

- the cartographic conventions were neglected: title, scale, key, etc. Some of the distributions were marked with fuzzy lines, some had perimeter lines enclosing the distribution, some shaded the stream sections. I thought this could have been done better and I'm not sure we needed railways and highways marked on the small distribution maps.
 - sometimes the captions of the photos were indistinct and a bit difficult to read.
 - sometimes the photos had no captions and I was often interested to know why Rudie had included those pictures. Did they illustrate variability within a stream? Between streams?
- The book did, like any good book should, raise questions for consideration beyond its scope:
- from our point of view, the aquarium and pond suitability of many species (a topic sometimes mentioned).
 - the role of captive breeding of threatened species.
 - other strategies for preservation of species.
 - the pointers used for distinguishing species.
 - photographic skills.
 - surveying in the wild.

This is a book I would highly recommend for the comprehensive nature of its coverage, for the beautiful photos and for the clear text. "It's a wonderful collection and distillation of much of Rudie Kuiter's photographic work and practical insights on Victorian fish and there is nothing on the market like it. It is an ideal resource for hobbyists and conservationists amongst us who are eager to learn more about local fish. \$60 (RRP \$65) if you buy in person and the author is available at the upcoming Melbourne Convention to sign his book in person if desired.

I should finish with the last sentence of the book:

"This book is for everyone who likes to look at living fishes in the wild or aquarium and cares for the natural environment".

Congratulations Rudie.

Book review (Ben Barrett)

TITLE: *A Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes, Crayfishes & Mussels of South-Western Australia*

AUTHORS: David L. Morgan, Stephen J. Beatty, Michael W. Klunzinger, Mark G. Allen, Quinton F. Burnham

EDITION: 2011

ISBN: 978-0-9871644-0-7

PUBLISHER: Printsmart

PAGES: 70

PRICE: \$10 + \$2 postage within Australia

COVER: Soft 20 x 14 cm

ARTWORK: Numerous colour photographs and distribution maps

COMMENTS:

From aestivating Gondwanan relics to iridescent purple crayfish, the South-West is to home to a unique array of freshwater fauna found nowhere else on Earth. Since Gerry and Mark Allen's definitive work "A Field Guide to Inland Fishes of Western Australia" was published in 1982, there have been limited publications on these fascinating creatures.

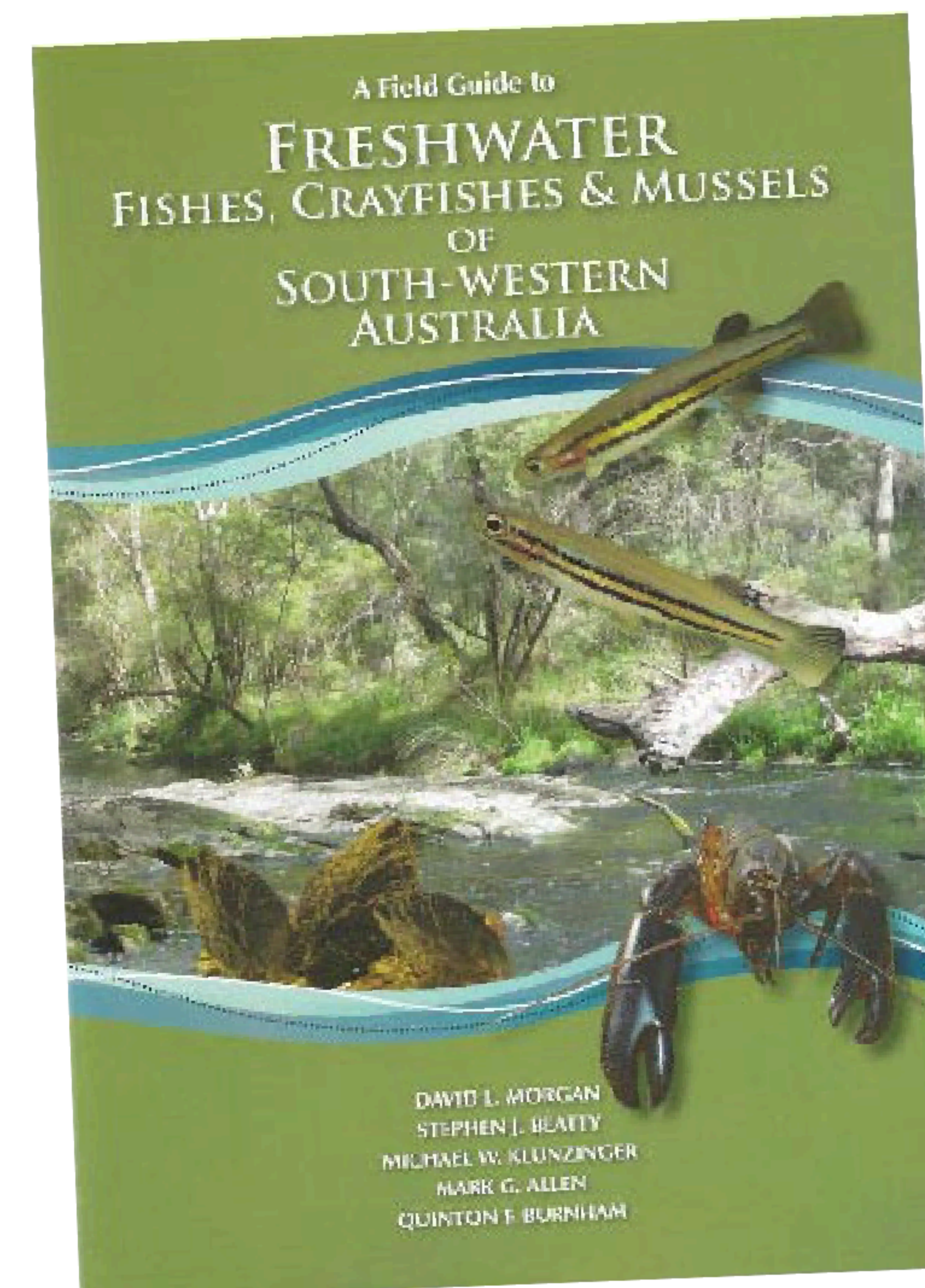
However, the authors have rectified this, presenting a comprehensive field guide detailing each of these intriguing freshwater species, including several newly discovered species. Given the reclusive nature of some of the lesser known species, this field guide presents an opportunity to not only peruse our current understanding of these creatures, but to also view rare photos, particularly of the little known *Engaewa* crustaceans.

