

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

©Vera V. Mainz and Gregory S. Girolami 1998

Perkin, William Henry Jr.

1860 - 1929

DEGREE: PhD

DATE: 1882

PLACE: Würzburg

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Wislicenus

synthesized the first derivatives of cyclopropane and cyclobutane, disproving a widely held opinion that only carbon rings of five or six members could exist; elucidated structures of natural products, including camphor, terpenes, the natural dyestuffs brazilin and haematoxylin, and a long series of alkaloids including berberine, harmine, cryptopine, strychnine, and brucine.

1. *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1970-1990; vol. 10, p517.
2. *Proc. Roy. Soc. London* **1930-31**, 130A, i-xii.
3. *Nature* **1929**, 124, 623-627.
4. Greenaway, A. J., Thorpe, J. F., and Robinson, R. *The Life and Work of Professor William Henry Perkin*; Royal Chemical Society: 1932.