8th Symposium on Fossil Decapod Crustaceans



Abstracts Book Field Guidebook

Zaragoza (Spain) June 2022



Zamora, S., Ferratges, F.A., García-Penas, A., Aurell, M. (Eds.)

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Valley of the Isábena river with the Sierra de Sis in the background. Panoramic view from Roda de Isábena. Photo: Samuel Zamora

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PREFACE

Decapod crustaceans are diverse animals in modern ecosystems and have a rich fossil record. This book publishes a series of proceedings and abstracts from the 8th Symposium on Fossil Decapod Crustaceans which has been developed 19-24 June 2022 in Zaragoza (Spain). This is the first time that this meeting is celebrated in Spain supported by the Spanish Geological Survey (IGME-CSIC) and the University of Zaragoza. The book also contains three chapters that summarize the field trip of the meeting, that cover important areas for the understanding of fossil decapod crustaceans in Spain. Penás et al. (this book) introduces the classic localities of decapod crustaceans from the Aptian Oliete subbasin, that where first mentioned by Juan Vilanova at the end of the nineteen century. The second chapter by Ferratges et al. (this book) focuses on Eocene decapod crustaceans from the Graus-Tremp basin (Southern Pyrenees). The third chapter by López-Horgue et al. (this book) focuses on the spectacular Albian reefs around Olatzi (Foral Community of Navarre), where a set of pinnacle hosts the highest decapod diversity for the Albian.

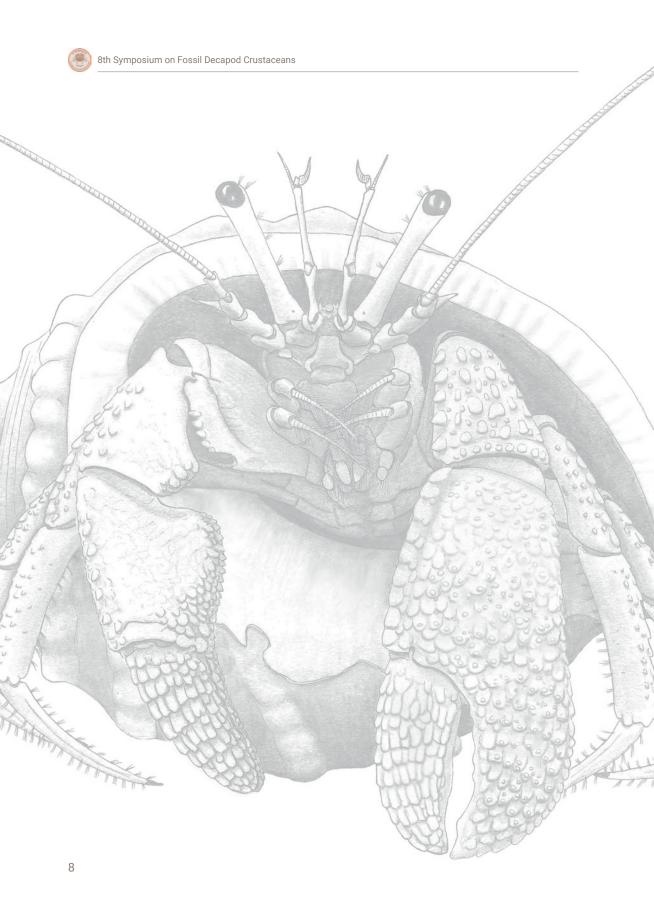
The Spanish Society of Palaeontology is honored to be part of this meeting based on such important group of fossils, with the publication of the first number of a new series that I have the pleasure to present as "Palaeontological Publications". We hope that most palaeontological meetings organized by our society and related bodies can be published in the subsequent numbers of this series of monographs.

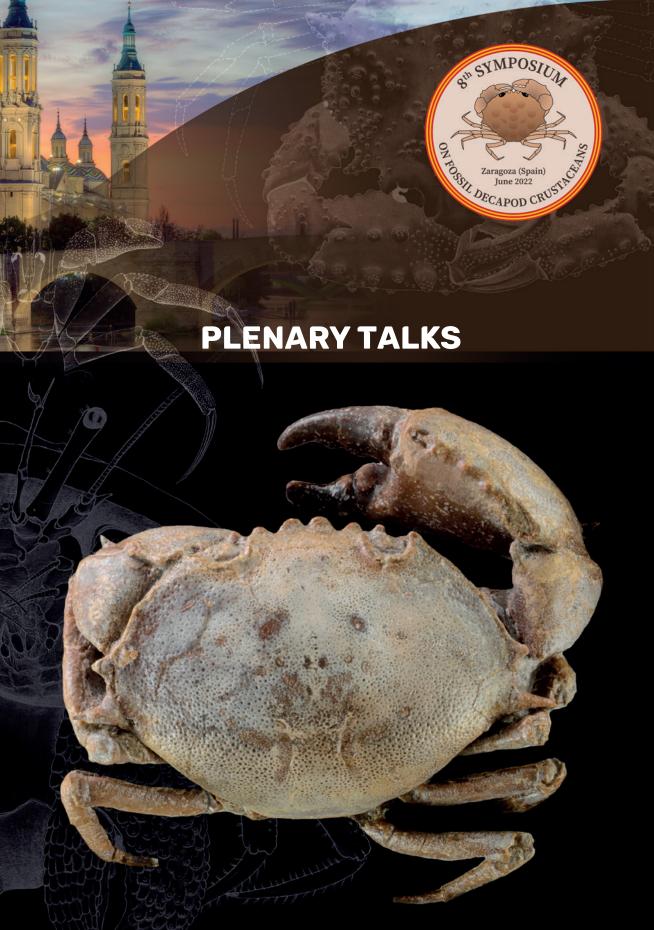
Lastly, we would like to acknowledge all the participants and supporters to this meeting, including the organizing and scientific committees, as well as the Government of Aragón, University of the Basque Country, IUCA, SAMPUZ, Natural History Museum of the University of Zaragoza, Río Martin, and City Council of Olatzi.

Isabel Rábano

President

Sociedad Española de Paleontología







FOSSIL BURROWING SHRIMPS: AN OVERVIEW

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Keywords: Decapoda, Axiidea, Gebiidea, taxonomy, taphonomy, fossil record

INTRODUCTION

Many representatives of decapod crustaceans excavate (semi)permanent burrows. However, there are two distinctly separate groups, i.e., Gebiidea and Axiidea that have converged morphologically and ecologically as fully burrowing forms. Nowadays they belong to major bioturbators (Rowden and Jones, 1993; Ziebis et al., 1996) and ecosystem engineers (Berkenbusch and Rowden, 2003; Kneer et al., 2013). An impressive record of trace fossils attributed to fossorial activities of these animals suggests that they have been an important part of marine ecosystems at least since the Mesozoic times.

Because of broadly similar habitus of all burrowing shrimps and a similar degree of calcification of cuticular surfaces, the fossilization potential is comparable within representatives of Axiidea and Gebiidea (Bishop and Williams, 2005; Hyžný and Klompmaker, 2015). In general, taxonomically important characters for these animals as recognized by neontologists (Dworschak et al., 2012; Poore et al., 2019) are not preserved in the fossil record in most cases. Dworschak et al., (2012: 110) stated that: "the sparse fossil record for this groups is essentially a series of major chelae, especially for the callianassids, and possible trace fossils of burrows, as well as some coprolites". This is an overly simplified statement not taking into account well-preserved near-complete individuals from Lagerstätten (Garassino and Schweigert, 2006; Charbonnier et al., 2017), nevertheless, major chelae indeed have greatest fossilization potential (Hyžný and Klompmaker, 2015) and in some strata they are virtually ubiquitous. In some cases, chelipeds can be successfully used for reliable taxonomic evaluation of the fossil remains of burrowing shrimps as discussed in many contributions cited further below. The situation with the proxy characters on chelipeds is paralleled with a similar situation in brachyuran crabs when proxy characters on a dorsal carapace are being evaluated (e.g., Schweitzer, 2003).

GHOST SHRIMPS, MUD SHRIMPS, AND ALLIES

Representatives of Axiidea and Gebiidea were treated together as (infraorder) Thalassinidea (e.g., Martin and Davis, 2001), or even as a distinct group within (infraorder) Anomura (e.g., Glaessner, 1969), but advances in phylogenetic research have demonstrated that the two groups represent separate lineages (Robles et al., 2009; Bracken et al., 2010; Wolfe et al., 2019). This is reflected in the most updated published classification of decapod crustaceans (De Grave et al., 2009) as well as in WoRMS database (https://marinespecies.org). Thus, the usage of (infraorder) Thalassinidea is obsolete and should be abandoned. Similarly, usage of "Callianassa" sensu lato to accommodate any fossil remain with a mainstream burrowing shrimp morphology is not recommended.

(infraorder) Gebiidea de Saint Laurent, 1979	(infraorder) Axiidea de Saint Laurent, 1979
(family) Axianassidae Schmitt, 1924	(family) Anacalliacidae Manning and Felder, 1991
(family) Laomediidae Borradaile, 1903	(family) Axiidae Huxley, 1879
(family) Thalassinidae Latreille, 1831	(family) Callianassidae Dana, 1852
(family) Upogebiidae Borradaile, 1903	(family) Callianideidae Kossman, 1880
	(family) Callianopsidae Manning and Felder, 1991
	(family) Callichiridae Manning and Felder, 1991
	(family) Ctenochelidae Manning and Felder, 1991
	(family) Eucalliacidae Manning and Felder, 1991
Higher classification of burrowing shrimps	(family) Micheleidae K. Sakai, 1992
(WoRMS 2022)	(family) Paracalliacidae K. Sakai, 2005
	(family) Strahlaxiidae Poore, 1994

FOSSIL RECORD OF GEBIIDEA

Axianassidae, Laomediidae and Thalassinidae comprise 17, 24 and 11 extant species, respectively. Their fossil record is scarce. As for Axianassidae, from the Miocene–Pliocene of Chile, Feldmann et al. (2010) described Axianassa? chilensis, based on three specimens. From the Eocene of Italy, Beschin et al. (2018) described Axianassa petrea, based on two isolated cheliped meri. Whereas the Chilean material clearly is assignable to a burrowing shrimp, the Italian occurrence is considered doubtful herein. From five extant genera of Laomeiidae, three (Jaxea Nardo, 1847; Laomedia De Haan, 1841; Saintlaurentiella Paiva, Tavares and Silva-Neto, 2010) have been identified in the fossil record (Karasawa, 1993; Hyžný, 2011; Gašparič and Hyžný, 2018). There is no pre-Miocene record of the family known to date. Putative representative of Laomediidae, Reschia barbarae Schweigert, 2009 from the Tithonian of Germany was removed from the family by Hyžný (2011). The diagnosis and reconstruction presented by Schweigert (2009) shows an animal with pereiopods 1–3 being chelate. If this is correct, then Reschia Schweigert, 2009 cannot be accommodated within Gebiidea or Axiidea.

A single genus of Thalassinidae, *Thalassina* Latreille, 1806, is known from a number of fossil occurrences, largely coming from the Miocene to Pleistocene of the Indo-West Pacific region (Collins *et al.*, 2003; Ando *et al.*, 2016). Nevertheless, the oldest confirmed fossil record of *Thalassina* is that from the Oligocene of Italy (Hyžný and De Angeli, 2022). The record of *Thalassina* from the Lower Cretaceous of France (Robineau Desvoidy, 1849) was already disputed by A. Milne-Edwards (1860); this opinion was followed also by Ando *et al.* (2016) and Hyžný and De Angeli (2022).

The most speciose gebiidean group is Upogebiidae with nearly 200 extant species classified within 12 genera. Only two of them (*Upogebia* Leach, 1814; *Gebiacantha* Ngoc-Ho, 1989) were identified in the fossil record (Fraaije et al., 2006; Garassino et al., 2012; Hyžný and Gross, 2016), with the oldest known record coming from the Santonian-Campanian of Poland (Glaessner, 1930). Interestingly, some isolated carapaces from Jurassic strata were ascribed to upogebiid mud shrimps (Moericke, 1897; Carter, 1898); later, however, they were reassigned to axiid shrimps (Patrulius, 1959; Förster, 1977).

FOSSIL RECORD OF AXIIDAE AND STRAHLAXIIDAE

Axiidae comprises 221 species classified within 52 valid extant genera. Extant genera with known fossil record include Acanthaxius Sakai and de Saint Laurent, 1989; Axiopsis Borradaile, 1903; Axius Leach, 1816; and Paraxiopsis de Man, 1905; with oldest occurrences from the Albian (Kensley and Williams, 1990; Fraaije et al., 2011; Franțescu, 2014; Hyžný et al., 2017). As many as 12 genera exclusively known as fossils were described, nearly all of them coming from Upper Jurassic and Cretaceous strata (Fritsch and Kafka, 1887; Secretan, 1964; Förster, 1977; Bravi and Garassino, 1998; Schweigert, 2003, 2009; Garassino and Schweigert, 2006; Charbonnier et al., 2012, 2017; Karasawa et al., 2019; Ferratges et al., 2021; Andrada et al., 2022). These genera include Aperiopyxis Schweigert, 2009; Aptaxiopsis Ferratges, Hyžný and Zamora, 2021; Cretaxiopsis Charbonnier, Audo, Garassino and Hyžný, 2017; Etallonia Oppel, 1861; Hinecaris Karasawa, Kishimota, Ohara and Ando, 2019; Huxleycaris Bravi and Garassino, 1998; Libanoaxius Charbonnier, Audo, Garassino and Hyžný, 2017; Magila von Münster, 1839; Megachela Schweigert, 2003; Protaxius Beurlen, 1930; and Schlueteria Fritsch and Kafka, 1887. The oldest occurrence of Axiidae, that of Devonoaxius garlandi Feldmann and Schweitzer, 2019, from the Devonian of Ohio (Feldmann and Schweitzer, 2019) is simultaneously the oldest record of Axiidea. No fossils of Axiidae are known from the Carboniferous, Permian, or Triassic strata. Strahlaxiidae have not been recognized in the fossil record thus far.

FOSSIL RECORD OF CALLIANIDEIDAE AND MICHELEIDAE

Callianideidae and Micheleidae comprise 18 and 34 extant species, respectively. From Callianideidae, only two species of *Crosniera* Kensley and Heard, 1991 were described as fossils, originating from the Miocene of Slovakia (Hyžný and Schlögl 2011) and the Aptian of Spain (Ferratges *et al.*, 2021). The fossil record of Micheleidae is spanning back to Cretaceous, with the oldest occurrence classified within its own genus, *Amatukamius* Karasawa and Ohara, 2019, originating from the Barremian of Japan (Karasawa and Ohara, 2019). Yet another exclusively fossil genus is *Paki* Karasawa and Hayakawa 2000 from the Campanian of Japan (Karasawa and Hayakawa, 2000). From extant micheleid genera, only *Meticonaxius* de Man, 1905 is known as fossils, with occurrences from the Aptian of Spain (Ferratges *et al.*, 2021) and Cenomanian of Texas (Franțescu, 2014).

FOSSIL RECORD OF "CALLIANASSOID" GHOST SHRIMPS

Hyžný and Klompmaker (2015) presented an overview of state of knowledge of the fossil record of ghost shrimps, i.e., representatives of the families Callianassidae and Ctenochelidae ("callianassoids" sensu Poore et al., 2019) as recognized at that time, including the list of all pertinent fossil taxa described to date. The higher-level classification of these families, however, changed with a number of newly introduced families and genera (Poore et al., 2019; Robles et al., 2020). Also, many novel fossil occurrences including new taxa have been published since the synopsis of Hyžný and Klompmaker (2015). Thus, the emphasis here is put on the updates since the respective work.

Anacalliacidae comprise one extant (*Anacalliax* de Saint Laurent, 1973) and two extinct genera (*Aptanacalliax* Ferratges, Hyžný and Zamora, 2021; *Turbiocheir* Schweitzer, Feldmann, Casadío and Rodríguez Raising, 2012). Fossil occurrences include those from the Aptian of Spain (Ferratges et al., 2021) and Eocene to Oligocene of South America (Hyžný et al., 2021; Schweitzer et al., 2021).

Callianassidae include more than 100 extant species classified in 26 genera. Four of these genera (*Callianassa* Leach, 1814; *Gilvossius* Manning and Felder, 1992; *Neotrypaea* Manning and Felder, 1991; *Trypaea* Dana, 1852) are known also as fossils, not older than Miocene (Karasawa, 1993; Portell and Agnew, 2004; Fraaije *et al.*, 2010; Hyžný and Dulai, 2021), although future research will likely confirm also some Eocene occurrences (Hyžný and Klompmaker, 2015).

Callianopsidae comprise 6 extant species in three genera. Two of them (*Callianopsis* de Saint Laurent, 1973; *Bathycalliax* Sakai and Türkay, 1999). The fossil record of *Callianopsis* is well studied, with occurrences spanning from Eocene to Miocene (Schweitzer Hopkins and Feldmann, 1997; East 2006; Hyžný and Schlögl, 2011), although some of them were disputed (Pasini *et al.*, 2020). The fossil record of *Bathycalliax* comprises occurrences from the Eocene of Japan (Ando *et al.*, 2019) and the Pleistocene of Italy (Baldanza *et al.*, 2013; Pasini *et al.*, 2014). From the Cenomanian of Lebanon, *Cretacalliax levantina* Pasini, Poore and Garassino, 2020, was described.

Callichiridae consists of nearly 100 extant species classified in 17 genera, half of them having a relatively well documented fossil record spanning back into the Cenomanian (Portell and Agnew, 2004; Hyžný and Müller, 2010, 2012; Hyžný and Klompmaker, 2015; Hyžný, 2016; Hyžný, et al. 2016; Charbonnier et al., 2017; Komai et al., 2019). Exclusively fossil genera include Eoglypturus Beschin, De Angeli, Checchi and Zarantonello, 2005 from the Eocene of Italy (Beschin et al., 2005), and Vecticallichirus Quayle and Collins, 2012 from the Eocene of Isle of Wight (Quayle and Collins, 2012; Hyžný, 2020) and Japan (Ando, 2020).

Ctenochelidae comprise 30 extant species in 7 genera; three of them, *Ctenocheles* Kishinouye, 1926, *Dawsonius* Manning and Felder, 1991, and *Gourretia* de Saint Laurent, 1973 are known also as fossils spanning back into the Albian (Hyžný and Klompmaker, 2015). Exclusively fossil genus includes *Ahazianassa* Karasawa, Kishimoto, Ohara and Ando, 2019 from the Maastrichtian of Japan (Karasawa et al., 2019).

Eucalliacidae comprise 26 extant species in 7 genera; four of them, *Calliax* de Saint Laurent, 1973, *Calliaxina* Ngoc-Ho, 2003, *Eucalliax* Manning and Felder, 1991, and *Eucalliaxiopsis* Sakai, 2011 are known also as fossils (Hyžný and Klompmaker, 2015; Ando et al., 2020; Kiel et al., 2020; Hyžný and Dulai, 2021). The stratigraphically oldest record is that of *Calliaxina* from the Cenomanian of Lebanon (Charbonnier et al., 2017). Pasini et al. (2019) reassigned *Protaxius* eocenicus Secrétan, 1975 from the Eocene of Italy into a genus on its own, *Bolcacalliax* Hyžný in Pasini et al., 2019.

Paracalliacidae comprise a single extant monotypic genus *Paracalliax* de Saint Laurent, 1979, which is without any fossil occurrences. Two extinct genera are known, *Pleuronassa* Ossó-Morales, Garassino, Vega and Artal, 2011 from the Campanian of Morocco (Ossó-Morales *et al.* 2011) and *Rathbunassa* Hyžný in Bermúdez *et al.*, 2013 from the Albian of Colombia and Turonian of Texas and Mexico (Bermúdez *et al.*, 2013).

GHOST SHRIMPS IN TAXONOMIC LIMBO

There is a number of exclusively fossil "callianassoid" genera not assigned to any axiidean group (family). When being erected, they were classified within Callianassidae, however, since the recent reassessment of the higher classification of the group (Poore et al., 2019) and recognition of a number of distinct clades (Robles et al., 2020) where there was once only one (Callianassidae) or two (Callianassidae + Ctenochelidae), these genera remained in a taxonomic limbo, pending their revision in respect to new classification scheme. These genera include Comoxianassa Schweitzer, Feldmann, Cosović, Ross and Waugh, 2009 and Cowichianassa Schweitzer, Feldmann, Cosović, Ross and Waugh, 2009, both from the Campanian of Canada (Schweitzer et al., 2009); Melipal Schweitzer, Feldmann, Encinas and Suárez, 2006 from the Eocene of Chile (Schweitzer et al., 2006); Psammionassa Schweitzer, Feldmann, Kues and Bridge, 2017 from the Turonian of New Mexico (Schweitzer et al., 2017); and Vegarthron Schweitzer and Feldmann, 2002 from the Eocene of Southern California (Schweitzer and Feldmann, 2002). Additionally, there are two genera, Mesostylus Bronn and Roemer, 1852 and Protocallianassa Beurlen, 1930, known nearly entirely from Cretaceous strata (Swen et al., 2001; Mourik et al., 2005; Schweitzer and Feldmann, 2012; Hyžný and Sumesberger, 2019). While Beurlen (1930) erected a higher taxon Protocallianassinae for species currently assigned to these two genera, its usage (as a distinct clade/family) is considered preliminary here. In this respect, Hyžný and Summesberger (2019) advised for a re-evaluation of all species treated as Protocallianassa at a time before some implications for higher taxonomy can be made.

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THE EVOLUTION OF COMPOUND EYES ACROSS EXTANT AND FOSSIL CRABS

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Image-forming compound eyes are such a valuable sensory adaptation that similar visual systems have evolved independently multiple times across panarthropods. However, the origin and evolution of different compound eye types remain poorly constrained, and the eyes of most extant families additionally are understudied. Moreover, fossils preserving compound eyes—especially internal neural tissues—generally are rare, and information about visual systems is seldom placed in a broader phylogenetic and evolutionary context.

True crabs, or Brachyura, are ideal study organisms to explore the evolution of compound eyes because they are one of few groups of arthropods that display all four of the known compound eye types (i.e., apposition, parabolic, refractive, and reflective superposition eyes; Gaten, 1998; Luque et al., 2019a). In addition, due to their rich fossil record, details of the eye structures can be compared across extant and fossil groups to infer the visual ecology of extinct species (e.g., Jenkins et al., 2022). Although preserved eyes of fossil crabs were once considered rare, we show that they are more common that previously assumed but often overlooked, discarded, or inadvertently destroyed during the process of mechanical preparation.

