Amazon Expeditions: My Quest for the Ice-Age Equator

Paul Colinvaux
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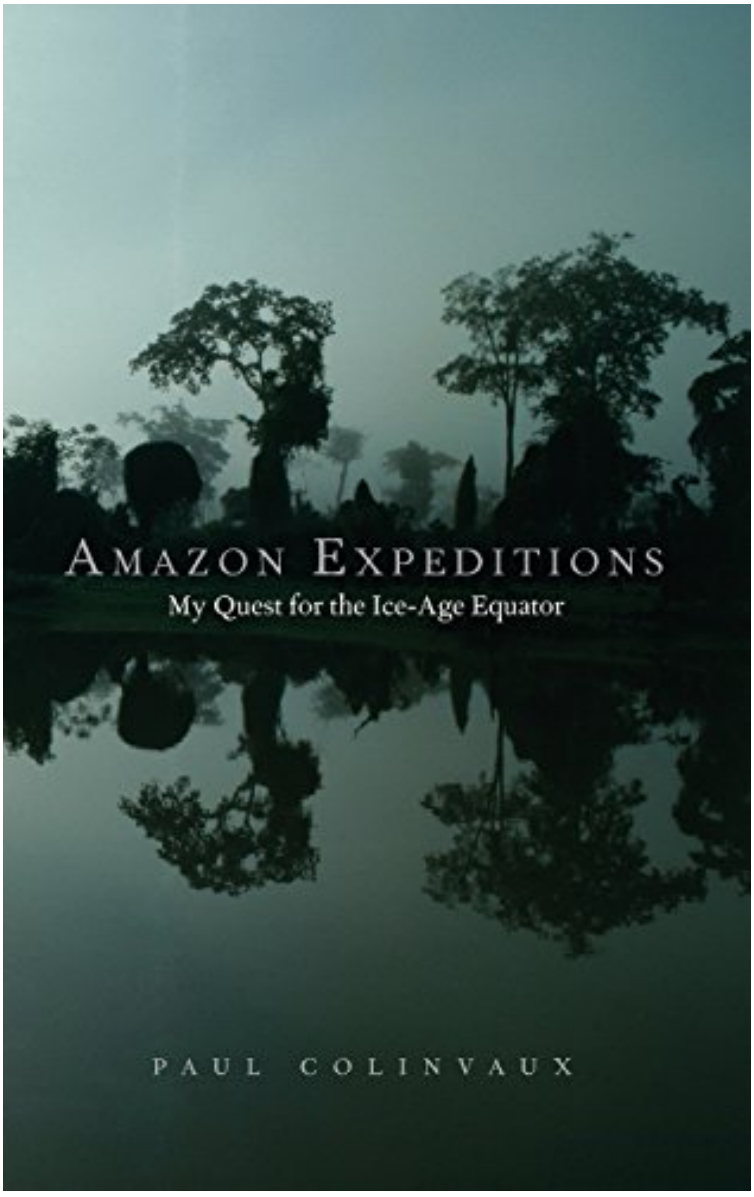

#2679050 in Books Paul Colinvaux 2008-03-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.13 x 6.13l, 1.46 #File Name: 030011544X384 pages Expeditions My Quest for the Ice Age Equator | File size: 25.Mb

Paul Colinvaux : Amazon Expeditions: My Quest for the Ice-Age Equator before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amazon Expeditions: My Quest for the Ice-Age Equator:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A great scientific autobiographyBy R. T. HighsmithI enjoy reading books by scientists who can write well and who talk about how they do their research. But I'm not just interested in the highlights and awards and accolades they've received - I like to read about the nitty gritty details of

how a particular brand of science is done - whether it's in the field or in the lab (or both, as in this case), the logistical problems of field work in far flung locations, how sometimes a whole year of work ends up as a dead end.Paul Colinvaux's book gives all that in a setting of field work in the Galapagos and the . I like how he makes the topic of researching the ancient climate of the like a mystery to be slowly worked out over several decades of work. I never thought I'd be fascinated by how one cores lake sediments to get at their fossil pollen record, but Colinvaux did it for me.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfect condition, easy to useBy Harlan Gallupthe top quality The seller answered my questions very patiently, excellent service. starsproduct is perfect it's exactly what was described these lights are amazing and it's worth the money. love them of course this is a nice product for the money.

In this vivid memoir of a life in science, ecologist Paul Colinvaux takes his readers from the Alaskan tundra to steamy Amazon jungles, from the Galapagos Islands (before tourists had arrived) to the high Andes and the Darien Gap in Panama. He recounts an adventurous tale of exploration in the days before GPS and satellite mapping, and a tale no less exhilarating of his battle to disprove a hypothesis endorsed by most of the scientific community. Colinvauxs grand endeavor, begun in the 1960s, was to find fossil evidence of the ice-age climate and vegetation of the entire American equator, from Pacific to Atlantic. The accomplishment of the task by the author and his colleagues involved finding unknown ancient lakes, lugging drilling equipment through uncharted Amazon jungle, operating hand drills from rubber boats in water 40 meters deep, and inventing a pollen analysis for a land with 80,000 species of plants. Colinvauxs years of arduous travel and research ultimately disproved a hotly defended hypothesis explaining bird distribution peculiarities in the Amazon forest. The story of how he arrived at a new understanding of the Amazon is at once an adventurous saga, an account of science as it is conducted in the field, and a cautionary tale about the temptation to treat a favored hypothesis with a reverence that subverts unbiased research.

From Publishers WeeklyColinvaux, an ecologist at the forefront of pollen research for the past 40 years, has turned his path breaking career into a scientific detective story, from his days as a graduate student drilling glaciers in the Alaskan tundra, to his explorations of lake beds in the steamy forest. The narrative follows his efforts to untangle "one of the knottiest problems of ecological theory," why the is the most biodiverse region in the world, with a unique population of birds and 80,000 plant species. Could this be explained by catastrophic changes in the climate during the ice age? Colinvaux's research takes him across South America, and his conclusions turn on its head the hypothesis endorsed by most of the scientific community, that the equatorial temperature was constant but arid, so that life could only exist in enclaves (his findings indicates a moist climate and a temperature drop of four degrees). An exciting account of field work under challenging and sometimes dangerous circumstances, this is a rewarding read for anyone with an interest in environmental and biological history. "Colinvaux captures very well both the excitement and frustration that comes from long-term scientific endeavor."Susanna Hecht, University of California, Los Angeles