## IN THE SOCIETY OF NATURE

## A native ecology in Amazonia

## PHILIPPE DESCOLA

Translated from the French by Nora Scott



## Contents



List of illustrations	1X
List of part title illustrations	хi
Preface	xii
Preface to the English edition	xvii
A note on spelling	xviii
General introduction	1
Nature and society: lessons from Amazonia	1
Achuar and Jivaro: an illusory state of nature	7
PART I: THE SPHERE OF NATURE	
Introduction I	15
1 The territorial space	20
2 Landscape and cosmos	36
Terrestrial water, celestial water	36
Upstream and down	53
The cosmos and its markers	62

vii

3 Nature's beings	77
The taxonomic order	78
The anthropocentric order	93
PART II: ON THE PROPER USE OF NATU	RE
Introduction II	105
4 The world of the house	108
Architectonic elements	110
Symbolic topography of the house	118
Domestic sociability and its spaces	125
5 The world of gardens	136
Clearing and gardening	137
Gardening magic	191
6 The world of the forest	221
Foraging techniques	222
Affinal nature	257
7 The world of the river	270
Fishing techniques	271
The marital bed	279
8 Categories of practice	284
The quantitative order	286
The qualitative order	296
9 The good life	308
Underexploitation of resources	309
Productive efficiency	313
Conclusion	323
Notes	332
References	345
Subject index	355
Index of plants and animals	362