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## SOUTH AMERICAN LOCALITIES OF THE DANISH "GALATHEA" EXPEDITION

P. E. VANZOLINI

In 1845 Christian VIII, king of Denmark, decided to send an expedition "to the East Indies, and in particular the Nicobar Islands, ..., to undertake scientific investigations of the natural products of this group of islands and their application to cultivation and trade..." (Wolff, 1967: 70). The corvette *Galathea* was chosen for the mission, which became known in the literature by its name. Among the zoologists of the expedition were Wilhelm Behn, professor at Kiel (then a Danish university) and the young J. Th. Reinhardt (Wolff, *op. cit.*).

The ship left in June, 1845, on a westerly course, reaching its destination without mishap. On the return trip it called at several South American ports, Valparaiso, north to Cobija and Cal-lao (from where they visited Lima), back south around the Horn to Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador (Bahia). In Rio Reinhardt disembarked, to join Lund at Lagoa Santa and to start building for himself a distinguished scientific career. In Cobija, on the Pacific coast, then of Bolivia, Behn and an assistant left the ship to cross South America overland, collecting on the way. The localities of this excursion are the matter of the present note.

No itinerary remains — at least Leverkühn (1889), who reported on the birds collected, could find none. We are left with the list of bird localities. It is an incomplete list, dealing only with noteworthy specimens, but, as it mentions the respective dates, it makes it possible to reconstruct the itinerary.

Behn landed in Cobija early in 1847 and proceeded to climb the Bolivian Andes (Wolff, 1967: 88). We next hear of him through Leverkühn (1889), whose localities, rearranged by dates, all in 1847, are

May, 11 Santa Cruz, Bolivia  
June 17, San Miguel  
July 18 to 29, Cuyabá, Brasil  
August 26, Rio Manso  
September 5, Caxocirinha  
October 24, Paranyhya  
November 1, Monte Afeyre  
November 2, Dvivadino

Keeping in mind that XIX Century travellers followed the main trade roads, where they could count on logistic support and personal safety, this is, in spite of some (easy) misspellings, an easy itinerary to unravel.

From Cobija the road led to the Bolivian altiplano, hence to Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the great road junction of cis-Andean Bolivia, at 17°48'S, 63°10'W. The location of the next stop,



Localidades citadas no texto.

San Miguel (an extremely common place name in Bolivia), depends on a consideration of Behn's point of entry in Brasil, on his way to Cuiabá and Rio de Janeiro.

From Santa Cruz de la Sierra two routes were possible: a southern one, through Corumbá, shorter but harder, and a northern one, through Mato Grosso (now Vila Bela da Santíssima Trindade). The latter is apparently the route chosen by Behn: there is one San Miguel, a sizable road junction, at 16°42'S, 61°01'W, on the Vila Bela road. I take this to be the locality.

All the remaining localities are east of Cuyabá (present spelling Cuiabá), which is at 15°35'S, 56°05'W. Rio Manso (15°40'S, 55°18'W) is the place, much visited by collectors, where the Goiás-Cuiabá road crossed (and still crosses) the upper course of the famous Rio Manso or das Mortes. "Caxoeirinha" (a phonetic spelling of Cachoeirinha) is nearby, at 15°34'S, 54°28'W. "Paranahyba" is the present Itumbiara (18°25'S, 54°28'W), where the road crosses the large river Paranaíba.

"Monte Afeyre" is a misreading of manuscript Monte Alegre — now Monte Alegre de Minas, on the road, at 18°52'S, 48°52'W, near Itumbiara.

"Dvivadino" remains. It is also a misreading, but not quite so obvious as Monte Afeyre. It is possible, though, to look for the place. According to Leverkühn, it was visited one day after Monte Alegre. This means that it is to the east or southeast of the latter town, some 30 km away. In fact, 25 km to the southeast of Monte Alegre there is a Ribeirão (creek) Douradinho, with a Fazenda (ranch) Douradinho at 19°03'S, 48°41'W (WAC, Carta Aeronáutica Mundial, 3190). To me "Douradinho" is quite convincing as the source of the misreading "Dvivadino": all of Behn's localities are now recovered.

From Uberaba, the main city in the area, it was easy to reach Rio de Janeiro, either directly or through São Paulo. Behn missed his rendezvous with the Galathea at Rio (Wolff, *loc. cit.*) but eventually made his way back to Germany.

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