

STATES OF NATURE

*Science, Agriculture, and  
Environment in the Spanish  
Caribbean, 1760–1940*



STUART MCCOOK



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS

AUSTIN

---

# CONTENTS

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

xi

## INTRODUCTION

*Science, Nature, and Development during the Export Boom, 1760–1940*

1

## ONE

### COMMODITY AND COUNTRY

*The Rediscovery of Nature in the Spanish Caribbean, 1760–1890*

11

## TWO

### GIVING PLANTS A CIVIL STATUS

*Scientific Representations of Nature and Nation  
in Venezuela and Costa Rica,*

*1885–1935*

26

## THREE

### BUILDING CREOLE SCIENCE

*Science and Ideologies of Agricultural Development in Cuba  
and Puerto Rico, 1898–1930*

47

FOUR  
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND THE ECOLOGICAL  
RATIONALIZATION OF THE CARIBBEAN SUGAR INDUSTRY,  
1780–1930

77

FIVE  
PROMOTING THE “PRACTICAL”  
*Technocratic Ideologies of Science and Progress in an Age  
of Fragile Prosperity, 1924–1930*

105

SIX  
CONCLUSION  
*The Great Depression, the Plant Sciences, and Changing Paradigms  
of Agricultural Development, 1928–1940*

128

NOTES

143

BIBLIOGRAPHY

165

INDEX

195