

ビュフォンの博物学における方法論：  
リンネの分類学、ニュートンの力学、自然神学者の  
地球の理論への批判

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Buffon's methodology in his *Natural History*  
Comment on Linné's taxonomy, Newton's dynamics,  
and natural theologists' theories of Earth

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Buffon begins his *Natural History, General and particular* with a methodology (PREMIER DISCOURS De la manière d'étudier & de traiter l'Histoire Naturelle), and criticizes Linné's taxonomy and Newton's dynamics in it. And in the following 'SECOND DISCOURS Histoire & Théorie de la Terre' (The Theory of the Earth) he also criticizes natural theologists' theories of earth.

Carl von Linné classifies all animals into six classes. But Buffon thinks that his classification is arbitrary and very incomplete, and that such classification neglects delicate and imperceptible differences in the process of alteration of creatures.

Newton searched for the cause of movements in the universe and formularized the universal gravitation in his dynamics. Buffon's criticism to this is that the mathematical truth and the physical (= natural historical) truth are different, and that the mathematical truth concerns not facts but supposition or axiom, so the mathematical truth has evidences by deductive method, but the physical truth, which concerns facts, has certitudes by inductive method.

Natural theologists, as Whiston, Burnet, and Woodward think the history of the Earth from 'Genesis', and say that the earth was flat before the Deluge and mountains and valleys have appeared by the universal flood. Needless to say, Buffon thinks that they are only an interweave nature with fable.

From these criticisms we can see Buffon's methodology in his *Natural History*. He says over and over that we must not force our imaginative and arbitrary interpretation or explication on the nature. Because for Buffon the nature has formed through many dynamic interactions among the earth and many creatures, so we cannot frame the nature by human words or theories. Only thing we can do in the natural history is to observe the facts, to unite and compare them, and to infer the general causes inductively.