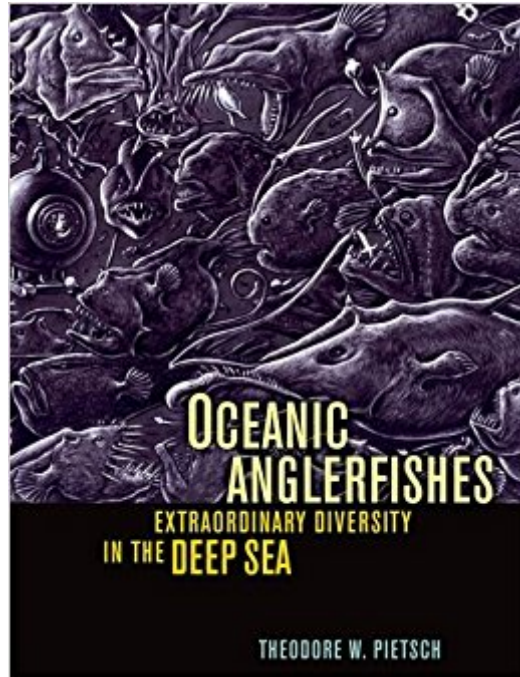


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Oceanic Anglerfishes: Extraordinary Diversity In The Deep Sea



Synopsis

No environment on Earth imposes greater physical and biological constraints on life than the deep oceanic midwaters. Near-freezing temperatures, the absence of sunlight, enormous pressure, and a low food supply make habitation by any living thing almost inconceivable. Yet 160 species of anglerfishes are found there in surprising profusion. Monstrous in appearance, anglerfishes possess a host of unique and spectacular morphological, behavioral, and physiological innovations. In this fully illustrated book, the first to focus on these intriguing fish, Theodore W. Pietsch delivers a comprehensive summary of all that is known about anglerfishes—morphology, diversity, evolution, geographic distribution, bioluminescence, and reproduction.

Book Information

Hardcover: 576 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; F First Edition edition (April 22, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520255429

ISBN-13: 978-0520255425

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 1.6 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #712,075 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Zoology > Ichthyology #242 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Oceans & Seas > Oceanography #588 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Zoology

Customer Reviews

an awesome book. This thing is big and heavy enough to use as a doorstop, and it's filled with just about any available information on anglerfishes (or "sea devils", as they are also called).

Anglerfishes are among the most diverse of all vertebrate taxa; there are hundreds of species, most of which may be known from only a few shriveled specimen dredged up by fishing vessels as deep-sea bycatch. People looking for a traditional coffee-table style book with glossy photos of deep sea fishes should beware, however: this book is NOT like that; it has relatively few photos, and most of those are of preserved specimen, mainly because most of these critters have never actually been seen alive in their natural habitat. The book may contain far more detail than a casual naturalist wants to know: for example, there are exhaustive descriptions and pages of line drawings on the

structure of the fishes' antenna - like lures, barbels, scales, and other anatomical features. The text is written in a scholarly style, with citations throughout. While few people will want to read it cover-to-cover, it can serve as an excellent reference book to find whatever info one needs on anglerfishes: what are known families of anglerfishes and how many species are in each, who eats what or is eaten by whom, how do those weirdo lures work in the dark (bioluminescence!), and just what's up with their comically bizarre breeding biology (the males - get this, ladies - are tiny little external parasites stuck to the females' abdomen (kinda like a tick), where they hang for their entire life, sucking the females' blood and producing sperm by way of paying the rent) By far the best feature of the book, in my opinion, are the superbly detailed ink-and line drawings of fishes, many of them from 19th-and early 20th century authors who, in the absence of photography, apparently developed an extraordinary skill with ink pen and paper to document what they saw. Characters with faces only a mother could love. Some of these drawings are so exquisite that I wish I could get them as prints and hang them on my walls. This is as much an art book as it is a science book.

Have to give this 5 stars. Its the best book on the subject and this is a group of fish that very little is known about. The Author took on a massive assignment with this one, with little to work with. Mostly line drawings for illustrations, but there are some photos of preserved specimens. Again, this family is poorly known and there is not a lot to work with. If you have an interest in deepsea anglers, I would definitely recommend this book.

This detailed treatment of deep sea anglers is an essential addition to personal and institutional libraries. Hopefully other marine biologists will do as good a job with summaries of other marine fish groups.

This book is wonderfully extensive. It contains everything anyone would want to know about the biology of deep sea anglerfish. The illustrations are amazing and the book is designed and organized very well. Even the book's cover beneath the dust jacket is well designed. I would definitely recommend this book to anyone with an interest in the biology of deep sea fish.

Wonderfully illustrated by line drawings and some photographs. Exhaustively indicates the diversity of anglerfishes in the twilight zones and depths of the ocean. Mostly of interest to ichthyologists, the general reader interested in these curious fish would learn a lot, including how small most of these fishes are, and what eats them.

Very well-written and researched. Fascinating reading. I thought I already knew a lot about the subject, but the amount of information and the illustrations and photos are amazing!

Thanks!

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