Preface

This book contains information obtained from authentic and highly regarded sources, with a wide variety of references listed.

Brazilian and other tropical aquatic ecosystems house the highest diversity and the largest number of aquatic organisms species in the world, but unfortunately these regions also tends to be responsible for the poorest investments in environmental research. Significant investment in research is necessary for understanding the ecological complexity in these ecosystems, and even more financial and scientific resources are required to estimate the real impact of human activities. The high degree of ecological complexity present in tropical aquatic ecosystems also means that there is a comparable level of fragility, making it more difficult to study the interactions between ecological factors and the increasing presence of chemicals. This book is focused on studies about species that are native to Brazil. The experiences of the individual authors have been brought together to make a collection within a chapter with a common goal. Thus, this volume is designed to be both a textbook and a general reference book. It includes the integration and synthesis of ecotoxicological research with tropical fish species. Topics from population to molecular effects of chemicals are covered, but the many complex pathways and mechanisms of chemically-induced disorders could only be briefly mentioned.

The effort of authors is not enough to reveal and explain the problems resulting from the chemicals present in the tropical and aquatic ecosystem. The authors recognize this challenge, and they have done their best to emphasize the importance of ecotoxicological studies as a tool for political statements in these regions.

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The editors