We investigated the utility of crab eye structures and ommatidia morphology for assessing the ecology and resolving phylogenetic relationships by integrating new data from both fossil and extant taxa across the brachyuran tree of life. We applied geometric morphometric techniques to our morphological dataset, demarcating two distinct ommatidial morphologies: (i) square facets and packing typical of reflecting superposition ('mirror') eyes; and (ii) hexagonal facets and packing typical of larval and postlarval apposition eyes. Our findings suggest that the plesiomorphic 'mirror' eyes present in most adult decapod crustaceans is also present in the phylogenetically least inclusive brachyuran groups (e.g., homolodromioids, dromioids, homoloids) (Fig. 1A-F). On the contrary, 'mirror' eyes have been lost in the most recent common ancestor of the more inclusive podotremes (e.g., etyoids, cenomanocarcinids, raninoids and cyclodorippoids) and eubrachyurans (Fig. 1G-T). This supports a growing number of morphological, molecular, and phylogenomic studies that consistently recover a paraphyletic grade of podotreme crabs, where the more phylogenetically inclusive podotremes, such as raninoids and cyclodorippoids, may form a monophyletic group with eubrachyurans (e.g., Ahyong et al., 2007; Tsang et al., 2014; Tang et al., 2018; Chen et al., 2019; Luque et al., 2019b; Luque et al., 2021; Wolfe et al., 2021; Ballou et al., 2022).

The exceptional preservation of compound eyes in several Cretaceous and Cenozoic crabs from different families and ontogenetic stages (Luque et al., 2019a; Jenkins et al., 2022), highlights the advantage of mapping optical characters in a phylogenetic context at different taxonomic and time scales to investigate the origins of visual systems. The preservation of external corneal eye lenses together with soft neural tissues (e.g., retinotopic neuropils) is rare among fossil arthropods and largely restricted to a few Cambrian taxa. The exceptional preservation of



Figure 1. Examples of compound eyes across selected fossil and extant brachyuran superfamilies. A–F. Crabs with eyes bearing square facets in orthogonal packing, typical of reflecting superposition (='mirror') eyes. A–B. Homolodromioidea: Homolodromiidae: *Dicranodromia felderi*, USNM 252207. C–D. Dromioidea: Dromiidae; C. ?Moreiradromia sarraburei, USNM 1277453; D. Dromia personata, USNM 1277452. E–F. Homoloidea: Homolidae: Homola minima, USNM 1185786. G–T. crabs with eyes bearing hexagonal facets in hexagonal packing, typical of apposition eyes and parabolic and refracting superposition eyes. G–H. Callichimaeroidea: Callichimaeridae: Callichimaera perplexa; G. MUNSTRI 27044–02; H. IGM p881220. I–J. Etyoidea: Etyidae: Xanthosia sp., USNM PAL 706416 (1), upper Lower Cretaceous (Albian, ~105 Ma), Texas, USA. K–L. Necrocarcinoidea: Cenomanocarcinidae: Cenomanocarcinius sp. 32006-073, lower Upper Cretaceous (Turonian, ~90 Ma), Colombia. M–N. Raninidae: Ranininae: Ranina ranina; M. USNM 239219; N. USNM 265062. O–P. Cyclodorippoidea: Cyclodorippidae: Clythrocerus nitidus, USNM 77380. Q–T. Eubrachyura; Q–R. Dorippoidea: Dorippidae: Dorippidae: Dorippidae; Dorippidae; Dorippidae; Dorippidae; A–C. Dorippe frascone, QMW 1304. S–T. Ocypodoidea: Ocypodidae: Leptuca oerstedi. All photos by Javier Luque, modified from Luque et al. (2019a) https://doi.org/786010.781101/786087.

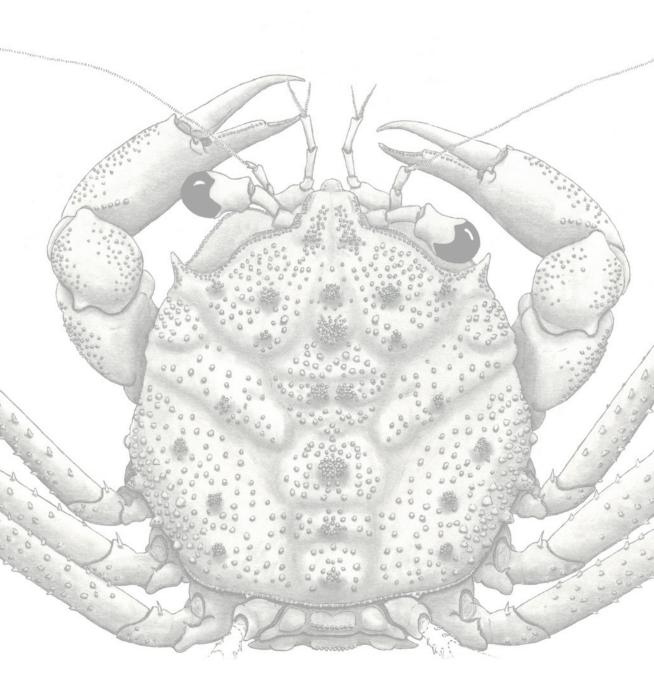
delicate corneal lenses together with corneagenous cells and retinotopic neuropils in the Cretaceous *Callichimaera perplexa* (Luque *et al.*, 2019b) is the first example of such combination of preservational styles discovered in a post-Paleozoic marine arthropod (Jenkins *et al.*, 2022), and illuminates the roles of development and ecology as important drivers of the evolution of visual systems among higher taxa. Ongoing work aims at shedding light on whether particular selection pressures account for convergent origins and/or losses of different eye types among true crabs and other decapod crustaceans through deep time.

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NEW INFORMATION OF *MEGACERADOCUS* (AMPHIPODA) FROM THE LOWER MIOCENE MOROZAKI GROUP, CENTRAL JAPAN, WITH NOTES OF *CALLIANOPSIS* (DECAPODA) *IN SITU* IN BURROWS

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Keywords: Crustacea, early Miocene, *Megaceradocus, Thalassinoides*, deep-sea fossils, fossil lagerstätten

Morozaki Group is one of the "fossil lagerstätten" and occurrence of deep-sea fossils were reported (e.g., Muramiya et al., 2020). During the 21th to 24th October 2021, a large-scale paleontological excavation was conducted at a locality in Iwaya, Minamichita-cho, Aichi Prefecture, central Japan (Fig. 1A). This excavation led to the discovery of a variety of deep-sea faunas, such as deep-sea fish, echinoids, ophiuroids, molluscs and amphipods, from the lower Miocene Yamami Formation of Morozaki Group (18 Ma).

This group is divided into the Himaka, Toyohama, Yamami and Utsumi formations (Fig. 1B) in upward sequence and is considered to have deposited mainly in upper bathyal depths (e.g., Muramiya et al., 2020). Many decapods and a few amphipods were already described from this group (e.g., Karasawa et al., 2017).

Megaceradocus sp., an amphipod was collected during the large excavation at Iwaya (two specimens) and at Umenoki quarry (one specimen) (Fig. 1 I–K). The Iwaya specimens were collected from highly tuffaceous siltstone associated with deep-sea fish such as Diaphus sp. (Fig. 1K). The Umenoki specimen was collected from siltstone. Moreover, we reexamined the specimen which was already collected from the Yamami Formation and was described as Megaceradocus cf. gigas by Mukai and Takeda (1987) (Fig. 1C–G), as well as (Fig. 1H). They are similar to extant M. gigas, but clearly differ in having the well-convex posterior margin of the ischium of the pereopods 5 to 7. Additionally, length of peduncular article 2 of antenna 2 of the fossil specimens are 1.3 times longer than the extant species. Therefore, the fossil specimens are distinguishable from extant M. gigas.

Beside this excavation, *Callianopsis titaensis* preserved *in situ* were collected from burrows at a different locality of Toyohama Formation. This is an abundant decapod species from the Morozaki Group (e.g., Muramiya *et al.*, 2020). Two *C. titaensis* were collected from the Toyohama Formation and they were preserved *in situ* in burrows (Fig. 1L, M). The present burrows have some junctions, some rounded rooms and U-shape turn. Therefore, they seem to be identified with ichnogenus *Thalassinoides* and were possibly created by *C. titaensis*.

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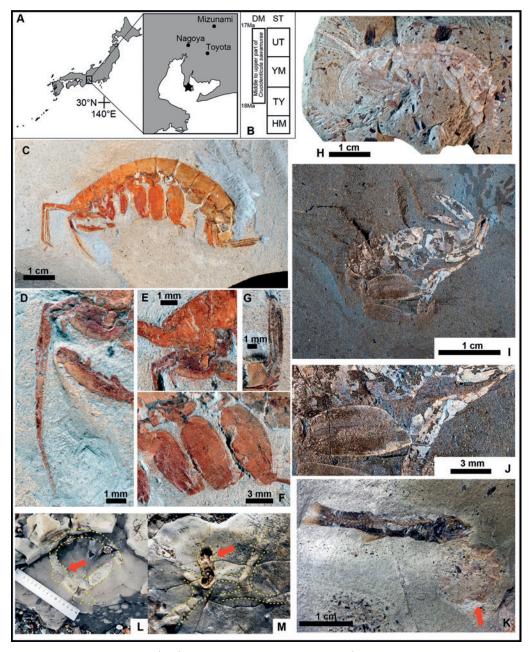


Figure 1. A. locality map (star). B. Stratigraphy and diatom zone of the Morozaki Group. DM: diatom zone; ST: stratigraphy; HM: Himaka; TY: Toyohama; YM: Yamami; UT: Utsumi. C-G. *Megaceradocus* cf. *gigas* described by Mukai & Takeda (1987). H-K. *Megaceradocus* sp. H. collected from Yamami; I, J. Umenoki specimen; K. Iwaya specimen (red arrow). L, M. burrows associated with *Callianopsis titaensis* (red arrows).

TAPHONOMY OF MECOCHIRID LOBSTERS FROM THE LOWER CRETACEOUS OF WEST-CENTRAL ARGENTINA

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Keywords: Atherfieldastacus rapax, Valanginian, skeletal concentration, encrustation

INTRODUCTION

Lobsters of the genus Atherfieldastacus are widely distributed in the Lower Cretaceous and are usually preserved in 3D within Thalassinoides burrows or inside nodules and as laterally compressed specimens. They are commonly abundant in the outcrops where they occurred (e.g. Neto de Carvalho, 2016, Ferratges et al., 2021). At Cerro La Parva locality in the Neuquén province, west-central Argentina, thin skeletal concentrations composed mainly by glypheidean lobsters were reported by Regairaz (1944) and Aguirre-Urreta (1989, 1998, 2003) in two levels belonging to the Karakaschiceras attenuatum Subzone of early/late Valanginian age. Two additional decapod-bearing levels were registered in recent exploration at this locality. Studied lobsters are represented by two different species of glypheideans: abundant Atherfieldastacus rapax (Harbort) (family Mecochiridae) and only four specimens of Rectaglyphea cf. R. howardae (family Glypheidae). The aim of this work is to present the preliminary results of a taphonomic analysis of the skeletal concentrations of A. rapax including an interpretation of their genetic mechanisms and their paleobiological implications.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The studied skeletal concentrations of lobsters at Cerro La Parva are recorded in a thick interval of greenish and grayish siliciclastic shales that has been identified either as the upper member of the Mulichinco Formation or the lower member of the Agrio Formation (see alternative interpretations in Aguirre-Urreta, 1998, and Schwarz et al., 2011). Aguirre-Urreta (1998) reported the presence of A. rapax in a nodular bed associated with the ammonoid Karakaschiceras attenuatum and the bivalve Panopea sp., within a 0.15 m level of hard silty shales (level P11), and a 0.8 m level consisting in a coquina with small oysters and nodules with A. rapax (level P15). Additionally, other two levels of shales with small calcareous nodules (P12, P14) were recently found that contained scarce, isolated, in-situ decapod-bearing nodules. Levels P11 and P15 correspond to skeletal concentrations that show evidence of reworking of the lobster-bearing nodules, and level P11 has an erosive base. Levels P12 and P14 are thin nodular beds immersed in shales with scattered disposition of lobsters along strike.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study materials include those previously known from levels P11 and P15 and those collected from the two new decapod-bearing levels. They were invariably preserved in incomplete calcareous nodules. A total of 112 nodules with *A. rapax* were recovered in the field from these four levels (P11: n=67; P12: n=11; P14: n=10; P15: n=24) plus additional material (n= 136) previously collected from the same locality but without precision of the level of collection. Taphonomic analysis included the scoring of the following attributes: completeness of the lobsters (nearly complete exoskeletons, disassociation units –sensu Hyžný and Klompmaker, 2015– or isolated carapaces), encrustation (presence, absence; type of encruster; encrusted region), and disposition



of the elements (anatomical connection or not, displacement of the pleon in relation with the carapace and of the pereiopods in relation with the carapace).

RESULTS

Specimens of *A. rapax* are abundant and occurred in the four studied levels. Only one specimen occurs in each nodule. They are generally preserved as articulated carapaces, pleon and different elements of the pereiopods, including from complete body fossils (32%) to disassociation units (51%) and a few isolated elements (17%). Many specimens show a connection between the carapace and pleon (53%, Fig. 1A) or these elements are found near each other (23%), while others have their carapaces raised and separated from the pleon (23%).

Nodules and lobsters are encrusted by small cementing oysters, serpulid tubes and bryozoans. Oysters and serpulids are externally attached to the exoskeletons and on the external surface of nodules at the same time in several specimens (Fig. 1B). Bryozoans were represented by multiserial encrusting colonies assigned to the cheilostome *Charixa burdonaria* (see Taylor *et al.*, 2009), and were found only on the mesial surface of a mold of the meri of two specimens (Fig. 1C). Colonies are single-layered, though in different paleoenvironmental settings they have been reported to have conformed multilayered masses (Taylor *et al.*, 2009).

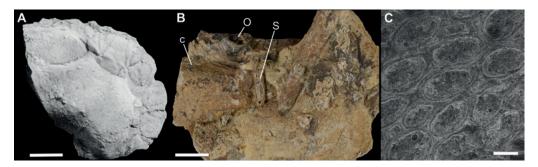


Figure 1. A. Specimen of *A. rapax* showing connection between the carapace and the pleon, interpreted as a corpse (MOZ Pi 12034). B. Oyster (O) and serpulid tube (S) encrusting a carapace (c) (CPBA 18320). Note that the serpulid tube is encrusting part of the nodule also. C. Molds of bryozoan *Charixa burdonaria* encrusting the mesial surface of a merus (CPBA 18318). Specimen MOZ Pi 12034 was coated with ammonium chloride prior to photography. Scale bars: A-B: 10 mm, C: 200 µm.

DISCUSSION

The connection between carapace and pleon in more than half of the specimens of which this relation could be seen is indicative that these samples represent corpses, but a minor portion of the specimens (23%) could be interpreted as exuviae because of the displacement of the pleon (and sometimes the pereiopods). Association of parts that are not anatomically connected in the latter and lack of disarticulation in the former suggest that there was not any reworking and that the lobsters were rapidly entombed and protected from scavengers. They might have been preserved within their own burrows. Carbonate cement precipitated rapidly around the remains during a pause in sedimentation in the early diagenetic stage. This cementation was interrupted originating the incomplete nodules with exposed elements of the lobsters. Then, the nodules were reworked and exposed on the surface, possibly by erosion caused by transgression, allowing for the encrustation by serpulids and oysters. Finally, the encrusted incomplete nodules were buried. The presence of bryozoans on the mesial surface of two meri indicates that they were probably attached in-vivo. This is because cheilostomes were not found encrusting the nodules, and because they were locally restricted to specific parts of the lobsters. In addition, their posi-



tioning close to the breathing currents of their host could be reflecting a symbiotic relationship among them, possibly a commensal one since bryozoans could have benefitted from the inhaling currents of lobsters (placed between their pereiopods), while causing no harm to the hosts. Being single-layered colonies, the cheilostomes likely added little relief to the lobster's exoskeletons thus causing minimum to no discomfort for the hosts. The presence of these cheilostomes suggests good water circulation and stenohaline waters.

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CRAYFISHES FROM THE JEHOL BIOTA

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Keywords: Astacoidea, biogeography, Cambaroides, Cretaceous, freshwater, pleopods

Freshwater crayfishes (Astacoidea and Parastacoidea) are among the largest freshwater invertebrates, they are diverse, with in excess of 660 described species (Crandall and De Grave, 2017), and have an interesting biogeographical distribution tied to the fragmentation of Pangea. In contrast to their important extant biodiversity, fossil species are rare; only 13 fossil species have been described so far (Feldmann *et al.*, 2011). As such, most of what we know about the evolution of crayfishes derives from the study of extant species and palaeogeography (see, e.g., Ďuriš and Petrusek, 2015). Besides, most fossil crayfishes have not been reviewed since their first descriptions.

Our current project aims at reviewing and assessing the significance of all freshwater cray-fishes. A review of the literature shows that crayfishes once had a wider geographical distribution, and that many taxonomic assignments need to be reviewed. Our review of *Astacus edwardsi* Van Straelen, 1928 from the Thanetian of France (O'Flynn et al., 2021, Fig. 1A) showed it should be assigned to a new genus. Our review of *Astacus multicavatus* Bell, 1863 (Fig. 1B) from the Hauterivian of the United Kingdom (Devillez et al., 2021), for instance, showed that this species is not a crayfish but an erymid lobster. Incidentally, this species had been used as a calibration point for the divergence of crayfishes. Recently, our review of crayfishes from the Jehol biota (Audo et al. in progress, Fig. 1C) has shown that it was not possible to differentiate the three species described in this Lagerstätte. In addition, the extinct family Cricoidoscelosidae appears supported by taphonomic biases and characters frequent for northern hemisphere crayfishes, leading us to question its validity.

These first results show there is much to learn from fossil crayfishes, and that fossils may provide crucial insights on the evolutionary history of this group and help understand its present repartition.

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Figure 1. Two crayfishes and an erymid lobster. A. *Emplastron edwardsi* (Van Straelen, 1928) from the Thanetian of Sézanne, France. B. *Eryma multicavatum* (Bell, 1863), formerly interpreted as a crayfish, from the Hauterivian of United Kingdom. C. *Palaeocambarus licenti* (Van Straelen, 1928) from the Lower Cretaceous of north-eastern China. Scale bars: 10 mm (1, 2) and 20 mm (3). Photograph: D. Audo (1, 3) and K. Webb (2).

TAPHONOMY OF THE STOMACH IN THREE MESOZOIC DECAPODS

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Keywords: crayfish, exceptional preservation, gastrolith, Polychelida, putrefaction, stomach

Lobster-like crustaceans are quite rare in the fossil record, as they usually require special taphonomical conditions to be preserved (Bishop, 1986; Klompmaker *et al.*, 2017). In the present presentation, we present three interesting cases of fossil showing the action of decay in the gastric region prior to fossilization: 1) a polychelidan lobster from La Voulte-sur-Rhône, Callovian of France; 2) a fossil crayfish from the Jehol biota, Early Cretaceous of China; 3) a fossil nephropoid lobster from Hakel, Cenomanian of Lebanon.

A few polychelidan from La Voulte-sur-Rhône shows how partial decay led first to the collapse of the gastric area, and that despite this early decay, organs located in the posterior half of the cephalothorax are still preserved.

Several crayfishes from the Jehol biota show corpses, identified by the presence of gastroliths, may superficially resemble exuvia.

In our geologically youngest example, we show how sediment infilling as partially preserved the original volume of the stomach, in an otherwise flattened fossil.

Together, these different fossils illustrate the importance of decomposition in the fossilization process.



Figure 1. Three fossil decapod crustaceans with noteworthy taphonomy of the stomach. A. *Hellerocaris falloti* (Van Straelen, 1923) from the Callovian of La Voulte-sur-Rhône. B. *Palaeocambarus licenti* (Van Straelen, 1928) from the Early Cretaceous of north-eastern China. C. *Notahomarus hakelensis* (Fraas, 1878) from the Cenomanian of Lebanon. Scale bars: 2 mm (1) and 20 mm (2, 3).

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DECAPOD CRUSTACEAN ICHNOLOGY: A STATE OF THE ART

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Keywords: Decapoda, Ichnology, Bioturbation, Bioerosion, Biodeposition

INTRODUCTION

Decapod crustaceans are one of the groups of organisms that exhibit a more significant bioturbation activity, both today as in the past (in particular during the Mesozoic and Cenozoic; see Carmona et al., 2004). At the moment, their burrowing behavior is probably the best known; many groups of modern decapods [e.g. gebiidean, axiidean or caridean shrimps, astacideans (lobsters and crayfish) and brachyuran crabs] excavate burrows in different environments (mainly marine but also in terrestrial ones), and some of the resulting traces are well known in the fossil record. By contrast, bioerosion structures related or attributed to decapods are rarer and less common; nevertheless, it is known that some groups are (or were) able to bioerode on lithic, skeletal (i.e. shells and bones) and xylic substrates. Finally, several biodeposition structures produced by decapods have been described both in modern settings as in the fossil record; they are mainly represented by feeding, constructional and fecal pellets (e.g. Ekdale et al., 1984; Gibert et al., 2013).

It should be noted that although this contribution does not intend to be an exhaustive review, it does attempt to compile the main aspects related to the ichnology of decapod crustaceans.

TRACE FOSSIL RECORD

Bioturbation structures

Thalassinoides, Ophiomorpha and Spongeliomorpha are very likely the most common and representative trace fossils attributed to the burrowing activity of decapod crustaceans. These ichnogenera correspond to vertical and mostly horizontal burrows that constitute more or less complex systems, in which Y- or T-shaped branching points are very common; in fact, they are only differentiated by wall features (Gibert and Ekdale, 2010). While Ophiomorpha burrows exhibit a characteristic pelleted lining, Spongeliomorpha and Thalassinoides never possess pellets in their walls. In turn, whereas Spongeliomorpha is characterized by the presence of bioglyphs covering the walls of their tunnels, such bioglyphs are absent in Thalassionides. Although examples of these three ichnotaxa have been recorded since the Paleozoic, those clearly linked to the burrowing activity of decapods correspond to Mesozoic and Cenozoic occurrences which are mainly associated to shallow marine settings (although they have also been recorded linked to deeper marine and even continental environments) (Buatois et al., 2016). Commonly, axiidean and gebiidean shrimps are proposed as their more likely tracemakers; in particular, conducting dwelling or feeding behaviors.

Psilonichnus, Macanopsis and Parmaichnus consists of vertical-to-oblique, cylindrical, unlined, J-, Y- or U-shaped burrows, mainly attributed to the burrowing activity of upogebiid shrimps and/or ocypodid crabs (e.g. Frey et al., 1984). Despite some Mesozoic occurrences, these ichnotaxa are common in Cenozoic outcrops related to shallow marine environments (near-shore to backshore) and even in transitional areas to continental settings (Buatois et al., 2016).

Gyrolithes and Lapispira correspond to more or less complex, helical burrows with or without a pelleted lining. Both ichnogenera have been described in association with other 'decapod' ichnotaxa such as Thalassinoides or Ophiomorpha in Cenozoic outcrops (e.g. Gibert et al., 2012;



Muñiz and Belaústegui, 2019). In particular and associated to tidal flat settings, the modern species *Axianassa australis* are able to excavate vertical helical galleries identical to the ichnogenus *Gyrolithes* (Dworschak and Rodrigues, 1997).

