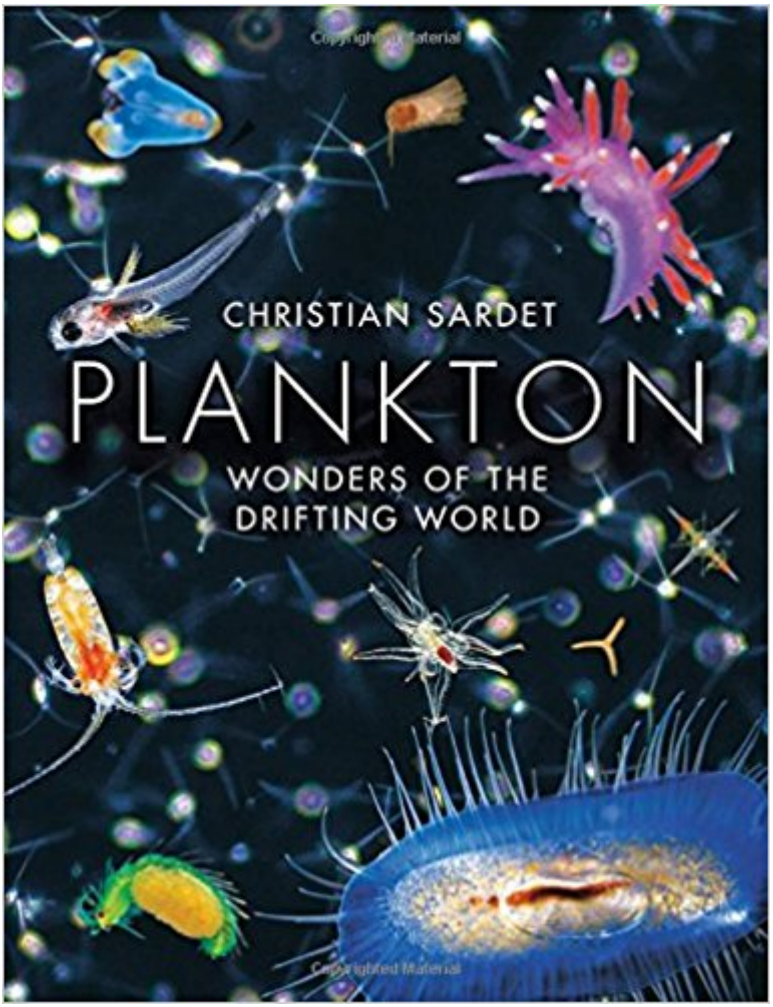
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Plankton: Wonders Of The Drifting World



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Synopsis

Ask anyone to picture a bird or a fish and a series of clear images will immediately come to mind. Ask the same person to picture plankton and most would have a hard time conjuring anything beyond a vague squiggle or a greyish fleck. This book will change that forever. Viewing these creatures up close for the first time can be a thrilling experienceÃ¢â ¬â •an elaborate but hidden world truly opens up before your eyes. Through hundreds of close-up photographs, Plankton transports readers into the currents, where jeweled chains hang next to phosphorescent chandeliers, spidery claws jut out from sinuous bodies, and gelatinous barrels protect microscopic hearts. The creaturesÃ¢â ¬â„¢ vibrant colors pop against the black pages, allowing readers to examine every eye and follow every tentacle. Jellyfish, tadpoles, and bacteria all find a place in the book, representing the broad scope of organisms dependent on drifting currents. Christian SardetÃ¢â ¬â„¢s enlightening text explains the biological underpinnings of each species while connecting them to the larger living world. He begins with planktonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s origins and history, then dives into each group, covering ctenophores and cnidarians, crustaceans and mollusks, and worms and tadpoles. He also demonstrates the indisputable impact of plankton in our lives. Plankton drift through our world mostly unseen, yet they are diverse organisms that form ninety-five percent of ocean life. Biologically, they are the foundation of the aquatic food web and consume as much carbon dioxide as land-based plants. Culturally, they have driven new industries and captured artistsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ imaginations. While scientists and entrepreneurs are just starting to tap the potential of this undersea forest, for most people these pages will represent uncharted waters. Plankton is a spectacular journey that will leave readers seeing the ocean in ways they never imagined.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Filled with more than five hundred close-ups of jewel-like diatoms and gelatinous comb jellies, each accompanied by a condensed history and biography, the book is a long overdue introduction to the oceansÃ¢â ¬â„¢ ninety-eight percent." (New Yorker)"Plankton is so hot right now. You may have heard about the stuff that floats around the seaÃ¢â ¬â •tiny plant-like organisms called phytoplankton and beasties like small crustaceans called zooplanktonÃ¢â ¬â •last month when a three-year oceanic expedition released a trove of findingsÃ Â about the global communityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s composition and diversity. Anyone who is anyone has plankton on their mind.And no one more so than Christian Sardet, who cofounded the expedition, known as Tara Oceans. His positively stunning book Plankton: Wonders of the Drifting World features some of the most intriguing, most beautiful organisms that he had the honor of observing at hundreds of sites in the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s oceans. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s the catalog of a mission that has revealed just how diverse and gorgeous the lowly plankton can be, and how indispensable they are to life on Earth." (Wired)"Striking close-up photos and micrographs take center stage . . . revealing the dazzling diversity of these tiny creaturesÃ¢â ¬â •from microscopic unicellular organisms to complex crustaceans." (Science)"In this beautiful book, marine scientist Christian Sardet shows that tiny plankton, not enormous blue whales, are the real stars of the ocean. Macro pictures of the huge variety of plankton forms and short details of their lives force a reconsideration of our view of them as part of an amorphous soup. A celebration of the small, and an unalloyed joy." (Nature)"Extraordinary." (Guardian)"Beautiful and informative, and written for a broad audience, Plankton: Wonders of the Drifting World should be on everyoneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s gift list this year." (Oceanography)Ã¢â ¬Å“Humans are even more indebted to plankton, the organisms that make up 98 per cent of the oceanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s living biomass and which are brought vividly to life in SardetÃ¢â ¬â„¢s microscopic images.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Spectator (UK))"A fascinating book that will cause readers to think deeply about plankton and its importance to human and animal life. A biology or general science background is not necessary to read this book; the reader needs only a desire to learn more about these intriguing organisms." (Library Journal)"The usual line drawings and photos in invertebrate biology and plankton books rarely hint at how bizarre and colorful these tiny creatures can be.Ã Â The truly spectacular photographs in this beautiful book reveal the diversity

