

Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction 1

"The Base for All Economics" 5

Plan of the Book 12

1 Voyaging Out 23

Botanistes Voyageurs 25

Maria Sibylla Merian 30

Biopirates 35

Who Owns Nature? 44

Voyaging Botanical Assistants 46

Creole Naturalists and Long-Term Residents 51

Armchair Botanists 57

The Search for the Amazons 62

Heroic Narratives 65

2 Bioprospecting 73

Drug Prospecting in the West Indies 75

Biocontact Zones 82

Secrets and Monopolies 90

Drug Prospecting at Home 93

Brokers of International Knowledge 100

3 Exotic Abortifacients 105

Merian's Peacock Flower 107

Abortion in Europe 113

Abortion in the West Indies 128

Abortion and the Slave Trade 142

4	The Fate of the Peacock Flower in Europe	150
	<i>Animal Testing</i>	153
	<i>Self-Experimentation</i>	156
	<i>Human Subjects</i>	159
	<i>Testing for Sexual Difference</i>	166
	<i>The Complications of Race</i>	171
	<i>Abortifacients</i>	177
5	Linguistic Imperialism	194
	<i>Empire and Naming the Kingdoms of Nature</i>	197
	<i>Naming Conundrums</i>	206
	<i>Exceptions: Quassia and Cinchona</i>	211
	<i>Alternative Naming Practices</i>	219
	Conclusion: Agnotology	226
	Notes	243
	Bibliography	286
	Credits	298
	Index	300