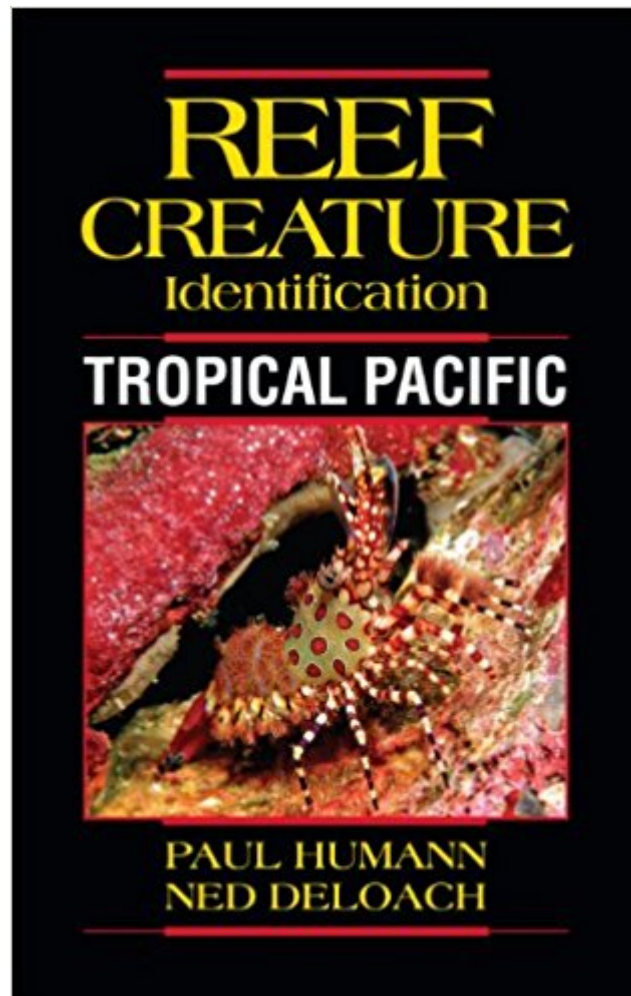




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Reef Creature Identification Tropical Pacific



Synopsis

The long-awaited, 500-page reference detailing 1,600 animals with 2,000 photographs and descriptive text is not only the most comprehensive visual field guide to marine invertebrate life inhabiting the waters from Thailand to Tahiti, but also a pictorial tour de force skillfully bridging science and the aesthetic. For the past five years the two authors/photographers have delved deep into uncharted waters, not only visually documenting numerous species for the first time, but also incorporating the most recent taxonomic research of more than 40 scientific specialists. The text focuses on mobile species, highlighting crustaceans, mollusks, worms and echinoderms, however the pages include an overview of attached marine animals, and also explore facets of marine invertebrate behavior. The guide provides a boon of information for diving photographers and underwater naturalists, known as critter hunters, who enjoy one of the most challenging games in the sea - searching for charismatic mini-fauna of the reef. And for the armchair adventurers, the brilliant gallery of images brings an unseen, unimagined world to the surface like never before.

Book Information

Series: Reef Creature Identification

Paperback: 514 pages

Publisher: New World Publications; 1 edition (November 8, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1878348442

ISBN-13: 978-1878348449

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1.2 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 66 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #154,226 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Marine Life](#) #216 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Oceans & Seas](#) #217 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Energy Production & Extraction](#)

Customer Reviews

Paul Humann has authored two large-format underwater pictorial books and co-authored, with Ned DeLoach, nine marine life field guides including the popular Reef Set trilogy, Reef Fish Identification, Reef Creature Identification and Reef Coral Identification - Florida, Caribbean, Bahamas.

What the book covers is up to the usual high standards of Humann and DeLoach. Great pictures use useful text, though with a little less detail than in the fish books. There are huge sections on crustaceans and molluscs and a nice selection of echinodermata. Unfortunately, quite a few phyla are omitted or given only a page or so. Just one example: on a recent trip I photographed a large brightly-colored tunicate which seemed fairly common. I was disappointed to find not a single named tunicate in the book. I don't expect a book like this to cover all of the hidden and tiny organisms in the sea, but I do expect a little more on the things a visitor is likely to notice.

