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Micronesian Reef Fishes: A Field Guide For Divers And Aquarists



Synopsis

This field guide covers 1,192 species. The best guide to the fishes of this region available.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert F. Myers was born in Leesburg, VA in 1953. As the son of a Department of Defense linguist, he spent most of his childhood overseas where he developed an intense interest in the terrestrial and aquatic animals of each post. His first two years of high school were spent in Hong Kong, living a few blocks from the beach at Repulse Bay where he took up skin diving and kept his first marine aquarium. After college, he transferred to the University of Hawaii in order to study coral reef fishes in their own environment. While there, he took up underwater photography, becoming actively involved in local dive clubs. He graduated in 1975 with a BA in zoology. As an undergraduate, he surveyed populations of fishes around Oahu, collected moray eels and sharks at Johnston Atoll, and assisted in the collection of potentially toxic fishes at Enewetak Atoll. In 1977 he moved to Guam to pursue graduate studies at the University of Guam Marine Laboratory. There he divided his time between studies, underwater photography, and employment before earning an MS in biology in 1984. In 1981 he founded Coral Graphics and from 1982 to 1995 he worked as a fisheries biologist for the Government of Guam. He retired in 1995 to pursue photography, writing, research, and consulting.

The book arrived in very good shape, considering it is used; BUT upon examination I found that

some *#@%* individual actually cut a picture out of the color section of the book. I am very disappointed that some one did that. I will keep the book anyway, because I am in Micronesia and nearly daily snorkeling, so I want to put a name to what I am seeing. The supplier should have discovered this cut out picture and at least advised me with a note, or post it. The book is a little over technical for my level of use, but it is thorough and nicely organized.

I would just like to comment that the differences between the softcover and hardcover editions needs to be described in the advertisement. The hardcover edition is comprehensive, covering "every known shorefish from the region" as well as a detailed descriptive (i.e. measurements and counts, line drawings, keys, synonyms, etc.) that may be of more interest to the marine biologist or fish fanatic. The softcover is an abridged version with a re-written text, suitable as a field guide for divers and aquarists. Both have the same color section (the text section is separate from the photos). The content is excellent in the softcover; however, I will be returning it for the hardcover since it contains the kind of information I am interested in attaining.

Micronesian Reef Fishes is the ultimate reference for experienced marine biologists. The number of species listings are mind blowing. Some uncommon and unknown species are also offered. For example: "Reptilian Snake Eel", "Lagoon Picasso Triggerfish", and "Pink Snapper." These are a few of the thousands of uncommon and typical species identified. Every single category is described to the pinpoint in the front of the book, with the beautiful photos on the right hand side. This is not any annotated version of a field guide, and it seems to cover a wider range than Micronesia. Both editions of the guide are pretty much complete, but the hardback has more listings. However, it does not matter which edition you purchase, since the difference is hardly noticeable.

The author (a diver/photographer/biologist living in Guam) has scoured the scientific literature and distilled the essential facts about each species into this amazingly comprehensive guide. Color plates, drawings, tables and a concise paragraph describing each fish and its behavior make it an essential reference for divers and scientists almost anywhere in the tropical Indo-Pacific, not only Micronesia. The care and love of detail that have gone into this work are unsurpassed. The only work comparing with it in scope is the massive Smith's Sea Fishes (limited to the fishes of South Africa). Of the two, this may be the better if only because of its handy size and copious underwater photographs.

Robert Myer's book is a wonderful tool for all snorkelers, divers, and fish enthusiasts. Robert is a wonderful diver and photographer, and he has spent much time identifying Micronesian fish in their adult and juvenile stages. His book is easy to use but also detailed. This book is much-needed, because many of the fish included are native to particular regions, rare species, or under-studied. I have used this book numerous times in Guam and other Micronesian islands (where we became friends with Robert!). This is really a great tool for identification, and not just for Micronesia, but also for the entire Indo-Pacific region. I highly recommend it!

This book is probably the most comprehensive guide to the wildlife on the reef's of Micronesia published yet. With beautiful full color pictures, you can easily identify almost every fish you see. This is a great book for anyone diving in Micronesia, and also helpful for identifying fish in other tropical areas of the world. This book made it on my "must buy" list, and it should be on yours.

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This book has wonderful graphics and a compendium of material about the distribution and characteristics of a wide variety of reef fish. It would be good for identification of species in both the ocean and aquarium. It does not have enough information on most fish for culture, feeding etc.

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