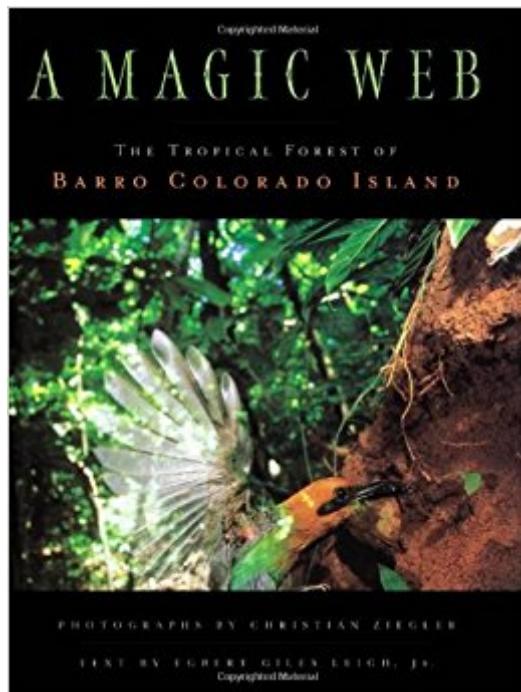


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# A Magic Web: The Forest Of Barro Colorado Island



## Synopsis

The tropical forest of Panama's Barro Colorado Island is a luxuriant community of plants and animals, pulsating with life and offering an astonishing view of nature's myriad processes. What does the forest look like? How do the activities of this forest's plants and animals create a community? Now, in *A Magic Web*, photographer Christian Ziegler and ecologist Egbert Leigh invite readers to enter the marvelous world of Barro Colorado Island. This book provides a unique combination of the spectacular photography of a picture-book and clear, authoritative text written by an active scientist who has spent half a lifetime trying to understand tropical forests. The photographs provide views of the forest and its spectacular diversity of inhabitants, and show many of the activities that give the forest its character and lend structure to its community. Drawing on decades of work on Barro Colorado Island, Egbert Leigh explains how the forest works. The photographs and text reveal the many ways its plants and animals compete with but also depend on each other: the contrasts between solitary cats and intricately organized armies of ants; the different ways plants struggle for a place in the sun, and the ways these plants attract, or domesticate, animals to pollinate their flowers. Finally, the authors show why this, and by implication all other, tropical forests matter to the people who live near them and to the world at large, what we can learn from these forests, and how they differ from temperate-zone forests. Full of gorgeous full-color photographs accompanied by clear and accessible text, *A Magic Web* is a must for anyone planning to visit a tropical forest, and for all those who only wish they could.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This tour of a lush, forested island in Panama is a mostly successful blend of coffee-table nature book and science narrative on tropical ecology. Photographer Ziegler and ecologist Leigh spent more than a year on Barro Colorado Island trying to capture the essence of what makes the island a priceless jewel, to "lift the green curtain" on the rainforest. Through words and pictures, the interconnectedness of all living things on the island becomes apparent. Wild nutmeg trees depend on toucans for seed dispersal; herbivorous insects keep the leafy biomass under control; bats, in turn, eat the insects. Each species is intimately involved with the next, and Ziegler offers some amazing close-up shots of these evolutionary partnerships in action. But readers eager for an immersive rainforest story to go with the photos will find it only after hunting through results of scientific studies related in textbook fashion. Leigh is at his best when describing the eerie calls of howler monkeys or evoking the light within a green cathedral of trees. Despite the contrast between style and substance, the book contains a wealth of information and images for rainforest enthusiasts. 200 illustrations. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"You will learn more reading this volume than on a personal visit to the tropics. This book is the best summary of the tropical ecosystem and the behavior of its inhabitants. It shows how this system works. Both your sense of beauty and your thirst for understanding will be satisfied abundantly."--Ernst Mayr

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"Tropical forests constitute the greatest challenge in natural history photography today. The potential for stunning images is enormous, but the day-to-day problems are daunting. By focusing his unusual combination of knowledge, perseverance and artistry on one small island in Panama over an extended period of time, Christian Ziegler has confirmed that tropical forests are the richest biome on earth, and the wonders accumulate when you slow yourself down. This is a special collection of images, which belongs on the bookshelves of those who already appreciate their significance and those who need

to."--Frans Lanting, author of *Jungles*"Christian Ziegler's stunning photographs of the plants and animals of Barro Colorado's tropical forest gave me a new perspective of a world I thought I knew well. I am awed by his talent; his pictures are an inspiration, as much art as they are portraits in natural history. Egbert Leigh's accompanying text is cerebral, witty, and full of answers to the 100 most common questions a novice nature lover might write down after a stroll through a tropical forest. I can't think of a better introduction to this captivating and threatened world."--Eric Dinerstein, Chief Scientist, World Wildlife Fund"A Magic Web is as subversive as a camouflaged Morpho butterfly. One moment you are looking at the dead leaf of a page, the next moment, you are chasing brilliant blue flashing wings through the forest and the next, you find you have learned all the fundamental principles of rainforest ecology. Egbert Leigh's deft touch and satirical metaphors lead you irresistibly onward, to see how competition and cooperation together shape the intricacy of species, and of science, in the magic rainforest of Barro Colorado." --Alison Jolly, author of *Lucy's Legacy*

If I could wake up as somebody else, I think I'd choose David Attenborough. But if that didn't work and instead I woke up as Christian Ziegler, I'd still die knowing I lived a satisfying life, and that my life's work would be preserved for eternity. Nature is so beautiful it's sometimes hard to believe it's real. Photography like this shares with us the fruits of four billion years of evolution. Thank you for sharing!

You could not ask for more stunning photos. Having been to BCI and researched in Panama, I can attest to how well Mr. Ziegler captured the dazzling wildlife there and its diversity. The photos are very well accompanied by Dr. Egbert Leigh, who spent countless years researching at BCI himself. This book is a gem for any biologist or nature lover!

Wonderful! Clearly explained information about the complexity of the Rain Forest. Also, the photography is awesome! The best book I have ever read about the intricacies of life in the Kingdom of Animals and Plants .

OK, there is do not have any problem. as described . great and good experience. i love it , The product arrived on time and was well packaged. My wife has been baking some wonderful loaves of artisan-type rye, white and whole wheat breads. They are very crusty, and we had experienced some difficulty finding a product that could handle the crust. This product worked extremely well,

cutting through the crust with ease. We are very pleased with our recent purchase.

The pictures are really extrodinary and the text is very readable and understandable. I don't tire of looking at the photos over and over.

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