The opening section of the field guide details the freshwater fish of the South-West. From the widely distributed Western Pygmy Perch *Nannoperca vittata*, through to the galaxiids and the iconic Salamanderfish *Lepidogalaxias salamandroides*, each fish has their distribution and biology described in detail. Considerable attention is also paid to the conservation status of each species and current conservation efforts. Of particular interest is the vertical slot

fishway designed to assist the dispersal of the critically endangered Trout Minnow *Galaxias truttaceus*. Invasive species are also discussed, including several recent infestations of tropical fish.

This follows onto perhaps the most fascinating aspect of this field guide, the section on freshwater crustaceans. The authors describe over a dozen species, including the *Engaewa* genus, some of which have yet to be formally classified. A clever identification key is also included, allowing the reader to differentiate between the subtle physiological nuances of each species.

An in-depth analysis of Carter's Freshwater Mussel *Westralunio carteri* is then presented, including hitherto poorly described aspects of its life cycle.



The Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of South-Western Australia is an incredible resource and a worthwhile investment for anyone interested in the freshwater fauna of the South-West. The level of information the authors have included allows the book to go

even further than its intended purpose of a field guide, becoming a valuable resource for amateur and professional naturalists alike.

You can purchase a copy of the field guide at <http://sercul.org.au/ffp.html>

Fish Research (Ed.)

The following paper describes yet another species of rainbow fish from West Papua. This one sounds like a red stunner!



Fig. 2A-B. Live photographs of freshly collected holotype of *Melanotaenia sneideri*, male, 80.1 mm SL. Photos by R. Sneider.

Gerald R. Allen and Renny K. Hadiaty (2013) *Melanotaenia sneideri*, a New Species of Rainbowfish (Melanotaeniidae), from West Papua Province, Indonesia

Abstract

A new species of melanotaeniid rainbowfish, *Melanotaenia sneideri*, is described from the Bomberai Peninsula in the southwestern Bird's Head region of western New Guinea (West Papua Province, Indonesia). The new taxon is described on the basis of 25 specimens, 15.9-80.1 mm SL, collected from a karst spring-fed creek in a small ephemeral lake basin at an altitude of 1,050 m in the Kumawa Mountains. It is distinguished from congeners by a combination of the bright red body colour, dark brown to blackish dorsal, anal, and pelvic fins, and relatively deep body (to at least 42.3 % of SL) of adult males. Additional diagnostic features include 18-20 gill rakers on the first branchial arch, 15-16 circumpeduncular scales, and an absence of vomerine teeth or a small, inconspicuous patch of rudimentary vomerine teeth...

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