



RECENT BENTHIC OSTRACODA FROM THE INNER-SHELF OFF THE MALABAR COAST, KERALA, SOUTHWEST COAST OF INDIA

K. GOPALAKRISHNA*, S.M. HUSSAIN**, L. MAHESH BILWA*** and V.A. AYISHA*

* POST-GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED GEOLOGY, M.E.S.PONANI COLLEGE, PONANI - 679 586.

E-mail: gkgeo@rediffmail.com

** DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS, A.C.COLLEGE CAMPUS, CHENNAI - 25

E-mail: hussain.sm7@gmail.com

*** DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE, MANASAGANGOTHRI, MYSORE - 570 006

ABSTRACT

A systematic study of Recent benthic Ostracoda of southwest coast of India was made, based on 28 beach samples and 48 grab samples collected from the inner-shelf off the Malabar coast, Kerala. Samples were collected from Kumbla in the north and Mahe in the south of the coast and these were subjected to standard micropalaeontological techniques. A total of 61 species belonging to 48 genera, 20 families, 3 superfamilies and 2 suborders of the order Podocopida were identified and reported with SEM photomicrography. Among these, *Cytherella semitalis*, *Cytherelloidea leroyi* and *Keijcyoidea praecipua* belong to Platycopa and remaining species belong to Podocopa. *Leptocythere pulchra* is recorded for the first time from the Indian waters. *Hemitrachyleberis siddiquii* and *Neocytheromorpha reticulata* are recorded for the first time from the west coast of India. The ostracod fauna of the study area shows close similarity with the ostracod assemblage of the Indo-Pacific region. A relatively slow rate of sedimentation is observed in the inner shelf, based on the carapace-valve ratio.

Keywords: Recent Ostracoda, faunal affinity, siltation, Malabar coast, Kerala