ON THE PALEOBIOGEOGRAPHY OF LATE CRETACEOUS-EARLY TERTIARY OSTRACODS OF NORTH AFRICA, MALI AND CONGO

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Our studies of Late Cretaceous-Early Tertiary ostracods of Algeria, Tunesia, Mali and Congo show affinities between North Africa, West Africa and Congo.

Stratigraphic range charts of planktonic foraminifere and of ostracods for the studies regions have been established. In all of them, ostracod species cross the Cretaceous / Tertiary boundary.

Ostracod species encountered in a recent study of the coastal Congo basin have mostly been described from West Africa (Senegal, Togo, Mali, Nigeria). None of them are known form South Africa; some have been recorded from Algeria, Tunesia, Lybia and Egypt.

Ostracod species recorded from North Africa (Algeria, Tunesia, Lybia, Egypt), West Africa and the Congo basin: *Buntonia virgulata* Apostolescu, *Dahomeya alata* Apostolescu, *Reticulina SAngalkamensis* (Apostolescu), *Leguminocythereis bopaensis* (Apostolescu), *Reticulocosta* gr. *vitiliginosa* (Apostolescu) Reticuline sangalkamensis (Apostolescu)), *Trachyleberis teiskotensis* (Apostolescu), and *Uroleberis teiskotensis* Apostolescu.

Ostracod species known from West Africa and the Congo basin are: *Buntonie Livada* Apostolescu, *Buntonia mucronata* Apostolescu, *Buntonia pulvinata* Apostolescu, *Buntonia tenuipunctata* (Apostolescu), *Cytherella sylvesterbradleyi* Reyment, *Cythereis (Rehacythereis) deltaensis* Rayment, *Laguminocythereis? teiskotensis* Apostolescu, *Paracoste dahomeyi* (Apostolescu), Quandracythere lagaghiroboensis Apostolescu, *Reticulocosta ornatoreticulata* (Rayment), Soudanella gr. *laciniosa* Apostolescu, *Togoina obesa* Apostolescu, *Veenia? occidentalis* Reyment, and *Veenia reticulocosta* Reyment.

These results argue for the existence of a late Cretaceous-Early Tertiary transsaharian seaway. West Africa seems to have been the center of the faunal migration; some ostracods migrated to North Africa through this transsaharian see, others southwards to the Congo basins.