



Bust of José Celestino Mutis
Attributed to Salvador Rizo
ca. 1811
Oil painting on canvas
118 x 104cm
Museo de la Independencia
- Casa del Florero
Reg. 48



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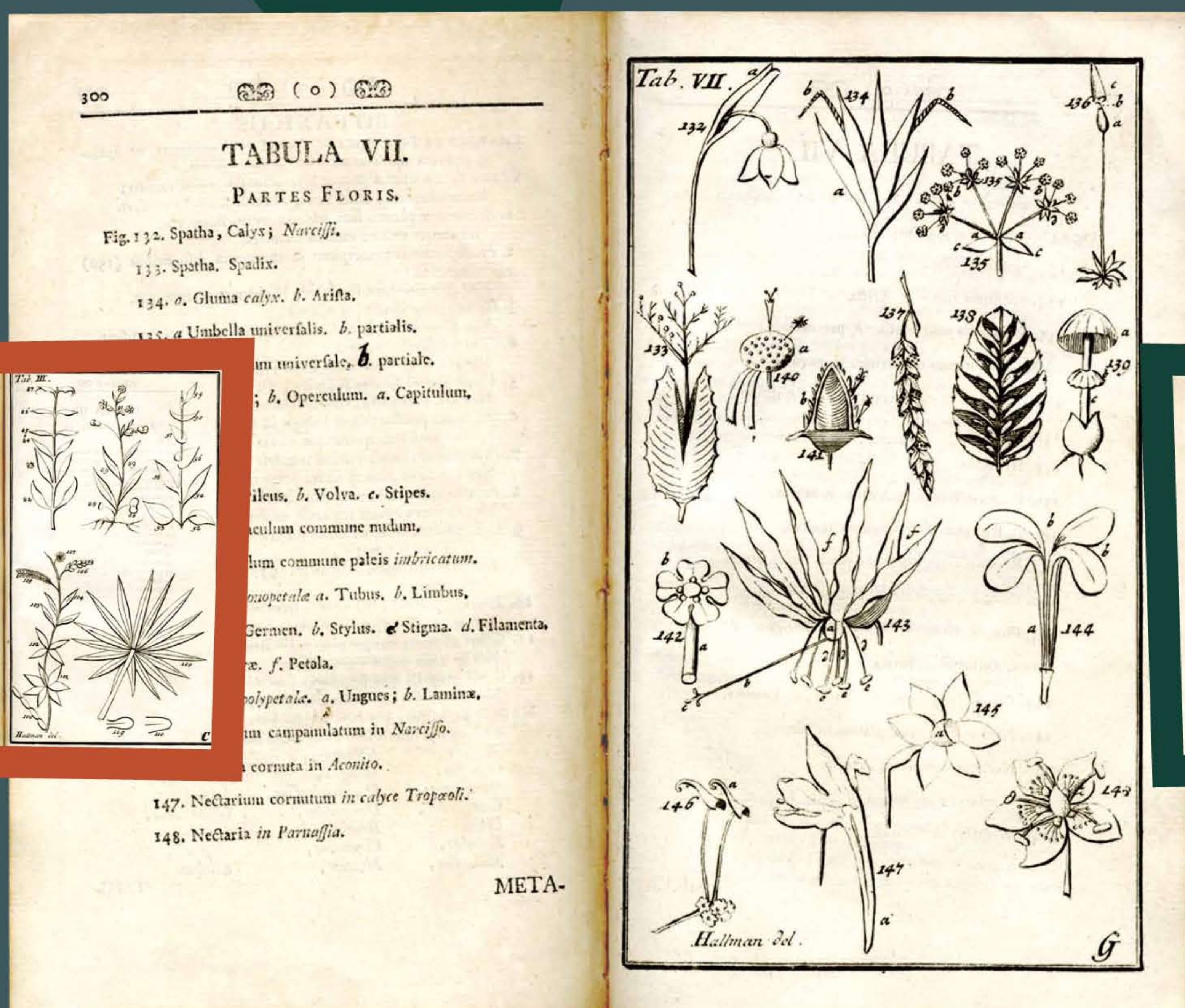
Being a naturalist, José Celestino Mutis

briefed in his record books the characteristics of birds, fish and minerals. There are also meteorology observation diaries and notebooks that later on were enhanced with Caldas' contributions. We must highlight his interest for the observation and description of 24 groups of ants, which inspired him to write a treatise on this kind of insect after five years of patient study at El Sapo. This work was never published and was practically forgotten, but it has been recently discovered by Edward Wilson, American entomologist, who will soon publish these observations.

Despite the fact that he showed interest in several sciences, botany is the discipline in which he spent the greatest amount of time and resources. He had adopted the classification system proposed by Carl Linnaeus. Based on it, Mutis began the collection of information that later on would become the *Flora de Bogotá*.

There are very few complete Mutis and Royal Botanical Expedition documents left. He seemed to be embedded in the production of an image based work that, according to current experts, has a great artistic and historical value, but a relative botanical value due to the lack of descriptions related to the pictures.

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Philosophia botanica : in qua explicantur fundamenta botanica cum definitionibus partium, exemplis termonorum, observationibus rariorum, adjectis figuris aenis
Carl Linnaeus
Stockholm, 1751
Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia
Mutis Collection 2929

