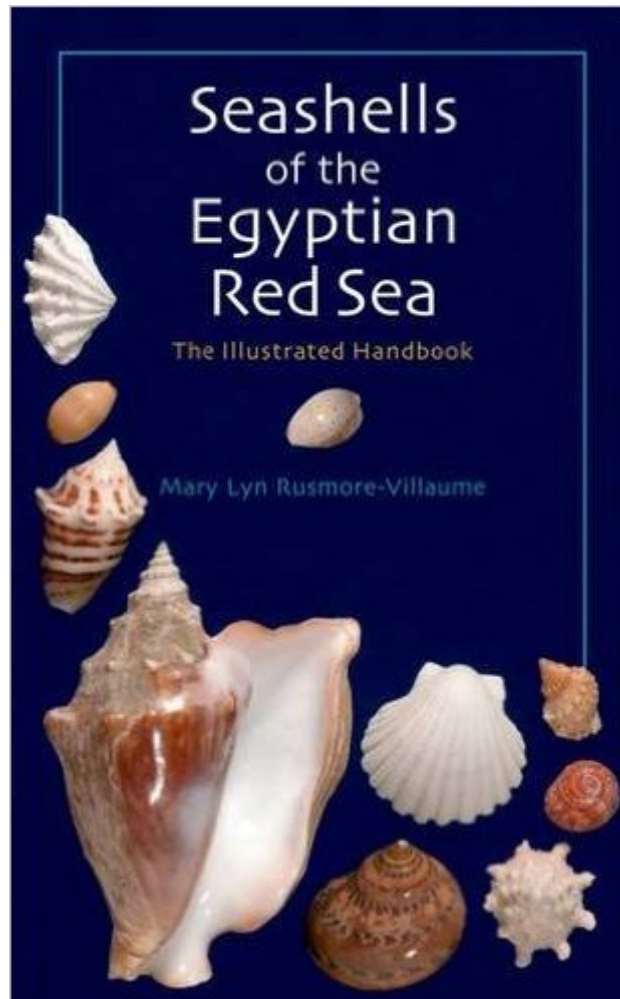


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Seashells Of The Egyptian Red Sea: The Illustrated Handbook



Synopsis

Stunning photographs make this guide to the seashells of Egypt's Red Sea coast a delight for scientists and beachcombers alike. Biologist Mary Lyn Rusmore-Villaume offers succinct descriptions of over five hundred species, indicating geographic range, size, color, and other details. The book is organized by taxonomy, divided between gastropods and bivalves, and each species is illustrated with one or more photographs for easy identification, all taken especially for this book by the author using shells from her own collection. All the shells most people are likely to see are included here, as well as many rare specimens (including an entirely new species discovered by the author). The species covered come from all regions of Egypt bordering the Red Sea, including the Gulf of Suez, South Sinai, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the mainland coast from Hurghada to Shalatein. As the only guide to Egypt's Red Sea shells, this is an invaluable reference for anyone interested in the Red Sea and its rich biodiversity. Copiously illustrated and comprehensive in its approach, *Seashells of the Egyptian Red Sea* represents a unique contribution to the scientific knowledge of the marine fauna of this branch of the Indo-Pacific region.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Disclosure: I had the privilege of working with Mary Lyn as a field assistant while living in Egypt for the last 8 years. The Egyptian Red Sea has some of the finest fringing reef systems in the world as well as hundreds of species of the phylum Mollusca associated with this ecosystem. Ms. Rusmore-Villaume has produced an intelligent and thoroughly researched contribution to conchology, in this beautifully photographed and comprehensive book. Working closely with the

world's foremost experts on Red Sea shells, she has managed to make this work both accessible to the casual observer and of great use to those who have moved well beyond beginning shelling. The introduction has a wonderful discussion about taxonomy and how one goes about identifying shells by being able to label their distinctive parts, thereby enabling you to associate them with correct family groups. The photographs are superbly done; sharp, well lit, showing different angles and important distinguishing characteristics, and if they are of a small shell, magnified. I particularly liked the magnified insets of the family Terebridae as they are notoriously difficult to separate. It is interesting to note that all of the shells in the book were, "dead-collected", illustrating that a fine collection can be found deposited on the beaches. My only criticism is that I do wish that the book had mentioned that many of Egypt's beaches are not safe to explore due to unmarked and sand covered land mine areas.

This book looked really good on the ad page. Having been to the Red Sea and occasionally getting shells from there I was interested. Order and wait. Not too long, though! The package in hand said paragraphs of the book before opening. This was one substantial work, unless it was wrapped in a heavy metal. Joy! On opening and perusing I tossed out the projects and meetings for the day(s). The dust jacket and cover are superb. I didn't want to judge this book too soon! Opened, the photography swept one away to a time of remembering the depth of field, shadows, and all that other stuff to make good shots. Classical photography here. The pictures alone are enough to renew your passport. Time to read. What a glorious find this book is! Only one misspelling, of a Turban, and that was probably a typo. Well written and organized and a great i.d. text. Back to Massawa soon to do some more checking. This book goes with me. I can't find enough superlatives for this creation. Just right! My only regret is the number of shells missed because they were not beach litter. But to a bibliophile this is a work of love, energy, and knowledge. A bargain, if I may be so crass, at triple the price!

This book is a stunning addition to any book collection. I am proud to have it on my coffee table for all to see. The shells are beautifully described and photographed. Truly a labor of love. An ideal gift for seashell collectors and anyone who loves the sea. Well done Mary Lyn, well done.

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