Other ichnotaxa such as *Sinusichnus*, *Lepeichnus* or *Pholeus*, less frequent in the fossil record, consist of more or less complex dwelling burrows that have also been interpreted as the result of different kind of burrowing decapods mainly associated to marine depositional settings (e.g. Belaústegui *et al.*, 2014, 2016; Knaust, 2002). It is remarkable that, at the moment, the ichnogenus *Lepeichnus* constitutes the most complete ichnogenetic sequence of a trace fossil (see Belaústegui *et al.*, 2016).

In relation to Mesozoic and Cenozoic continental depositional settings (e.g. marshes, swamps, lakes, wetlands or fluvial systems), the ichnogenera *Camborygma, Loloichnus, Lunulichnus, Katbergia* or *Egbellichnus* have been also attributed to decapod tracemakers, mainly to burrows of crayfishes (see Genise et al., 2016) but also of ghost shrimps (Hyžný et al., 2015).

Breeding traces or brood structures (calichnia) associated to decapod crustaceans have also been identified in Mesozoic and Cenozoic sedimentary rocks; in particular, the ichnogenera *Dagnichnus* and *Cellicalichnus* for terrestrial crayfishes (Genise *et al.*, 2016), and *Maikarichnus* for marine callianassid shrimps (Verde and Martínez, 2004).

Resting and moulting traces (cubichnia and ecdysichnia, respectively) linked to decapods have also been identify in the trace fossil record (mainly in Mesozoic examples). For example, the ichnogenus *Tripartichnus* or even *Rusophycus*-like structures would correspond to resting traces and the ichnogenus *Harpichnus* would be the result of a moulting process (see Vallon et al., 2015).

Finally, trackways, trails or bilobate structures attributed to decapod locomotion (i.e. repichnia) are also common; several ichnogenera such as *Diplichnites*, *Foersterichnus*, *Coenobichnus* or even *Cruziana*-like structures are good examples; they occurred in different depositional settings and ages (Buatois *et al.*, 2016).

Bioerosion structures

Contrary to bioturbation, the diversity of bioerosion structures produced or attributed to decapod crustaceans is much lower. Those more frequently preserved in the fossil record correspond to the scars that other invertebrates (mainly bivalves and gastropods) exhibit in their shells; commonly, these scars are the result of unsuccessful attacks conduct by durophagous crabs (for example, genera *Calappa* or *Necora*) (Ekdale *et al.*, 1984).

Bioerosion structures produced on bones of shallow- and deep-sea whale-falls, and attributed to the feeding behavior of osteophagous crabs (Oregoniidae), have also been described in the fossil record (Belaústegui et al. 2017).

Biodeposition structures

The fossil record of biodeposition structures produced by decapod crustaceans mainly consist of fecal pellets, in particular those included within the ichnofamily Favreinidae (see Knaust, 2020). Ichnogenera belonging to this ichnofamily (e.g. *Favreina, Parafavreina, Palaxius* or *Thoronetia*) mainly consist of sub-cylindrical coprolites with smooth or ornamented surface and various internal canals. By comparison with modern analogues, anomurans (decapod crustaceans, including hermit crabs) have been proposed as the most likely producers (see Knaust, 2020).

NEOICHNOLOGY

Neoichnological studies have proven to be a very useful and fundamental tool for understanding and interpreting the paleoichnological record. From them, it is possible to obtain a huge



amount of information about bioturbation, bioerosion and biodeposition processes (or structures) conducted (or produced) by modern organisms. In that sense and focusing on the aim of this contribution, there are many neoichnological studies focused on decapod crustaceans (both marine and terrestrial) and based on different kinds of techniques (e.g. Dworschak and Rodrigues, 1997; Melchor et al., 2010; Gibert et al., 2013; Seike and Curran, 2014).

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CHANGES IN SHIELD MORPHOLOGY OF CARCINIDAE - A GEOMETRIC MORPHOMETRICS PERSPECTIVE ON ONTOGENY AND EVOLUTION

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Keywords: Ancestral state reconstruction, Development, Morphological diversity, Disparity, Megalopa

INTRODUCTION

Carcinidae is an ingroup of Eubrachyura, with globally abundant species, such as the invasive European shore crab (*Carcinus maenas*; Young and Elliott, 2020). As an ingroup of Portunoidea, the group Carcinidae underwent several phylogenetic reorganizations during the last decades. With the last molecular phylogenetic analysis, the number of species of Carcinidae increased significantly (Evans, 2018). This also expanded the number of fossil specimens included into to the group, which provide additional data for reconstructing the evolutionary history of the group. We compare the morphology of the shield of representatives of Carcinidae through their ontogeny and phylogeny and investigate how shield morphology changed during the course of their evolution.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

We used elliptic Fourier transformation on the shield outlines of 191 extant and fossil Carcinidae, using the R-statistics environment (ver. 4.1.0; R Core Team, 2021). Our data set contains developmental stages starting with the megalopa stage. We used principal component analysis to create morphospaces of the shields. Furthermore, we used a combination of current morphological and molecular character matrices to create a combined phylogeny, which we use for a reconstruction of ancestral states of the shield shape. Thereby, we can describe the evolutionary path of the shield morphology during the evolution of Carcinidae.

RESULTS

Our results show that although our data set contains high phylogenetic variability with at least 53 species, the ontogenetic signal has the strongest influence on the morphospace of the group (Fig. 1). The largest difference is created by broad shields of the adults, partially with strong anterior-lateral protruding areas, on one side of the morphospace, and the slim shields of the megalopa with elongated rostrums on the other side.

DISCUSSION

Shield outlines of Carcinidae can be used to distinguish developmental stages, specifically between megalopae and adults, and to some degree also early crab stages. This provides a frame for identifying fossil representatives to distinct developmental stages. Currently estimating the developmental stages, in fossils is still challenging (Gerber, 2011). The ancestral state reconstruction indicates a plesiomorphic shape of shields with anterior-lateral slightly protruded regions (shield shape depicting negative PC2 values; Fig. 1).

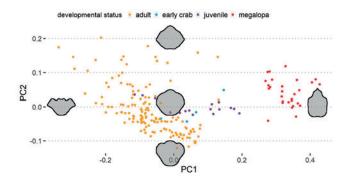


Figure 1. Principal component analysis of elliptic Fourier analyses on the shield outlines of Carcinidae. First and second principal component of the analyses plotted against each other, depicting 46.8% and 23.3% percent of variation respectively. Grey shapes depict graphical component loadings of the principal components.

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EOCENE PATCH REEFS IN THE LESSINI MOUNTAINS (NE ITALY): AN ANCIENT BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

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Keywords. Decapoda, Eocene, NE Italy, Patch reefs, Biodiversity

The first report on coral-associated crustaceans from Eocene rocks in Venetia (NE Italy) goes back to 2000 after the discovery of some non-stratified and strongly recrystallized limestone domes in the quarry at contrada Gecchelina (Monte di Malo - Vicenza) (Beschin et al., 2000, 2007).

Until then the fossil crustaceans found in the same area had been preserved in rocks of different origin, above all laminated nummulitic or marly limestones and volcanoclastic sandstones.

The new fauna from contrada Gecchelina had shown immediately some peculiar features:

- » High paleodiversity.
- » Abundance of specimens of small size.
- » Abundance of species, many of which new, related with modern crustaceans specialized for living in coral reefs, first of all the Trapezioidea.
- » Few decapods conspecific with already known species in Eocene stratified rocks.

The existence of possible bioherms heterotopic with Ypresian strata had been previously reported only by De Zanche (1965) for the Chiampo valley between Mussolino and Zovo di Castelvecchio (Vicenza). After these first findings dating in the first decade of the XXI century, which can be considered fortuitous, the search of heterotopic bioconstructions within Eocene stratified layers became methodical and fruitful in the numerous quarries opened in the area but also in other outcrops. As a result, in the last twenty years of study authors have analyzed about 4500 specimens of fossil crustaceans found in Eocene organogenous builtups widespread in several sites in the Vicenza and Verona territories and more than 300 taxa have been recognized.

The Ypresian remains are particularly abundant and several bioconstructions have been found in places in the Alpone and in the Chiampo valleys (Bolca, Vestenanova, Altissimo, San Pietro Mussolino), in the Agno valley (Cornedo Vicentino, Valdagno), and in the area around Monte di Malo (Figs.1A, B). About 3500 specimens have been found representing more than 200 species (Beschin et al., 2016, 2017, 2021, 2022 in press). Evidences suggest a large shallow lagoon with widespread patch reefs as the most plausible palaeoenvironmental interpretation; there, amongst corals and together with crustaceans, also mollusks and echinoids, all of small size, have been found. Compared with the today lagoon of Belize, small domes of coral-algal origin had grown with a few dozen meters long diameter at a depth of few meters. The environment was relatively calm and sheltered by a true coral reef (Papazzoni et al., 2014). The territory where Ypresian biohermal mounds have been found has an area of about 100 km².

Such a large number of specimens and taxa allow identifying an ancient biodiversity hotspot. This hypothesis is confirmed by the continuous findings of new species and the high value of the total Shannon-Weaver biodiversity index (H' = 3.9). There, decapods referred to five infraorders have been found: Caridea, Axiidea, Gebiidea, and above all Anomura and Brachyura. 40 species of Anomura within seven families have been recognized (the Galatheidae and the Diogenidae are the richest of species). The families within Brachyura are 39 (Fig. 1C).

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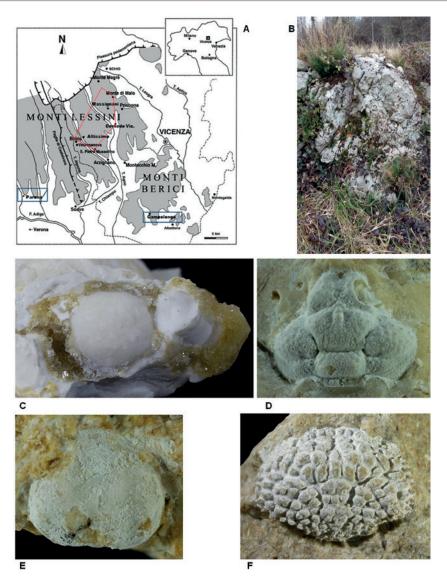


Figure 1. A. Map of the sites of the studied crustacean-bearing bioconstructions (the red perimeter bounds the Ypresian patch reef area). B. A coral-algal dome cropping out at Contrada Zerbati (Altissimo - Vicenza). C. *Vicetitrapeziaex altissimo*, Ypresian, Altissimo (Vicenza); D. *Nachioides tuberculatus*, Priabonian, Parona (Verona). E. *?Polyonyx* sp., Priabonian, Parona (Verona); F. *Daira pseudovulgaris*, Priabonian, Campolongo di Val Liona (Vicenza).

More recently, similar structures but Priabonian in age have been discovered in the southern part of this territory and precisely at Parona (Verona) and at Campolongo di Val Liona (Berici Mountains – Vicenza) (Beschinet al., 2018, 2019) (Fig. 1A). The distance between these two sites is about 42.5 km and it testifies to the existence of a large lagoon during the Late Eocene, too. The specimens here found are fewer than one thousand with about 150 species. The Anomura are represented by 37 species within 7 families and the Brachyura by 33 families (Fig. 1D-F). The biodiversity index is even higher (H' = 4.2).



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FOSSIL DECAPOD CRUSTACEA IN THE HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF THE PARIS MUSEUM (1750-1880)

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Keywords: Arthropoda, Crustacea, systematic palaeontology, type series, collections

Fossil crustaceans housed in the palaeontological collections at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN, Paris, France) played a major role in the rise of a new discipline at the very beginning of the nineteenth century, namely palaeocarcinology. The undisputed pioneer of this discipline was Anselme-Gaëtan Desmarest (1784-1838), whose contributions were invaluable. He was followed by a considerable number of naturalists, who used and amplified his methods of describing and classifying extinct crustaceans. Among them, Alphonse Milne-Edwards (1835-1900) probably ranks amongst the most influential specialists in palaeocarcinology worldwide. The present contribution revises all the MNHN historical specimens that formed the basis of early palaeocarcinology and its subsequent development during the nineteenth century. In spite of their convoluted histories, some of these fossils are still extant. These are specimens that were collected between 1750 and 1880, a period encompassing the end of Enlightenment, the French Revolution, the First Empire and numerous political upheavals during the ninetheen century (Bourbon Restauration, July Monarchy, Second Republic, Second Empire and Third Republic). Thus, these specimens also saw the transition from the King's Cabinet to the new National Museum of Natural History, which was founded in 1793.

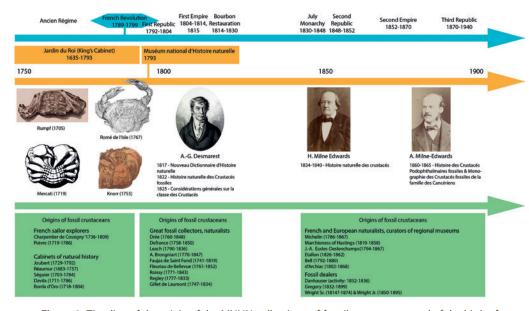


Figure 1. Timeline of the origin of the MNHN collections of fossil crustaceans and of the birth of palaeocarcinology in France.

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Between 1817 and 1880, A.-G. Desmarest, H. Milne Edwards and A. Milne-Edwards formed and studied a collection of about 800 specimens of fossil crustaceans. Desmarest based his descriptions on specimens inherited from the Enlightenment and housed in the King's Cabinet, as well as on material in private cabinets of natural history. The oldest specimens were collected in the 1750s by explorers in eastern Asia, as well as in France by regional naturalists. In the 1860s, Alphonse Milne-Edwards considerably increased the collections, revised the taxa erected by Desmarest and proposed numerous new genera and species with an updated classification.

Here we present the main results of a monograph in press about the general review of 776 historical specimens that are included in the suborder Dendrobranchiata Rafinesque, 1815 (1 species), the infraorders Astacidea Latreille, 1802 (5 species), Glypheidea Winkler, 1881 (9 species, including a new one), Achelata Scholtz and Richter, 1995 (3 species), Anomura MacLeay, 1838 (7 species) and Brachyura Linnaeus, 1758 (69 species). Our main purpose is to describe and figure all of the surviving type specimens at MNHN (Paris). Therefore, the present study updates the old literature and revises 94 species that were described by A.-G. Desmarest, A. Milne-Edwards and their respective contemporaries. Moreover, it encompasses historical specimens collected by A. Milne-Edwards during his travels and those sent to him or to his father Henri Milne Edwards by different European palaeontologists and naturalists. Whenever possible, a historical review of the origin of the type material is also given, which enables a detailed account and understanding of the context of the original description. Our talk will also focus on extraordinary stories about some fossil crustaceans stored at MNHN, Paris.

THE ORIGIN OF DAIROIDID CRABS (DECAPODA, BRACHYURA, PARTHENOPOIDEA)

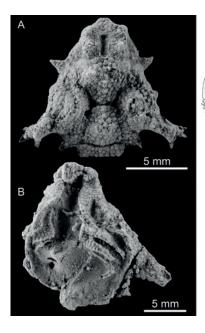
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Keywords: fossil crabs, phylogeny, Eocene, Pyrenees, Iberian Peninsula

The origin of modern families of true crabs (Brachyura) and how they relate to each other is matter of ongoing discussion. Phylogenetic analyses based on molecular and morphological data offer a good opportunity to understand the relationships between different extant groups beyond the alpha taxonomy (Tsang et al., 2008; Wolfe et al., 2016; 2019; Luque et al., 2019, 2021), while reliable fossils are crucial to calibrate molecular trees. However, there are few works that combine fossils and extant taxa in a phylogenetic context using different optimality criteria (Luque et al., 2019, 2021).

Although brachyurans have a rich fossil record extending back into the early Jurassic, is during the Eocene that the oldest representatives of most extant families are first known (e.g. Schweitzer and Feldmann, 2015; Luque et al., 2017). For this reason, understanding the anatomical diversity or disparity of Eocene brachyurans and how they relate to other extinct and extant groups is pivotal to investigate spatio-temporal patterns leading to the evolution of the modern groups seen today. Nevertheless, many species, genera, and even families, are known only from isolated carapaces, and rarely with chelipeds associated with the body or ventral carapace (e.g., epistome, pterygostome, sternum and pleon). New material of *Phrynolambrus* Bittner, 1893, found in the upper Eocene (Priabonian) of Huesca (Northern Spain), shows detailed anatomical



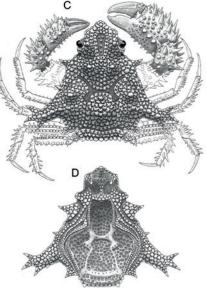


Figure 1. Phrynolambrus sp. Specimen MPZ 2022/203 in dorsal view. Specimen MPZ 2022/204 in ventral view. C-D. Idealized reconstruction of Phrynolambrus sp. based the new material in dorsal (A) and ventral views (B) from the upper Eocene of Fanlillo (Huesca. Spain).



features including the dorsal regions, the orbits and rostrum, the ventral carapace, cuticular ornamentation, and chelipeds (Fig. 1). We assessed the anatomy of a well-preserved specimen of *Phrynolambrus* via mechanical preparation and a CT-scan, which allowed the recognition of several diagnostic features useful for taxonomic and phylogenetic comparative purposes. This is the first record of this genus in the Iberian Peninsula, and the second report of Eocene Parthenopidae from Spain, expanding the palaeogeobiographic distribution of Paleogene parthenopids and our understanding of their early origins, anatomical diversity, and systematic affinities.

To clarify the systematic position of this enigmatic genus and its relationships with other true crabs, we performed phylogenetic analyses including 46 taxa from 13 brachyuran families and 113 morphological characters. Preliminary data suggest that *Phrynolambrus* is closely related to modern *Dairoides* Stebbing, 1920, both genera nested within crown Parthenopoidea, and phylogenetically distant from somewhat similar, convergent forms such as those seen among some Eriphioidea.

Acknowledgements

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NOVEL DATA ON HERMIT CRABS AND FURTHER PHYLOGENETIC REFINEMENTS FOR THE PAGUROIDEA (CRUSTACEA, ANOMURA)

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Keywords: Paguroidea, phylogeny, carapace morphology, isochely, heterochely

During the last two decades, fairly large numbers of carapaces or shields of extinct hermit crabs have become available for study and description (e.g., Fraaije et al., 2019, 2020). Morphological features of these carapaces and shields, not previously used by neontologists, form the basis for phylogenetic refinements for paguroids in order to unravel patterns of their evolution through geological time.

In our ongoing studies of both extinct and extant hermit crabs (Paguroidea Latreille, 1802), we have noted a number of morphological changes that have occurred between the Early Jurassic (c. 185 million years ago) and the present day. For instance, there was a predominance of paguroids with cylindrical carapaces in reef-related settings during the Late Jurassic (Oxfordian, Kimmeridgian), but these were gradually replaced by taxa with non-cylindrical carapaces. The most basal paguroids possess a branchial groove, but subsequently branchial condensation



Figure 1. Isochelous chelipeds in *Schobertella simonsenetlangi* Schweigert, Fraaije, Havlik and Nützel, 2013 (SMNS 70555, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany), from the Lower Jurassic (upper Pliensbachian) Amaltheenton Formation of Iggingen near Aalen, southwest Germany (Schweigert et al., 2013). Scale bars equal 10 mm.

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towards a single (i.e., cervical) groove took place early in their evolutionary history. In several extant genera, remnants of a branchial groove, in combination with several other basal features, may be observed. These taxa are here considered to constitute the most primitive members amongst extant hermit crabs.

All Early and Middle Jurassic pairs (i.e., right and left) of paguroid chelipeds known to date – one from the Lower Jurassic (Pliensbachian) of Germany, two from the Middle Jurassic (Callovian) of France and a single coeval specimen from Romania) appear to be isochelous (see Fig. 1). The earliest known example of clearly heterochelous chelipeds in the fossil record of hermit crabs originates from upper Kimmeridgian/Tithonian (Upper Jurassic) strata of the Boulonnais region in northwest France. The occurrence of isochelous chelipeds in Lower and Middle Jurassic deposits, combined with the abundance of symmetrical calcified tergites (sixth abdominal tergites) in late Jurassic paguroid faunas (Fraaije et al., 2012, 2013, 2014), provides strong support for a symmetrical ancestry of the Paguroidea.

A phylogenetic scheme of marine hermit crabs, as based on morphological data of paguroid carapaces and shields, is here presented for fourteen families. It is our hope that our current palaeontology-based reconstruction of paguroid phylogeny may prove beneficial to future biological studies of this group of decapod crustaceans. We think that our data may well form the basis for additional studies, in combination with both genetic and molecular techniques.

Acknowledgements

We thank Guenter Schweigert, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart, Germany for making the figured paguroid specimen below available for study.

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PRELIMINARY NOTES ON MESOZOIC AND CENOZOIC HERMIT CRABS (CRUSTACEA, ANOMURA, PAGUROIDEA) FROM EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES

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Keywords: Paguroidea, carapaces, tergites, in-situ preservation, taxonomy, Oxfordian, Miocene

In recent years, a new paguroid assemblage has been recovered from Oxfordian (Upper Jurassic) strata at a small, disused quarry in the forested valley close to the village of Szklary, close to the motorway from Kraków to Katowice in southern Poland (Fig. 1). Deposits sampled here are part of the Late Jurassic sponge buildups of the peri-Tethyan epicontinental sea, documenting the so-called sponge megafacies across Europe, extending from Portugal in the west to Romania in the east. These deposits have been interpreted as sponge-bearing (cyanobacteria/sponge) buildups or reefs that formed as inter- and/or peri-biohermal structures on a deep-neritic sea floor (Krobicki, 1994, 2014; Krobicki and Zatoń, 2008).

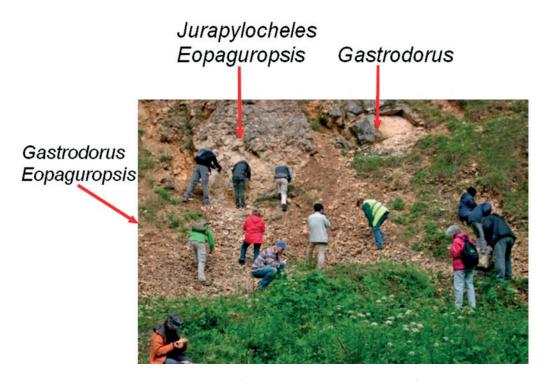


Figure 1. A small, disused quarry in the forested valley close to the village of Szklary, southern Poland. Photograph taken during a fieldtrip (June 26, 2013) of the 5th Symposium on Mesozoic and Cenozoic decapod crustaceans at Kraków, Poland. This locality has provided the oldest most diverse paguroid fauna known to date (Fraaije *et al.*, in prep.).



The Szklarka assemblage comprises carapaces of representatives of the families Gastrodoridae, Paguropsidae, Parapylochelidae, Pylochelidae and Schobertellidae. The presence of a new species of *Daciapagurus* extends the known stratigraphical and palaeogeographical ranges of this genus considerably. In addition, a novel, markedly ornamented symmetrical paguroid tergite confirms the abundance of pylochelids during the early evolutionary stages of the Paguroidea. With eight carapace-based genera present, the Szklarka faunule constitutes the oldest, most diverse paguroid assemblage from the fossil record to date (Fraaije *et al.*, in prep.).

