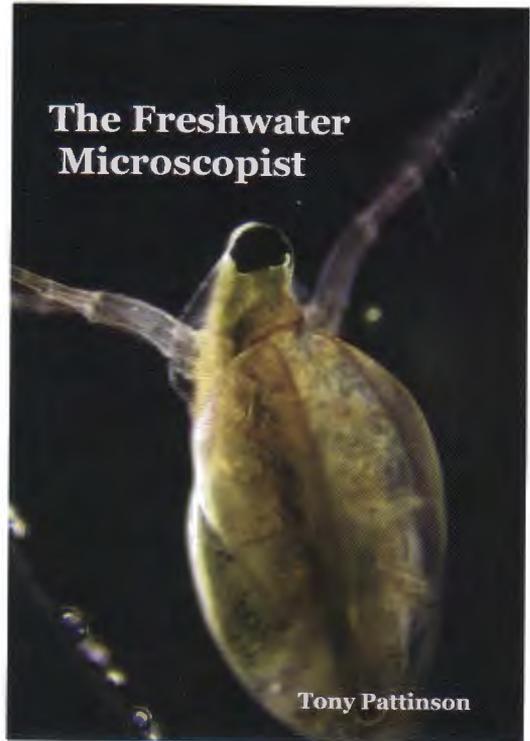


Books reviewed: The Freshwater Microscopist

Tony Pattinson. Self-published on <http://www.blurb.co.uk> 2015. Print on demand, 111 pp. No ISBN. Price £15.35 (Pbk.) or £24.35 (Hbk.)

This is the second book self-published by Club member Tony Pattinson (the first, *Life in UK Freshwaters* was reviewed in Volume 42 Part 2). This current volume serves not as a formal and 'dry' textbook of methods but provides instruction through the author's own journey and experiences in freshwater microscopy. Written in this style it is very 'personable' and easy to read but provides working instructions for collecting and examining the catch and whole organism slide mounting techniques.

Chapter 1 covers Collecting Specimens using a variety of both commercially available and home-made kit; the use of a golf-ball retriever is particularly ingenious! Chapter 2 considers handling the catch whilst Chapter 3, *Microscopy on the Move*, looks at portable microscopy when away from home – the portable kit and how to set up for sorting and photography in hotel accommodation. Next follow a series of chapters on slide mounts, using both glycerine jelly and resin mountants. The importance of slide ringing, labelling and correct storage are all covered. The next three chapters describe what can be seen; a chapter on 'Ghostly Predators' is followed by a chapter on using polarised light to examine freshwater life; all too often ignored for biological subjects, whilst the third chapter is titled 'Hunting Giants in the Sediment' and illustrates what discoveries the amateur freshwater microscopist can make. The final chapter describes and shows the author's microscopes and home laboratory.



There are no references to this book but further reading is provided in some chapters by reference to websites. Although much of what is written here can be found in older textbooks on microscopy, the author personalises this, makes it understandable and up to date but perhaps more importantly shows the journey and pleasures that are to be made in freshwater microscopy. Recommended!

Philip M. Greaves