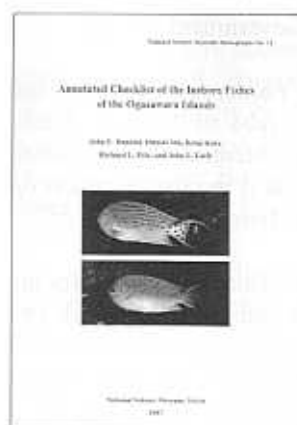


There are also drawbacks in this book. Despite the excellent photography, many of the crabs were not taken in their natural habitat, rendering it impossible for the reader to directly relate the crab to its natural habitat. This book is a local publication supported by the Hsin-Chu City governmental offices, there is no ISBN number. Hence, it will be quite difficult to obtain or purchase outside Hsin-Chu City or from overseas.

In all, this is an excellent book with colourful pictures. It will, no doubt, be a useful reference to the citizens of Hsin-Chu City as well as any carcinologist or non-carcinologist who can understand Chinese

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**Annotated checklist of the inshore fishes of the Ogasawara Islands.** *National Science Museum Monographs*, 11. J. E. Randall, H. Ida, K. Kato, R. L. Pyle & J. L. Earle, 1997. The National Science Museum, Tokyo. 74 pp., 6 figs., 19 colour pls. ISSN 1342-9574

The Ogasawara or Bonin Islands are located off southeastern Japan, between the Izu Islands in the north and the Mariana Islands to the south along the northeastern margin of the Philippine Plate, between the northern subtropical latitudes of 28 and 24 degrees. The present checklist documents the inshore fish fauna of this island group from depths not exceeding 200 metres.

This well-produced publication lists some 801 species of inshore marine fishes from 97 families. It contains valuable baseline information required for the study of marine fish diversity in that part of the Japanese archipelago. Although mainly compiled from literature, field work (many with SCUBA) and examination of museum specimens by the authors have helped to confirm many earlier records, and added 150 fish species for the area. These new records are substantiated in the checklist by citing specimens listed by museum number and length, or with colour photographs taken of wild fish or of freshly-dead and preserved specimens. Several records are even based on confirmed sightings.

Corrections are provided for some scientific names from earlier literature, and old names are updated. The remark "Not seen by us" is attached to species that the authors have not observed or examined, and whose identities they are unable to confirm. Relative abundance (ranging from "Abundant" to "Rare") of each species is given for fishes the authors could easily observe while diving. There is also a section devoted to a discussion of the zoogeography of the Ogasawaran inshore fish fauna which has a combination of both tropical and temperate elements.

The authors make a very relevant plea to their readers to document new records whenever possible, by preserving and depositing specimens in museums and citing them by museum number, and/or providing good photographs and diagnostic information. Such practices enable records to be checked and revised by future researchers.

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**Shore Fishes of Hawai'i.** J. E. Randall, 1996, Natural World Press, USA. x+216 pp. ISBN 0-939560-22-4

This excellent and compact guide book is filled with superb colour photographs of Hawai'ian tropical marine fishes, all of which were taken by the author himself. These pictures, obtained largely in the field and of live fishes, are important aids for quick and accurate identification, provided the subjects in the pictures are accurately identified. This should not be a problem here for the author is a well-known and highly experienced ichthyologist who specialises in tropical reef fishes, and has published widely and prolifically on this subject.

Some 342 species are featured in the book. These are fishes most likely to be encountered on coral reefs or adjacent habitats, including a few species endemic to the Hawai'ian Islands. Concise species accounts accompany the photographs. They highlight important diagnostic characters of each species, and includes size attained, and notes on biology, ecology, economic use and geographical range. As many of the species treated have differing colour patterns and body shape at different stages of their growth, or exhibit sexual dimorphism, the author has wisely opted to portray these variations on extra illustrations for each of these species

When available, Hawai'ian vernacular names are printed for the species. There is a short but extremely useful paragraph within the Introduction that provides instructions on the proper pronunciation of these local names. In addition, there is an alphabetical list of fish names for fish watchers to check against. Although intended primarily as an identification guide for snorklers and divers, this handy little book is an attractive and useful acquisition for any nature lover.

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