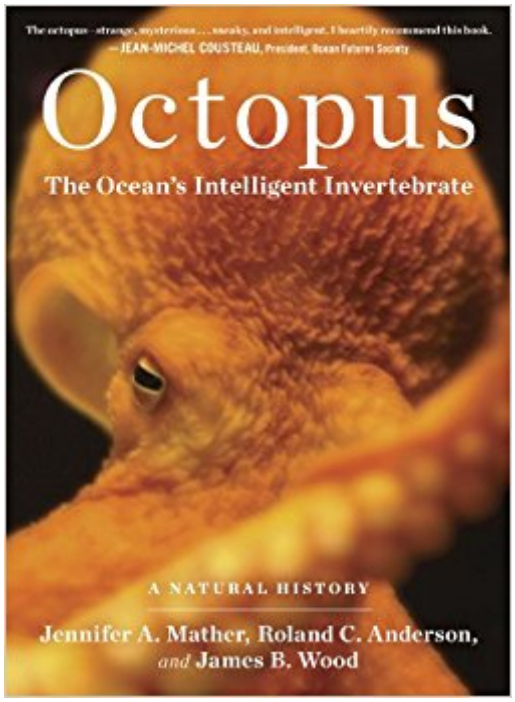
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Octopus: The Ocean's Intelligent Invertebrate



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Synopsis

The visually arresting and often misunderstood octopus has long captured popular imagination. With an alien appearance and an uncanny intellect, this exceptional sea creature has inspired fear in famous lore and legendsÃ¢â ¬â •from the giant octopus attack in 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea to Ursula the sea witch in The Little Mermaid. Yet its true nature is more wondrous still. After decades of research, the authors reveal a sensitive, curious, and playful animal with remarkable intelligence, an ability to defend itself with camouflage and jet propulsion, an intricate nervous system, and advanced problem-solving abilities. In this beautifully photographed book, three leading marine biologists bring readers face to face with these amazingly complex animals that have fascinated scientists for decades. From the molluscan ancestry of todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s octopus to its ingenious anatomy, amazing mating and predatory behaviors, and other-worldly relatives, the authors take readers through the astounding life cycle, uncovering the details of distinctive octopus personalities. With personal narratives, underwater research, stunning closeup photography, and thoughtful guidance for keeping octopuses in captivity, Octopus is the first comprehensive natural history of this smart denizen of the sea. Ã Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“A fascinating natural history of some of the oceanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most intriguing creatures.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Farm and Dairy Ã¢â ¬Å“With personal narratives, underwater research, stunning closeup photography, and thoughtful guidance for keeping octopuses in

captivity, this book is the first comprehensive natural history of this smart denizen of the sea. For anyone with an interest in octopodes.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •ScienceBlogs.com Ã¢â ¬Å“Reveals the uncanny smarts and elegant adaptations of these eight-armed wonders.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Science News Ã¢â ¬Å“Provides an excellent nature history of the octopus, pairing lovely photos with the insights of three leading marine biologists.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Bookwatch Ã Â

Roland C. Anderson, a former biologist at the Seattle Aquarium, has observed octopuses in captivity and in the wild for more than 30 years. He is particularly interested in the natural history, behavior, and aquarium husbandry of marine invertebrates and especially the cold water cephalopods of Puget Sound, about which he has published numerous articles. The son of a sea captain, he grew up near the ocean where he became an avid scuba diver. He retired from the Seattle Aquarium in 2009 after 31 years of service. Long fascinated by malacology (the study of mollusks), he has served as president for the Western Society of Malacologists and the American Malacological Society. He is currently an editor for the journal Diseases of Aquatic Organisms. He received his Ph.D. in Marine Biology from Greenwich University (Hilo, HI) in 2000. Jennifer A. Mather is a leading researcher on octopuses, concentrating on their behavior and personalities. She has been publishing articles on cephalopods since 1978. At the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada, where she is a professor of psychology, she teaches a variety of courses including studies of aging and perception. Jennifer grew up in Victoria, on the Pacific coast of Canada, where she acquired her lifelong fascination with cephalopods. She prefers to do field research, and has done so in a variety of pleasant locations including Bermuda, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. Besides the comparative study of behavior and cognition, she is interested in the roles and status of women in science and in excellence in university teaching. Jennifer holds a MasterÃ¢â ¬â„¢s degree from Florida State University and a doctorate from Brandeis University in Boston. When not working, sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a dedicated bird watcher and energetic cook and gardener.James B. Wood is the director of education at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California. An accomplished underwater photographer, he is especially interested in cephalopod behavior, husbandry, and physiology, and science education. Webmaster of The Cephalopod Page (www.thecephalopodpage.org), one of the longest running biological Web sites, James is a founding executive member of MarineBio.org and a staff member of TONMO.com, an online cephalopod enthusiast community. He has worked with the Census of Marine Life since 1998 and codeveloped a pilot species database for cephalopods, CephBase. He earned his Ph.D. in Biology at Dalhousie University. He was previously an assistant research scientist at the Bermuda Institute

of Ocean Sciences and an adjunct professor at Duke University.

