

Matthias Kalm (1793–1833) – 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

Kalm was in order the fifth Demonstrator in Botany (1800–1805) at Åbo Akademi. His main duty was to instruct medical students on the subject of medicinal plants. Kalm supervised one thesis, which introduces some past and current botanists. Kalm was focused on medicine

Introduction

Matthias Kalm, Ph.D., was born at Jomala, Åland, on 11 May 1793. His parents were farm owner Matts Eriksson and Margaretha Eriksdotter. In 1825 Kalm married Vilhelmina von Schantz, daughter of lieutenant colonel Johan Eberhard von Schantz. He died at Helsinki on the 2 March 1833 (Lagus 1895).

On 19 June 1810 Kalm graduated from Åbo secondary school. He studied natural sciences and medicine from 1810 to 1821 at Åbo Akademi with history and medicine as his major subjects. He specialised first in history under the supervision of Docent in History, Reinhold von Becker (1788–1848), and defended to him his Pro Exercitio -thesis *De ludis priscorum Scandinavorum palaesticis* ("Former athletic games of Scandinavians") on 17 November 1813 (Becker & Kalm 1813). Kalm obtained his Phil.Cand. degree on 14 June 1815. On 28 June 1815 he defended his Pro Gradu -thesis *Scriptis antiquorum linteis* ("Ancient writings made in linen") (Pipping & Kalm 1815) under the supervision of Fredrik Wilhelm Pipping (1783–1868), Professor of History of Science and Ideas, and obtained his Phil.Mag. -degree 13 October 1815. Next he specialised on medicine, under the su-

pervision of Professor in Medicine, Johan Agapetus Törngren (1772–1859). B.M. 13 December 1816, Lic.Med. 10 June 1817. Kalm defended to Törngren a thesis *Necessitatem ordinationum cogentium ad negotium insitionis variolarum tutorialium in Finlandia rite gerendum* ("Some aspects of combined emergency means and measures to implement proper treatment of smallpox in Finland") on 23 June 1817. Kalm obtained his Ph.D. degree 6 November 1817. Docent in Surgery 30 May 1818.

Career

Curator of Åbo Akademi students' association from Fennia borealis 1817–1833. Demonstrator in Botany 1822–1828. Associate Professor in Surgery and Obstetrics in 1828, Professor in Theoretical and Practical Medicine in 2 March 1833.

Prior to his appointment at Demonstrator in Botany Kalm supervised one thesis, *Sciagraphia studii botanici* ("Sketches on botanical studies"). It is quite unimportant, introducing some past and current botanists. In addition to the esteemed Linnaeus, e.g. Schrader and Kurt Sprengel are presented. *Anleitung zur Kenntniss der Gewäcche* by the latter is reviewed. Other nota-

ble scientists were Guilielm. Sherardus, Joh. Jac. Dillenius, Joh. Sibthorpius ja Mich. Adansonius. Within biology, ecology and environment became more important. Current top scientists were Alexandr. Humboldt and A. Bonpland, especially their *Essai sur la geographie des plantes* published in 1807, Aug. Pyram DeCandolle, Scopoli, Adanson, Oeder and Willdenow (Kalm & Widenius 1821) (Fig. 1). The thesis was defended by becoming lector Karl Fredrik Widenius (1800–1841).

The achievements by Kalm as Demonstrator in Botany were minute, as he focused on medicine (Fr. Elfving 1928a,b). Kalm was one of the founder members in 1821 of *Societatis pro Fauna et Flora Fennica*, oldest still functioning scientific society in Finland, e.g. responsible of this Year Book. Kalm acted secreterian and treasurer until 1828.

Acknowledgements. Heino Vänskä provided help in translation of latin, Ari Taponen by commenting the manuscript.

References

- Becker, R., von & Kalm, M. 1813: De ludis priscorum Scandianorum palaesticis. Cujus Partem Pofteriorem. — [2] + pp. 21–40. Frencckellianis. Aboae.
- Elfving, Fr. 1928a: Naturalhistorien. — In Från Universitetets första tider i Helsingfors: 178–191. Werner Söderström & C:o. Helsingfors.
- Elfving, Fr. 1928b: Luonnonhistoria. — In Helsingin yliopiston alkuajoilta: 254–275. Werner Söderström Osakeyhtiö. Porvoo.
- Kalm, M. & Widenius, C. F. 1821: Sciagraphia studii botanici. — [2] + 20 p. Frencckellianis. Aboae.

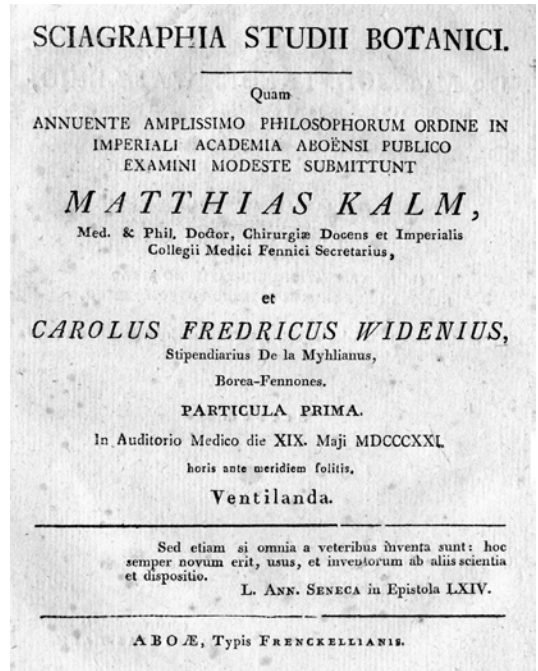


Fig. 1. Title page of *Sciagraphia studii botanici*, supervised by Matthias Kalm.

- Lagus, W. G. 1895: Åbo Akademis Studentmatrikel, Senare Afdelningen 1740–1827. Album Studiosorum Academiae Aboensis MDCXL–MDCCCXXVII. — Skrifter utgifva af Svenska Literatursällskapet i Finland 11(2): 1–714 + 50 s.
- Pipping, F. W. & Kalm, M. 1815: Scriptis antiquorum linteis, Partem priorem. — [2] + 12 p. Frencckellianis. Aboae.
- Törngren, J. A. & kalm, M. 1817: Positioes nonnullae circa necessitatem ordinationum cogentium ad negotium insitionis variolarum tutorialium in Finlandia rite gerendum. — [2] + 16 p. Frencckellianis. Aboae.