

Contents

INTRODUCTION: MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS TO ASSESS THE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY OF THE AUSTRAL ISLANDS	7
Jean-Yves Meyer & Elin M. Claridge	
THE AUSTRAL ISLANDS IN FRENCH POLYNESIA	13
Jean-Yves Meyer	
GEOLOGY	19
An Atypical Hotspot Chain	21
René Maury, Christelle Legendre, Chatherine Chauvel, Gérard Guille, Sylvain Blais, Hervé Guillou & Philippe Rossi	
FAUNA	39
The Birds: an Unbalanced but Unique Avifauna	41
Jean-Claude Thibault	
A Global Overview of the Terrestrial and Freshwater Molluscs	55
Olivier Gargominy & Benoît Fontaine	
Insects and Spiders	93
Elin M. Claridge, Jessica E. Garb, Rosemary G. Gillespie & Diana M. Percy	
Odonata and Selected Aquatic Insect Taxa	103
Ronald Englund	
VEGETATION	115
Vascular Flora, General Traits and Main Threats	117
Jean-Yves Meyer, Hervé Chevillote & Timothy J. Motley	
Vegetation Types and Map of Rapa	133
Timothy J. Motley, Alfred Luongo & Jean-Yves Meyer	
The Paleobotanical Record of Rapa: Indications for the Phytogeography	149
Matthew Prebble	
Sandalwood, Current State of Knowledge and Implications for Conservation and Enhancement	171
Jean-François Butaud, Jean-Pierre Bianchini, Jean-Marc Bouvet, Vincent Gaydou, Émeline Lhuillier, Phila Raharivelomanana & Fanny Rives	
"Mikaka Rapa": Taro Cultivars of Rapa	191
Timothy J. Motley & Roland Fenstemacher	
ANNEXES	205
Acknowledgements	207
Bibliography	208
Addresses of the Authors	219