For (hopefully) obvious reasons, here are eight ways octopuses ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • and this book ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • rock:1) Octopuses (and not, as I learned, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“octopiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•) are fascinating, smart and have distinct personalities; they are able to solve problems and learn new strategies (though, like some other unnamed animals [hint: humans], they still have behavioral blind spots that no amount of new data inputs can override).2) They are masters of camouflage, able to blend in with any number of environmental backgrounds and even move patterns across the surface of their bodies like fleshy LED banners.3) As an extension of #2, they can do all this even though their eyes are color blind, which makes me wonder if they have some kind of crazy, eyeless physical sight in their skin/appendages.4) Even though this is related to squid and not octopuses, some may have a visual language on their skin to share information with fellow squid; in other words, theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“living books.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•5) The authors are clearly experts with tons of shared experience with, and empathy for, octopuses, and the book is sprinkled with meaningful personal anecdotes.6) Octopuses are mostly solitary, have boring sex lives that always end in senescence and they die young. The males basically fumble around with their arms, squirt some sperm and then get sick and die ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| or, more usually, are eaten by sharks and seals.7) Octopus mothers are awesomely attentive to their eggs, carefully hanging up strands of thousands and thousands of eggs they carefully tending to them until just about the time they hatch. Then get sick and die. Or are eaten. And all the little babies whoosh out into the ocean where most are eaten. But a few live.8) The whole ink thing is insane. Some can squirt out ink with such control, they can make a cloud that hides escape, or retains shape enough that it looks like a solid octopus. They can squirt out a couple of those, then change their skin color to match and all of sudden, a predator is faced with a bunch of inky duplicates hanging in the water that may or may not be the real deal. And some, down in the depths where light canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t reach and ink is meaningless, can squirt out glowing, bioluminescent ink!Octopuses rock and this book is a great way to learn more about them. The Kindle version (at least on my Paperwhite) doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t do justice to the images, but thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s what YouTube is for. Read it if you want to learn more about cephalopods or be inspired by the mysteries of the ocean (or build your own aquarium; I skipped that section ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • leave the octopuses free in the sea).

My invertebrate zoology professor (30 years ago) waffled on and on about the wonderfully intelligent

octopus. I finally saw one when diving last year. I've wanted to know more about them and this is the book. Especially if you are a diver/snorkeler, but for anyone with a fascination for natural history and especially of marine critters.Mather not only covers the natural history of the octopus but puts it in perspective, describing its environment. You will learn not only of the octopus but also about the animals with which it interacts.Great book. I highly recommend it.

After reading Sy Montgomery's octopus book, I searched for something more substantial and found this one. The credentials of the three authors are impressive. They are experts in the field. They write in a direct, explanatory manner with no frills. The photo section is amazing.

This book gave me much information about octopuses (it's a Greek word not a Latin one) plus a lot on other sea creatures. I felt like I was in a classroom learning all about octopuses (but no exams or quizzes) from excellent teachers who explained in clear language how the critter is composed, how it eats, where it lives. There are plenty of entertaining stories such as the one about the vet who discovered their suckers are as agile as our thumb-finger arrangement. I found this book to be highly informative, easy to read, entertaining and very enlightening. But I still think octopuses are very ugly.

I needed a good book on octopuses as research for a fiction series, and this book delivered an amazing amount of scientific information in a writing style that was clear and engaging without being overly academic. From the life cycle of these amazing cephalopods to chapters on their personalities and intelligence, from their mating behavior to their unique capabilities, this book unveils the wonder and biology of octopuses. This book strikes the perfect balance between readability and scientific writing for a subject so complex and well-researched.

My 18-year-oldÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â Biology major daughter loved this book. I got it for her for Christmas, she loves aquatic & marine life! So this was a perfect present.

Well written with good information and beautiful pictures.

good read. worth the time and money.

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scenes bring octopus facts to life! (What if a) Cool Colleges: For the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, and Just Plain Different (Cool Colleges: For the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, & Just Plain Different) Coloring Books For Teens: Ocean Designs: Zendoodle Sharks, Sea Horses, Fish, Sea Turtles, Crabs, Octopus, Jellyfish, Shells & Swirls; Detailed Designs ... For Older Kids & Teens; Anti-Stress Patterns Ocean County NJ Atlas (Hagstrom Ocean County Atlas) (Hagstrom Ocean County Atlas Large Scale Edition) Eat This Bug: A Guide to Invertebrate Live Foods for Reptiles and Amphibians Ecology of Invertebrate Diseases Hidden Rainforests: Subtropical Rainforests and Their Invertebrate Biodiversity Spineless Wonders: Strange Tales from the Invertebrate World The Enlarged and Updated Second Edition of Milkweed Monarchs and More: A Field Guide to the Invertebrate Community in the Milkweed Patch Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology, Part L, Mollusca 4, vol. 4 Cretaceous Ammonoidea: Mollusca 4, Cephalopoda : Ammonoidea Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology, Part C: Protista 2, Sarcodina, Chiefly "Thecamoebians" and Foraminiferida Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology, Part V: Graptolithina : With Sections on Enteropneusta and Pterobranchia (Pt. V) Principles of Invertebrate Paleontology Invertebrate Zoology Lab Manual (6th Edition) Invertebrate Zoology Invertebrate Zoology: A Laboratory Manual (5th Edition) Invertebrate Zoology: A Functional Evolutionary Approach Invertebrate Zoology A Laboratory Manual Laboratory Exercises in Invertebrate Zoology

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