In a parallel study, two newly collected hermit crabs, preserved inside their gastropod host shells, from Maryland (Atlantic Coast, USA), are examined. A new species of *Pagurus* is recorded from the lower to middle Miocene Calvert Formation; this is preserved within a shell of the gastropod *Buccinofusus parilis* Conrad, 1932 (see Vokes *et al.*, 2000). In addition, we have a new species of *Paguristes* preserved within the shell of the gastropod *Siphonalia* sp., from the upper Miocene St. Marys Formation. Both taxa are morphologically close to extant species and are welcome additions to the limited number of fossil hermit crabs that are preserved within their molluscan host shells (Wallaard *et al.*, in prep).

These new faunules furnish important new data to our understanding of paguroid evolution and palaeogeography on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Acknowledgements

We thank Dr Adiël A. Klompmaker (Curator of Paleontology, University of Alabama, USA) for making important paguroid specimens from Szklarka available for study.

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DECAPOD-BEARING CARBONATE CONCRETIONS FROM A LOWER APTIAN SILICICLASTIC PLATFORM (E SPAIN)

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Keywords: fossorial, diagenesis, concretions, Iberian Peninsula

INTRODUCTION

The glypheid lobster *Atherfieldastacus magnus* is the dominant decapod taxon in the lower Aptian Forcall Formation of the Oliete subbasin (Maestrazgo Basin, E Spain) with individuals commonly occurring isolated or inside calcareous nodules and, occasionally, associated to burrows. A locality with an exceptionally high concentration of lobster-bearing nodules, reported originally in Ferratges *et al.* (2021), has been resampled (Fig. 1A, B). Carbonate nodules recovered from two different levels contain individuals of *Atherfieldastacus magnus* in varying states of preservation. The aim of this study is to offer a preliminary taphonomic interpretation of these decapodbearing nodules, with special focus on assessing the possible association between nodules and non-preserved burrow systems.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The Forcall Formation is a decametric terrigenous unit dominated by silts and marls with frequent sandstone and sandy limestone intercalations, which contain ammonites of the early Aptian *Deshayesites forbesi* biozone. It forms an asymmetric transgressive-regressive cycle, with a short transgressive interval, and a long regressive stage representing the gradual transition from a relatively distal siliciclastic platform to lower shoreface environments. The studied material has been recovered from two red-stained silty mudstone levels containing abundant calcareous nodules (Fig.1B). The predominance of thick marl and silt intervals around the sampled levels, and the presence of other scarce thin levels of silty mudstones and wackestones without evidence of wave or current action, suggests deposition in relatively distal and deep platform domains located below storm-wave base level.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Sixty four nodules have been recovered from the studied location, of which only 31 contain lobsters. Isolated non-fossiliferous gallery fragments have been recovered from the same levels. The preservation status of the fossil material has been assessed following the classification of Hyžný and Klompmaker (2015). The possibility of association between nodules and non-preserved burrow systems has been evaluated following the criteria compiled in Andrada et al. (2020).

RESULTS

Non-fossiliferous nodules are irregular to subspherical with occasional small protuberances. They present an undifferentiated mudstone texture, with occasional concentric color banding. Fossiliferous nodules (n=31) are predominantly oblate and kidney-shaped, with a smooth surface. They present a smooth interior with no textural variation, but occasional concentric color banding. The recovered gallery fragments exhibit the same internal homogeneous micritic composition and structure as the nodules.

Most fossiliferous nodules (n=30) contain a single lobster specimen (whole or fragmented), and only one nodule containing two individuals was found. Most specimens (48%) are isolated carapaces with varying preservation of the pereiopods. 29% of specimens are well-preserved,

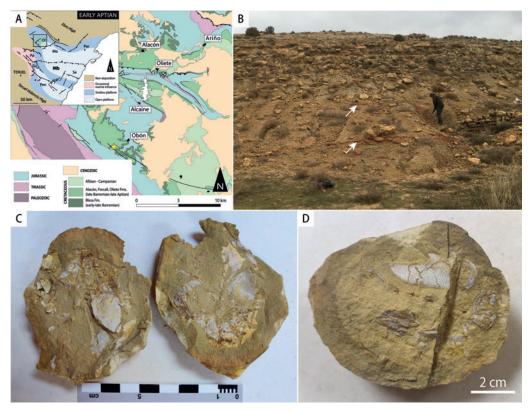


Figure 1. A. Location of the Oliete subbasin (Ob) in the Maestrazgo Basin (Mb). The present eastern coastline of the Iberian Peninsula is represented for reference. A green square indicates the area represented in the detailed geological map. A yellow star indicates the location of the studied outcrop. B. Outcrop of the upper Forcall Formation, showing the two reddish levels sampled for this study (white arrows). C. Completely articulated specimen of *Atherfieldastacus magnus*, interpreted as a corpse. D. Specimen showing disarticulation of the cephalothorax and pleon, interpreted as an exuvia.

with complete articulation of the cephalothorax and pleon (Fig. 1C), and preserving most pereiopods. 23% of specimens, presenting the cephalothorax disarticulated and laterally displaced from the pleon, have been interpreted as exuviae (Fig. 1D). Isolated pleon and cephalothorax fragments represent 6,5% of the total specimens.

Most specimens (77%) appear near the center of concretions and only some (23%) appear in a marginal position. None of the nodules are directly associated with galleries. 4 of the fossiliferous nodules (13%) are incomplete, exposing elements of the lobsters.

DISCUSSION

Although some nodules present protuberances, which some authors interpret as connections with branching non-preserved galleries, most of them are subspherical to oblate, which is regarded as negative evidence of connection with gallery networks. Furthermore, most of the lobster individuals appear in the center of nodules, and there appears to be no correlation between types of preservation, nodule shape and position of the individuals. Thus, it is unclear if there is any association between lobster-bearing nodules, the recovered gallery fragments, and other speculative, non-preserved, gallery networks.



The genesis of organism-bearing nodules has been widely discussed in scientific literature, and is commonly attributed to biological or early diagenetic precipitation of minerals around decaying carcasses (e.g. Feldmann et al., 2013; Plet et al., 2016). In the case of the decapod-bearing concretions of the Forcall Formation, further geochemical analysis would be required to shed light on the processes driving nodulization, as no inferences can be made from direct or microscopic observation due to textural and compositional homogeneity. However, 52% of individuals are preserved whole (including whole lobsters and exuviae), and another 48% are isolated carapaces preserving articulated pereiopods. These features imply little to no postmortem transport, followed by rapid burial and possibly early diagenetic nodulization, which preserved the remains before scavenging organisms could disarticulate them. Incomplete nodules with exposed body parts may indicate episodes of disturbance (e.g. exhumation).

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON DECAPOD CRUSTACEAN FOSSIL RECORD FROM SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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Keywords: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Decapoda, palaeobiodiversity

Even though crustaceans play an important role in all marine ecosystems, the fossil record of decapod crabs is modest. Fossil remains of decapods received less attention within the pale-ontological sciences due to their lower biostratigraphic significance compared to other crustaceans like ostracods, or several other invertebrate groups. However, from the 1970s onwards, there is an increased interest in this group, and the remarkable rise in palaeontological activities in the study of decapod fossils has now been ongoing since the 1990s. Taxonomic revisions of individual fossil taxa in recent years have been followed by new interpretations regarding their evolution and phylogeny.

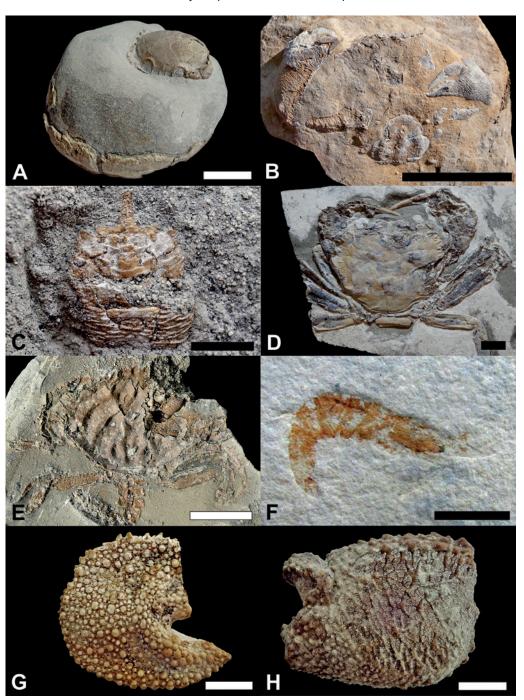
Looking at the decapod fossil record in Europe, it is clear that research has been focused on western European countries with a long history in natural sciences and palaeontology, a larger number of institutional repositories, and established decapod specialists among their palaeontologists (e.g., in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Hungary). Work on fossil decapod crustaceans from several Eastern European countries (e.g., Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania) has intensified in the beginning of the 21st century, but the fossil record from South-Eastern Europe (SEE) and the Balkans (mostly countries from former Yugoslavia, i.e. Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, North Macedonia, and Montenegro) remains poorly understood.

As was demonstrated for Slovenia (Gašparič et al., 2019a), it is likely that the decapod fossil record from these SEE countries is severely underestimated. A systematic overview of repositories and intensive fieldwork in the past decade has significantly expanded our knowledge of fossil decapod crustaceans from Slovenia. Here, on top of the 96 specimens belonging to 17 different species recorded previously, as much as 1,507 specimens were newly collected, and an additional 64 new taxa of fossil decapods were identified. Additionally, 15 new species, three new genera, and one new family of fossil crabs were newly erected in scientific papers. The palaeobiodiversity of decapods in Slovenia was thus proved to be on a similar level to countries like Austria and Hungary, i.e. countries with a continuity of research in fossil decapods.

Fossil remains of decapods in SEE countries are often overlooked and have not received sufficient scientific attention in the past. Only in the past decade several papers have dealt with specimens of fossil decapods from Croatia (Mikuž, 2002, 2003, 2010a, 2010b, 2011, 2015; Schweitzer et al., 2005; Gašparič et al., 2015, 2016) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Hyzny, 2019; Gašparič et al., 2019b), however, the bulk of scientific work on the material from this region is still waiting to

Figure 1. Representative decapod crustaceans from SEE countries. A. *Harpactoxanthopsis quadrilobatus* within a test of *Conoclypus conoideus*, Middle Eocene, Roč, Croatia. B. *Harpactoxanthopsis quadrilobatus*, Eocene, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. C. *Munidopsis salinaria*, Middle Miocene, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina. D. *Potamon* sp., Middle Miocene, Gračanica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. E. Cancridae gen. et sp. indet., Middle Miocene, Višnjica, Serbia. F. Penaeidae gen. et sp. indet., Late Cretaceous, Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina. G. *Lessinipagurus vasjamikuzi*, Eocene, Gračišće, Croatia. H. Paguroidea gen. et sp. indet., Eocene, Krk, Croatia. Scale bar in A and B is 50 mm, in C and G is 5 mm, and scale bar in others is 10 mm.

be analysed. As we recognized in Slovenia, it is easier to collect fossil decapods than to invest the time necessary to describe them. Crustaceans represent interesting and sought-after fossil specimens, therefore museums and private collections are likely housing a lot of material that remains unpublished. An additional barrier is also the decline of active taxonomist working on fossil invertebrates, not limited only to specialists in fossil decapods.





The planned work in SEE countries will attempt to provide an overview of the quantity and diversity of Cenozoic and Mesozoic decapod crustaceans from this region by visiting regional institutions, working together with local specialists, and raise awareness of possibilities of decapod fossil record in their countries. The aim is to compile a list of fossil material collected by previous authors and new specimens collected in the past decades, which are kept in institutional as well as private collections. Guest lectures will be used to promote palaeocarcinology and to encourage new taxonomist by introducing them to the latest developments in the field. Hands on presentations work best, as decapods crustaceans are among the most attractive invertebrate fossils.

SEE countries represent an untapped resource for new scientific research on fossil decapod crustaceans. With diverse stratigraphic successions and plenitude of available exposed Cenozoic and Mesozoic strata in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, North Macedonia, and Montenegro we can expect a similar level of diversity of fossil decapod communities there as well.

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TAXONOMY OF LATE JURASSIC (OXFORDIAN) DECAPOD CRUSTACEANS FROM KRAKÓWWIELUŃ UPLAND (SOUTHERN POLAND)

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Keywords: Anomura, Axiidea, Brachyura, sponge megafacies, semiquantitative analysis, dominance

The knowledge of Upper Jurassic decapod crustaceans from southern Poland has increased during the last decade, with published studies focusing on Anomura (Fraaije et al., 2012; 2014; Krzemińska et al., 2015) and Brachyura (Krzemińska, 2021; Starzyk, 2015; 2016). In 2012 the Department of Geology and Palaeontology (Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University, Bratislava) conducted field research in the Kraków-Wieluń Upland (southern Poland; NW of Kraków). A rich collection of decapod crustaceans was acquired from eight localities, including Bobrowniki, Lisowice, Młynka, Niegowonice, Ogrodzieniec, Sobków, Wysoka, and Zawodzie. Oxfordian strata of sponge megafacies are exposed at these localities representing the sediments of the northern margin of the Tethys Ocean (Collins and Wierzbowski, 1985; Matyszkiewicz, 1997). The largest amount of complete or almost complete individuals comes from Lisowice and Ogrodzieniec; the most undeterminable specimens occur in Niegowonice. Additionally the material was collected directly from the strata (which has not been reported previously), thus offering new possibilities of further study.

The studied material consists of more than 350 specimens of decapod crustaceans (Fig.1) of which 47 % represent complete or almost complete dorsal carapaces belonging to 23 species of axiideans (*Magila*), anomurans (*Ammopylocheles, Eopaguropsis, Gastrodorus*), and brachyurans (*Abyssophthalmus, Bucculentum, Eodromites, Gabriella, Goniodromites, Planoprosopon, Tanidromites*). The rest of the collection consists of isolated cheliped, propodi and undeterminable carapace fragments.

The material was analysed semiquantitatively resulting into an assessment of dominant decapod genera which differ among the studied localities. At Lisowice, the sample of 78 specimens was dominated by *Goniodromites* (n=30) and *Gastrodorus* (n=21); at Niegowonice, the sample of 32 specimens was dominated by *Tanidromites* (n=15) and *Goniodromites* (n=7); at Ogrodzieniec, the sample of 40 specimens was dominated by *Goniodromites* (n=28) and *Tanidromites* (n=8). Localities Bobrowniki, Młynka, Sobków, Wysoka, and Zawodzie yielded much less specimens hindering the assessment of dominant taxa.

Acknowledgements

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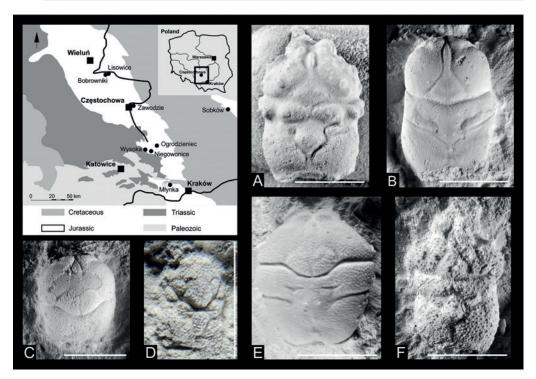


Figure 1. Map of studied localities with representatives of Late Jurassic decapod species. A. *Abyssophthalmus spinosus* (Lisowice). B. *Gabriella biburgensis* (Lisowice). C. *Tanidromites etalloni* (Niegowonice). D. *Gastrodorus bzowiensis* (Lisowice). E. *Goniodromites serratus* (Lisowice). F. *Bucculentum bucculentum* (Niegowonice). Scale bars: 0.5 mm.

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EARLY "SPEARING" STOMATOPOD CLAWS FROM THE MAASTRICHTIAN TYPE AREA

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Keywords: Stomatopoda, Crustacea, Maastrichtian, evolution, raptorial appendages, dactyls, functional morphology, cuticular microstructures, LV-SEM

The fossil remains of a stomatopod crustacean are being presented, originating from the Maastrichtian type area in the Netherlands. The fossil find shows the two dactyls of the paired raptorial appendages of a so called "spearing" stomatopod (Patek et al. 2016). These toothed claws belong to one of the oldest records of spearing stomatopods, only a few other Mesozoic records of evidently spearing Stomatopoda have been described so far (Haug et al. 2016). Closer observations, by camera or using a standard stereomicroscope, show a (faint) pattern of cuticular ridges on the surface of the dactyls. As every detail of these dactyls might reveal information, relevant for our understanding of early stomatopod evolution, the material was also examined using a low vacuum Scanning Electron Microscope (LV-SEM). Because of the small size of the slab in which the dactyls are preserved and the solid preservational condition of the dactyls, LV-SEM examination was a safe way to investigate morphological details. The LV-SEM examination provided a much clearer and detailed image of the grooves and ridges present on the surface of especially the teeth of the dactyls. Other cuticular microstructures, such as serrated edges on the inner side of the spines, were also clearly visualized (Fig. 1).





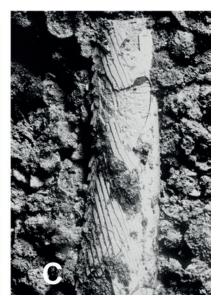


Figure 1. Paired dactyls of the raptorial appendages of a stomatopod from the Maastrichtian type area. A. Dactyls in situ, most likely the left and right dactyl of a single individual. B. Schematic drawing of both dactyls, the rectangle indicates the area visualized in image C. C. Low vacuum Scanning Electron Microscope (LV-SEM) image of the distal area of one of the teeth that has been examined. Parallel ridges on the surface and the serrated inner edge are visible. Scale bar represents 2 mm in A.

Cuticular microstructures such as ridges, grooves, small teeth and crests on the dactyls of stomatopods, are not new to science. These kind of structures can be observed in many published images of Recent as well as fossil specimens and in some publications these structures are even the subject of detailed descriptions (e.g. Fig. 6 in Haug et al. 2013). A very rudimentary survey, based on available collection material from the former Zoological Museum of the University of Amsterdam, indicates that there is quite a variety in patterns of ridges and marginal serrations amongst extant stomatopod taxa. Take for example the serrated wave patterns of the ridges on the dactyls of *Pseudosquilla ciliata* (Fig. 2).



Fig 2. Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) image of the tip of a dactyl of the extant stomatopod species *Pseudosquilla ciliata*. Scale bar is 0.1 mm.

The overall shape of the dactyls from the Maastrichtian type locality, as well as the observed cuticular microstructures, seem to indicate affinities with the modern Lysiosquilloidea or Squillidae. The exact function of the cuticular microstructures on stomatopod dactyls is not fully understood yet, although (sharp) teeth and serrated edges without doubt bear a relation to the grabbing and holding of soft-bodied preys, spearing stomatopods hunt for. Despite the questions around functional (micro) morphology and despite the fact that stomatopod dactyls have not been structurally examined at a micro morphological level, and within a taxonomic context, the Maastrichtian fossil dactyls do tell an important story. This fossil record clearly proves that at the end of the Mesozoic, specialized spearing stomatopods did occur and already showed a very high level of morphological specialisation.

The presented research demonstrates the importance of studying and analysing microstructures in stomatopod fossil remains to widen the relevance and importance of the sparse stomatopod fossil record when studying their evolutionary history. As the strata where the dactyls were found have been examined in detail, also the palaeoecology of these spearing predators shall be considered.

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ONCOPAREIA: A CONVOLUTED STORY OF AN EXTINCT LOBSTER WITH PECTINATE CLAWS

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Keywords: Decapoda, Astacidea, Nephropidae, acicular dentition, convergent evolution

Oncopareia Bosquet, 1854 is an extinct clawed lobster genus within the clade of thaumastocheliform nephropid lobsters, characterized by short, quadrate pleura on the pleon and a major claw with a bulbous palm and acicular dentition. Extant thaumastocheliform lobsters include Thaumastocheles Wood-Mason, 1874; Thaumastochelopsis Bruce, 1988; and Dinochelus Ahyong, Chan and Bouchet, 2010. As a group, their record tells an interesting story, of evolution during the Late Cretaceous, of dwelling at shelf depths during that time interval, of a loss of shelf-dwelling habit in the Paleogene and of a reduction or even complete loss of eyes in extant, deep-water representatives (Tshudy and Saward 2012; Chang et al., 2017). The evolution of this group has recently been assessed by cladistic analysis of morphological, molecular and combined data (Chang et al., 2017). Importantly, thaumastocheliform lobsters are not the only group of decapod crustaceans possessing pectinate claws. These have been developed independently in several lineages (Tshudy and Sorhannus, 2000), including Polychelida (Palaeopentachelidae), Astacidea (Erymidae, Nephropidae, Stenochiridae), Axiidea (Ctenochelidae), and Brachyura (Iphiculidae, Leucosiidae), causing difficulties in taxonomic evaluation of fossil occurrences solely based on isolated claw elements. In fact, a number of extinct taxa have been assigned to Oncopareia based merely on isolated cheliped fingers only to be later recognized as representatives of Ctenocheles Kishinouye, 1926 (Tshudy, 1993).

Oncopareia is the earliest thaumastocheliform lobster with the oldest record being of early to middle Turonian age. Originally, Oncopareia was erected for a single late Maastrichtian species, O. bredai Bosquet, 1854 from the Netherlands. The genus has a convoluted taxonomic history that begins with a type species that is an accidental composite of two different lobsters: Oncopareia bredai and Hoploparia beyrichi Schlüter, 1862. Subsequent to Bosquet's (1854) erection of a composite type species, the taxonomic confusion surrounding lobster-like fossils with pectinate claws with acicular dentition became even more serious. Unintentionally, some workers (Schlüter, 1862; Pelseneer, 1886; Fritsch and Kafka, 1887) erected new genera which later become (partly) synonymous, including Nymphaeops Schlüter, 1862; Ischnodactylus Pelseneer, 1886; and Stenocheles Fritsch, 1887, in Fritsch and Kafka, 1887. Other scholars (Böhm, 1891; Rathbun, 1935) described isolated chelipeds with bulbous palms and slender fingers armed with acicular denticles; most of these were misidentified at the infraordinal level. Mertin (1941) even tried to rectify all of this by bringing all fossil lobsters with pectinate claws into one genus. A recent redescription of the type species, Oncopareia bredai, provided a long-needed basis for re-evaluation of all taxa previously attributed to the respective genus (Tshudy et al., in press). Besides the type species, three other Oncopareia species were recognized, including Oncopareia esocina (Fritsch, in Fritsch and Kafka, 1887), Oncopareia klintebjergensis Jakobsen and Collins, 1979, and Oncopareia lunata (Fritsch, in Fritsch and Kafka, 1887). Other species previously included within Oncopareia were either reassigned to other genera or considered of uncertain affinity (Tshudy et al. in press).

