



Compiled
and introduced
by Noah J. Stern

Raoul Deleo

TERRA ULTIMA

The discovery of a hidden continent

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*the
explorers
edition*



Swirling Swans
CYGNOPTERUS SPIROCORPUS

Painted by J.A. Bennett



INTRODUCTION TO TERRA ULTIMA

WRITTEN BY DR. NOAH J. STERN, BIOLOGIST

Honorary member of the Royal Science Society, member of the expedition to Terra Australis

It might have been better if this book hadn't been written. Don't misunderstand me, there's nothing wrong with it, not in the slightest - it's a real feast for the eyes. And it's important, too. No, something else troubles me. What I'm worried about are the long-term effects this book might have. Let me explain.

People are queuing up to fly to the moon. They are willing to pay millions, even though it's a boring, barren place to be. There's nothing special to see there. You can't even walk about or breathe normally. And apparently it stinks of old cheese.

So, if people are getting excited about something as miserable as the moon, Terra Ultima is going to be utterly irresistible to them. What if the readers of this book decide to go there in their masses? What if 'all-in' package trips to this untouched continent suddenly appear in travel brochures? Terra Ultima would be trampled underfoot, and all because of this book. I don't want *that* on my conscience.

Nevertheless, this book exists. Why? Well, first and foremost because I always keep my word. I was asked to compile this book and I said yes. It would be quite dishonourable to suddenly say, 'I've changed my mind! I'm quitting!', all because this book might encourage some tourists.

What's more, this book has cost me blood, sweat and tears. It all sounded so simple, I'd be given the archives of the man who discovered and charted Terra Ultima: Mr Deleo. If necessary, I could rearrange his material a little. I might explain a few things, for people who, unlike Deleo and myself, weren't veteran adventurers who'd been on voyages of discovery themselves.

But the reality was different, remarkably different.

The state of the archives I encountered is described a few pages further. For now, it is enough to say that I had to work like a dog to organise the material and turn it into a book. After all that effort, should I have dropped the project? To protect Terra Ultima?



Muscipella maculata

Cygnus discoloratus

W. H. in
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J. O. L. lion tamarin

THE SECOND EXPEDITION

89 days - Arid zones - 1,157 km





PALLID OCTOPOSSUM
Octopossum leucostolum

The octopossum can lift up to 50 times its own body weight. It rests in trees, hanging from one tentacle like a moop. It was believed for many years that the tail no longer had a function, but it was later discovered that specimens that had no tail could no longer climb in a straight line.



HONEY-BILLED STROLLER
Peripatus mellirostratus

The honey-billed stroller spins a cocoon with its beak. It leaves the orange-coloured capsule open on one side and decorates the opening with a bright blue rim. The cocoon somewhat resembles the calyx of a carnivorous plant and spreads an intoxicating smell that attracts all kinds of welcome and unwelcome visitors.