

REVIEWS

BULLETIN OF MARINE SCIENCE, 61(3): 548, 1997

A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO THE SEASHORE, edited by J. D. Fish and S. Fish. 1995. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, New York and Melbourne. 564 p. ISBN 0-52-14627-97 (hardcover), ISBN 0-52-14681-91 (softcover). \$89.95 hardcover, \$39.95 softcover.

This guide is nicely illustrated with clear line drawings of animals and plants of northwestern Europe, excluding the Baltic Sea. It is both a field guide and a biological text targeted for undergraduates, teachers, and the non-professional. As a concise guide to over 600 common organisms, it contains simple keys and an excellent glossary, together with diagnostic features and notes on the biology of many organisms. The first edition (1989) has here been supplemented by the coverage of additional species, and the biological text updated and expanded.

This is basically a catalog of what is found on these seashores; it tells you very nicely what you have found, but relatively little about how it lives and, especially, how it fits into the littoral ecosystem. There is almost no mention of the importance to humans of many of the economically important creatures, their status in relation to human exploitation, or as indicators or as bioconcentrators of pollution. The effect that environmental degradation may have had upon some of these forms or their role as indicators of possible global warming is not mentioned, nor is there any allusion to "ballast exotics" which may have been introduced into northwestern European waters.

Overall, however, there is a most comprehensive species coverage in this guide and, surprisingly, an excellent coverage of fishes, an area usually neglected by authors dealing with littoral animals. The presentations are clear, concise; and brief but synoptic. Although the coverage on algae is somewhat limited, an excellent bibliography is presented for each animal group. The book is well-printed, sturdily bound, and the type apparently water-resistant, but its weight (1.5 kg) makes it somewhat unwieldy as a Tasehenbuch. — Donald P. de Sylva, Division of Marine Biology and Fisheries, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, Florida 33149-1098.