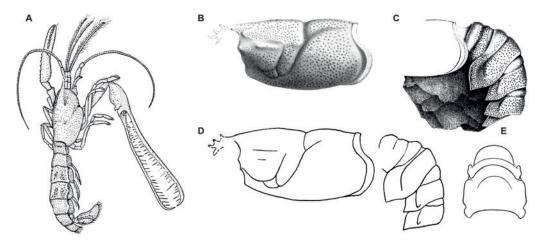


Figure 1. *Oncopareia bredai* (sensu Bosquet, 1854), as a composite species. A. Habitus of thaumastocheliform lobsters, exemplified by *Thaumastocheles zaleucus* (from Calman, 1911). B. Cephalothorax of *O. bredai* (from Bosquet, 1854, pl. 10, fig. 5). C. Pleon of *Hoploparia beyrichi* Schlüter, 1862 (from Bosquet, 1854, pl. 10, fig. 6). D. Composite drawing from Mertin (1941, textfig. 9e). E. Pleonal segments 1 and 2 of *O. bredai* (as *Homarus bosqueti* Pelseneer, 1886; from Pelseneer, 1886, fig. 4).

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THE FOSSIL RECORD OF CRUSTACEANS IN METHANE SEEP DEPOSITS WITH A FOCUS ON DECAPODS FROM THE WESTERN INTERIOR SEAWAY, USA

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Keywords: Axiidea, Brachyura, Cirripedia, Decapoda, Ostracoda

Numerous crustaceans such as ostracods, decapod, and some barnacles inhabit modern methane (cold) seep ecosystems, but little is known about their fossil record in these chemosymbiotic-based ecosystems. Consequently, their importance in structuring faunas at these biodiversity hotspots on the sea floor is poorly known, including to what extent seeps acted as refuges from extinction, the timing of occupancy of cold seeps, the degree of endemism, depth preferences, and the longevity of crustacean lineages in seeps. Although many of these questions cannot be answered yet, we provide the first synthesis of crustaceans in ancient seep deposits and show that they have been found at each continent due to a rapid increase in research since the 1990s (Klompmaker et al., in press). Ostracods and barnacles are known from body fossils alone. Conversely, decapods are represented by two types of fossils: body fossils primarily attributed to true crabs and ghost shrimps, and their traces such as coprolites, repair scars, and burrows. The last ~150 million years saw a remarkable rise in the number of localities and occurrences of seep crustaceans, mostly caused by the diversification and spread of decapods into a variety of environments including seeps. Previous papers on seep decapod body fossils include, among others, Bishop and Williams (2000), Schweitzer and Feldmann (2008), and Karasawa and Kano (2021).

In addition to a meta-analysis, we also performed specimen-based research by studying seep decapods from South Dakota and Wyoming, USA, through museum visits and field work (Fig. 1). This has resulted in many additional decapod body fossils found in seep limestones from



Figure 1. One of the seep limestone sites in South Dakota in 2019. Photo: Adiël A. Klompmaker

the Upper Cretaceous (Campanian-Maastrichtian) Pierre Shale, deposited in what was the Western Interior Seaway. Thirty-three body fossils of decapods were found in the American Museum of Natural History, two in the Black Hills Institute, and ~300 specimens were collected in the field, mostly over the last three years. For taxonomic purposes, we also studied specimens from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and the Smithsonian Institution. Decapods



from these seep limestones are represented by (1) true crabs (Brachyura) that had a burying, epifaunal, and swimming lifestyle, and (2) burrowing ghost shrimps (Axiidea). All specimens belong to at least seven known species, implying that there is no endemism in these shallow-water seeps. The abundance of decapods can vary substantially among and within seeps, and seep decapod faunas can also differ substantially in terms of composition. Two remarkable specimens were encountered. One specimen with a parasitic swelling in the branchial region was found (ichnotaxon *Kanthyloma crusta* Klompmaker et al., 2014), suggesting that the prevalence of parasitism by epicaridean isopods is low in the Pierre Shale seep faunas. One crab specimen appears to have at least the gills and esophagus preserved.

Using seep specimens from the Pierre Shale of South Dakota in the American Museum of Natural History collection, we found several lines of evidence for predation that may be attributed to crustaceans: (1) repair scars in seven mollusks (six inoceramid bivalves and one gastropod), (2) two specimens of lucinid bivalves with pinch traces, and (3) one inoceramid shell with interconnected, arcuate holes in the shell. Thus, it appears that decapods affected the fauna of these seeps, but more research is needed to quantify to what degree they did.

Although considerable progress was made in the last 30 years, the relatively unexplored fossil record of seep crustaceans provides ample opportunities for further taxonomic, macroevolutionary, and paleoecological research. The study on the South Dakota/Wyoming material herein is one example.

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RESOLVING THE TAGMATISATION AND THE PHYLOGENETIC AFFINITIES OF THYLACOCEPHALA: INPUT FROM 3D DATA

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Keywords: X-ray tomography, synchrotron, appendages, La Voulte, Lagerstätte

Known from at least the Silurian (Haug et al. 2014) to the Late Cretaceous (e.g. Charbonnier et al. 2017), Thylacocephala Pinna, Arduini, Pesarini and Terruzi 1982 is an enigmatic group of extinct euarthropods characterised by a folded protective shield, hypertrophied compound eyes, three pairs of raptorial appendages, eight pairs of gills and an eight to 22-segmented posterior trunk (Schram, 2014; Fig. 1). Despite this knowledge on their anatomy, many questions remain on their phylogenetic affinities. Since its recognition as a monophyletic group, Thylacocephala has been related to a huge variety of pancrustaceans: thecostracans (Pinna et al. 1982), malacostracans (e.g. Secrétan 1985; Vannier et al. 2016) or remipeds (Haug et al. 2014). This uncertainty on their phylogenetic relationships is due to a lack of knowledge on their tagmatisation. Indeed, the origin of the shield, the exact number of cephalic and posterior trunk segments and appendages as well as the nature of raptorial appendages are still unknown as they are rarely preserved.

In order to resolve the remaining questions on their tagmatisation, modern imaging techniques such as micro-computed X-ray tomography (μ CT) provide important information. Conventional μ CT has proven to be efficient in order to reconstruct the internal anatomy of thylacocephalans (digestive and respiratory systems; Vannier et al. 2016). However, it did not provide insight into their various appendages. Thus, we decided to apply Synchrotron Phase Contrast μ CT to Dollocaris ingens Van Straelen, 1923 from the La Voulte-sûr-Rhône Lagerstätte, Ardèche, France (Callovian, Middle Jurassic). It enables us to investigate the segmentation of the posterior and anterior trunk. We were also able to study the morphology and nature of cephalic and raptorial appendages as well as the morphology and number of posterior trunk segments.

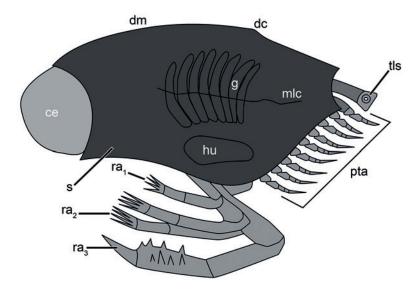


Figure 1. External anatomy of *Dollocaris ingens* Van Straelen, 1923. Abbreviations: ce, compound eyes; dc, dorsal carina; dm, dorsal midline; g, gills; hu, hump; mlc, medio-lateral carina; pta, posterior trunk appendages; ra1-3, raptorial appendages; s, shield; tls, telson.



Based on those findings, two phylogenetic analyses (cladistic and bayesian) were run on two different datasets (Legg et al., 2013; Aria et al., 2021) consisting respectively of 322 taxa and 754 characters, and of 114 taxa and 276 characters. Three thylacocephalan species were included in the analyses: Dollocaris ingens, Thylacares brandonensis Haug et al., 2014 and Mayrocaris bucculata Polz, 1994. This allows us to test for the monophyly of Thylacocephala and to resolve the phylogenetic affinities of Thylacocephala.

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THE TRIASSIC THYLACOCEPHALANS FROM SLOVENIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR THEIR EVOLUTION AND DIVERSIFICATION

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Keywords: Anisian, Carnian, geographic distribution, biodiversity

Thylacocephala Pinna, Arduini, Pesarini and Teruzzi, 1982 is an enigmatic fossil euarthropod ingroup, often associated to pancrustaceans. Thylacocephalans are characterised by key anatomical features: a folded shield enveloping most of the body, hypertrophied compound eyes, three pairs of raptorial appendages, a trunk made of eight up to 22 segments bearing appendages and eight pairs of gills. Known from at least the Silurian (Haug et al., 2014) to the Cretaceous (e.g. Charbonnier et al., 2017), thylacocephalans have a patchy fossil record in terms of stratigraphy and of palaeogeography. Despite the few occurrences, it seems that thylacocephalans were the most taxonomically diversified during the Triassic (Laville et al., 2021).

Unknown until recently in the fossil record of Slovenia, many specimens of thylacocephalans were collected from the Middle Triassic (Anisian) beds of the Velika planina Member (Gale et al., 2022) and Strelovec Formation (Križnar and Hitij, 2010) in Kamnik-Savinja Alps, as well as in the Late Triassic beds (Carnian) of the Martuljek Formation in the Julian Alps (Hitij et al., 2019).

A new species of *Atropicaris*, a typical taxon of the Middle and Late Triassic, is described from the Velika planina Member (Fig. 1). In the Strelovec Formation, taxa already known from the Middle and Late Triassic of Austria and Italy (*Microcaris* Pinna, 1974; *Atropicaris* Arduini and Brasca, 1984) have been recorded while two new morphotypes have also been identified. One of the new morphotypes presents typical characters of Jurassic representatives (rounded rostrum, posterior notch and spines). Finally, *Atropicaris* and *Microcaris* specimens were also recovered from the Martuljek Formation in which accumulation of thylacocephalans can be seen. Those accumulations might be the results of mass mortality.

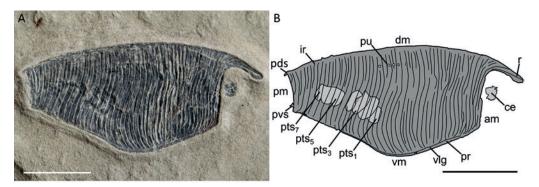


Figure 1. *Atropicaris* sp. nov. from Ivovec, Logarska dolina, Slovenia (Velika planina Member, Anisian, Middle Triassic). A. Lateral view. B. Drawing. Abbreviations: am, anterior margin; ce, compound eyes; dm, dorsal midline; ir, intercalary ridges; pds, postero-dorsal spine; pm, posterior margin; pr, primary ridges; pts_{1.7}, posterior trunk segments 1-7; pu, punctuations; pvs, postero-ventral spine; r, rostrum; vlg, ventro-lateral groove; vm, ventral margin. Scales: 5mm.



Those new findings provide important insight into the diversity and palaeogeographic distribution of thylacocephalans during the Triassic but also into the morphological evolution of this puzzling group.

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BRACHYURAN (DECAPODA) REMAINS ASSOCIATED TO DINOSAURS IN FLUVIAL DEPOSITS OF THE TREMP GROUP (CATALONIA)

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Keywords: Decapoda, Brachyura, freshwater crabs, dinosaurs, Upper Cretaceous

The association of brachyuran decapod remains with terrestrial vertebrates such as dinosaurs in land environments is scarce but not uncommon (Robin et al., 2019; Luque et al., 2021, and references therein). In the Uppermost Cretaceous of southern Pyrenees, Marmi et al. (2016, 525, figs. 5D-F) reported and briefly described a dactyl fragment of an indeterminate decapod from the Molí del Baró-1 locality (Pallars Jussà, Catalonia). Although it did not noticed among decapod fossil workers, it was the first formal report of decapods associated to dinosaurs in the Iberian Peninsula.

Herein, we report and describe two remains of eubrachyuran (cf. Robin et al., 2019, 2, 3) crabs recovered in two upper Maastrichtian localities: the aforementioned Molí del Baró-1, and the Obaga de la Collada site (Isona i Conca Dellà, Catalonia). The localities are found in the fluvial deposits of the Talarn Formation or 'Lower red Garumnian' of the Tremp Group and fall within the C29r magnetochron (upper Maastrichtian; Fondevilla et al., 2019). The decapod-bearing strata in both localities correspond to mudstones (representing floodplain deposition) interbedded within thick sandstones (interpreted as meandering rivers). The specimen from the Molí del Baró-1 site was found associated with plants (charophytes, sporomorphs, angiosperm leaves, seeds, and logs), invertebrates (mollusc shells, partial insect exoskeletons and eggs) and vertebrates (mainly teeth, bones, and eggshells of dinosaurs and crocodylomorphs) (Marmi et al., 2016). The dactylus fragment from the Obaga de la Collada site was found associated with indeterminate bone fragments and a dinosaur (hadrosaur) footprint cast.

The Molí del Baró-1 specimen (Fig. 1A-E), appears to be a portion of a relatively long left pollex. It possesses an occlusal margin with four complete serial conical teeth and portions of two more proximally and distally teeth, as well as a slightly convex lower margin. The outer side is slightly convex and the inner side slightly concave. A longitudinal groove and rows of setal pits are present along outer and inner sides. The specimen is similar to some Cenozoic portunids, but proper comparison requires further specimens (cf. Fig. 1F).

The Obaga de la Collada specimen (Fig. 1G-K) is an incomplete right dactylus, relatively long and gently curved forward. The upper margin is rounded and smooth. The occlusal margin presents a proximal flattened molariform tooth, followed by three rounded serial conical teeth. A longitudinal row of spaced setal pits runs along both, inner and outer sides. Taxonomic assignment based on a single finger fragment is difficult. *Eogeryon elegius* Ossó, 2021 (Portunoidea), from the late Cenomanian of the Central Iberian Peninsula presents a very similar gently curved right dactylus, with a proximal flattened molariform tooth followed by rounded serial conical teeth (cf. Fig. 1L, P; Ossó, 2021, fig. 1D). The same occurs with the portunoid *Styracocarcinus meridionalis* (Secrétan, 1961), from the late Campanian of North of Africa (cf. Fig. 1Q; Ossó, 2016, fig. 6B'). The right dactylus of *Dinocarcinus velauciensis* Van Bakel, Hyžný, Valentin and Robin, 2019 *in* Robin et al., 2019 (Portunoidea s.l.) (Fig. 1M-0), from the late Campanian of France, show how, despite of an apparent similarity such as a proximal flattened molariform tooth, it differs from the Obaga de la Collada specimen in being less curved and having smaller serial teeth that decrease in size

(cf. Robin et al., 2019, fig. 3d). *D. velaucensis* was described from a similar fluvio-lacustrine environment that the specimens reported herein, and also associated with terrestrial dinosaurs, and freshwater fauna (Robin et al., 2019, fig. 4). Given that the greatest similarity of the dactylus of the Obaga de la Collada dactylus is with the dactyli of *E. elegius* and *S. meridionalis*, both placed within Portunoidea (see Ossó, 2021, 145, 147; Luque et al., 2021, fig. 5H), and to lesser extent

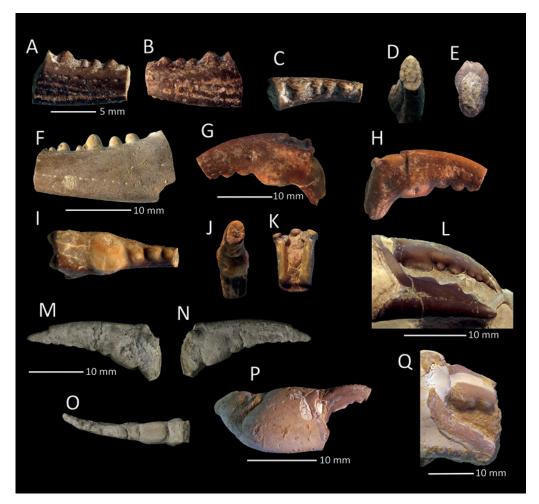


Figure 1. A-E. Molí del Baró-1 specimen, MCD-5538, left pollex. A. Inner side. B. Outer side. C. Occlusal margin. D. Distal view. E. Proximal view. F. ?Necronectes sp. MHNBx 2021.29.11 from the Oligocene of Gaas (France), left pollex, outer side. G-K. Obaga de la Collada specimen, MCD-340, right dactylus. G. Inner side. H. Outer side. I. Occlusal margin. J. distal view. K. proximal view. L, P. Eogeryon elegius Ossó, 2021, Holotype MGB 69151, from the Cenomanian of Condemios de Arriba (Spain), right propodus outer side. M-O. Dinocarcinus velaucensis Van Bakel, Hyžný, Valentin and Robin, 2019, MMS/VBN.12.A.00, from the Campanian of Velaux (France), right dactylus. M. Inner side. N. Outer side. O. Occlusal margin. P. Eogeryon elegius Ossó, 2021, unnumbered AO col., from the Cenomanian of Condemios de Arriba (Spain), right propodus outer side. Q. Styracocarcinus meridionalis (Secrétan, 1961), unnumbered AO Col., from the probably Campanian of Merija (Morocco), right propodus outer side. Abbreviations: MCD: Museu de la Conca Dellà (Isona, Catalonia); MHNBx: Muséum d'Histoire naturelle de Bordeaux (France); MGB: Museu de Geologia de Barcelona (Barcelona, Catalonia); MMS/VBN: Musée du Moulin Seigneurial/Velaux-La Bastide Neuve (France).



with *D. velaucensis*, also placed in Portunoidea s.l., this specimen could belong, with doubts, to an unknown member of that superfamily.

The dactyli of the exquisitely preserved in amber *Cretapsara athanata* Luque *in* Luque et al., 2019 (Cretapsaridae), from the lowermost Cenomanian of Myanmar, differs from both specimens described herein in having straighter dactyli with very smaller teeth on the occlusal margin, in addition of the huge difference in size. *C. athanata*, could have lived in a brackish or freshwater setting near to coastal to fluvio-estuarine environment (Luque *et al.*, 2019).

Most probably, both specimens reported herein represent allochthonous remains of marine or coastal decapods, deposited in pools formed at the edge of meandering rivers or in the floodplain. The finding of coastal decapods in inland sedimentary environments concurs with the widespread occurrence of non-reworked planktonic foraminifera and autogenic glauconite grains documented within the whole Lower Red Unit (Díez-Canseco et al. 2014; Vicente et al., 2015; Ghinassi et al., 2021). Thus, in a similar way, we interpret that the decapod fragments were transported, as a suspended load, on tidal flows from the open sea into meandering channels.

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FIRST REPORT OF THE FRESHWATER CRAB POTAMON (DECAPODA: BRACHYURA: POTAMIDAE) IN THE PLIOCENE OF THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

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Keywords: Baix Ebre, Brachyura, Decapoda, Freshwater crabs, Pliocene

The westernmost (natural) occurrence of extant primary freshwater crabs in Europe is northern Italy. Also, fossil freshwater crabs were until recently not reported west of northern Italy and the North Alpine Foreland Basin, with exception of a single (juvenile?) specimen reported from the Upper Oligocene-Lower Miocene Izarra Formation in Araba (northern Spain) and attributed to the family Potamidae (López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017).

The discovery of dactyli belonging to Potamidae (Fig. 1) in the Pliocene of Lo Ranxero (Baix Ebre, Catalonia), represents the second record of freshwater crabs in the Iberian Peninsula, and helps to understand the palaeogeobiographic distribution across the circum-Mediterranean area and Europe, and in addition, could fill the existing gap of the fossil record of primary freshwater crabs between the late Miocene and the Pleistocene of Europe (Klaus and Gross, 2009, fig. 1).

The outcrop is located in the lower Ebro river palaeovalley, the so-called Tortosa Graben, incised during the Tortonian-Messinian (late Miocene) between the Catalan Coastal Ranges and its Mediterranean outlet. The flooding of the Mediterranean Sea during the early Pliocene infilled of marine sediments the palaeovalley, subsequently, in late Pliocene and Quaternary, non-marine and alluvial sediments filled the palaeovalley (see Arasa-Tuliesa and Cabrera, 2018, figs. 3, 4C, 5A).

The Cenozoic rocks that crop out in the old clay quarries near Lo Ranxero (also known as Sant Nofre), in the Baix Ebre area, show seven differentiated lithoestratigraphic units. The low-ermost unit, the 'Pisolitic Clay', is attributed to the Paleocene. The overlying Neogene units such as the Miocene alluvial fan deposits of the 'Conglomerates of the Venta del Ranxero', and the 'Siliceous Conglomerates of Anguera', are attributed to the Tortonian-Messinian (late Miocene) Arasa-Tuliesa and Cabrera, 2018).

The Pliocene sedimentation began with the 'Gravel and Sands with Oysters' unit, considered a transgressive unit, where foreshore and shoreface units can be differentiated. The shallow marine deposits 'Blue Marls of Campredó' unit; within this unit, sandstone was deposited by high and medium storm density flow. The 'Sant Nofre Limestones' unit corresponds to palustrine and lacustrine deposits with expansive and retractive sequences. And the uppermost unit, 'Roca Corba conglomerates', that corresponds to debris flow and braided fluvial deposits that could be attributed to late Pliocene-early Pleistocene (Arasa-Tuliesa, 1990, fig. 2; Arasa-Tuliesa and Cabrera, 2018, fig. 3).

The dactyli presented herein, were recovered associated with freshwater gastropods (*Limnaea* sp.) and remains of indeterminate mammalian, in the lacustrine-palustrine 'Sant Nofre Limestones' levels, that would correspond to the late Pliocene (Agustí et al, 1983; Arasa-Tuliesa, 1990, 280-282, figs. 2, 10; Arasa-Tuliesa and Cabrera, 2018).

In absence of carapace remains, the serial teeth of the dactyli and the grooves and setal pits on their surface, allow – together with the origin from a freshwater facies – to classify the dactyli as of primary freshwater crab origin. We assign them to the genus *Potamon* Savigny, 1816, as



all European (fossil and extant) primary freshwater crabs belong to this genus (Gross and Klaus, 2005).

However, the isolated dactyli of Sant Nofre do not allow an species identification, although they present a remarkable resemblance to those of recent European species, such as *Potamon fluviatile* (Herbst, 1785) (e.g. Pretzmann, 1971, t. 1, fig. 1) and *P. ibericum* (Bieberstein, 1808) (ibid. t. 2, fig. 1), but also with fossil species such as *P. hegauense* Klaus and Gross, 2009 (see Klaus and Gross, 2009, fig. 2B) and *P. quenstedti* (Zittel, 1885) (ibid. fig. 4C). A similar taxonomic approach was taken for isolated dactyli of *Potamon* sp. from the Middle East which were compared with the recent *Potamon potamios* (Olivier, 1804) by Ashkenazi et al. (2005, fig. 4).

Comparisons with the dactyli of the Anatolian specimens of *Potamon* sp. found in the Pleistocene travertine outcrops of the Denizli Basin (SW Turkey) (see Fraaije et al., 2010; Pasini and Garassino, 2011), is not possible, since they are preserved with a thick layer of calcium carbonate that hides the diagnostic details. Anatolian *Potamon* sp. preserved in travertines, could have used thermal springs as local refugia during the Pleistocene glacial times (see Parvizi et al., 2019), according with observations by Klaus and Gross (2009, 15, 16) for Pleistocene *Potamon antiquum* Szombathy, 1916 in Hungary.

