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# Dr. Axelrod's Atlas Of Freshwater Aquarium Fishes (8th Edition)



## Synopsis

Whether you are a dedicated tropical fish hobbyist, researcher, dealer, or wildlife agent, Dr. Axelrod's *Atlas of Freshwater Aquarium Fishes* offers a reliable zoogeographical method of listing species for a unique and simplified approach to fish identification. With hundreds of taxonomic changes since the previous edition, the *Atlas* incorporates a common name index as well as a scientific name index to the species identified within. It also provides full-color photos for more than 7,000 species of freshwater fishes from around the world, with emphasis on the most popular groups. New and improved photos of key species increase the informational value of the book over the previous edition. Species added to this 11th edition of the *Atlas* include several rare livebearing species, along with a wide assortment of new-to-the-book fishes from the popular Neotropical cichlids group, South American killifish species, South American loricariid catfish group, and relatives of the popular Siamese Fighting Fish, *Betta splendens*. Added species very recently appearing on the aquarium scene also include the Vietnamese White Cloud, Endler's Livebearer, the Goo-Obo Gudgeon, Denison's Red Lined Barb, and the Dwarf Blue Rainbowfish among others. Featuring newly added species, superior photography, and more informative content than ever before, the revised 11th edition of Dr. Axelrod's *Atlas of Freshwater Aquarium Fishes* is an essential ichthyological reference book that provides quick but accurate identifications to a wide selection of the hobby's most notable aquarium fishes. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

GLEN S. AXELROD, M.Sc., F.Z.S., President and CEO of TFH Publications, Inc. and Nylabone Products and senior author of the Encyclopedia of Exotic Aquarium Fishes for Freshwater Aquariums, directed the revisions encompassed in the 11th Edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a great book for identifying freshwater aquarium fish. Also for ideas on which fish to purchase. I was hoping for the next edition but it might be out of print. I ordered one "used, like new" and am very happy with the quality. Better than expected. The fish are arranged by continent, with a short intro and indexes by both common name and Latin names. Each photo is paired with icons describing the fish's requirements, food type, temperament, location in the tank, offspring (live young vs. eggs), lighting, and more. There is no text with the pictures in the main section - the icons allow more room for the photos. And there are A LOT. The book itself is huge, and each page is jammed with large photos. Since it is an ATLAS, it's different than most aquarium books. Some other reviewers apparently didn't understand that when they purchased it. If you want to see more fish (and information related to each species) than any other book, this one is for you. It's helped me identify the native fish I collect on many occasions. And it gives me ideas on which fish to get and avoid. The book lets you know which fish are good community members, and which are not. I enjoy browsing through the pages to see the different species; especially the betta, killifish, and koi sections. It's refreshing to see how many types there are; it helps me appreciate fish even more, to see them laid out and arranged like this. I've owned several editions of the atlas over the years and hope TFH (Tropical Fish Hobbyist, the magazine publisher) comes out with another update. If they do, this one will make a great gift when I get the next...

NOTE: This review applies to the 10th edition. Due to the cost, I have not been able to justify taking a chance on the new (11th) edition. This book has changed a lot since the first edition. Mostly, it has removed information and added pictures. LOTS of pictures. It is more of a coffee-table book than any kind of aquarium guide. But even the pictures are of uneven quality. I was shocked that the only picture included for a couple of fairly common fish were of dead, poorly-preserved specimens. Yikes! The authors' stated purpose for this book is "This book was created with the express purpose of making the identification of fishes easier for hobbyists, aquarists, and scientists alike." Well, if that was the goal, it fails miserably. The book is organized based on geographic area where the fish originates. Think about it. If you saw a fish and wanted to know what it was, would you somehow instinctively know which continent it came from? Of course not. You might want to identify it based

on its colors or shape or whatever. The book does not function as an identification guide. Although most info has been removed, there is some very terse info below each picture as small text and icons. The text lists info such as pH, ideal water temperature (in Centigrade), maximum adult length (in cm), and minimum tank size (in litres). Although it does not tell you what these mean, any intermediate or higher fishkeeper should be able to figure it out. The icons are not particularly clear unless you already know the fish. For example, the icon for egg-scatterer versus livebearer is only obvious if you know what the fish is to begin with. More importantly, I can find nowhere in the book where it actually tells what the icons mean. This is very sloppy. The index is also horrendous, failing to include a number of entries, and including numerous false entries. For example, the first page entry listed for *Scleropages jardini* sends you to a page that does not contain pictures of *jardini*, and in fact is a section for a different continent. Even the quality of the pictures is uneven. For some fish, the coverage is extensive, with a lot of pictures showing different color strains, breeding colors, and so on. Yet for other fish, the coverage is incomplete. For example, there are three pictures of Silver Arrowana, and all three show just-hatched arrowanas. Why not show an adult? The fish changes as it gets older. Also, there are only four pictures of *Astronatus* (Oscars), showing only 4 color patterns. It's absolutely shocking to me that the abino and tiger albino forms are not shown. They've been in the trade for well over a decade before this edition was published. My last complaint is that they have been adding pages by adding them as decimal additions. For example, they added 16 pages of pictures of Swordtails (16 pages!) after page 432, and numbered them as pages 432.01, 432.02, etc. The reason for this, of course, is that it means less work adjusting the index, etc., and 16 pages in one place from a publishing standpoint is easier, because it means not changing the rest of the plates. But from a reader's standpoint, it is sloppy and unforgivable, considering the price of the book. To summarize, this book contains an incredible array of pictures. On the plus side, it has pictures of many fish you'll find nowhere else. It is massive and impressive. The pages are slick and glossy and the physical production standards are high. On the down side, it is badly in need of extensive, high-quality, detailed editing to correct the numerous glaring errors and omissions. Frankly, this is overall a hugely disappointing effort and I simply can't recommend plunking down such a high price for this edition.

I am writing to TFH Publications with my suggestions before Edition 12 is published. There are ways they can improve the index for hobbyists that shouldn't be too difficult for them - plus I would like to see them include the valuable information on fish health/diseases etc that is in the mini atlas. While this book is organized by regions, it would be nice if they also included the rivers, lakes where they

are found (rather than just South America, Africa etc). You would think they could have found room in this HUGE book to include some of that? How many folks really need over 80 pages of photos of the same fish - domestic carp? That's a lot of color ink. I would have preferred more photographs of rainbow fish (some of my beauties are not even shown once). If I hadn't purchased this with a gift certificate from a friend (as partial payment), I would be sending it back (I promised her I would bring the book my next visit). I just ordered the mini-atlas (an older edition - real cheap used) to compliment this book. As huge as this book is, it still doesn't have some of my fish pictured (but the mini atlas doesn't either and other books on don't have them listed). My fish are fairly common - purchased from a local pet store. The Axelrod Atlas does show some relatives of them - so care/diet/water parameters should be similar. This book does have at a glance what I wanted - proper pH, temperature, hardness etc for all fish pictured. I plan to make a card with the key to the symbols so I don't need to flip back. I will add to the card Fahrenheit temperature equivalent as well as centimeters to inches equivalents. I do know the pet stores often have the wrong maximum size on their labels. Lesson learned long ago....I research before I buy. None of the freshwater fish books I looked at are perfect.... but this is as close as it gets. Maybe TFH Publications will do an update on the Burgess fish disease book? Burgess is one of the authors of this book.

Great book, the images are high quality! Im from Brazil and the shipping was good.

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