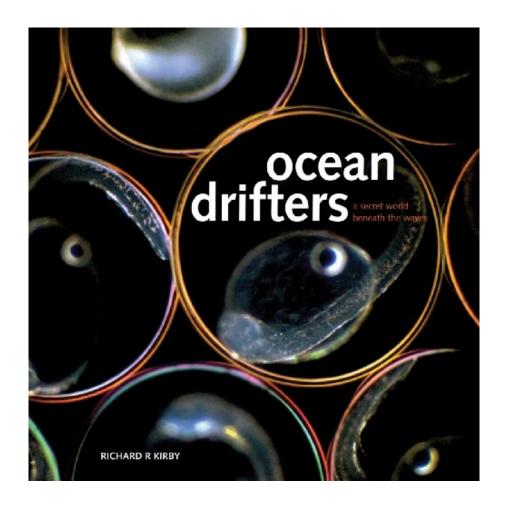


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From Booklist

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"Beasts that look as if they come from a science-fiction movie."

-- The Times (UK)

Beneath the waves lies a hidden microcosm of life: the world of plankton. These microscopic algae and the tiny animals that eat them float freely in the sunlit surface of the sea, where they underpin the whole marine food chain, provide the world with oxygen, and play an essential role in the global carbon cycle. Richard Kirby's high-magnification photographs and informative text bring out the beauty and variety of forms in the plankton, and explain how global change and rising sea temperatures are affecting this complex world with ramifications for the ecology of our entire planet.

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• Dimensions: 9.00" h x .88" w x 9.00" l, 2.50 pounds

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Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful Photographs!

By Charlotte Lenox

While reading this book, I was impressed with the high-quality photographs. They are very clear and detailed, and well-featured in a book that focuses on imagery--they fill the whole page they occupy. The book itself covers, although broadly, many of the known groupings of plankton: bacteria/viruses, phytoplankton, zooplankton (including holoplankton and meroplankton), and the larger planktonic animals. A few species are represented in each grouping. Personally, I would have loved to see MORE species in each grouping, given the bewildering variety of plankton, but I was very pleased with what was included in this book!

Two essays are included: the first introduces the plankton and their place in ecology, and the second

introduces how plankton are gathered and studied through history to the present. Both are informative and intriguing, making them excellent inclusions in a dominantly-photographic book.

The only con I have for this book is that it left me wanting more. Overall, a very high quality, enjoyable, fascinating production. I highly recommend it for anyone interested in microscopic life.

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

Amazing book!

By E. Sargent

I am currently pursuing my PhD in phytoplankton ecology, and purchased this book as a gift for a family member, but quickly purchased an additional copy for myself after seeing it. The text is explicative, but short and concise, and the images are simply amazing. I highly recommend this book for coffee tables of the curious or offices of the devote alike.

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