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Until the nineteenth century, the investigation of natural phenomena, plants and animals was considered either the preserve of elite scholars or a pastime for the leisured upper classes. As increasing academic rigour and systematisation was brought to the study of 'natural history', its subdisciplines were adopted into university curricula, and learned societies (such as the Royal Horticultural Society, founded in 1804) were established to support research in these areas. A related development was strong enthusiasm for exotic garden plants, which resulted in plant collecting expeditions to every corner of the globe, sometimes with tragic consequences. This series includes accounts of some of those expeditions, detailed reference works on the flora of different regions, and practical advice for amateur and professional gardeners.

Flora Atlantica

A member, and later president, of the Académie des Sciences, French botanist and doctor René Louiche Desfontaines (1750–1833) spent the years 1783–5 on an expedition to North Africa. During his time in Tunisia and Algeria, he collected over a thousand plant specimens: more than three hundred genera were new to European naturalists at this time. Having succeeded Le Monnier in the chair of botany at the Jardin du Roi in 1786, Desfontaines helped found the Institut de France following the Revolution and published his two-volume *Flora atlantica* in Latin in 1798–9. A lavishly illustrated second edition appeared in four volumes in 1800. Combining its two volumes of plates into one, this reissue will give modern researchers an insight into the promulgation of pioneering plant science. Volume 2 contains classes 14 to 24 in the Linnaean system of plant taxonomy, from Didynamia to Cryptogamia.



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Flora Atlantica

Sive historia plantarum quae in Atlante, agro Tunetano et Algeriensi crescunt

VOLUME 2

René Louiche Desfontaines





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F L O R A

ATLANTICA.



FLORA ATLANTICA,

SIVE

HISTORIA PLANTARUM,

QUÆ IN ATLANTE, AGRO TUNETANO

ET ALGERIENSI CRESCUNT.

AUCTORE RENATO DESFONTAINES, Instituti nationalis Scientiarum Galliæ socio, necnon in Museo Historiæ naturalis Parisiensi Botanices professore.

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