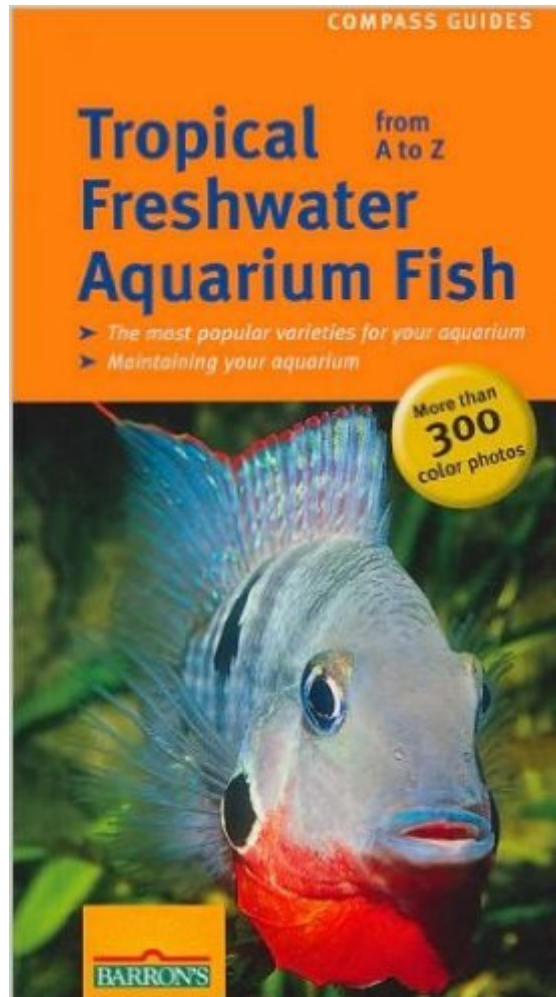


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# Tropical Freshwater Aquarium Fish From A To Z (Compass Guides)



## Synopsis

Literally hundreds of different tropical freshwater fish are shown in vivid color photos and described for aquarium hobbyists. Readers will also find information on general aquarium maintenance. More than 300 color photos. Titles in the Compass Guides series are handsome and practical quick-reference sources for pet owners, pet fanciers, and aquarium and terrarium hobbyists. Books feature brief descriptive profiles of their subject animals, each profile consisting of a color photo, the animal's place of origin, its basic housing and feeding needs, and its physical traits and temperament. In addition to the profiles, each Compass Guide also contains general information on animal species and their families. 200-to-300 color photos and index.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (25 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I'm funny this way, but when I pick up one of these reference manuals to freshwater aquaria the first thing I do is check their write up on one or two fish that I commonly either don't see in print, or see with a badly mangled classification. The industry in general is prone to 'mickey mouse' publications containing only beginner information, dangerously incomplete information or just plain inaccurate information. They have pretty pictures, and never cover any variety of fish outside of what you would ever likely see in PetSmart. This one was a pleasant surprise, containing not just good pictures, but species I had not seen in print before and accurate classifications of some that I frequently see incorrect. It is extremely common for fish to be imported under incorrect names, or named incorrectly in the fish store. It's nice to have a reference with pictures and profiles that helps you try to sort out if that adorable little guy in the store will turn into a 24" monster, shred your other fish,

and destroy your plants because someone put the wrong label on the tank. And they do. The book's main fault was that it was not long enough, although it contained many profiles. However it is a nice size for taking with you while browsing the local fish store and for the price it's a good choice. My rating is 4 - because of the potential of this little book. I hope Barron's publishes new editions to keep the reference current adding and updating the species it lists. One thoughtful detail - my copy was paperback, but with a clear plastic cover which protects it from the perpetually wet hands of an avid aquarium hobbyist.

As someone new to the hobby, this book helped me tremendously in selecting not only what fish I could and should put in my new fish tank, but helpful tips as to how I should care for them (Ph levels, water temps, compatible types, etc.). I reviewed this book and read "The Essential Freshwater Aquarium" guide; both books help ensure that my first try as an aquarist results in a healthy environment for my fish. I was so impressed by the A to Z Guide that I bought one for a friend who has kept fish for over a year but was mixing fish indiscriminately without regard to the size of her tank or the type of fish already in the tank. We both now have a high enthusiasm for our aquariums and consult the guide before any new fish purchase. Highly recommended for new and experienced aquarists.

OK, OK, maybe I am eating a bit of crow here! I'll let the review I first wrote stand (see below), but I have felt compelled to edit it with this addition. I have had the book for several weeks now, and when I saw that I was using it daily, and more than any other book I have on tropicals, I had to come back here and set the record straighter. Yes the book is still irritating in its choice of index organization. But on the positive side, it has many more species in it than I ever thought I'd be interested in. As I get further into the hobby and become more curious and more exposed to new species of fish, I find that this book usually has them in it. It is actually a pretty good quick reference guide for taking to the aquarium store and for doing some arm-chair study. Not in depth study, as the blurbs are just that, blurbs. But it is quite useful and deserves more than I gave it previously. (First review) After reading all of the previous reviews, I got the impression that this was a book I needed. Somehow, somewhere all the way I got the wrong impression. I have had the book less than a day and already I am irritated with it. For one thing, it is organized by English common names. And not even "pencilfish, brown"! No! "Brown Pencilfish"!! It makes no sense. I don't know a lot of these fish by their common name. Pencilfish maybe, but not BROWN pencilfish! Sheesh. If I wanted to find all the pencilfish I'd need to roam thru the index. This way of indexing also separates

species of the same genus from each other. You have the various rasboras all over the place! It is a very good book for looking up various species that might not be in the shorter books, but the manner in which the editor chose to set it up is just plain awkward.

Lots of species, brief but thorough overviews, good photos, plastic slip-cover is a nice touch. Very handy book. Recommended!

I'm not an expert on fish. I bought this to have a better understanding of the two types of fish I have in my tank, but also what other fish will be well suited for them as well. Almost all Fish guides are broken down in the categories that are provided: Name, Characteristics (sexing), Tank/Water, Care, Habits, and Compatibility. I bought this book along with the "What Fish? A buyer's guide to tropical fish".  
The Good: I like the fact that there is a picture for each fish. It gave me an idea what they looked like and I was able to know instantly if I would actually be considering putting the fish in my tank. I also like that this book has certain comments about the fish, that other general guides do not have. Most books, pet stores, and even online forum will tell you it's okay to keep several guppies together. This book says that it should be only kept with catfish and bottom dwellers. I learned this the hard way. I wish I bought this book before that happened!  
The Bad: The only part I struggled with was the layout. It is smaller than normal text, they should have spaced out the sections a little more. I'm a little particular of layouts. This is the only reason I am giving it a 4 star rating. Also, I knew what I was getting into because I saw this book in the store. Overall, this is a great reference book!

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