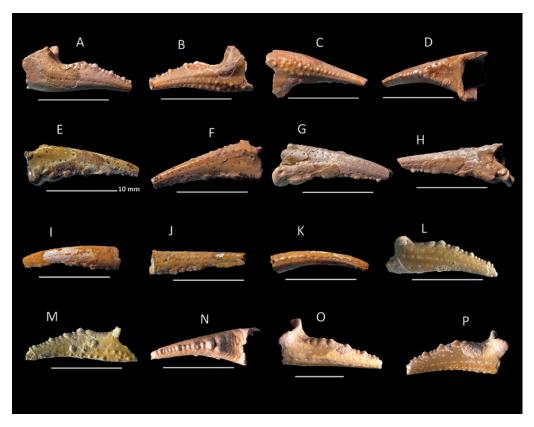


Figure 1. *Potamon* sp. from the Pliocene of Lo Ranxero (Baix Ebre, Catalonia). A-D. MTTE 32434, right pollex, A. outer side; B. inner side; C. lower margin; D. occlusal margin. E-F. MTTE 32462, right dactyl, E. outer side; F. inner side. G-H. MTTE 32912, right dactyl, G. outer side; H. inner side; I-K. MTTE 33015, left dactyl, I. outer side; J. inner side; K. upper margin. L-N. MTTE 34796, right pollex, L. outer side; M. inner side; N. occlusal margin. O-P. MTTE 35271 right pollex, O. outer side; P. inner side. Scale bar equal to 10 mm, except for O and P equal to 5 mm.



In no case, morphological similarities could indicate conspecificity of our specimens, with any of the taxa named above or with any of the other European species compiled by Klaus and Gross (2009), given the restricted taxonomic value of isolated dactyli.

The discovery of dactyli of *Potamon* sp. in the Pliocene of the northeastern of the Iberian Peninsula, expands the occurrence of the genus in Europe further west than the fossil (and extant) record so far indicated. Future work will help to glimpse the palaeogeographic and evolutionary history of the genus *Potamon* during the Cenozoic.

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"THE VINEYARD CRABS", THE APTIAN DECAPOD ASSEMBLAGE OF CAL CASSANYES (GARRAF MASSIF, ALT PENEDÈS, CATALONIA, NE IBERIAN PENINSULA)

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Keywords: Decapoda, Brachyura, Podotremata, Sponge patch reef, Cretaceous, Iberian Peninsula

A first report of decapods from Cal Cassanyes (Casa Alta) was done by Vía (1951), when he described one chela attributed to *Homarus edwardsi* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1849, and also remains of one carapace and one chela attributed to *Distefania centrosa* Van Straelen, 1940 (= *D. incerta* [Bell, 1863]). It was not until 2008, that Moreno-Bedmar et al. (2008) presented a preliminary note reporting the decapod assemblage. New finds in the outcrop allow to present a more detailed report showing the high decapod diversity of the Cal Cassanyes outcrop.

In the Cal Cassanyes area, Aptian marine strata crops in several vineyards. The vineyard located in the highest topographical position in the northwest, the informally so-called "vineyard above", is the one that yielded the decapod assemblage. In this vineyard the middle part of the Marls of Vallcarca unit crops out, and consists in yellowish to ocher marls, marly limestone

and grayish limestones that ranges between the uppermost lower Aptian to the lowermost upper Aptian (*Dufrenoyia furcata* and *Epicheloniceras martini* ammonite Biozones respectively). This stratigraphical interval belongs to the subunit known as 'Porifera marls' due to its extraordinary abundance of sponges (Moreno-Bedmar et al., 2008).

This small outcrop has yielded a large number of mainly siliceous sponges, nautiloids, ammonites, echinoids, bivalves, crinoids, brachiopods and the decapod assemblage reported herein.

The abundance of sponges on this site indicate the presence of nutrients, and even without being a true bioherm, would perform the similar functions as a patch reef serving as a shelter for many invertebrates, including decapods. The decapods are low in number, no more than forty specimens from a small area, ranging from near-complete carapaces to just fragments or isolated chelae, but show a great diversity.

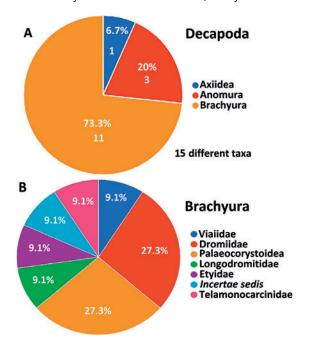


Figure 1. A. Pie chart showing the composition of the Cal Cassanyes decapod assemblage by main groups and number of taxa. B. Pie chart showing the composition of the main group Brachyura at familial or suprafamilial level.

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The high diversity of this decapod assemblage is represented by fifteen different taxa including Axiidae, Anomura and Brachyura, with the latest group being the best represented with eleven different taxa. Among them, the dromiids and palaeocorystoids are the best represented, both in number of species and specimens (Fig. 1).

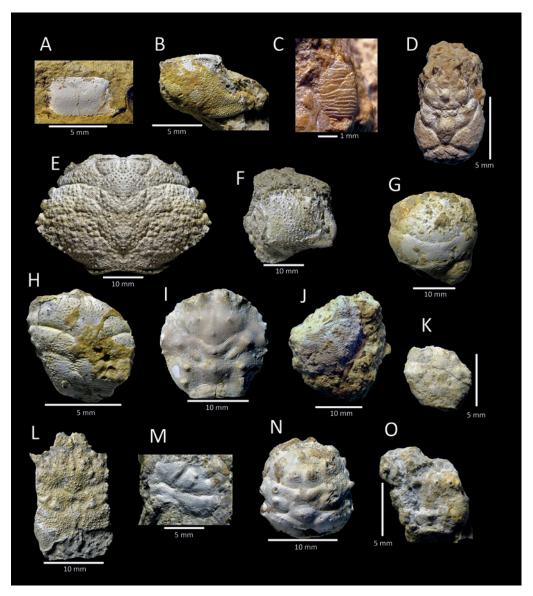


Figure 2. Representatives of the Cal Cassanyes decapod assemblage. A. "Callianassa" undetermined MGSB86072a. B. "Pagurus" nov. sp. MGSB74530. C. Eomunidopsis of. navarrensis (Van Straelen, 1940) MGSB86073a. D. Vectis nov. sp. MGSB 86061. E- F. Distefania incerta (Bell, 1863). E. MGSB74549c (digital composition). F. MGSB74549a. G. Eodromites sp. MGSB74543a. H, Goniodromites laevis (Van Straelen, 1940) MGSB86074. I, Necrocarcinus nov. sp. MGSB74538. J. ?Pseudonecrocarcinus sp. MGSB86075. K. ?Paranecrocarcinus sp. MGSB86076. L. "Glaessnerella" angusta (Wright and Collins, 1972) MGSB86077. M. Etyxanthosia fossa (Wright and Collins, 1972) MGSB74550. N. Mesodromilites nov. sp. MGSB74540a. O. ?Withersella MGSB86078. Abbreviations. MGSB: Museu de Geologia del Seminari de Barcelona.



The different taxa recognized at the site are: "Callianassa" sp.; "Pagurus" nov. sp.; paguroid ind.; Eomunidopsis cf. navarrensis (Van Straelen, 1940); Vectis nov. sp.; Distefania incerta (Bell, 1863) being by far the most abundant species at the site; Eodromites sp.; Goniodromites laevis (Van Straelen, 1940); Necrocarcinus nov. sp.; "Paranecrocarcinus sp.; "Pseudonecrocarcinus sp.; "Glaessnerella" angusta (Wright and Collins, 1972) representing potentially a new genus; Etyxanthosia fossa (Wright and Collins, 1972), being the oldest record of the species; Mesodromilites nov. sp., also being the oldest record of the genus; and the eubrachyuran, "Withersella (Fig. 2).

The Cal Cassanyes decapod assemblage appears as a mix of reef-associated, and non-reef-associated crabs, and shows great similarities, with the lower Aptian fauna of the Isle of Wight (Wright and Collins, 1972) and the late Albian of Navarra (Klompmaker, 2013). Cal Cassanyes has been revealed as the locality with the highest diversity of fossil decapods, especially Brachyura, in the Aptian of the Iberian Peninsula and one of the richest in the world known so far.

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AN EARLY TOURIST: WHEN CANCER PAGURUS VISITED ANDALUSIA. FIRST RECORD IN THE MEDITERRANEAN PLIOCENE.

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Keywords: brown crab, Cancridae, Edible crab, Iberian Peninsula Piacenzian, Zanclean

The unexpected discovery of a specimen of *Cancer pagurus* Linnaeus, 1758, in the Pliocene strata of the southeastern Iberian Peninsula, in the surroundings of El Ejido (Almería, Spain), reveals a first attempt of incursion of this species in the Mediterranean Sea.

The recovered specimen (Fig. 1) can be attributed to *Cancer pagurus* with confidence. Indeed, its big size (about 125 mm width), the smooth transversely ovate carapace with nine subquadrate teeth, the narrow trifid front and strong chelae with four longitudinal ridges, leave no doubt about its specific attribution.

The oldest records of *Cancer pagurus* are the specimens reported by van Bakel *et al.* (2003, 102, 103, pl. 5, figs. 1-9, and references therein) from the Piacenzian Lillo Formation (late Pliocene) of Antwerp (Belgium).

In the Dalías field, Unit I sediments belong to the Loco formation (Aguirre, 1998). According to Aguirre (1998), the top of Unit I is dated between FO *Globorotalia crassaformis* (i.e., 3.60 mya: Lourens *et al.*, 2004) and top of the MpI 4 [from 3.31 mya (Lourens *et al.*, 2004); (3.323 mya in Sprovieri *et al.*, 2006) to 3.19 mya (Lourens *et al.*, 2004) (3.211 mya in Sprovieri *et al.*, 2006)].

Aguirre (1995) points out the co-occurrence in the area (Western Coast of Almería) of the planktonic foraminifera *Sphaeroidinellopsis* Banner and Blow, 1959, *Globorotalia crassaformis* Galloway and Wissler, 1927, *G. bononiensis* Dondi, 1962 and *G. puncticulata* Deshayes, 1832 in the green fine sands (which correspond on the top of Unit I). Indeed, FO *Globorotalia crassaformis* is dated to 3.60 mya (Lourens *et al.*, 2004), FO *G. bononiensis* is dated to 3.59 mya (Sprovieri *et al.*, 2006), FO *G. puncticulata* is dated to 4.52 mya (Lourens *et al.*, 2004) and LO *G. puncticulata* is dated to 3.57 mya (Lourens *et al.*, 2004).

These facts permit to constrain the age of the base of the studied series (green fine sands), which conformably underlies the crab-bearing strata, between the FO *Globorotalia bononiensis* and the LO *G. puncticulata*, that is, at the base of the Piacenzian stage (3.59-3.57 mya).

Another cancroid crab, *Lobocarcinus sismondai* (von Meyer, 1843), was widely spread throughout the western Mediterranean Sea, including the south of the Iberian Peninsula, from the middle-late Miocene to the Pleistocene. This fossil species may probably be the same species known presently as *Cancer bellianus* Johnson, 1861(see Garassino et al. in Baldanza et al., 2013, p. 34). Differing from *C. pagurus*, which is mainly a shallow-water species, *C. bellianus* is a deeper species inhabitant of the continental shelf and upper slope (Zariquiey Álvarez, 1968; González, 1995; d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999).

The edible crab, also called brown crab, *Cancer pagurus*, is a well-known crab species (Edwards, 1979) that presently inhabits North Atlantic waters from Portugal to Norway (d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999. Bakke et al., 2018). It has been rarely reported in the Mediterranean Sea (Zibrowius, 1991; d'Udekem d'Acoz, 1999; GBIF, 2021; WORMS, 2021), where it does not constitute viable populations. Presently, *Cancer pagurus* does not establish populations in the Mediterranean, although it has been reported in the Tyrrhenian (late Pleistocene) of Sicilia (Berdar and Guglielmo, 1979).

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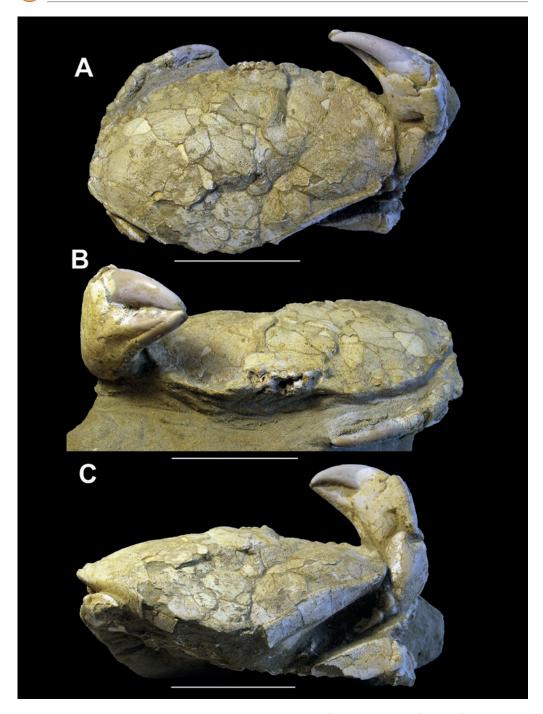


Figure 1. A-C. *Cancer pagurus* Linnaeus, 1758, CECOPAn 512 from the Pliocene of El Ejido (Almería, Spain). A. Dorsal view. B. Frontal view. C. Posterior view. Scale bar = 50 mm.



It is known that *Cancer pagurus* is a stenothermal crab, with a narrow range about 5°-8°, but that it also has high capacity of acclimation (Cuculescu *et al.*, 1998). Thus, its presence in the Mediterranean in apparently subtropical warm waters could be related to the more and more frequent climatic changes, such as in the deterioration at the end of the Zanclean and the cooling-warm trend in the Pleistocene (Taviani, 2002).

Its current presence in the Mediterranean may be due to different incursion attempts over time or to anthropic causes, since crabs of Atlantic origin are often sold alive in Mediterranean markets (personal observations), and that the Pliocene specimen from Almeria was perhaps a stray crab. In any case, it is the southernmost record of this species during the Pliocene and perhaps, if the age of the strata is confirmed, the oldest fossil record of *Cancer pagurus*.

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AN UNUSAL ACCUMULATION OF DECAPOD CRUSTACEAN FINGERS FROM THE LATEMOST MAASTRICHTIAN OF THE SOUTHERN PYRENEES (NE SPAIN)

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Keywords: Brachyuran decapods, dinosaurs, fixed and mobile fingers, digestion, lagoonal environment

INTRODUCTION

Fossil brachyurans associated with dinosaur remains are scarce in the fossil record, and only few occurrences have been documented (e.g., Marmi et al., 2016; Robin et al., 2019; Luque et al., 2021). In this work, we present several remains of decapod crustaceans recovered from the upper Maastrichtian outcrops of the Southern Pyrenees, in the municipality of Beranuy (Huesca, Aragón, NE Spain) that appear associated with dinosaur bones.

The fossils were found in the Veracruz 1 site, located at the lower part of the Tremp Fm, the lithostratigraphic unit encompassing the Maastrichtian and the Paleocene deposits in the South-Pyrenean Basin. The Mesozoic part of the formation in the Beranuy area is dated as uppermost Maastrichtian, within chron C29r, which encompasses the K/Pg boundary (Puértolas-Pascual et al., 2018). This interval is composed by a transitional and a continental subunit: 'Grey Garumnian' and 'Lower Red Garumnian', respectively. Veracruz 1 is located in a thick grey marly mudstone deposit within the upper part of the lagoonal 'Grey Garumnian unit'. The site is rich in fossils, including rizoliths, charcoalified wood, charophytes, foraminifera, bivalves, gastropods, crabs and several groups of vertebrates, including fishes, testudines, crocodylomorphs and dinosaurs (theropods and hadrosaurids) (Pérez-Pueyo et al., 2019). These fossil-rich marly mudstones accumulated in a pond within a partially vegetated fringe of a lagoon, then with both marine and continental influence. Charophyte association (under study) indicates salinity fluctuations between fresh and brackish conditions.

RESULTS

The studied crab fossils correspond to several isolated mobile and fixed fingers of indeterminate brachyurans. These fossils are housed at the Museo de Ciencias Naturales de la Universidad de Zaragoza (abbreviation MPZ). Two morphotypes (A and B) can be recognized in the assemblage. Morphotype A is represented by robust mobile and fixed fingers, dark colored, with several lined setal pits, both in the inner and outer margins (Fig. 1A-D). The fingers show a strong calcification, mottled texture of the cuticle in the upper margin and are slightly curved towards occlusal, more markedly in mobile fingers. However, their most distinctive feature is the molariform teeth of the occlusal margin of the fingers, which may point to a durophagous diet. There are 4-5 molariform teeth per finger, being the most proximal one the most developed. Until now, 15 right mobile fingers and 16 right fixed fingers have been found. The only left element found is a mobile finger. This marked bias towards right side elements could be pointing to an heterochelic condition. The length from the tip to the most proximal molariform ranges between 2.33 to 1.12 cm in mobile fingers and between 2.37 to 0.88 cm in fixed fingers.



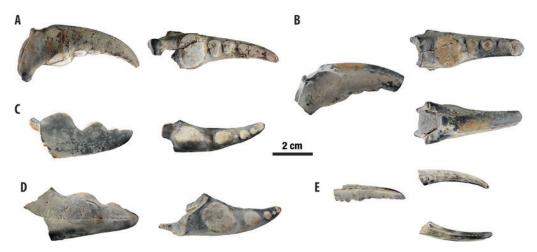


Figure 1. Crustacean decapod fingers from Veracruz 1 site. A. MPZ2022/184, right mobile finger in outer and occlusal views. B. MPZ2022/185, right mobile finger in outer, occlusal and dorsal views. C. MPZ2022/186, right fixed finger in outer and occlusal views. D. MPZ2022/187, right fixed finger in outer and occlusal views. E. MPZ2022/188, right mobile finger in outer, occlusal and dorsal views.

Morphotype B is represented by slender and elongated fingers (Fig. 1E) which, compared to morphotype A, are smaller and lack molariform elements in the occlusal margin. Instead, they have small sharp triangular teeth, which are tightly packed. 3 left and 2 right dactyli, and 1 left and 3 right fixed fingers have been recognized. Both fingers also show the lineation of setal pits in the inner and outer margins, plus an additional one in the dorsal/ventral margin. The length from the tip to the most proximal teeth ranges between 1.77 to 0.31 cm in mobile fingers and between 0.38 to 0.35 cm in fixed fingers.

In overall, the mobile and fixed fingers show good preservation, sometimes even keeping the mottled texture of the cuticle. Some of the dactyli of morphotype A preserve their articular facets, pointing that most of them were separated from the chela by disarticulation or by breakage of the manus. By contrast, in morphotype B the facets are all broken. Dissolution areas and fractures can be observed in some fingers, as well as the loose of the tip of the finger in some few cases. In morphotype A, some molariform elements show wear facets.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The unusual accumulation of isolated fingers of crustacean decapods at Veracruz 1 site raises certain questions about the genesis of the crab accumulation. This preferential preservation of crab claw elements may be explained by their higher degree of calcification and greater resistance to degradation and weathering (Krause et al., 2011). The lack of other anatomical elements hinders proper taxonomical attribution of the crabs of Veracruz 1, and thus, palaeoecological inferences cannot be proposed with confidence; i.e, there are no criteria to determine if these crabs correspond to allochthonous remains of marine decapods or belong to autochthonous brackish/freshwater living crabs. The general good preservation of the crab fingers, and the presence of both small and big fingers may support, a priori, that resedimentation was mild or null.

An alternative hypothesis to explain the studied accumulation of crab fingers relates to predation. Crab dactyli and pollicis are the most common element preserved in gastric pellets of extant birds that predate crabs (e.g., Munilla, 1997), due probably to their higher calcification. Several groups of archosaurs, including some theropod dinosaurs, pterosaurs and crocodylomorphs were known to produce gastric pellets (Myhrvold, 2012; Jiang et al., 2022). Then, the



accumulation of crabs' fingers at Veracruz 1 site may be the result of predation by a medium to big sized archosaur and the posterior vomit of the fingers. Further research is needed to validate this hypothesis, including a better understanding of the digestion and fracture patterns on crabs predated by extant archosaurs (birds, crocodiles). For this purpose, it is necessary to identify the main predation-related features on extant crab elements within gastric pellets and to carry on a proper comparison with the fossil elements.

Acknowledgements

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EXPANDING THE FOSSIL SQUAT LOBSTER RECORD IN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE

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Keywords: Galatheoidea, squat lobster, new taxa

Modern squat lobsters within the Galatheoidea superfamily thrive in all marine ecosystems and are extremely diverse with upwards of 1300 described species. Their fossil record, starting in the Middle Jurassic, is sparse in comparison with only ~200 species described. Additionally, many squat lobsters have been incompletely illustrated or inadequately described, which lends confusion to their overall classification. By examining specimens previously ascribed to known species in the literature and additional specimens in museum collections, we have determined five new species and one new genus of squat lobsters. These new species come from Europe and North America – one from the Kimmeridgian (Late Jurassic) of Germany, two from the Barremian (Early Cretaceous) of Mexico, and two from the Danian (Paleocene) of Denmark. One new genus is erected from the Ypresian (Eocene) of Italy. All new galatheoid species were found within coral-associated limestones, consistent with most other known fossil galatheoids. Our work adds to galatheoid diversity in deep time by ~2.5%.



ENRICO NICOLIS' SPECIMENS IN ALEXANDER BITTNER'S STUDIES

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Keywords: Crustaceans, Brachyura, Historical holotypes, Eocene, NE Italy

The rich "Nicolis" geological collection is housed in the Natural History Museum in Verona (Italy). Cavaliere Enrico de Nicolis (1841-1908) (Fig.1.1), Veronese, incorporated beside his commercial activity accurate geological studies. His competence in the latter subject even allowed him in 1882 the development of the 1:75,000 geological map of the province of Verona with its explanatory notes.

His legacy also includes a good number of specimens of fossil crustaceans found in Tertiary rocks from Venetia (NE Italy) that are being reviewed by the authors at the moment.

Nicolis committed some carapaces of its collection to be determined by Alexander Bittner (1850–1902) who had already carried out studies about Eocene crustaceans from Venetia (Bittner, 1875). So, some specimens left from the newborn Kingdom of Italy to Vienna in the Austro-Hungarian Empire: this cooperation resulted in the discovery of some new species (Bittner, 1884, 1886) (Figs 1.2-4).

All the holotypes that are only known by the original drawings in publications have been now located and it would be possible to provide for them a modern scientific work including proper photography.

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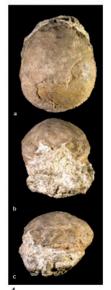


Figure 1. 1. Photograph of Enrico de Nicolis (date unknown). 2. Original label of the holotype of *Dromia veronensis*. 3. *Dromia veronensis* from Bittner (1886, t.1, figs.2). 4. *Dromia veronensis*, holotype (width: 13 mm, length: 16 mm); registration number i.12389; carapace: a. dorsal view., b. frontal view, c. lateral view.

