

## L.11

### **THESAURUS PLANTARUM SYBERICARUM. TRACING THE RESEARCH OF AN OUTSTANDING POLISH FLORIST- FERDYNAND KARO (1845-1927)**

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Ferdynand Karo, one of the first naturalists to study Siberian flora, worked as a pharmacist in several military pharmacies during his multiple stays in Siberia (1887-1913). His studies fitted into the general effort to investigate the world's flora initiated in the 19th century. His research ranks among the studies on the world's flora biological diversity that followed works of scientist-explorers such as the Forsters, von Humbolt, Hooker, Darwin and others. Karo collected in total about 80.000 of specimens including a few dozens of previously undocumented species. The territorial coverage of his studies encompassed vicinities of Irkutsk, Nerchinsk and the Amur basin. His works created the first opportunity for the European researchers to get acquaintance with the then unknown flora. Studies of his herbaria identified 28 new species among which 8 bear the name Karoi. He collaborated with a Czech botanist Joseph Freyn who was reporting on Karo's collections in the *Osterreichische Botanische Zeitschrift*. Karo's herbaria were honoured on exhibitions in Moscow (1892) and Khabarovsk (1899). The specimens he sent to Europe are preserved to this day in numerous libraries.