

## MICROPALAEONTOLOGICAL NOTEBOOK

***Cypridea* Bosquet, 1852 (Ostracoda) in the Early Albian of Tunisia**K. TRABELSI<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, J.-P. COLIN<sup>3,4</sup>, J. TOUIR<sup>1</sup> & M. SOUSSI<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Faculté des Sciences de Sfax, Université de Sfax, Sfax, Tunisia<sup>2</sup>Faculté des Sciences de Tunis, Université de Tunis El Manar, UR/99/10-04, CP 2092, Tunis, Tunisia<sup>3</sup>Universidade de Lisboa, Faculdade de Ciências, Centro de Geologia, Campo Grande, C-6, 3º 1749-016 Lisboa, Portugal<sup>4</sup>3 Impasse des Biroulayres, 33610 Cestas, France

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**INTRODUCTION**

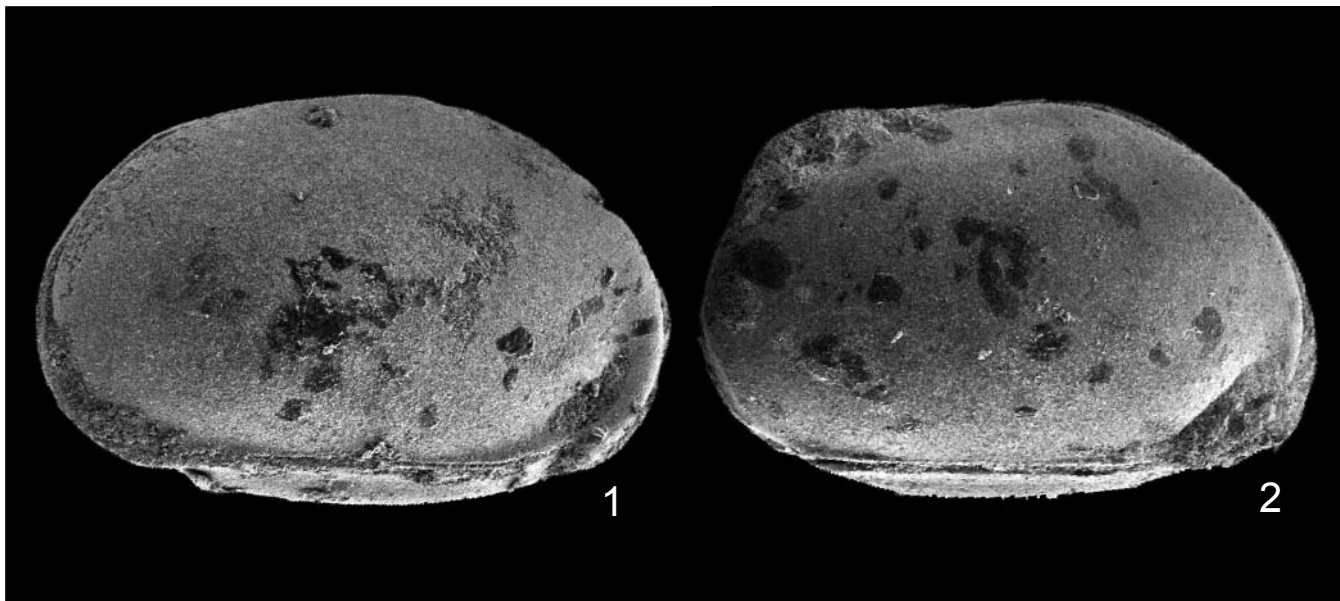
The sub-cosmopolitan limnic ostracod genus *Cypridea* Bosquet, 1852 (*sensu* Horne & Colin, 2005) is known from the Lower Tithonian (Martín-Closas *et al.*, 2008) to the Aptian, with a maximum development during the Berriasian to Barremian (Horne, 1995), in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, North and South America. In the Far East (China, Mongolia) and Alaska it ranges up to the Cretaceous–Tertiary boundary (Brouwers & De Deckker, 1993; Khand, 2000). In North Africa (Tunisia), the youngest occurrences of this genus were, until now, in the Late Aptian (Abdeljaouad, unpubl. data and Ben Youssef, unpubl. data *in* Bismuth, 1984). In Tunisia, the genus *Cypridea* is known in pre-Aptian sediments in the ‘Wealdien-Neocomian’ as documented by Glintzboeckel & Magné (1959).

Except for the Far East, the presence of *Cypridea* in post-Aptian sediments is very rare. It has been documented in the Albian of the Bear River Formation of Wyoming, USA (Peck, 1951), the Albian-Cenomanian Loia ‘stage’ (Lualaba Series) of the central Congo Democratic Republic (Grékoff, 1957, 1960; Colin, 1994), the Early Albian-Aptian of the Doba-Doseo basins in Chad and the Muglad basin in Sudan (Colin & Dépêche, 1997) and the Albian-Cenomanian of the Termit basin in Niger (J.-P.C. unpubl. data).

Recent field work in central Tunisia (Jebel Kebar) yielded samples of limestone containing the genus *Cypridea* in two sections in the lower part of the Kebar Formation (Trabelsi *et al.*, 2010). A very rich and diversified charophyte assemblage with *Sphaerochara verticillata* (Peck, 1937) Peck, 1957, *Atopochara trivolis trivolis* Peck, 1968, *Clavator harrisii zaviakensis* (Grambast-Fessard, 1980) emend. Martín-Closas, 1996 and *Sphaerochara verticillata kebariensis* Trabelsi, 2010, clearly assigned an Early Albian age to the horizon containing *Cypridea*.

Ostracods were extracted from the hard limestone by chemical processing (acetic acid and copper sulphate as described in Trabelsi *et al.*, 2010), which explains the preservation state of the specimens recovered. In addition to *Cypridea*, the ostracod assemblage (Trabelsi *et al.*, work in progress) contains the Timiriaseviinae *Vecticypris* cf. *polita* (Grékoff, 1957) and two species of Darwinulidae, clearly indicating a true lacustrine environment.

The species of *Cypridea* identified is rather large (1.0–1.1 mm), smooth, possess a small rostrum and a rather long and deep alveolus, and has a normal overlap (RV<LV). These characters suggest strong morphological affinities with the Berriasian to Aptian species of the *Cypridea laevigata* (Dunker,



**Fig. 1.** *Cypridea* gr. *laevigata* (Dunker, 1946), sample K6, Early Albian, Jebel Kebar. 1, carapace, right lateral view, specimen J. Keb. 0001 (L = 1.0 mm). 2, carapace, right lateral view, specimen J. Keb. 0002 (L = 1.1 mm).

1846)/*Cypridea setina* (Anderson, 1939) lineage *sensu* Schudack & Schudack (2009). The youngest known well dated species of this lineage is *Cypridea* cf. *laevigata leonardi* Anderson, 1967, reported and illustrated by Cabral (1998) from the Early Aptian of Algarve, southern Portugal.

Illustrated specimens are deposited in the collections of the Paleontology and Sedimentology Survey of the National Office of Mines of Tunisia, Tunis (Collection Trabelsi 2011, n° SPSONM Trab., J. Keb. 0001-0002).

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