Fishes of the World
Fifth Edition
Joseph S. Nelson, Terry C. Grande, Mark V. H. Wilson
ISBN 111834233X / 9781118342336

Fifth Edition is the only modern, phylogenetically based classification of the world’s fishes. The updated text offers new phylogenetic diagrams that clarify the relationships among fish groups, as well as cutting-edge global knowledge that brings this classic reference up to date. With this resource, you can classify orders, families, and genera of fishes, understand the connections among fish groups, organize fishes in their evolutionary context, and imagine new areas of research. To further assist your work, this text provides representative drawings, many of them new, for most families of fishes, allowing you to make visual connections to the information as you read. It also contains many references to the classical as well as the most up-to-date literature on fish relationships, based on both morphology and molecular biology.

The study of fishes is one that certainly requires dedication—and access to reliable, accurate information. With more than 30,000 known species of sharks, rays, and bony fishes, both lobe-finned and ray-finned, you will need to master your area of study with the assistance of the best reference materials available. This text will help you bring your knowledge of fishes to the next level.

Explore the anatomical characteristics, distribution, common and scientific names, and phylogenetic relationships of fishes
Access biological and anatomical information on more than 515 families of living fishes
Better appreciate the complexities and controversies behind the modern view of fish relationships
Refer to an extensive bibliography, which points you in the direction of additional, valuable, and up-to-date information, much of it published within the last few years


Nelson, JS; Grande, TC; and Wilson, MVH. 2016.

This is a more detailed version of the listing in the book’s Table of Contents. Order and Family numbers are in parentheses; the page number follows a comma; † indicates extinct taxon. If you spot errors, please let us know at fishesoftheworldfifthedition@gmail.com.

Order CYPRINODONTIFORMES (65)—killifishes, 369
Suborder Aplocheiloidei, 370
Family APLOCHEILIDAE (315)—Asian rivulines, 371
Family NOTHOBRANCHIIDAE (316)—African rivulines, 371
Family RIVULIDAE (317)—New World rivulines, 371

Suborder Cyprinodontoiidea, 372
Superfamily Fundulioidea, 372
Family PROFUNDULIDAE (318)—Middle American killifishes, 372
Family GOODEIDAE (319)—goodeids, 372
Subfamily Empetrichthyinae, 373
Subfamily Goodeinae, 373
Family FUNDULIDAE (320)—topminnows, 374
Superfamily Valencioidae, 374
Family VALENCIIDAE (321)—Valencia toothcarps, 374

Superfamily Cyprinodontoiidea, 374
Family CYPRINODONTIDAE (322)—pupfishes, 375
Subfamily Cubanichthyinae, 375
Subfamily Cyprinodontinae, 375
Tribe Oreostini, 375
Tribe Cyprinodontini, 376

Superfamily Poecilioidae, 376
Family ANABLEPIDAE (323)—four-eyed fishes, 376
Subfamily Anablepinae, 376
Subfamily Oxyzygonectinae, 377
Family POECILIIDAE (324)—livebearers, 378
Subfamily Aplocheilichthyinae, 378
Subfamily Procatopodinae, 378
Tribe Fluviipilacini, 379
Tribe Procatopodini, 379
Subfamily Poeciliinae, 379
Tribe Alfareni, 379
Tribe Priapiellini, 379
Tribe Gambusiini, 380
Tribe Heterandriini, 380
Tribe Girardiini, 380
Tribe Poeciliini, 380
Tribe Cteneserodontini, 380
Tribe Scolichthyini, 380
Tribe Xenodexini, 380