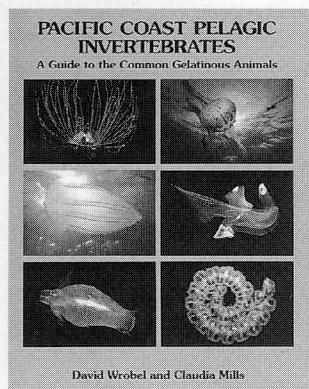


BOOK REVIEW



Pacific Coast Pelagic Invertebrates. A Guide to the Common Gelatinous Animals. Wrobel, D & C. Mills. 1998. Sea Challengers, 4 Sommerset Rise, Monterey, California 93940 and Monterey Bay Aquarium. 108 pp. ISBN 0-930118-23-5.

Of the various organisms marine biologists have to deal with, among the most beautiful but difficult to identify are gelatinous pelagic animals. The present book is one of the very few on the market which specifically deal with a group of animals which have generally been poorly studied. It is full of spectacular photographs and most of the common groups are well treated. While marine biologists in Asia may not be able to identify their pelagic gelatinous fauna to the species level with this book, the present guide is nevertheless a great help in getting them to the right family or phylum at least! The cnidarians and ctenophorans are covered in most depth (of course), but the pelagic molluscs and chordates are also well treated. My only complaint would perhaps be that some of the more common marine polychaetes should also have been dealt with! I found the sections on collecting specimens and maintaining collections of these animals especially useful - they are normally so difficult and troublesome to preserve well. All in all, this is a book which should be on the shelf of any marine scientist and teacher, and should certainly spur work on these interesting animals!

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