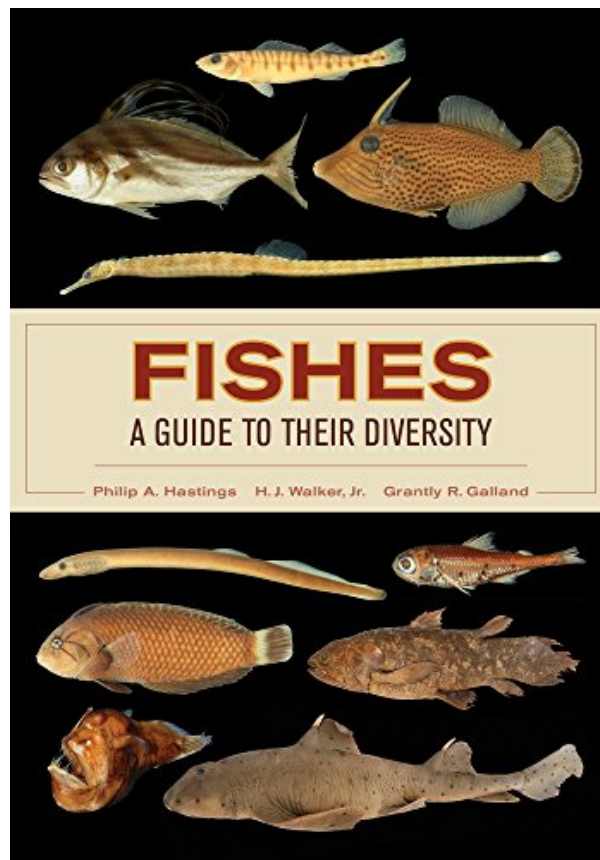
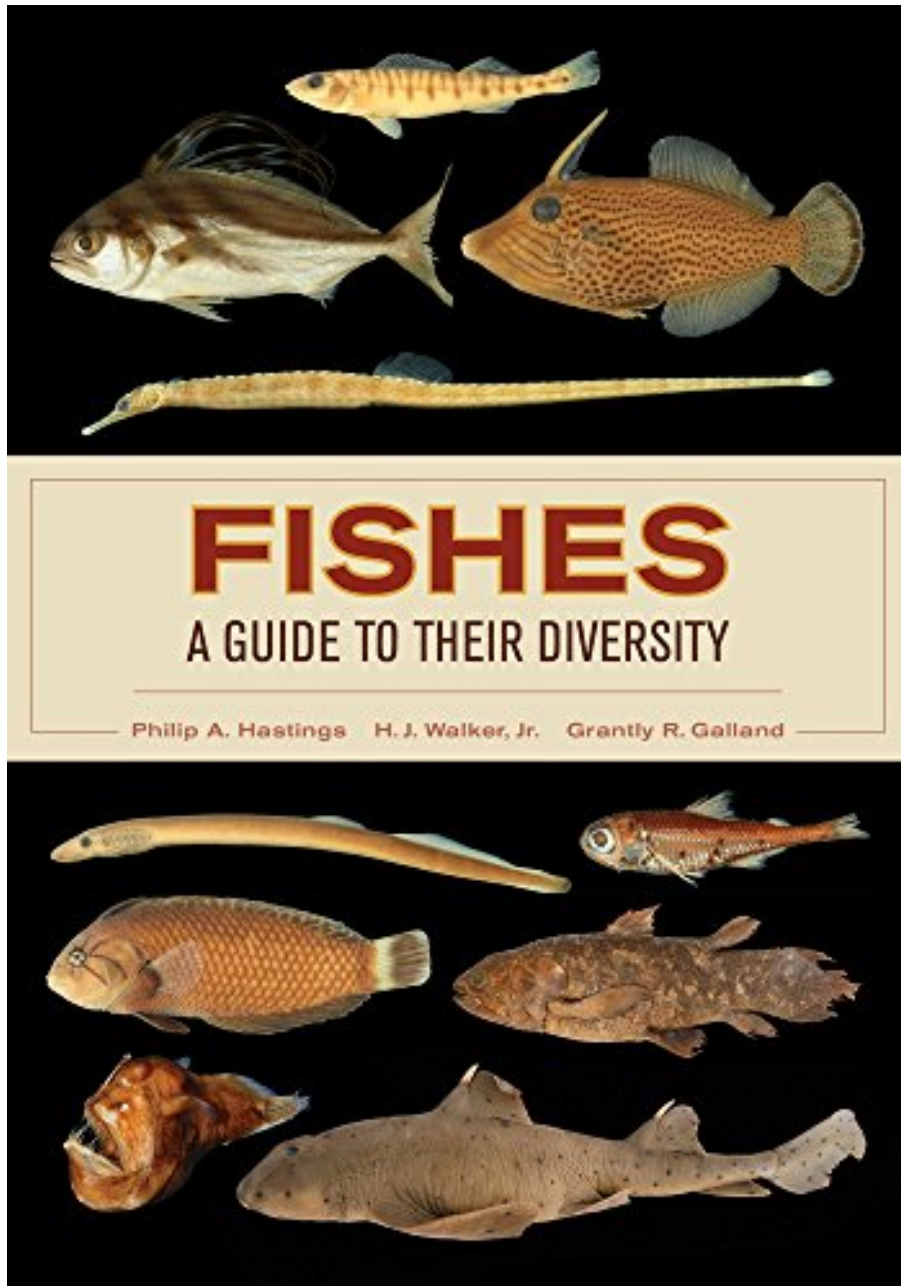


FISHES: A GUIDE TO THEIR DIVERSITY BY PHILIP A. HASTINGS, HAROLD JACK WALKER JR., GRANTLY R. GALLAND



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Review

"Technical and accurate, this book will be an important reference for ichthyologists for many years to come."--P. Chakrabarty"CHOICE" (07/01/2015)

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From the Inside Flap

"No other readily available reference covers so much up-to-date information about the anatomy and taxonomy of fishes. *Fishes: A Guide to Their Diversity* should be on the bookshelf of anyone with even a casual interest in this important group. It will be an indispensable teaching and learning tool."

