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Realm Of The Pygmy Seahorse: An Underwater Photography Adventure



Synopsis

For millennia, climatological and geological processes created the necessary conditions for the tropical Indo-Pacific to evolve into the most diverse area among marine ecosystems. The Indonesian-Philippines area is the epicentre of this amazing biodiversity. Award-winning photographer Constantinos Petrinos chose the Lembeh Strait in North Sulawesi, Indonesia to document this fascinating underwater wonderland. He spent 5 months in the region, did 320 dives and took 25,000 slides. "Realm of the Pygmy Seahorse" features 280 of these amazing photographs. Underwater photographers will find a wealth of information on technique. For the naturalist, the rich text explains the spectacular behaviour seen in the photos. The author attempts to give the reader an insider's view on the daily lives of the animals in this complex ecosystem that features a variety of habitats. Seemingly barren volcanic sand slopes and rubble areas reveal elusive, rare creatures, such as the wonderpus and the mimic octopus. Tiny pygmy seahorses adorn "Muricella" sea fans. Spectacular nudibranchs are everywhere. The rare and unusual seem commonplace.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Constantinos Petrinos is a professional Greek underwater photographer. He spent his early childhood in Cameroon, Africa and then moved with his family to Athens. While growing up, he aspired to become a marine biologist, but more practical considerations led him to business studies. He obtained a Master's in Business Administration from Dartmouth College in the USA. A while ago,

he decided to free himself from business suits and suffocating ties and dive the world's oceans. His photographs have won awards at many competitions, including the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year. His articles have appeared in various magazines, such as "BBC Wildlife," "Dive," "Oceans Illustrated" and the Greek editions of "National Geographic" and "National Geographic Traveller". He is the photographer on location for the Hellenic Institute of Marine Archaeology, which conducts underwater excavations in conjunction with the Greek Ministry of Culture. Throughout the year, Petinos conducts slide shows in Greek schools to promote marine awareness.

I dove in Lembeh in 2006 and had this hardcover book for many years. It made me a better diver.....

It's very good to beginners of UW photography and the Author takes you the the place with his privilege of writing. Good Job!

I've wanted this book since 2001 when I heard about it. I finally got it as soon as I had an gift cert!

Generally speaking, too many books of inferior quality are produced at this time. Sadly, a great many of these are of interest to the Scuba Diver - especially some of the so-called "Dive Guides." So, as I hoist a placard demanding better quality books on diving-related subjects, I can think of no finer benchmark for comparison than "Realm of the Pygmy Seahorse" by Constantinos Petrinis. This is a book which stands out from the rest, it is a large format (12" x 9") and hardback. Constantinos Petrinis is credited with all the text and photography and, because his name is not known to me, if this is his first book then all I can say is he has started at the top. "Realm of the Pygmy Seahorse" is an exciting and imaginative work which will start your heart racing with the high quality images of all those creatures found in that part of Sulawesi where the central creature - the Pygmy Seahorse, is endemic. The Macro photography is particularly stunning - not just the minute Zebra Crab which actually measures 1.5cm across or the Imperial Shrimp which is only 2cm long (to name but two.), but the close-up of just the eyes of the "Smasher Mantis Shrimp" is macro photography at it's very best. If this book had been a life-time's work of any author (thankfully that is not the case) then that life would have been well spent with the resultant record of those labours being both well documented and extremely well presented. Even if you are never likely to visit Sulawesi, you really should consider obtaining a copy for your own enjoyment. You are guaranteed to learn a great deal...5 stars really is not enough for this particular product. NM

I have quite a few underwater photography books. None of them even come close to the quality of this book. The author combines his phenomenal photographic talent with interesting text. It does not hurt that he chose the Lembeh Straits in Northern Sulawesi, where rare and unusual marine life is commonplace as the main focus of this work. I am going to keep this one on the coffee table for a long time.

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