ZOOGEOGRAPHY OF THE RECENT OSTRACOD FAMILIES BYTHOCYTHERIDAE SARS, 1866 AND PECTOCYTHERIDAE HANAI, 1957 ON THE BRAZILIAN EQUATORIAL CONTINENTAL SHELF

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This study reports on the ostracods of the families Bythocytheridae and Pectocytheridae recovered from Recent sediments of the Brazilian Equatorial shelf, located between the Orange Cape (northern Brazilian international boundary) and São Roque Cape, almost 1400 km in length. This part of the Western Atlantic Tropical Province, where the mouths of the Amazon River separate two zoogeographical units, has distinct sedimentological and oceanographical features. The inner shelf along the northwestern mouth of the Amazon River is a barren zone resulting from turbid freshwater continental discharge. The biodetritical facies are restricted to the outer shelf. In the region located at the southeastern Amazon River mouth, the shelf is narrower and the biogenic sedimentation increases. Three hundred and thirty nine samples were studied from REMAC (legs 4, 5, 5A and 6) and GEOMAR projects (legs I, II and III). Two new species, Bythoceratina carmoi and B. parviornata, are described. Additionally the species Keijia demissa Teeter, 1975, Kotoracythere inconspicua Brady, 1880, Pseudoceratina droogeri Bold, 1965 and Munseyella sp. are registered and illustrated in this area for the first time. On the Brazilian continental shelf these species reveal an occurrence restricted to the equatorial area.