


Johannes Burmann (1707-1799) & Charles Plumier



Plantarum Americanarum

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At the end of the 17th century, Charles Plumier made a lot of observations in the West Indies, and they were collected in drawings and hand-written descriptions (see: [Charles Plumier](#); in French). Some were published (*Description des plantes de l'Amérique, Nova Plantarum Americanarum Genera*) by Plumier himself, but many remained unpublished as the *Botanicum Americanum* at the *Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris*. Reproductions of the original texts and drawings concerning Cacti were recently made available by Roy Mottram in [Bradleya 20](#), 2002, pp. 79-120.¹⁾

However, in the middle of the 18th century, Johannes Burmann, a dutch physicist and botanist, obtained a copy of the drawings and decided to publish reproductions accompanied by his own descriptions. The files below gather together the pages and plates devoted to Bromelia, Tillandsia and Cactus. The B&W plates have not the quality of the original colored drawings by Plumier, and the descriptions (in Latin!) are sometimes doubtful. However, this is a historical document.

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- Interpreted file: [Burman.pdf](#). (10.6 MB; 2011-1-30)
- Original file: [Burman_O.pdf](#). (19.2 MB; 2011-1-30)

The full set of fascicles can be downloaded from the [Biodiversity Heritage Library\(BHL\)](#)²⁾ under the name [mobot31753003082986.pdf](#) (95 MB) & [mobot31753003083125.pdf](#) (108 MB)³⁾.

¹⁾

Another set of plates were published in [Bradleya 2](#), 1984, pp. 39-64; it is based on Burmann's "original copy" that he used to produce his *Plantarum americanarum*.

²⁾

You will find there **for free** other old documents concerning plants.

³⁾

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