specimens from Uppsala, having belonged to Johan Andreas (Anders) Murray (1740–1791), and given to Rutström by Fredrik Wilhelm Radloff (1766–1838). Radloff acted as Demonstrator in Botany at Åbo Akademi 1806–1809. Most of these specimens were burned at the Great Fire of Åbo in 1827, but 74 have been found (Figs. 2 and 3). Twelve of these have marking 1805 or 1809. This suggests, that specimens were donated to

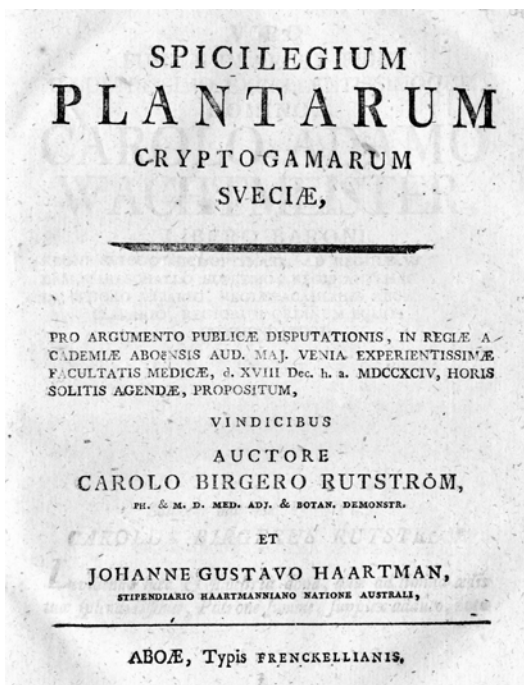


Fig. 1. Title page of *Spicilegium Plantarum cryptogamarum Sueciae*, supervised by Carl Birger Rutström.



Fig. 2a. *Dianthus superbis* and *Veronica hybrida* belonged to Herbarium Rutstroemerianum. Former was perhaps collected in 1788, when Rutström travelled in Lappland. The latter is often stated to be synonymous to *V. spicata*, but their outlook is quite different.



Finland. See footnote in Väre (2014: 17) concerning history of names of Åbo Akademi.

Many of the plants in Rutström's collections are native in Europe, 15 grows in Lapland. Perhaps these 15 were collected in 1788, when Liljeblad and Rutström made an excursion to northern Sweden.

According to Saelan (1916) Rutström edited annual reports sent by members of Finnish Economy Society to publications (note: Wallenius 1801, 1802a,b,c, 1803a,b). This is probably erroneous, as Rutström never acted as secretary of the Society, and these merits are not listed in his obituary (Anonymous 1827). Johan Fredrik Wallenius was the secretary of the Society 1799–1805 (Väre 2014). These reports include phenological observations.

Eponymy

Genus *Rutstroemia* P. Karst. 1871 was named in honor of Carl Birger Rutström

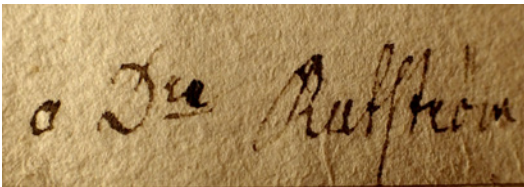


Fig. 2b. Dr. Rutström written on backside of the sheets indicate that the specimens were donated by him Carl Reinhold Sahlberg, indicated by CRS.

Åbo Akademi perhaps around 1810. All 74 were temporarily deposited to private herbarium of Carl Reinhold Sahlberg (indicated by CRS in sheets). He was the Demonstrator in Botany 1810–1813. That collection was sold 1828 to the Botanical Museum of Alexander University at Helsinki in

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