—Gene Helfman, author of *Fish Conservation: A Guide to Understanding and Restoring Global Aquatic Biodiversity and Fishery Resources* and *The Diversity of Fishes: Biology, Evolution, and Ecology*

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About the Author

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There are more than 33,000 species of living fishes, accounting for more than half of the extant vertebrate diversity on Earth. This unique and comprehensive reference showcases the basic anatomy and diversity of all 82 orders of fishes and more than 150 of the most commonly encountered families, focusing on their distinctive features.

Accurate identification of each group, including its distinguishing characteristics, is supported with clear photographs of preserved specimens, primarily from the archives of the Marine Vertebrate Collection at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. This diagnostic information is supplemented by radiographs, additional illustrations of particularly diverse lineages, and key references and ecological information for each group.

An ideal companion to primary ichthyology texts, *Fishes: A Guide to Their Diversity* gives a broad overview of fish morphology arranged in a modern classification system for students, fisheries scientists, marine biologists, vertebrate zoologists, and everyday naturalists. This survey of the most speciose group of vertebrates on Earth will expand the appreciation of and interest in the amazing diversity of fishes.

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Perfect companion for an Ichthyology course

By Matthew Davis

I am currently teaching an Ichthyology course, and this is the book that I used as required reading. It is great for classes, particularly because the figures are based on preserved specimens. This makes it an invaluable resource for students because it serves as an excellent reference for how real preserved specimens of fishes look, particularly for the lineages of fishes one may potentially include in a lab. No it does not provide detailed information for all 500+ families of fishes, but that is certainly not the goal of this book. It is absolutely the perfect companion for an Ichthyology course that is focused on the evolution and biodiversity of fishes.

I highly recommended this book to anyone that teaches courses on the biodiversity of fishes, or as a general

reference. Having a focus on preserved specimens alone makes it an interesting and unique addition as an ichthyology resource.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Highly Recommended!

By BiologyProfessor

I have been studying fish biology for twenty years, and I teach the ichthyology class at a large state university. I cannot convey how much I like this book or how excited I was after reading it. There are few fully developed resources for ichthyology classes. There are a few ichthyology textbooks that are adequate, but they just don't cover the material that I want to cover in my class. And forget about any resources for the laboratory component of my class beyond a dogfish dissection guide. Well this book has changed all of that. This book is, without exaggeration, exactly the book I need for my ichthyology lab. This will be the one required text that I have the students purchase for future ichthyology classes (and the price is absolutely reasonable to downright cheap). This is an excellent reference, and I love the use of high quality photos of real preserved specimens. When you are teaching a specimen-based class having these real photos of preserved specimens is critical and it counts for a lot. Beyond the images, the text provides diagnostic characters for hundreds of families as well as a diversity of natural history, biology, and evolutionary information (including a vast literature cited) that students will love. Beyond an ichthyology class, this is also a great resource for training undergraduates starting in my lab. I can hand them a specimen, and they can work through the pictures to get close to a family-level identification, eventually using the diagnostic features to identify the fish's family. It is a large commitment to develop a working knowledge of fish families, but this book goes a long way toward giving new researchers the building blocks necessary to create that foundation. I cannot say enough great things about the book. It is an absolute must have for any professor or student interested in ichthyology or anyone interested in the diversity of fishes. I recommend it without any reservations.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

An Instant Classic

By Carl

As a self-identified naturalist, I buy a lot of zoological guides. I expected this book to be like a traditional field guide with some rough identification hints and a little bit of natural history. It is so much more than I expected. It does a fantastic job of showing the key characters for many of the group. Better yet, it actually does this on photos of actual specimens rather than drawings, which makes it much more valuable because drawings can be so idealized. But what really surprised me was how this book actually allowed me to get into the literature on fishes better. I have had the hardcopy book for a couple of months now, and I have used it to explore some groups that I knew nothing about. It provides easy access to a somewhat complicated literature. On a related note, what I think is particularly great about this book is that the authors have presented the work such that it is somewhat immune to the ongoing higher-level changes in fish classification. By focusing on the family level for the core information and providing references to recent literature at the family level and above, the book will remain useful and great for fish identification for the next 10 years. Anyone interested in the diversity, evolution, and natural history of fishes should buy this book; it will be a classic!

On the publication quality side, the hardcover is great. I worried that it would be a dust jacket covered book, which would be terrible for laboratory or field use. Instead it is a true printed on hardcover. The color printing is high quality, emphasizing the preserved colors of the diversity of fishes (which greatly aids identification...). The text is remarkably error free and the print quality is fantastic.

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