

ROXBURGH'S "PLANTS OF THE COAST OF COROMANDEL"

DATES OF PUBLICATION OF VOL. 3

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Roxburgh's "Plants of the Coast of Coromandel" was published in three volumes between 1795 and 1820. Each volume consisted of four parts, each part comprising text and illustrations. These parts were published separately and the date of publication of each is known. The content of each part is known for volumes 1 & 2 but not for volume 3. Stearn (in van Steenis-Kruseman, 1954, repeated by Stafleu, 1967) gives the following tentative division:—

	Text	Plates	Date of Publication
Vol. 3 Pt. 1	1-24?	201-225?	July 1811
2	25?-48?	226?-250?	May 1815
3	49?-72?	251?-275?	Feb. or Mar. 1820
4	73?-98	276?-300	Feb. or Mar. 1820

The text is printed two columns to a page, the column, and not the page, being numbered. Both the text and the plates are printed on paper with a watermarked date. There are two copies of vol. 3 in the library of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. The watermark dates on the paper correspond exactly between the two copies except for the title page, index and columns 45-98, which in both copies are printed on paper which may be dated 1817 in one copy and 1818 in the other and *vice versa*, in no recognizable order. The watermark dates are as follows:—

Text	Date	Plates	Date
Title	1817 or 1818		
(1)-20	1804	201-225	1805
21-32	1810	226-230	1812
33-36	1808	231	1811
37-40	1813	232-250	1812
41-44	1811		
45-48	1818	251-295	1816
49-98	1817 or 1818	296	1814
		297-300	1816
Index	1817 or 1818		

The watermark dates of the plates are consistent with each part having been published with 25 plates, as in vols. 1 & 2. For the text the obvious division between part 2 and part 3 is for part 3 to begin with column 45.

The one remaining problem is the division between parts 1 & 2 of the text. It is possible that the sheet with columns 21-24 was printed shortly before publication for inclusion in part 1. However, columns 25-32 are also on paper of the same date (1810) and columns 33-36 are on paper dated 1808. As these later columns were almost certainly in part 2 the

most likely division is for part 1 to end at column 20 (paper date 1804) and for part 2 to begin at column 21 (paper date 1810).

Using Stearn's dates of publication the emended division of vol. 3 is now:—

Part	Text	Plates	Date of Publication
1	1-20?	201-225	July 1811
2	21?-44	226-250	May 1815
3 & 4	45-98	251-300	Feb. or Mar. 1820

REFERENCES

- STAFLEU, F. A. (1967). Taxonomic Literature. Regnum Vegetabile n. 52. I.A.P.T., Utrecht.
- VAN STEENIS-KRUSEMAN, M. J. (1954). Dates of Publication. Flora Malesiana I vol. 4: ccx.