

List of tables, <i>vii</i>
List of figures, <i>ix</i>
List of plates, <i>xi</i>
Preface, <i>xiv</i>
Acknowledgments, <i>xvi</i>

Chapter 1. Introduction, 1

Western Bias and the Unique Aspects of Ancient Mesoamerica, 3
Agriculture, Pastoralism, and Wild Resources: Ethnographic and Archaeological Perspectives, 4
Wetland Ecology, 6
The Scope and Objectives of This Monograph, 8
The Organization of This Monograph, 9

Chapter 2. The Lacustrine and Marshland Environment in the Valley of Mexico, 11

The Changing Size of the Lakes and Marshes, 11
Documented Changes in Salinity and Alkalinity during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, 26
Insights from Studies of Marshland Ecology in the U.S. Great Basin, 28
Insights from Environmental Studies in Lake Chad, North-Central Africa, 31
Summary and Conclusions, 36

Chapter 3. The Historically Documented Utilization of Aquatic Resources in the Valley of Mexico, A.D. 1500-1970, 37

The Sixteenth-Century Sources, 37
The Seventeenth-, Eighteenth-, Nineteenth-, and Twentieth-Century Sources, 83
Overall Summary and Conclusions, 110

Chapter 4. Species Identification, 112

Aquatic Insects, 112
Salamanders, 115
Waterfowl, 116
Fish, 121
Miscellaneous Lacustrine Fauna (Molluscs, Crustaceans, Snails, Frogs), 122
Algae, 122
Other Aquatic Plants, 124
Conclusions, 126

Chapter 5. Collecting and Processing Aquatic Fauna at Chimalhuacán in 1992, 127

Folk Taxonomy of Collected Aquatic Fauna, 127

The Collecting Nets, 128

Drying the Netted Insects, 144

The Ahuauhtle Nursery, 151

Harvesting and Drying the Ahuauhtle, 152

Preparing the Edible Insects and Fish for Human Consumption, 160

Netting Waterfowl, 161

Summary and Conclusions, 167

Chapter 6. Comparative Perspectives: The Documented Use of Aquatic Resources in Other Regions, 168

The Upper Lerma Drainage (Toluca Region), Mexico, 168

The Great Basin, Western U.S., 192

The Titicaca Basin, Southern Peru and Bolivia, 225

The Tigris-Euphrates Delta, Iraq and Iran, 248

The Lake Chad Basin, Western Chad, 262

Overall Summary and Conclusions, 273

Chapter 7. Archaeological Implications, 277

Issues of Taphonomy, 277

The Essential Elements of Traditional Aquatic Economies, 278

Archaeological Insights from the U.S. Great Basin, 286

Potential Archaeological Signatures of Aquatic Resource Use in the Valley of Mexico, 299

Archaeological Insights into Aquatic Economy and Cosmology in the Valley of Mexico, 306

Overall Summary and Conclusions, 328

Chapter 8. Overall Conclusions, 329

Consequences of the Absence of Pastoralism in Ancient Mesoamerica, 329

The Domestication of Wetlands in the Valley of Mexico, 330

The Control, Distribution, and Exchange of Aquatic Resources, 331

The Archaeological Implications, 331

Future Research Directions, 333

Bibliography, 335

Author Index, 373