
An Illustrated Guide to The Freshwater Fish of Trinidad and Tobago

Dawn Phillip and Indar Ramnarine, 2001

Available from

The Department of Life Sciences,
The University of The West Indies,

St Augustine Trinidad and Tobago, 85 pp, price \$60.

This is a very useful companion to Professor Kenny's "Views from the Bridge", (see page 45).

I bought Professor Kenny's book because I wanted to be able to identify the freshwater fish of Trinidad and Tobago. As far as that is concerned, his book is a

disappointment. There is no description of the fish, and the black and white photographs at the end of his book are inadequate, especially as they lack a scale. However, his erudite and entertaining text more than compensates for this.

Phillip and Ramnarine's book is, as its title indicates, an illustrated guide that covers all of the freshwater fish of Trinidad and Tobago. It contains forty colour photographs, and an adequate description of each fish. Moreover, it also contains one key to identify the families and a second to identify the genera and species of the fish. I have not yet had the opportunity to test these keys, but they appear to be simple and straightforward to use.

I now feel that I can confidently combat such questions as "What's this one, Daddy?", with the response "We can identify it from Phillip and Ramnarine's book". As a child in England, my interest in natural history was encouraged by the availability of inexpensive books on birds, birds eggs, moths, butterflies, insects, flowers, trees, etc. Such books are sorely lacking in Trinidad and Tobago, and this book from Phillip and Ramnarine is a valuable contribution.

Let's hope that others follow.

Nigel Gains