PREFACE

FOSSIL AND RECENT MEET KEMPF DATABASE

BY

FINN A. VIEHBERG¹,⁵, RENATE MATZKE-KARASZ², LISA PARK BOUSH³ and ALISON J. SMITH⁴

¹) Institute of Geology and Mineralogy, Universität zu Köln, Zülpicher Strasse 49a, D-50674 Cologne, Germany
²) Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, GeoBio-CenterLMU, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Richard-Wagner-Strasse 10, D-80333 Munich, Germany
³) Center for Integrative Geosciences, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269, U.S.A.
⁴) Department of Geology, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242, U.S.A.

The majority of the papers in this issue was presented at the 14th International German Ostracodologists’ Meeting (IGOM 2012; 11-14 October 2012) with over 60 participants registered from 15 countries (Viehberg & Gromig, 2012). The International German Ostracodologists’ Meeting (Deutschsprachiges Ostracodologen Treffen) returned to Cologne where Prof. Dr. Eugen Kempf initiated it in 1988. On the occasion of his 80th birthday the conference participants honoured his major achievements in ostracod research. The motto of the meeting, “Fossil and Recent meet Kempf Database”, was linked to his invaluable database, the Kempf Database Ostracoda (KDO). The ostracod taxonomy of fossil and Recent taxa is comprehensible primarily due to his untiring enthusiasm and prescient decision to use computer data processing from the early years. This eventually led to an extensive database for marine ostracods (Kempf, 1986a, 1986b, 1987a, 1987b, 1994, 1995a, 1995b, 1995c, 1996, 2002a, 2004, 2008a, 2008b, 2008c, 2008d) and non-marine ostracods (Kempf 1980a, 1980b, 1980c, 1980d, 1991, 1997a, 1997b, 1997c, 1997d, 2002b, 2006, 2013). Unacceptably, this work is often not cited in international journals, although the majority of ostracodologists consult the database during their research projects.

A lively and comprehensive biography of Eugen Karl Kempf is presented by Matzke-Karasz (2014), which was written partly in close collaboration with Kempf himself. The subsequent papers are case studies that focus on taxonomic groups in various aspects or ecological studies that all benefit more or less from his work.

⁵) Corresponding author; e-mail: finn.viehberg@uni-koeln.de

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Similar to the KDO, Mestre et al. (2014) summarised updated information on the neglected ostracod family Entocytheridae and present a relational database with an extensive reference list.

Namiotko et al. (2014) review the genus *Typhlocypris* Vejdovský, 1882 that is under debate to be a senior synonym of the genus *Pseudocandona* Kaufmann, 1900. The authors identify specific characteristics in the valve morphology and separate both genera distinctly using limb traits.

In a small yet significant study Zhai & Zhao (2014) contribute to the knowledge of the geographical distribution of several ostracod species in Palaearctic China. Several species are recorded for the first time in this area.

A new species of the genus *Bathyconchoecia* is sampled in the bathypelagic zone of Nansha Trough (North-West Borneo Trough), southern South China Sea. Yin et al. (2014) describe and illustrate the species with differential diagnosis to *B. angeli* George, 1977.

Mohammed & Keyser (2014) identify Yemen ostracods new to the scientific community in the tidal flats close to Aden City, and thus erect a new genus within the ostracod family Trachyleberididae for these individuals.

Wrozyna et al. (2014) present a detailed quantitative morphological approach of carapace and limbs variations in *Cytheridella ilosvayi* Daday, 1905 to reveal differences in individuals from sexual and asexual reproduction lines.

Peculiar morphological features in *Tanycypris* enables individuals of an amazing escape behaviour that is described and video-recorded by Matzke-Karasz et al. (2014).

An extensive investigation of lacustrine ostracods in Lake Geneva, Switzerland, by Decrouy & Vennemann (2014) presents the results of a monthly sampling campaign at different water depths. The ontogeny and phenology of various species reveal also ecological preferences of various species.

A smaller case study is presented from the town moat of Bremen, Germany by Scharf & Viehberg (2014). Population dynamics are monitored in a highly variable environment of different salinities.

Because ostracods successfully inhabit various environments, sampling methods need to be modified to extract individuals for scientific purpose. Scharf et al. (2014) present a new method to isolate ostracods from stony substrates and eventually to separate living ostracods from the sampled sediment.

The above listed contributions highlight the value of ostracods in interdisciplinary research projects covering an array of different topics.

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