



MIDDLE JURASSIC OSTRACODA FROM THE JAISALMER FORMATION, JAISALMER DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Seventy-two ostracod species from the Fort and Kuldhara members of the Jaisalmer Formation, Jaisalmer District, Rajasthan, India are described and/or recorded. Thirteen species - *Bythocypris rajasthanensis*, *Cytherella jaisalmerensis*, *Cytherelloidea kuldharensis*, *Cytheropteron lellapadiensis*, *C. rajasthanensis*, *Galliaecytheridea grekoffi*, *Lophocythere mannikerii*, *Micropneumatocythere masurdiensis*, *M. rasilis*, *Monoceratina fortensis*, *M. parascrobiculata*, *Neurocythere kuldharensis* and *Progonocythere tharensis* – are new. Forty-five species are assigned to already known taxa and fourteen species are left in open nomenclature.

Based on the distribution of ostracods, one zone is recognized for the beds of Fort Member and three zones for the beds of Kuldhara Member. These are, in ascending order, *Trichordis hadibhadangensis* Range Zone (Bajocian-Bathonian), *Majungaella perforata kachchhensis* - *Fastigatocythere falcata* Concurrent Range Zone (early Callovian), *Majungaella perforata kachchhensis* - *Galliaecytheridea remota* Concurrent Range Zone (mid-late Callovian), *Majungaella perforata kachchhensis* - *Galliaecytheridea remota* Interval Zone (mid-late Callovian).

The composition and age of the ostracod fauna and correlation of biostratigraphical zones with those of the Middle Jurassic of Mainland and Northern Island Belt of Kachchh are discussed. The proposed ostracod zones are also compared with foraminiferal zones established by Dave and Chatterjee (1996), for the Fort and Kuldhara members of the Jaisalmer Formation.

Key words: Ostracods, Fort Member, Kuldhara Member, Jaisalmer Formation, Rajasthan