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The Miocene *Cyprideis* species flock (Ostracoda; Crustacea) of Western Amazonia (Solimões Formation)

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The Miocene mega-wetland of western Amazonia holds a diverse, largely endemic ostracod fauna. Especially, the genus *Cyprideis* experienced a remarkable radiation. Micropaleontologic investigations of a 400 m long sediment core (~62 km SW Benjamin Constant, Amazonia, Brazil) permitted a taxonomic revision of about two-thirds of hitherto described *Cyprideis* species. Ostracod index species enabled a biostratigraphic allocation of the well succession to the *Cyprideis minipunctata* to *Cyprideis cyrtoma* biozones (late Middle to early Late Miocene age). The current study underlines once more *Cyprideis*' remarkable capability to produce species flocks and western Amazonian *Cyprideis* comply with the criteria of a species flock: i) endemism: up to now not a single species is recorded in adjacent areas; ii) monophyly: although hardly verifiable to date and probably Amazonian *Cyprideis* is not monophyletic s.str., several closely related, quite rapidly evolving species are proved; iii) speciosity: due to the present study, 30 formally described species exist; several further species, left in open nomenclature, are recorded in the literature, which strongly hints to a much higher, still unrecorded species richness; iv) ecological diversity: based on rare sedimentologic cross-references, ecological diversity within a highly structured wetland is possible; the current results demonstrate the sympatric occurrence of up to 12 *Cyprideis* species, which may indicate adaptations to different microhabitats; v) habitat dominance: regularly *Cyprideis* holds more than >90 % in western Amazonian ostracod assemblages during the Early and Middle Miocene. This study was funded by Austrian Science Fund (FWF project P21748-N21).