

Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction	1
Part I	THE THRILL OF DISCOVERY
1. The Irreplaceable Role of Nature in Scientific Discovery <i>Robert E. Espinoza</i>	9
2. The Crawfish Frog's Jaw <i>Michael J. Lannoo</i>	15
3. Journey to the Amazonian Rainforest <i>Janalee Caldwell</i>	21
4. A Rainy Evening in the Pantanal <i>Cynthia P. A. Prado</i>	27
5. Tracking Turtles <i>Jacqueline Litzgus</i>	31
6. Finding the Frog That Sings Like a Bird <i>Jodi Rowley</i>	36
7. Borneo's Tadpole Heaven <i>Indraneil Das</i>	40
8. How the Bog Frog Got Its Name <i>Paul Moler</i>	45
Part II	ADVENTURE AND EXPLORATION
9. My First Summit Camp <i>Maureen A. Donnelly</i>	51
10. Down Under <i>Danté Fenolio</i>	57
11. Lessons from the Field: It's the Journey, Not the Destination <i>Karen Lips</i>	63
12. Flying Southward Thirty-Three Degrees to Catch More Frogs <i>Ronald Altig</i>	69
13. Trip to the Xingu River in the Amazon Forest of Brazil <i>Célio F. B. Haddad and Marcelo Gordo</i>	74
14. <i>Wok bilong ol pik</i> <i>David Bickford</i>	80
15. In Search of Wonder: How Curiosity Led Me to Madagascar <i>Phillip Skipwith</i>	86

Part III **FASCINATION AND LOVE FOR THE ANIMALS**

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 16. Never Work on a Species That Is Smarter than You Are <i>Rick Shine</i> | 95 |
| 17. The Reality of Giant Geckos <i>Aaron M. Bauer</i> | 101 |
| 18. Following the Mole (Salamander) Trail: A Forty-Year Cross-Country Journey <i>Susan C. Walls</i> | 107 |
| 19. Chance, Myth, and the Mountains of Western China <i>Alan H. Savitzky</i> | 113 |
| 20. Dive in the Air beside a Rice Paddy: A Moment to Grab an Eluding Snake <i>Akira Mori</i> | 120 |
| 21. Immersion <i>Erin Muths</i> | 126 |
| 22. Herpetology Moments <i>Patricia A. Burrowes</i> | 128 |
| 23. Crying in the Rain, in the Middle of the World <i>Luis A. Coloma</i> | 134 |
| 24. Frogs in the Clear-Cut <i>Julia E. Earl</i> | 140 |
| 25. Once upon a Diamondback: Learning Lessons about the Fragility of Desert Life <i>Wolfgang Wüster</i> | 145 |
| 26. SWAT Team to the Rescue <i>Joan (Diemer) Berish</i> | 151 |
| 27. Military Herpetology <i>Robert Lovich</i> | 156 |

Part IV **MISHAPS AND MISADVENTURES**

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 28. Close Encounters of the Gator Kind <i>Whit Gibbons</i> | 167 |
| 29. Don't Tread on Her <i>Kelly Zamudio</i> | 173 |
| 30. A Snake to Die For <i>Robert W. Hansen</i> | 178 |
| 31. Goose on the Road <i>William W. Lamar</i> | 183 |
| 32. Lost on the Puna <i>John E. Simmons</i> | 190 |
| 33. Lost and Found <i>Martha L. Crump</i> | 196 |
| 34. The Mob That Almost Hanged Us in Chiapas, Mexico <i>Oscar A. Flores-Villela</i> | 202 |
| 35. Adventures while Studying Lizards in the Highlands of Veracruz, Mexico <i>Miriam Benabib and Justin Congdon</i> | 207 |

Part V **DEALING WITH THE UNEXPECTED**

- 36.** The Field Herpetologist's Guide to Interior Australia . . .
with Kids *Alison Davis Rabosky* 215
- 37.** Troubles in a Tropical Paradise *Ross A. Alford* 222
- 38.** Island Castaways and the Limits of Optimism
Alessandro Catenazzi 229
- 39.** Lessons in Patience: Frog Eggs, Snakes, and Rain
Karen M. Warkentin 235
- 40.** Sounds of Silence on the Continental Divide
Emily Taylor 242

Part VI **THE PEOPLE WE MEET, THE FRIENDSHIPS WE FORGE,
THE STUDENTS WE INFLUENCE**

- 41.** Why Do I Do What I Do in the Field? *Joseph
R. Mendelson III* 249
- 42.** The Captain and the Frog *Sinlan Poo* 255
- 43.** Exploring the Wild Kingdom with Marlin *Lee A. Fitzgerald* 260
- 44.** Terror, Courage, and the Little Red Snake *Tiffany M. Doan* 267
- 45.** Team Snake Meets *Equipe Serpent* *Kate Jackson* 271
- 46.** Ticks, Policemen, and Motherhood: Experiences in
the Dry Chaco of Argentina *María Gabriela Perotti* 277
- 47.** Adventures in Wonderland *Laurie Vitt* 281
- 48.** In the *Rabeta* of the *Pajé*: An Ethnoherpetological
Experience *Beatriz N. Cosendey* 287

Parting Thoughts 292

Acknowledgments 295

Index 297

