

The Same or not the Same? – A New Approach within the Taxonomy of the Ostracod Genus *Cyprideis* JONES, 1857 from Lake Pannon

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After the Upper Sarmatian bottleneck with a loss of many species, a radiation started within the ostracod fauna inhabiting the long-lived Lake Pannon. This diversification in the Lower to Middle Pannonian (Pannonian is a local stage corresponding to the Tortonian) was the result of the ecological changes caused by the decline of the Paratethyan Sea. As a consequence a wealth of new genera and species was described. A few authors recognized the high morphological variability of ostracods induced by the changing environment.

As example to demonstrate this morphological variability we choose the genus *Cyprideis*. Valves from two Pannonian sites in the Vienna Basin (St. Margarethen and Hengersdorf, Pannon B–E, Mammal zones MN8–MN9) are compared with morphological methods based on the B-splines approach.

B-splines are piecewise polynomial curves which can be used to approximate outlines. This so-called Linhart's algorithm is adapted to ostracods and enables to illustrate even very small morphological differences in the valve outlines. Additionally, we match the fossil valves from Lake Pannon with recent and subfossil ostracods of the species *Cyprideis torosa* JONES, 1850. Our aim is to show if and how similar these latter ostracods from France, Romania and Africa are compared to the fossil ones from Lake Pannon.

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