

François Péron

Born 22 August 1775 in Cérilly (Allier)

Assistant zoologist on board the *Géographe*

Took on principal responsibility for the zoological work of the expedition following the deaths of the other two zoologists, Levillain and Maugé

Conducted pioneering scientific work in the field of marine biology

Also responsible for recording many anthropological observations of indigenous peoples

Sought, and was accorded, responsibility for compiling the historical narrative of the

expedition, the *Voyage de découvertes aux Terres australes*. Volume 1 was published in

1807; the second volume was completed by Louis Freycinet following the death of Péron in 1810 and published in 1816.

Age on departure from Le Havre: 25

Died in Cérilly on 14 December 1810, from tuberculosis

Further information (selection):

- M.J.L. Alard, *Éloge historique de François Péron, rédacteur du voyage de découvertes aux terres australes, lu à la Société Médicale d'émulation de Paris, séant à la Faculté de médecine, dans la séance du 6 mars*, Paris, Imprimerie de L.-P. Dubray, 1811.
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- Joseph-Philippe-François Deleuze, *Notice historique sur M. Péron*, Paris, Imprimerie de Belin, 1811.
- Edward Duyker, *François Péron, an Impetuous Life*, Carlton, Miegunyah Press, 2006.
- Maurice Girard, *François Péron, naturaliste, voyageur aux Terres Australes: sa vie, appréciation de ses travaux, analyse raisonnée de ses recherches sur les animaux vertébrés et invertébrés, d'après ses collections déposées au Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle*, Paris, Baillière, 1857.
- Émile Guillaumin, *François Péron, enfant du peuple, un grand voyage, une œuvre, une vie*, Moulins, Crépin-Leblond, 1937 (Moulins, Les Marmousets, 1982).
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- Miranda Hughes, "Tall Tales of True Stories? Baudin, Péron, and the Tasmanians, 1802", in Roy MacLeod & Philip F. Rehbock (eds), *Nature in its Greatest Extent: Western Science in the Pacific*, Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press, 1988, pp. 65-88.
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- Michel Jangoux, "Bibliographie de François Péron", *The Baudin Expedition 1800-1804*, special number of the *Australian Journal of French Studies*, XLI, 2, 2004, pp. 194-203.
- A. Kervalla, "François Péron en Tasmanie (1800--1804)", *Revue maritime*, 288, 1971, pp. 703-713.
- L.A. Triebel, "Péron in Tasmania", *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, 1947, pp. 63-68.