

BOOK REVIEW

JOHN BOTHWELL. 2023. **Seaweeds of the World: A Guide to Every Order**. (ISBN 978-0-6912-2854-9, hbk). Princeton University Press, 41 William Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, U.S.A. (**Orders:** <https://press.princeton.edu/>). \$29.95 US, 240 pp., 249 color + 17 b/w illus. 77 maps, 6.75" × 9.38".

From the moment you lay eyes on its captivating cover, adorned with a mesmerizing display of seaweed diversity and Rhodophyta-red pages, you'll find yourself irresistibly drawn into the world of *Seaweeds of the World*. But rest assured, the allure doesn't stop there!

Seaweeds, as Bothwell reveals, are not merely plants; they are important algae, intricately woven into the vast and enigmatic tapestry of aquatic life. From the shallows of sunlit beaches to the fathomless abyss, these resilient organisms thrive in various forms, from minuscule marvels to colossal giants. Seaweeds play a pivotal role sculpting habitats and nourishing the mosaic of marine life (and humans!) along the shorelines.

Bothwell's expertise shines as he delves into the three groups of seaweeds: Rhodophyta (red seaweeds), Chlorophyta (green seaweeds), and Phaeophyceae (brown seaweeds). With each turn of the page, you'll gain insights into their early evolution, reproduction and life cycles, geographic distribution, and human uses. The book is generously dappled with stunning colored photographs, historic illustrations, cyanotypes, scanning electron microscope images, preserved collection images, distribution maps, and informative diagrams. Notably, the inclusion of the taxonomic terminology pages, glossary, and index enhances its accessibility.

As a botanist who works in a herbarium with a small algae collection, *Seaweeds of the World* granted me fresh perspectives on how to best preserve and organize these unique specimens for research. Now armed with newfound knowledge, I feel empowered to advocate for this remarkable group of plants, sharing their stories and significance with both the local community and researchers.

In summary, *Seaweeds of the World* stands as an invaluable resource for anyone interested in seaweeds or marine ecosystems. Bothwell's passion for his subject flows through the pages, and his generosity in sharing a treasure trove of images enriches the reading experience. Whether you're a curious novice or a seasoned phylogist, you're sure to deepen your knowledge and appreciation for seaweeds by exploring Bothwell's *Seaweeds of the World*.

—Ashley Bales, *Philecology Herbarium*,
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