I'm so happy this book came out in time to go on my recent dive trip to Indonesia. I was fretting over which of my vast collection of ID books I should fit into my tiny luggage allowance, and this one book replaced several other, more comprehensive books on individual types of critters (for example, nudibranchs or crustaceans). This one book helped me identify most of the critters on my dive, including some the dive guides didn't know. My book was frequently borrowed by my fellow travelers and the dive guides on the trip. You don't have to know much about critters to find things in this book, which makes it a good place to start. I have several books that cover all kinds of creatures and this is my favorite. Paired with the *Reef Fish Identification - Tropical Pacific* book, you can ID almost anything you see diving in the Pacific or Indian Oceans. They are now my standard Pacific dive trip travel set.

Both avid divers, my boy friend and I wanted a book to help us identify all the different animals we see when we dive. There was only so much of: "blue fish with white and black stripes and yellow tipped pectoral fins" on Google that we could take. We live in the Philippines and, it being the "center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity", the amount of fish seen per dive is amazing though impossible to identify. So we wanted something that would give us the name of the animal, so that we could read more on them on our own. The most important criteria was that they were photographs and NOT illustrations. After reading the reviews on those available out there I decided on Reef Creatures and Reef Fish because it fit all our requirements. PROS: These books are the quickest way to identify the fish and critters in the Tropical Pacific. The photos are great, it makes identification easier. True, the amount of photographs can be "overwhelming"... especially if you are just browsing the book and not searching through it for something in particular. I do not fault the authors, the abundance and diversity of fish and creatures in this region IS overwhelming. But if you saw it and just need to put a name with the image in your head..this book will help you do that in a very organised way! Putting these books together must not have been easy but I am glad they did

because it is very useful. In the two hours we spent browsing through the book, there were many "That's what it's called!" moments.

CONS: The books are heavy. Not the most travel-friendly, especially now that there are weight restrictions on flights. If and when they are digitized and sold for the Kindle or iPad, I will definitely buy them again. But they are compact enough and complete enough to be the only ones you'll need to take with you on trips. Aside from the basic information, there is nothing too specific about the fish. Basically just the scientific name, size average, 2-3 sentences about their appearance and places to find them in. However, I expected this after reading the reviews and am still pleased because as soon as I identify the animal, I can research more on it myself. If you can purchase these book on the Internet, you can research the specifics on it too.

OVER ALL: I would recommend these books to people who want to easily and quickly identify a fish or creature that they saw. If you want a book that is more in-depth, this is not the book for you. I give the two books 5-stars because they are exactly what I expected them to be and serve their purpose beautifully. Money well-spent.

It's a good reference. The photos are small compared to their works such as Reef Fish or Reef Creatures for the Caribbean. Of course there are a lot more in the tropical Pacific to identify and to cram in a book. I used the book quite a bit in a recent trip to Truk Lagoon in Micronesia. There are quite a few pictures of unidentified creatures and while interesting one might ask what's the point of the photo being there. And in many cases there is a note that a microscopic examination may be required to distinguish between species but then that is simply the way it is. For the most part I was able to ID most of the creatures that I saw. Do note there are no fish in this book; The fish are in another book, Reef Fish of the Tropical Pacific.

It's good for what it has, but those who use the corresponding Reef Creatures book for Florida, the Caribbean, and the Bahamas may be disappointed by what it doesn't share with that volume - the sponges and the jellies. I recognize that the Pacific is a bigger location with more species, but I was unhappily surprised to find the domain of the Pacific volume significantly less than of the Caribbean one. I was looking to identify a jelly I saw. The Pacific volume was no use for this purpose, and I didn't know that until I received it. The page doesn't have the 'Look Inside' feature that could have told me this. So I'm more disappointed in the page, with no table of contents or index, than I am in the book.

The Author didn't go deep into research finding the names of a lot of the critters pictures which he

didn't have names for. I had to google the jellyfish I saw to get some names. He didn't even cover jellyfish (1 or 2 mentions).

Excellent. One of the best books you can possibly buy on Tropical Pacific marine life. The companion volume is Reef Fish ID Tropical Pacific. Also an essential buy if you are a scuba diver. I have noticed complaints below that this book is not complete. Well of course it isn't, it would require another couple of books the same size to do that job. This does a decent enough job of IDing many of the critters you are likely to see on the reef in the Tropical Indo-Pacific region.

I now have to hide it from my friends. They all want to use it LOL

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