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PALAEOENVIRONMENT AND FAUNAL COMPOSITION OF EARLY TO LATE APTIAN BRACHYURAN FAUNULES FROM THE ISLE OF WIGHT, UK

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Keywords: Atherfield Clay Formation, Lower Cretaceous, crab, shell accumulations, bioherms

INTRODUCTION

Amongst Aptian crustaceans from the Isle of Wight the best-known taxa are the glypheoid lobster *Atherfieldastacus magnus* (McCoy, 1849) and the homoloid crab *Mithracites vectensis* Gould, 1859. A handful of other brachyurans have been described from these ferruginous sand deposits; for overviews references is here made to Wright and Collins (1972: tables 1, 2) and Klompmaker (2013: table 6, appendix A). Most of these concern isolated records; reliable stratigraphical or palaeoecological data have not yet been published.

Intensive stratigraphical collecting by one of us (M.I. Simpson) over the past 40 years at Atherfield and Shanklin has resulted in the recovery of several hundreds of brachyuran specimens, the vast majority representing *M. vectensis*, but also including over 50 other brachyuran specimens.



Figure 1. Aptian rocks at Atherfield, Isle of Wight, UK.



Fossils were collected *in situ*, mainly from two intervals. The lower Aptian *Deshayesites forbesi* ammonite Zone, both in the 'lower Lobster bed' (clayey deposit) or 'crackers bed' (sandy deposit), appears to have been deposited in a shallow bay to near estuary environment, with soft sedimentary deposits and numerous shell accumulations (Simpson, 1985; see also Robin *et al.*, 2016: fig. 5). Crabs from this level mostly retain ventral elements and appendages, which is indicative of a low-energy setting and high sedimentation rate. The late Aptian faunule originates from the *Parahoplites nutfieldiensis* ammonite Zone, known as 'Urchin bed' (*sensu* Casey, 1961). This level, with hardgrounds, distinct shell mounds and small isolated bioherms, was primarily exposed and studied at Shanklin. Crabs from this level are generally preserved as isolated carapaces.

DISCUSSION

Both the early and late Aptian faunules are currently under study, and yield new taxa, plus additional and better-preserved material of several known taxa. In addition, the lower Aptian in particular has produced specimens with associated ventral elements and appendages, of both primitive and derived brachyurans; this is unique for the Lower Cretaceous and provides new insights into an important time interval in brachyuran evolution. Noteworthy, a single small specimen was found preserved inside an articulated, double-valved bivalve shell; in view of the tranquil conditions that prevailed during deposition of this unit, this probably represents a case of inquilinism.

In part, the faunal composition of the two levels differs, which makes it highly interesting to compare the palaeoenvironment of the two beds and analyse what impact environmental conditions had on different clades of brachyurans. In addition, the fauna may be compared with the Aptian brachyuran fauna from Catalonia and Cantabria (Spain) (Artal et al. 2010; González-León et al. 2016; Ossó et al., work under way).

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NEW INSIGHTS INTO REEF-ASSOCIATED DECAPOD CRUSTACEAN FAUNULES FROM THE MIOCENE PAKHNA FORMATION OF CYPRUS

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Keywords: Anomura, Cenozoic, Miocene, Mediterranean, reefs

Research on the extensive Miocene decapod faunas from Cyprus is still ongoing. During several fieldwork campaigns (between 1991 and 2021), diverse assemblages have been collected at six localities in Cyprus. Few specimens have been already published (Fraaije 2014, Wallaard et al. 2020) while most material still remain for further study.

Reef deposits providing specimens belong to the upper Chattian (Oligocene) to upper Messinian (Miocene) Pakhna Formation, which consists mainly of chalks, with some marls, limestones, gypsum lenses, calcareous sandstones and polymictic conglomerates interspersed (Morse, 1996; personal observations). The Pakhna Formation has a variable thickness between 60 and 500 metres; reef deposits are found both near the base (Terra Limestone Member) and at the top (Koronia Limestone Member) of the unit (Gass *et al.*, 1994; Follows *et al.*, 1996).

Reefs developed locally in two phases, namely during the Aquitanian-Burdigalian (Terra Limestone Member) and during the Tortonian-early Messinian (Koronia Limestone Member) (Follows et al., 1996). Reefs of Langhian and Serravallian (middle Miocene) age are absent, most likely as a result of a rapid sea level rise that drowned the older reefs (Robertson et al., 1991). Reef growth finally came to a halt in connection with the desiccation of the Mediterranean Sea during the Messinian (e.g., Krijgsman et al., 2002).

The Pakhna Formation is overlain by the Kalavasos Formation which consists mainly of evaporites linked to the Messinian salinity crisis. This corresponds with a prominent change in palaeoenvironmental conditions: from open-marine to shallower water (Kouwenhoven et al., 2006).

Of the six localities where decapod crustaceans have been recovered, at three of them the Terra Member is exposed (at Podromi, Kamares and Cap Greco), while the Koronia Member crops out at Tochni, Maroni and Mitsero. At all localities diverse decapod assemblages have been collected, although the highest abundance and diversity has been found in the upper Miocene Koronia Member. At most sites, the concentration of decapod remains proved to be high merely in a few of the blocks resting on the surface, in stark contrast to a near-complete absence from other studied matrix blocks.

This present research focuses on the anomuran fauna (Fig. 1) at these localities; future projects will consider the accompanying brachyuran assemblages. The Terra Member has yielded species of the genera *Galathea* and *Petrolisthes*, while species of *Pagurus*, *Paguristes*, *Galathea*, *Petrolisthes*, *Palmunidopsis* and *Dardanus* are now known from the Koronia Member.

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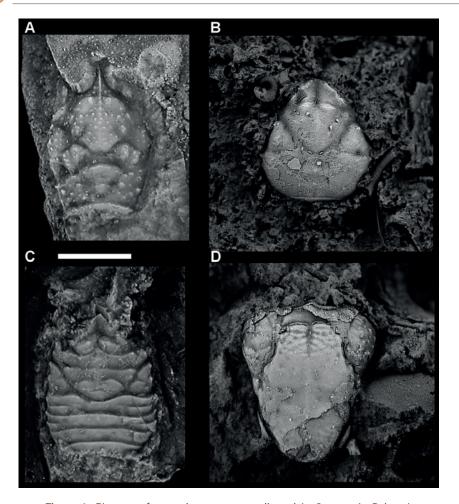


Figure 1. Pictures of several anomurans collected in Cyprus. A. *Palmunidopsis muelleri* (MABk. 3284, holotype) Fraaije, 2014. B. *Petrolisthes haydni* (MABk3501), C. *Galathea weinfurteri* (MABk 3513) and D. *Paguristes joecollinsi* (MAB10456a, Holotype), Wallaard et al. 2020. Scale bar equals 5 mm in A, B and C, and 1.5 mm in D.

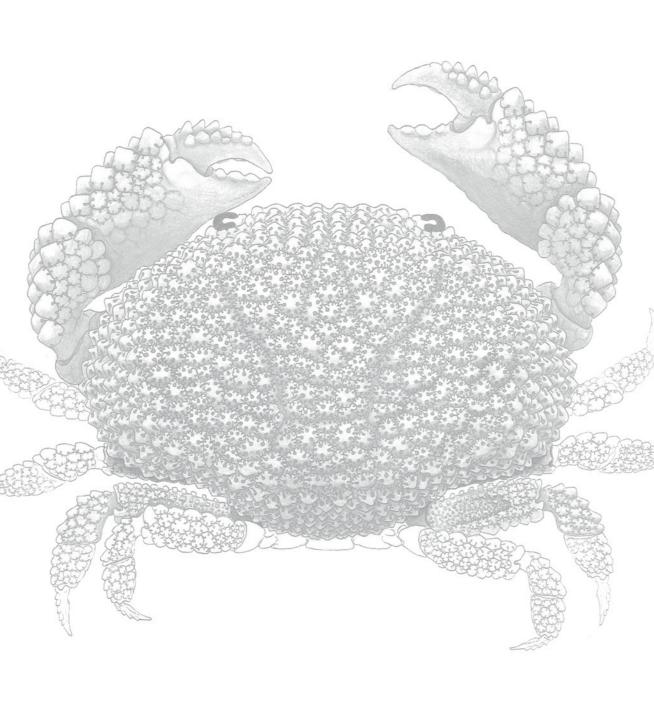
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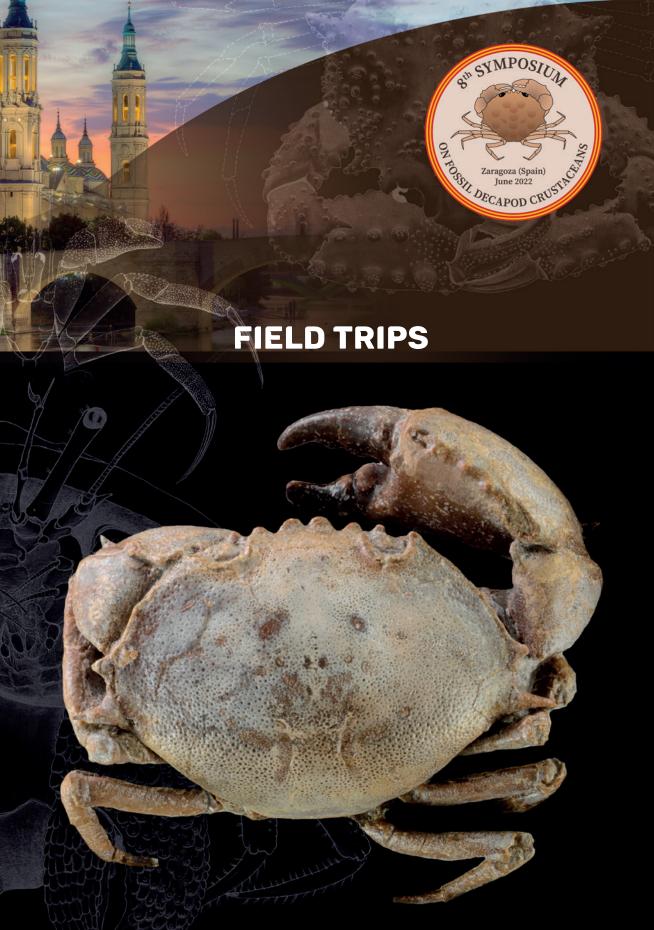
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DAY 1: JUNE 22nd, 2022

BARREMIAN-APTIAN SHALLOW-MARINE DECAPOD COMMUNITIES FROM THE OLIETE SUBBASIN (MAESTRAZGO BASIN, E SPAIN).

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INTRODUCTION

The upper Barremian-lower Aptian successions of the Oliete subbasin record the transition from continental to shallow marine proximal environments in a relatively enclosed embayment with unstable environmental conditions, due to relatively poor marine circulation and high riverine inputs. The studied successions preserve interesting decapod faunas, which give a unique glimpse into the evolution and way of life of these animals as they adapted to changing environments.

The Maestrazgo Basin started developing during the Early Cretaceous as a result of extensional tectonics derived from the continued breakup of Pangea and the opening of the Western Tethys and North Atlantic oceans (Salas *et al.*, 2001; Liesa *et al.*, 2019). The Oliete subbasin, located in the northwestern margin of the Maestrazgo Basin (Fig 1A), is a small semi-enclosed subbasin with restricted marine circulation. It started operating during the earliest Barremian (Canérot, 1972; Aurell *et al.*, 2018), with the deposition of the continental to transitional deposits of the Blesa Formation, which preserve abundant vertebrate remains, and continued with the marine Alacón. Forcall and Oliete formations.

This field trip focuses on the upper Barremian to lower Aptian shallow marine carbonates of the Oliete subbasin, represented by the Alacón, Forcall and Oliete formations (Fig. 1B). The Alacón Fm is integrated by bioclastic limestones deposited in a tide-influenced shallow marine embayment which opened progressively to the open seas of the Maestrazgo Basin, located to the southeast (García-Penas et al., 2022). The Forcall Fm is composed of open marine siliciclastic ramp silts and sandstones containing ammonites of the early Aptian Deshayesites forbesi biozone (García et al., 2014). The Oliete Fm is a thick mixed carbonate-siliciclastic succession representing a shallow marine ramp environment with exceptional development of oyster biostromes, signaling a significant influence of freshwater inputs. The middle member of this formation has yielded scarce ammonites of the late Aptian Parahoplites melchioris and Acanthohoplites nolani biozones (García et al., 2014). These deposits gradually pass vertically to the transitional and continental deposits of the Albian Escucha and Utrillas formations, which are out of the scope of this field trip.

The field trip consists of four stops (Fig. 1B):

- 1. Road to Josa village. Panoramic view of the Blesa and Alacón formations. A brief explanation of the geological context of the Oliete subbasin will be offered, with an emphasis on carbonate decapod-bearing concretions of the Middle Blesa Formation.
- Josa village. Here, the Alacón Formation is well-exposed and preserves evidences of the activity of infaunal decapod crustaceans.
- Tejería de Josa. An old quarry where local people extracted the silts of the Forcall Fm for making roof-tiles, the Tejería de Josa is a staple outcrop for invertebrate paleontology,

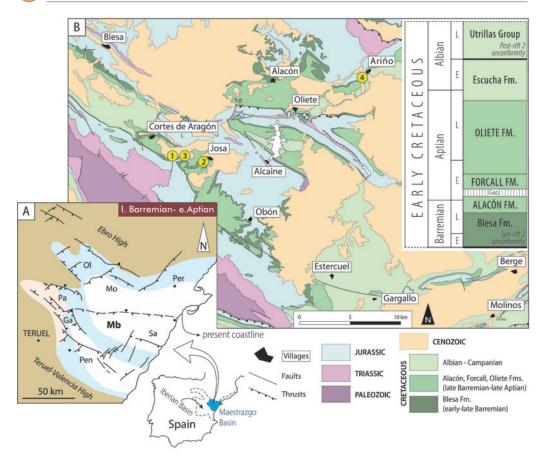


Figure 1. A. Location of the Oliete subbasin in the northern margin of the Maestrazgo Basin and the Iberian Basin Rift System. Environments: light blue: open marine; blue: shallow marine; light brown: occasional marine influence; dark brown: non-deposition/erosion. B. Location of the four planned stops 1–4 and chronostratigraphic chart of the Lower Cretaceous units of the Oliete subbasin.

and over the years has yielded abundant and diverse ammonite faunas, as well as the highest diversity of Lower Cretaceous fossil decapod crustaceans of Spain (Ferratges et al., 2021).

4. Oliete Fm in Ariño. The lowermost levels of the Oliete Fm are well-exposed in the road leading to the village of Ariño. Several beds are cut nearly parallel to bedding, exposing abundant Thalassinoides associated with callianassid chelae, and rare Atherfieldastacus magnus.

GEODYNAMIC CONTEXT OF THE OLIETE SUBBASIN

The general configuration of the Iberian Basin rift system of the northeast Iberian Plate was a result of two major rifting phases, with localized and intense tectonic subsidence, and their subsequent postrift periods characterized by gentler, widespread, thermal subsidence (Salas et al., 2001). The first rifting stage started in the Early Permian, with deposition of continental facies in very small basins bounded by steep and deep-reaching normal faults. This first extensional stage reached its maximum development during the Triassic (Liesa et al., 2019), with widespread dep-



osition in eastern Iberia of the three Germanic facies (Buntsandstein red sandstones, Muschel-kalk dolomites and limestones, and Keuper evaporites), which are found across most of western Europe. After the first rifting stage, a period of thermal subsidence spanning the Late Triassic to the Middle Jurassic allowed the development of extensive shallow carbonate platforms across eastern, northern and southern Iberia (e.g. Vera et al., 2004).

During the Late Jurassic-Early Cretaceous, the motion of the Iberian Plate relative to the surrounding African, European and American plates was conditioned mainly by the opening of the North Central Atlantic Ocean (Liesa et al., 2019), and the Iberian Basin underwent a reactivation. Rekindled extensional stresses caused the demise and breakup of the Jurassic carbonate platforms, and the Iberian Basin was divided into four main depositional domains characterized by localized tectonic subsidence: the Cameros Basin in the north, and the South Iberian, Central Iberian, and Maestrazgo basins in the East.

The Oliete subbasin is a small subdivision of the Maestrazgo Basin. Large scale, NW-SE-trending normal fault systems conditioned the overall geometry of the subbasin, and its internal configuration and depocentral distribution were controlled by sets of smaller normal faults with a NE-SW orientation. Synrift deposition in the Oliete subbasin took place from the early Barremian to the early Albian (Soria et al., 1995; Aurell et al., 2018; García-Penas et al., 2022).

CLIMATE EVOLUTION DURING THE BARREMIAN AND APTIAN

Climate in the Western Tethys was markedly unstable during the Barremian-early Aptian. In Iberia, climatic unstability was accentuated by its intermediate geographic position between migrating arid and humid climate belts (Hay and Floegel, 2012).

Alternations between warm and humid periods and dry cold stages with marked seasonality during the early Barremian (e.g. Pucéat et al., 2003; Steuber et al., 2005; Huck et al., 2013; Laita et al., 2020) culminated in the so-called 'mid'-Barremian arid stage (Ruffell and Batten, 1990; Dinis et al., 2020). This event marked the onset of relatively cold and dry conditions, which continued during most of the late Barremian. The existence of limited epicontinental ice caps in higher latitudes during these Early Cretaceous cold, arid stages is considered possible, although no general consensus has been reached on the topic (e.g. Price, 1999; Amiot et al., 2011; Föllmi, 2012).

A generalized shift towards warm and humid conditions took place during the latest Barremian Martelites *sarasini* Zone, followed by a colder and drier period during the early Aptian Deshayesites *oglanlensis* and Deshayesites *forbesi* zones (Föllmi, 2012). Huck and Heimhofer (2021) propose moderate mean annual sea-surface temperatures (22–26 °C) for large parts of the Barremian and Aptian with a major cooling phase at the Barremian–Aptian boundary, followed by a warm pulse during the OAE1a. This proposed latest Barremian-earliest Aptian cooling is coeval with eustatic sea-level drops recognized on the eastern Arabian Plate (van Buchem *et al.*, 2010) and the western Tethys (Pucéat *et al.*, 2003), but is not recognized by other studies, which nevertheless support a late Barremian relatively cool stage (e.g. Bodin *et al.*, 2009; Mutterlose *et al.*, 2009; Malkoč and Mutterlose, 2010).

Climatic unstability continued throughout the late Aptian and early Albian. In broad terms, the late Aptian was characterized by short-lived cold stages which disrupted the early Aptian greenhouse, while the earliest Albian was accompanied by a return to relatively warm and humid conditions (Bottini and Erba, 2018; Skelton et al., 2019)

In the western margin of the Maestrazgo Basin, this climatic unstability translated into episodic increases in siliciclastic input in the stratigraphic record (e.g. Peropadre, 2011). The palaeogeography of the Oliete subbasin made it especially prone to abrupt palaeoenvironmental changes related to climate oscillations (García-Penas et al., 2022). A step-by-step description of the palaeogeographic evolution of the subbasin during the Barremian and Aptian will be offered below in each stop.

STOP 1. EARLY TO LATE BARREMIAN EVOLUTION OF THE OLIETE SUBBASIN: THE BLESA FORMATION

Location

The stop takes place along the TE-V-1145 road, between the villages of Cortes de Aragón and Josa, at a vantage point offering a panoramic view of the Early Cretaceous succession of the Oliete subbasin.

- » Coordinates: 40° 57′ 29″N, 0° 47′ 56″ W, Elevation: 947m.
- » Geological map of Spain: 1:50000, sheet 493 Oliete (Quintero-Amador et al., 1977).
- » Geological setting: Oliete subbasin, Western Maestrazgo Basin.
- » Lithostratigraphy: Bioclastic limestones, silts and silty marls, fine-to-coarse-grained sandstones.
- » Age: early Barremian to early Aptian.

Aims

- » Showing a panoramic view of the first two formations of the Lower Cretaceous transitional-to-marine succession of the Oliete subbasin: Blesa Fm (mainly continental with occasional development of restricted marine environments) and Alacón Fm (shallow carbonate ramp).
- » Putting the decapod-bearing concretions of the Middle Blesa Sequence into a stratigraphic context.
- » Offering an interpretation of the decapod habitats based on facies interpretation.

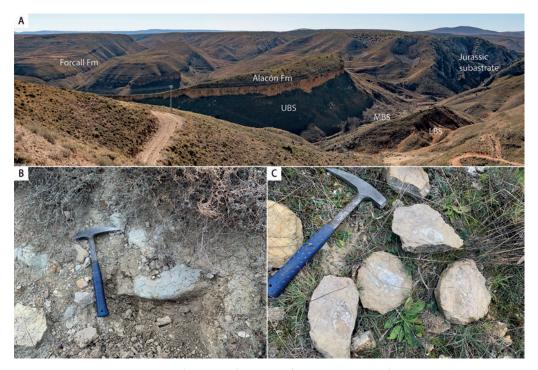


Figure 2. A. Panoramic view of the Blesa (LBS to UBS), Alacón and Oliete formations in Stop 1. B. in-situ nodules in a muddy level of the Middle Blesa Sequence. C. Decapod-bearing nodules of the Middle Blesa Sequence, containing specimens of *Atherfieldastacus rapax*.

Description

At the end of the Jurassic, a major sea-level fall event led to the subaerial exposure of the carbonate platforms that had developed during the first post-rift stage of the Iberian Rift System (IRS). The reactivation of the IRS during the Early Cretaceous led to the tilting and differential erosion of the Jurassic succession, generating an erosive gap that increases towards the southwest (Aurell *et al.*, 2018).

Between the villages of Cortes de Aragón and Josa, this erosive unconformity develops on Middle Jurassic carbonates, and is overlain by the first synrift unit of the Oliete subbasin, the Blesa Formation (Fig. 2A). This unit is integrated by three genetic sequences of mixed climatic and tectonic origin (Aurell et al., 2018), divided by discontinuity surfaces that can be correlated basinwide. The Lower Blesa Sequence is integrated by alluvial and lacustrine-palustrine facies and lateritic soils, developed over the tilted and karstified Jurassic substrate. During the early to late Barremian transition, an intermittent connection was established between the Oliete subbasin and the shallow open seas of the Maestrazgo Basin, resulting in the deposition of restricted marine facies across the subbasin (Middle Blesa Sequence). This sequence is characterized by oyster-bearing marls and limestones deposited in shallow environments of variable salinity.

These environments supported a diverse fauna of chelonians, crocodylomorphs, plesio-saurs and other marine vertebrates (Aurell *et al.*, 2018). Near the village of Obón (Fig. 1B), these facies yield carbonate nodules containing well-preserved glypheid lobsters (Fig. 2B,C). Similar decapod faunas are also found in the coeval shallow marine deposits of the Maestrazgo Basin (González-León *et al.*, 2017).

Episodic marine influence continued throughout deposition of the Upper Blesa Sequence, which is characterized by a variety of continental to shallow marine facies containing isolated remains of terrestrial vertebrates.

STOP 2. LATE BARREMIAN-EARLIEST APTIAN: THE ALACÓN FORMATION

Location

The stop takes place by the village of Josa, in the northern bank of the Sus river.

