For the past 12 years, the first edition of *The Diversity of Fishes* (DOF) has been the world’s most adopted ichthyology text and has provided foundational reading for a new generation of scientists, including the authors of this review. Given that the release of its first revision coincided with the onset of our new undergraduate teaching duties, we were excited to put the new text through its paces in our classrooms. Overall, we found the volume to be a remarkably comprehensive treatment of the biology of fishes written by four expert authors. Their work is an incredible reference and certainly a major update to what was already a very fine textbook. However, the volume’s greatest strength—its remarkable level of detail—is also its greatest weakness at the undergraduate level, where its abundance of details seems to prove overwhelming. As in all courses employing a comprehensive textbook, the instructor will have to filter the information in DOF to best support his or her lesson priorities. Still, the text succeeds because its richness of content allows ichthyologists from varied backgrounds, teaching disparate courses that emphasize different information, to look to DOF as their singular reference.

We are co-writing this review because our individual perspectives on teaching span three very different undergraduate courses using DOF as the primary text. Between us, we used every chapter in the book. We both taught our courses for the first time in the fall of 2009, and used the updated version of the text just months after its printing as our primary source of course readings. Brian’s Ichthyology course at Oregon State University (OSU) is a major part of