

## **Campanian-Maestrichtian Ostracods of the American Province (Caribbean Sub-Province): Contribution to the Paleobiogeographic Considerations**

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The main knowledge of the distribution of marine ostracod associations during the Campanian and Maestrichtian in the Caribbean Sub-Province comes from the Gulf of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and northern Venezuela.

Recent studies in Cuba have been focused on the assemblages recognized in different formations corresponding to piggy-back syn-orogenic basins. These are essentially the two main Western and Central basins.

There are two distinct assemblages of ostracods: the former with major diversity at the genus level, characterized by species of Trachyleberidids, Bythocytheridids, Pontocypridids and Xestoleberidids. In the second one, with less diversity, the genera *Brachycythere*, *Schuleridea*, *Haplocytheridea*? and *Cytherella* predominated.

The studied associations clearly show a great similarity at the generic and even specific level with tethysian representatives in the Gulf Coast (Taylor and Navarro Groups), particularly the genera *Brachycythere*, *Ascetoleberis*, *Limburgina* and *Neocythere*, although a certain endemism in the Cuban assemblages is present. The presence of common taxa at the genus level among Cuba and other areas such as the Scotian Shelf (Atlantic Canada), the northwest of Africa and the northeast of Brazil (Potiguar basin) is discussed.

As a result, some additional evidences for delineating the paleobiogeographic relations which support a better oceanic circulation model for the westernmost Tethys are exposed.