

MICROPALAEONTOLOGY NOTEBOOK

An early representative of the genus *Frambocythere* Colin, 1980:  
*Frambocythere pustulosa* (Grékoff, 1957) from the Albian of Zaire

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In 1957, Grékoff described *Metacypris pustulosa* from the Loia Formation originally assigned to the "Wealden" but subsequently dated of Albian age (Maheshwari *et al.* 1977) of Central Zaire. This species is characterized by its small size (about 0.6 mm long), the surface of the carapace covered by numerous small hemispherical pustulae and the presence of two subvertical sulci.

In the original description, Grékoff compared this species with *Metacypris consobrina* Jones, 1893 from the Bear River Formation also of Albian age of Wyoming (U.S.A.). Later, in 1961 and 1962, Pinto & Sanguinetti considered *Metacypris pustulosa* as a junior synonym of *Metacypris consobrina*. The type-material of *Metacypris consobrina* was restudied and illustrated by Colin & Danielopol (1981: Pl. 14, figs. 1-4). This species shows striking similarities with *Metacypris pustulosa*: small size, similar shape and same micro-pustulose ornamentation. It nevertheless differs from the African species by the presence of a single and weak subvertical sulcus. Recent examination of material from the Albian of Central Zaire (Colin, in press) allowed to clearly demonstrate the presence of the two sulci which were mentioned by Grékoff in the original diagnosis but are not visible on the illustrations. The general morphology, size, ornamentation and the presence of the two sulci lead us to transfer this species to the genus *Frambocythere* Colin, 1980 (in Colin & Danielopol, 1980) and therefore to the "*Kovalevskiella* lineage" (Colin & Danielopol 1980). It is worth mentioning that in 1965, Danielopol already suggested affinities between these forms and the genus *Kovalevskiella* Klein, 1963 (= *Cordocythere* Danielopol, 1965). This occurrence in the Albian of Central Africa is rather singular since the genus *Frambocythere* was until now known to be restricted to sediments of Maastrichtian-Eocene age in Western Europe, India and China.

SYNONYMY

- 1957 *Metacypris pustulosa* n. sp. Grékoff, p. 80-81, fig. 36; pl. 4, figs. 75. 76
- 1961 *Metacypris consobrina* Jones, 1893 emend Pinto & Sanguinetti (*Metacypris pustulosa* Grékoff, 1957). Pinto & Sanguinetti, p. 6 pl. I, figs. 7-8.
- 1962 *Metacypris pustulosa* Grékoffs, 1957 = *Metacypris consobrina* Jones, 1893. Pinto & Sanguinetti, p. 31.
- 1980. "*Metacypris*" *pustulosa* Grékoff Colin & Danielopol, p. 25. in press. *Metacypris pustulosa* Grékoff, 1957. Colin, p. 34

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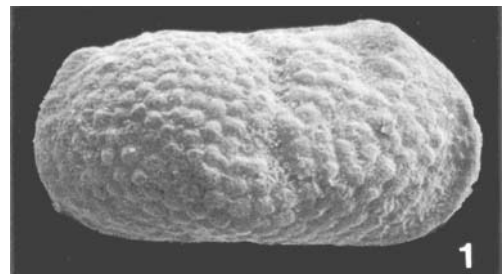


Fig. 1. *Frambocythere pustulosa* (Grékoff, 1957). Carapace, right lateral view, Albian of Zaire, x 135.

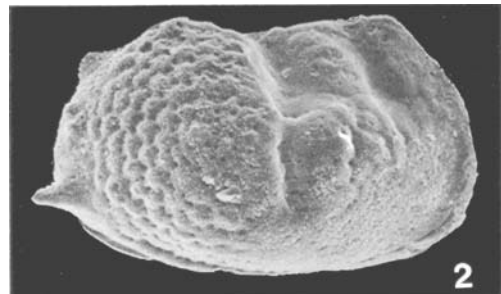


Fig. 2. *Frambocythere tumiensis* (Helmdach, 1978). Right valve, lateral view. Maastrichtian of northern Spain, x 135.