

Octopus: The Ocean's Intelligent Invertebrate

Roland C. Anderson, Jennifer A. Mather, James B. Wood



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Octopus: The Ocean's Intelligent Invertebrate Roland C. Anderson, Jennifer A. Mather, James B. Wood The visually arresting and often misunderstood octopus has long captured popular imagination. With an alien appearance and an uncanny intellect, this exceptional sea creature has inspired fear in famous lore and legends - from the giant octopus attack in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* to Ursula the sea witch in *The Little Mermaid.* Yet its true nature is more wondrous still. After decades of research, the authors reveal a sensitive, curious, and playful animal with remarkable intelligence, an ability to defend itself with camouflage and jet propulsion, an intricate nervous system, and advanced problem-solving abilities.

In this beautifully photographed book, three leading marine biologists bring readers face to face with these amazingly complex animals that have fascinated scientists for decades. From the molluscan ancestry of today's octopus to its ingenious anatomy, amazing mating and predatory behaviors, and other-worldly relatives, the authors take readers through the astounding life cycle, uncovering the details of distinctive octopus personalities. With personal narratives, underwater research, stunning closeup photography, and thoughtful guidance for keeping octopuses in captivity, *Octopus* is the first comprehensive natural history of this smart denizen of the sea.

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