of the free-floating organisms so critical to food webs throughout the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s oceans, from microscopic plants and invertebrate larvae to huge jellyfish and salps. . . . Highly recommended." (Choice)Ã¢â ¬Å“A stunningly beautiful work of art that is sure to draw the reader into this world typically missed by all but a few oceanographers and marine biologists.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Karen Osborn, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History)"When people think of the oceans, they usually think of the coast. But the coasts are just a thin ribbon compared to the vast volume of the open ocean. Christian Sardet does an extraordinary job revealing the world of plankton - the diverse organisms that are carried by the currents in the open ocean. These are utterly foreign organisms to most people, but by showing how beautiful they are and describing some of the biology behind their adaptations he succeeds in making them accessible and familiar. Many of these organisms are gelatinous, clear, and incredibly fragile. They look like blobs when they wash up on the beach, but come to life in the pages ofÃ Â Plankton." (Casey Dunn, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Brown University)"Wow! Simply splendidly wow! Christian Sardet has found that sweet spot where science meets art. The stunning images are a feast for the eyes and the fascinating information is a feast for the mind. Plankton: Wonders of the Drifting World will appeal to people from all backgrounds, from those whose fondness for marine biology will be stoked by the depth and breadth of content, to those who may dabble curiously and become enchanted by the stories of the creatures that inhabit this strange world of minibeasts. Sardet brings alive the history of planktonÃ¢â ¬â •both the recent history of the last few hundred years of science, and the deep history of the evolutionary relationships between the incredibly diverse beings that we collectively refer to as plankton. And then chapter by chapter, we get to know these creatures great and small, some spectacularly colored and others as invisible and mysterious as diamonds, the squishy, chewy, and crunchy drifters of the sea. Designed to be a coffee table book, Plankton is also the finest and most comprehensive textbook on the subject. This is a book that will gather no dust -- it is just too beautiful to put down!" (Lisa-ann Gershwin, Stung!: On Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean)Winner (Festival Mondial de l'Image Sous-Marine)"Gorgeously illustrated and fascinating." (Explorers Journal)

Christian Sardet is cofounder and emeritus research director of the Laboratory of Cell Biology at the Marine Station of Villefranche-sur-mer, part of the Centre National de la recherche scientifique and UniversitÃƒÂ© Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris. He is also cofounder and scientific coordinator of the Tara Oceans Expedition, a global voyage to study plankton, and creator of the Plankton Chronicles project, www.planktonchronicles.org.

An outstanding example of Graphic Design and clear presentation, black backgrounds are ideal for plankton. Some of the best microscopy images I have seen, whilst not an academic or research read it is the best introduction to oceanic plankton so far.I recommend it to schools and all those who love or live by the sea.

I cannot believe how beautiful the pictures in this book are.Two thinks I would like added to this book:- A bit of information about the species, if they are salt-water only, more on life cycle and at least an evolutionary tree listing the species mentioned in the book.- A better glossary. For example about 5 species mentioned bioluminece in their info, but not mentioned in the glossary under bioluminece.Even after asking for thing or two, I still have to rate it as 5 stars as it is a wonderful read.

For anyone learning the identification of marine zooplankton, this is one of the best photographic references, along with Ocean Drifters, I have found. While no single reference has a chance to familiarize with all 200,000+ known species, this, supported with the line drawings in A Guide to Marine Coastal Plankton and Marine Invertebrate Larvae and Zooplankton of the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts provides a way to begin to organize these animals.

Breathtaking! The images are astounding, bringing to life creatures I bet you've never even dreamed of before. The text manages to hit the mark between scientific rigor and accessibility to the lay reader. This is a book that belongs in the classroom and on your coffee table. Enjoy!

Beautiful photography and fascinating reading. I highly recommend this as a gift for people who like coffee-table books. I was completely mesmerized while reading it and studying the pictures. Wish I could bring myself to tear a few of the photos out and frame them! A very worthwhile book and a very important subject for people to know about.

Beautiful photos illustrate the fascinating microcosm that we depend upon far more then most people realize.

Bought this for my son great book with colorful pictures lot of information

fantastic book. beautiful images and informative text. makes the reader be in awe of the wonders / wanderers of the world's oceans and many bodies of water.

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