

## Acknowledgments

As is almost always the case it would be impossible to thank everyone by name who has helped me to explore the African Likouala swamps. I thank all of those people not herein mentioned. I am most grateful to the Congolese government officials, all of whom were most interested, helpful, and co-operative throughout, especially Lieutenant Colonel Pascal Mouassiposso, military governor-general at Brazzaville, André Mouelle, commissar politique, Gilbert Djombo Bomojo, secretaire-générale du Comité du Porti de Region de la Likouala, and Gilbert Bonguele Manengue, agent de la Sécurité Publique à Brazzaville.

Special thanks go to Pastor Joseph Ellis for his descriptions of his encounter with a strange animal in the Mataba River and to Mike Shields for tracking down information about oversized specimens of the monitor lizard *Varanus salvadorii*.