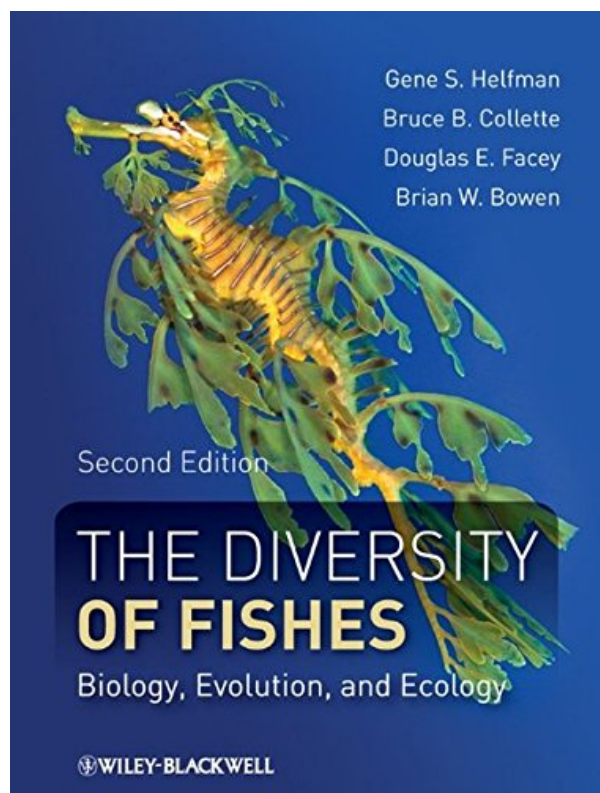
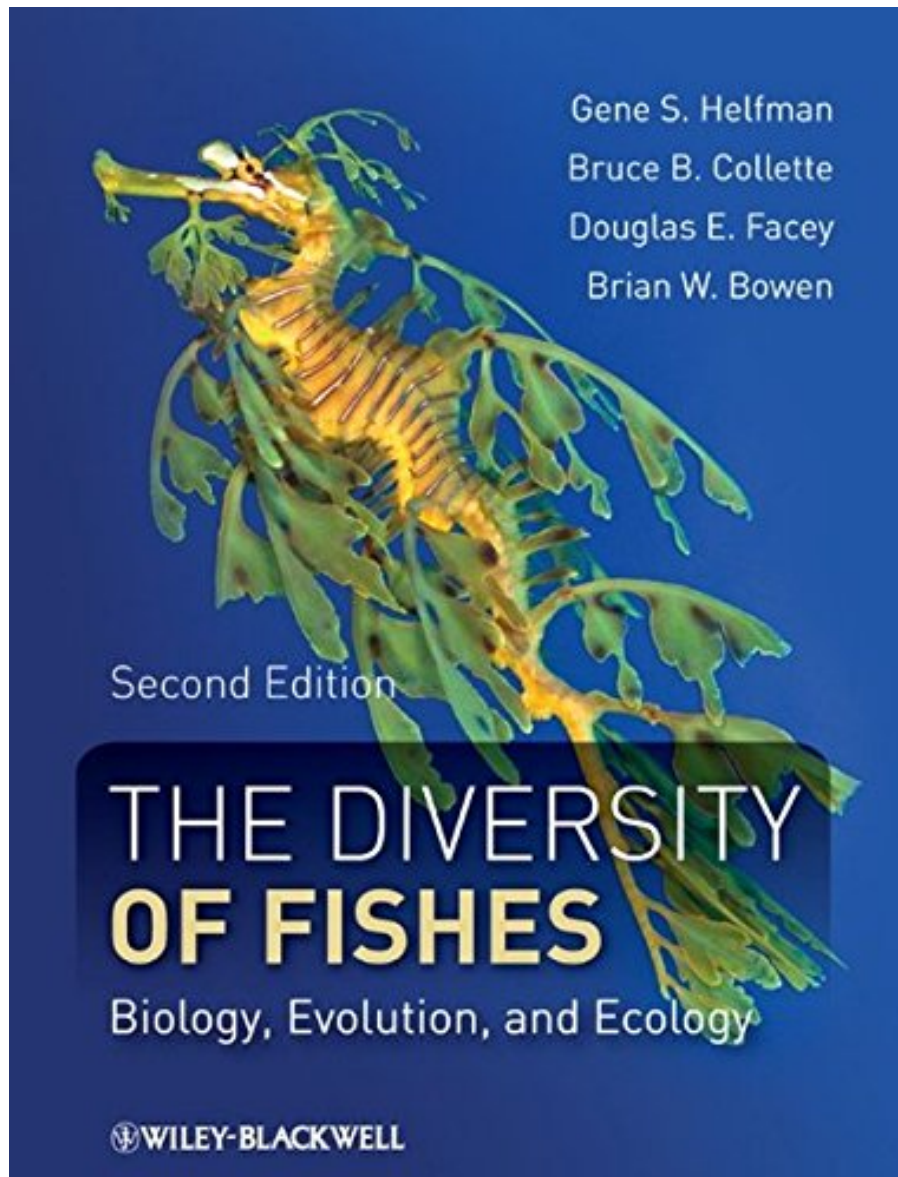


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The second edition of *The Diversity of Fishes* represents a major revision of the world's most widely adopted ichthyology textbook. Expanded and updated, the second edition is illustrated throughout with striking color photographs depicting the spectacular evolutionary adaptations of the most ecologically and taxonomically diverse vertebrate group. The text incorporates the latest advances in the biology of fishes, covering taxonomy, anatomy, physiology, biogeography, ecology, and behavior. A new chapter on genetics and molecular ecology of fishes has been added, and conservation is emphasized throughout. Hundreds of new and redrawn illustrations augment readable text, and every chapter has been revised to reflect the discoveries and greater understanding achieved during the past decade. Written by a team of internationally-recognized authorities, the first edition of *The Diversity of Fishes* was received with enthusiasm and praise, and incorporated into ichthyology and fish biology classes around the globe, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The second edition is a substantial update of an already classic reference and text.

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The "Brusca and Brusca" of fish Biology?

By Magnus Johnson

I have been using Moyle and Cech (an Introduction to Ichthyology) for years as the standard text to recommend to undergraduate students interested in developing a solid knowledge of basic fish taxonomy/biology/ecology but I think Helfman et al is a much more student-friendly textbook. It is split into sections: Introduction, form function & ontogeny, taxonomy phylogeny and evolution, zoogeography genetics and adaptations, behaviour and ecology, the future of fishes (conservation). These sections are subdivided into sensible chapters.

The writing style is clear, peppered with good references for further reading and the authors make good use of excellent figures. As well as the reference list there are supplemental reading recommendations. The authors make good use of boxes to highlight interesting areas, e.g. vicariance versus dispersal, should we eat farmed salmon? and finish off each chapter with a bullet point summary. Being a single book treatment of a vast subject there are some sections where I guess the need for brevity has enforced absences, e.g. there is no mention of the special properties of fish eye lenses in the vision section and the section on swimming seems a bit sparse (and would probably benefit from more use of diagrams).

In summary, this is an excellent text that will appeal to undergraduates and serve as a useful sourcebook for tutors.

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