- » Coordinates: 40° 57' 23"N, 0° 46' 09" W, Elevation: 771m.
- » Geological map of Spain: 1:50000, sheet 493 Oliete (Quintero-Amador et al., 1977).
- » Geological setting: Oliete subbasin, Western Maestrazgo Basin.
- » Lithostratigraphy: Bioclastic limestones, gray marls.
- » Age: late Barremian-earliest Aptian.

Aims

- » Describing the shallow marine deposits of the Alacón Formation.
- » Describing the influence of infaunal decapods on sediment fabric.
- » Documenting the progressive changes in decapod faunas following palaeoenvironmental change .

Description

The striking ochre limestones of the Alacón Formation outcrop near the village of Josa, in the northern bank of the Sus river (Fig. 3A). This formation registers the progressive flooding of the Oliete subbasin during the late Barremian and earliest Aptian. The Alacón Fm is integrated by four genetic sequences bounded by basinwide-correlatable discontinuities (García-Penas et al., 2022).

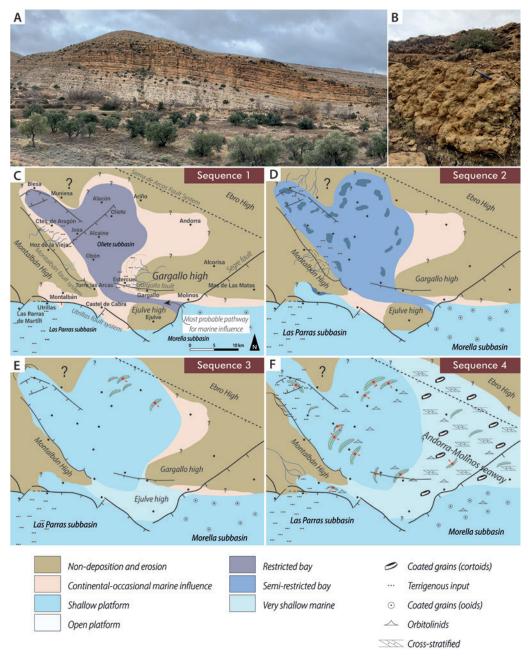


Figure 3. A. Escarpment of the Alacón Fm. near Josa (Stop 2). B. *Thalassinoides*-like burrows on a stratification surface in Sequence 2 of the Alacón Fm. C-F. Palaeogeographic evolution of the Oliete subbasin during deposition of the Alacón Fm.

The first sequence (Fig. 3C) is integrated by whitish lacustrine and restricted marine limestones and marls containing mainly characeans, ostracods, thin-shelled bivalves, oysters and gastropods. During this first stage, the Oliete subbasin was intermittently occupied by a restricted shallow marine bay flanked by palustrine-lacustrine areas, palaeoenvironmentally quite similar to



the lower Barremian Middle Blesa Sequence described in the previous stop. Indeed, these facies have also yielded isolated remains of dinosaurs, chelonians, osteichthyes and other vertebrates, yet to be studied. At this stage, the Oliete subbasin was intermittently connected to the open marine areas located in the southeast through an inferred narrow seaway located in the southern regions of the subbasin.

A sharp flooding surface bounds sequences 1 and 2. Sequence 2 (Fig. 3D) is integrated by well-cemented ochre bioclastic packstones containing restricted marine faunal associations dominated by the grypheid oyster *Ceratostreon*. During this stage, the connection of the Oliete bay to the Maestrazgo Basin must have been wider and more stable, allowing for a generalized increase in salinity. However, this shallow bay is thought to have experienced frequent salinity variations, as evidenced by the coexistence in the same levels (due to time averaging) of euhaline and brachyhaline organisms.

Sequence 3 (Fig. 3E) is characterized by the appearance of thick-shelled infaunal trigoniid and pholadomyid bivalves, brachiopods and dasycladaceans, indicating a stabilization of normal marine salinity levels in the Oliete bay. This was possible due to a widening of the southern seaway, which also implied the onset of a relatively strong tidal regime, as evidenced by the occurrence of cross-bedded deposits interpreted as subaqueous tidal dunes. A sea-level fall of possible eustatic origin generated the iron-stained and burrowed discontinuity surface separating sequences 3 and 4.

Sequence 4 (Fig. 3F) is characterized by the deepening of the depositional setting and expansion of the sedimentary area, caused by a marked transgressive event. The drowning of large areas in the western part of the subbasin generated a wide strait allowing full connection to the shallow seas of the Maestrazgo Basin. In the uppermost part of the Alacón Formation, a significant regressive event is evidenced by the basinwide appearance of cross-stratified deposits interpreted as a large-scale tidal dune field occupying most of the sedimentary area of the subbasin. These dune deposits are crowned by a prominent bored and karstified hardground evidencing the emersion of the subbasin, which separates the Alacón Fm from the overlying Forcall Fm. It has been interpreted that this large-scale sea-level drop coincides with an early Aptian eustatic event recognizable worldwide.

A remarkable palaeoecological aspect of the shallow-marine Alacón Fm is the high abundance of callianassids (used *sensu lato* referring broadly to burrowing shrimps) remains. Thalassinid shrimp chelae are common skeletal components, especially in sequences 2 to 4, with remains occasionally appearing associated to burrowing. *Thalassinoides* sp. traces are another common feature in these sequences (Fig. 3B), being especially abundant at sequence boundaries, where they are commonly preserved as epirreliefs or three-dimensional burrow systems. This is interpreted as resulting from the colonization of firmgrounds during sediment-starved flooding events at the start of each sequence (Sharafi *et al.*, 2012).

Callianassids appeared during the Hauterivian and diversified during the Early Cretaceous (Hyžný and Klompmaker, 2015), eventually becoming one of the most important sediment burrowers up until the present time. Their activity can exert profound changes on the sedimentology (e.g. Tedesco and Wanless, 1991), geochemistry (e.g. Van de Velde and Meysman, 2016) and taphonomy (e.g. Meldahl, 1987) of sediments, obscuring their original depositional features. In the Alacón Fm, overprinting of successive burrow generations during regressive stages with low deposition rates produces very high trace densities that can completely disturb bedding, producing a massive appearance (Gingras et al., 2015).

The large abundance of burrowing shrimp remains in the Alacón Fm is attributed to its particular depositional setting. During sequences 1 to 3, the Oliete subbasin was a semi-enclosed bay subjected to frequent salinity oscillations and communicated with the open seas of the Morella and Las Parras subbasins by a relatively narrow southern seaway, which partly inhibited marine circulation. This bay received episodic freshwater inputs, which were laden with dissolved



organic matter (Raymond and Bauer, 2001). Euryhaline callianassids are known to thrive in similarly stressed environments with high nutrient availability (Dworschak, 2005; Hyžný *et al.*, 2015). *Thalassinoides* traces become significantly larger in Sequence 4. This sequence has been interpreted as equivalent to the basal transgressive intervals of the Forcall Fm in depocentral areas of the Maestrazgo Basin. It is possible that this change in *Thalassinoides* trace size reflects the progressive diversification of producers, as the environmental conditions became suitable for larger burrowing organisms such as mecochirid lobsters, which are commonly found in the overlying open-marine Forcall Fm (Ferratges *et al.*, 2021).

STOP 3. EARLY APTIAN: THE FORCALL FORMATION

Location

The stop takes place by the road between the villages of Josa and Cortes de Aragón, at the classical locality of La Tejería.

- » Coordinates: 40° 57′ 32″N, 0° 47′ 03″ W, Elevation: 891m.
- » Geological map of Spain: 1:50000, sheet 493 Oliete (Quintero-Amador et al., 1977).
- » Geological setting: Oliete subbasin, Western Maestrazgo Basin.
- » Lithostratigraphy: gray and witish silt and marls, ocherish bioclastic sandstone.
- » Age: early Aptian.

Aims

- » Reconstructing the shallow marine environments of the Oliete subbasin during the lower Aptian.
- » Describing the decapod faunal associations recovered from the Forcall Fm.

Description

In the Oliete subbasin, the siliciclastic-dominated Forcall Formation represents a highly asymmetric transgressive-regressive cycle, with a short transgressive hemicycle culminating in a condensation level with diverse ammonite faunas of the *Deshayesites forbesi* biozone. The regressive hemicycle represents the transition from distal and mid-ramp environments, characterized by silts and marls (Fig. 4A) and cm-thick sandstone levels with hummocky cross-stratification, to inner ramp environments characterized by sandy floatstones with orbitolinids, echnoids, and disarticulated endobenthic bivalves (Pholadomyidae, Trigoniidae), and cross-stratified coarse bioclastic sandstones. A prominent discontinuity surface on top of the Forcall Formation marks a sharp change in the depositional system towards the carbonate-dominated bioclastic packstones and marls of the lowermost Oliete Formation.

This locality coincides with the classic area where Vilanova (1870) first recorded the lobster *Oncopareia granulosa* Vilanova, 1870 [currently recognised as Atherfieldastacus magnus (M'Coy, 1849) by Via-Boada (1975)] from the Lower Cretaceous in the Oliete Sub-basin. In fact this is the most abundant decapod in this locality. More recently, Ferratges *et al.* (2021) reported the highest diversified fauna of decapod crustaceans from the Spanish Aptian, an assemblage containing *Atherfieldastacus magnus, Aptaxiopsis longimanus, Crosniera forcallensis, Meticonaxius gracilis, Aptanacalliax enigma, Meyeria ornata, Cretacocalcinus josaensis and <i>Mithracites vectensis.* The specimens appear in three modes reflecting different preservational states. Specimens of *Atherfieldastacus magnus* appear mostly within calcareous concretions intercalated in silt levels (Fig. 4B). Concretions are taxonomically exclusive, and only contain specimens of *A. magnus* (exceptuating scarce fish remains). Their genesis is probably related to elevated pH levels around decaying carcasses and moults, possibly inside galleries. Other taxa appear as compressed, disarticulated to articulated moults and corpses preserved in muddy levels and bedding surfaces, probably generated during rapid obrution events (Fig. 4C).



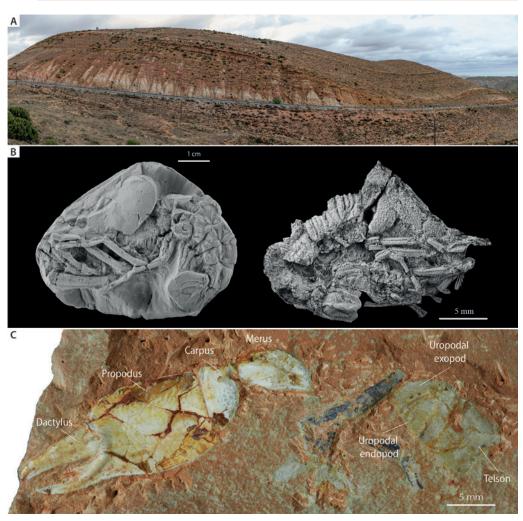


Figure 4. A. Panoramic view of the Forcall Fm at La Tejería de Josa (Stop 3). B. Two preservation modes of glypheid lobsters recovered from the Forcall Fm: Left: specimen of *Atherfieldastacus magnus* preserved inside a carbonate nodule. Right: Specimen of *Meyeria ornata* preserved inside marls. Adapted from Ferratges *et al.* (2021) C. *Crosniera forcallensis* preserved in an obrution level. Adapted from Ferratges *et al.* (2021).

STOP 4. LATE APTIAN: THE OLIETE FORMATION

Location

The stop takes place near the village of Ariño, where the road cuts the basal levels of the Oliete Formation exposing well-preserved burrow networks on the bedding surfaces.

- » Coordinates: 41° 01' 21"N, 0° 35' 30" W, Elevation: 494m.
- » Geological map of Spain: 1:50000, sheet 467 Muniesa (Ríos-Aragüés et al., 1981).
- » Geological setting: Oliete subbasin, Western Maestrazgo Basin.
- » Lithostratigraphy: ochre sandstone, whitish sandy limestone, gray marls.
- » Age: late Aptian.



Aims

- » Describing the late Aptian mixed carbonate-siliciclastic shallow marine succession of the Oliete subbasin.
- » Describing the habitat of decapod crustaceans in these shallow environments.

Description

A prominent discontinuity surface on top of the Forcall Formation marks a sharp change in the depositional system towards the carbonate-dominated bioclastic packstones and marls of the lowermost Oliete Formation (Cabezo Negro member), which contain colonial corals, rare corpus of *A. magnus* and abundant *Thalassinoides*. These levels represent the transgressive hemicycle of a long-term transgressive-regressive cycle, which culminates in a marl-dominated interval (La Dehesa member) preserving an abundance of articulated gastropods and endobenthic bivalves, as well as scarce ammonites of the *Parahoplites melchioris* and *Acanthoplites nolani* late Aptian biozones. The regressive hemicycle is represented by bioclastic-cortoidal packstones



Figure 5. A. Lower levels of the Oliete Fm by the road leading to Ariño (Stop 4). B. Three-dimensionally preserved burrow systems on a stratification plane. C. Well-preserved callianassid chelae associated to a bioturbated horizon. D. Specimen of *Atherfieldastacus* sp. recovered from the basal levels of the Oliete Fm at Ariño.

and grainstones (Los Estancos member), which are topped by a karstified discontinuity surface recognizable basinwide, separating the Oliete subbasin from the overlying transitional-to-continental Escucha Formation.

The lower levels of the Oliete subbasin outcrop in the embankments of the road leading to the village of Ariño, where they are cut almost parallel to stratification (Fig. 5A). Here, extensive burrow networks associated to callianassid remains are well-exposed on the bedding surfaces (Fig. 5B, C). Well-preserved glyhpeid lobsters (Fig. 5D) have also been recovered from this stratigraphic interval. Murat (1983) interprets that these levels were deposited in a shallow, low-energy ramp environment surrounded by marshy areas. Episodic fresh-water influence is evidenced by the local occurrence of oyster rudstones and generally high quartz content even in carbonate-dominated intervals.

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DAY 2: JUNE 23rd, 2022

DISTRIBUTION OF DECAPOD COMMUNITIES FROM THE EARLY EOCENE OF THE SOUTH-PYRENEAN CENTRAL UNIT (TREMP-GRAUS BASIN, SPANISH PYRENEES)

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Keywords: Crustacea, decapoda, paleoenvironments, paleoecology, Ypresian

INTRODUCTION

The early Eocene of the south-central Pyrenees (northeast of Spain) has provided a great diversity of fossil decapods including some representatives that help elucidating the origin of some modern families. The observed decapod diversity is in part related to the large variety of shallow marine facies, which are well exposed in continuous outcrops. The analysis of these outcrops have provided a unique opportunity to understand the spatio-temporal distribution in different sedimentary environments of different groups of decapod crustaceans (Vía, 1969, 1973; Artal et al., 2005, 2013a, b; Fraaije and Pennings, 2006; Schweitzer et al., 2007; van Bakel et al., 2012; Ferratges et al., 2019, 2021a, b, c, 2022).

The Eocene sedimentation in the south-central Pyrenean basins (i.e. Tremp-Graus, Ainsa and Jaca basins) includes a complete Eocene succession with a great diversity of sedimentary environments developed in a mixed carbonate-siliciclastic marine sedimentary system: from proximal deltaic systems and shallow environments in the eastern Tremp-Graus basin, to deep slopes in most of the Ainsa and Jaca-Pamplona basins, progressively shallower to the top (i.e., Puigdefàbregas, 1975; Millán et al., 1994; Morsilli et al., 2012; Pomar et al., 2017; Canudo et al., 2021). Offshore, the abyssal plains of the Basque-Cantabrian oceanic basin are found in the most distal part of the basin (i.e., Garcés et al., 2020).

The Tremp-Graus Basin, on which the present fieldtrip focuses, corresponds to a piggy-back basin carried on the Montsec thrust sheet. It is bounded to the north and to the south by the Boixols and Montsec thrusts respectively, and is located within the South-Pyrenean Central Unit (SPCU) (Fig. 1A). Transitional siliciclastic environments with fluvial and deltaic systems formed facies belts with a SE-NW trending, which were fed by alluvial systems in a NE-SW direction (Barnolas et al., 1991, 1992; Barnolas and Gil-Peña, 2001). These fluvio-deltaic systems prograded westwards due to tectonic activity and sourced the turbidite system of the Ainsa and Jaca-Pamplona basins during the Ypresian and Lutetian (lower to middle Eocene) (Garcés et al., 2020 and references therein).

Four stops are envisaged during this field trip:

- 1. The lower Eocene (upper Ypresian/early Lutetian) from Morillo Formation in the road cut of the A-1605. The limestones and marl succession of this site corresponds to the most younger levels with Eocene records of crabs in the Isabena Valley. Decapod diversity is low here but contains interesting groups of both decapod crustaceans and other benthonic organisms.
- 2. Lower Eocene (late Ypresian) from Roda Marls Formation. This site stands out for the quantity and good conservation of fossil crabs, especially Zanthopsis dufourii which has in this level its highest abundance. The decapod assemblage collected in this area corresponds to taxa associated with unconsolidated soft bottoms (muddy and fine sand environments).

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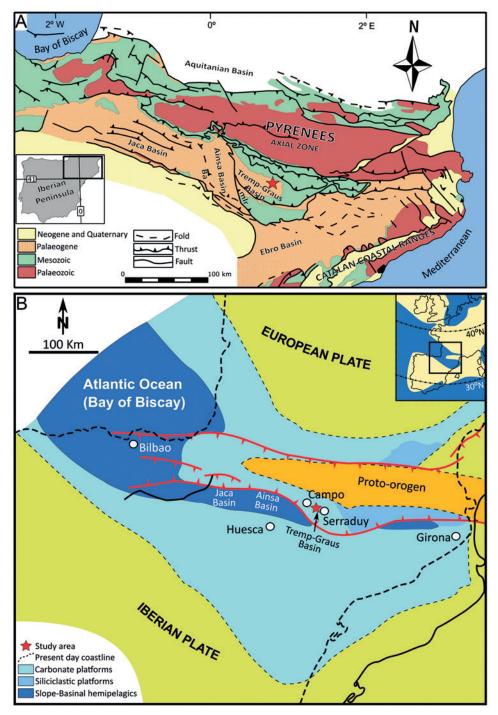


Figure 1. Location and paleogeography of the Pyrenean area. A. Geological map of the South Pyrenees Basins showing the location of the visited area (red star) in the northern part of the Tremp-Graus Basin in the south-central Spanish Pyrenees (modified after Capote et al., 2002). B. Approximate paleogeographic reconstruction of the Pyrenees and the adjacent foreland basins during the early Eocene (modified after Berástegui et al., 2010).

- 3. Viewpoint of Roda de Isábena. The high relief generated by the sandstones of the Esdolomada member of the Roda Formation offers an optimal point of view to observe and understand the arrangement of the different Eocene formations in this sector. In addition, this stop is located in the medieval town founded in the 10th century, with an interesting historical heritage.
- 4. Early Eocene (Ypresian) from Serraduy Formation in La Puebla de Roda: Decapod diversity in the Ramals reefal build-up. This outcrop has provided an exceptional early Eocene decapod fauna associated with a reef environment. The exceptional exposure of the outcrop allows direct observation of the facies arrangement and taxa distribution. The detailed study and exhaustive sampling in different facies has allowed a detailed characterization of the different species present in different sectors of the outcrop and provided information about the fossil groups that developed coeval to the different environments.

THE SOUTH PYRENEAN BASINS: BASIN EVOLUTION

During much of the Mesozoic, the evolution of the Pyrenean basins was related to an extensional tectonic regime linked to the separation of the Iberian microplate from the rest of Pangea (Rosenbaum et al., 2002). The initial stages of rift development occurred around the Permian-Triassic transition. This extensive regime prevailed during the Middle Triassic to Jurassic, with sedimentation in wide shallow epicontinental seas (Meléndez and Aurell, 2004). A second rift phase during the Lower Cretaceous was related to the opening of the Bay of Biscay.

The extensional tectonic regime changed since the latest Cretaceous, onwards from the late Santonian. At that time, the inversion of the Pyrenean Mesozoic basins began due to the Alpine compression after the convergence of the African and European plates. This change in the tectonic regime resulted in the beginning of the development of a foreland basin, coeval to the development of the Pyrenean orogen (Puigdefàbregas et al., 1986, 1992; Puigdefàbregas and Souquet, 1986). The uplift of the axial zone in the Pyrenees during the Paleocene in the eastern Pyrenean domain resulted in the individualization of two foreland basins: the Norther and Southern Pyrenean basins (Barnolas et al., 2004).

During the lower Eocene (Ypresian) there is an increase of the tectonic activity, reaching the Tectonic Climax of the Middle Eocene. As a result of this new stage of tectonic activity, the South-Pyrenean Central Unit (SPCU) was emplaced with coeval development of highly subsident carbonate platforms in marginal areas. The development of carbonate during the Paleocene-earliest Eocene was favoured by the relative tectonic quiescence combined to the reduction of the siliciclastic supply (see Silva-Casal, 2017). All this resulted in the advance of the sedimentary systems towards the foreland and the compartmentalization of the South Pyrenean basin, giving rise to the Oriental South Pyrenean basin, the Tremp-Graus basin, the Ainsa basin and the Jaca-Pamplona basin (see Silva-Casal, 2017).

STRATIGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTS AND PALAEGEOGRAPHY

During the Eocene, the South Pyrenean basins spread over an elongated gulf spanning from east to west (Fig. 1B). This gulf was connected with the Cantabrian Sea in the Bay of Biscay and was limited to the north by the axial zone of the Pyrenees (Plaziat, 1981; Garcés et al., 2020). The gulf was developed in tropical latitudes (i.e., Hay et al., 1999; Silva-Casal et al., 2019), and was flanked by shallow-water carbonate platforms, siliciclastic systems, and accumulations of hemipelagic sediments at the bottom of the basin (see Silva-Casal, 2017; Silva-Casal et al., 2017). This diversity of marine environments was also conditioned by the progradation of deltaic facies towards the west, due to progressive tectonic uplift of the eastern marginal areas (Garcés et al., 2020 and references therein).

The Eocene climate was much warmer than today due to the high concentration of green-house gases (see Pearson and Palmer, 2000; Zachos et al., 2008; Pomar et al., 2017). However, throughout the Eocene there was a climatic transition, gradually passing from the warm climate

that was present since the Late Cretaceous, to a cold climate, with the presence of polar ice sheets at the end of the Eocene (Pekar et al., 2005; Tripati et al., 2005, 2008; Edgar et al., 2007; Zachos et al., 2008; Jadwiszczak, 2010). This general cooling trend was interrupted by a series of episodes or hyperthermal events that punctually affected the climate during the Paleocene and Eocene (see Payros et al., 2012 and references). These tropical conditions favoured the formation of optimal environments to house a great diversity of crustaceans during the Eocene.

An almost complete Eocene succession of the SPCU crops out in the vicinity of the Roda de Isabena village (Fig. 2). This succession provides a nearly 5000-m-thick continuous record of environmental conditions during the 12 My represented by the early to middle Eocene times (54 to 42 Ma, according Honegger et al., 2021). The thickness of the different Eocene formations defined within this succession has significant lateral changes, and they mostly consists of marls and sandstones, with the exception of isolated reef domes up to 5 m in some areas.

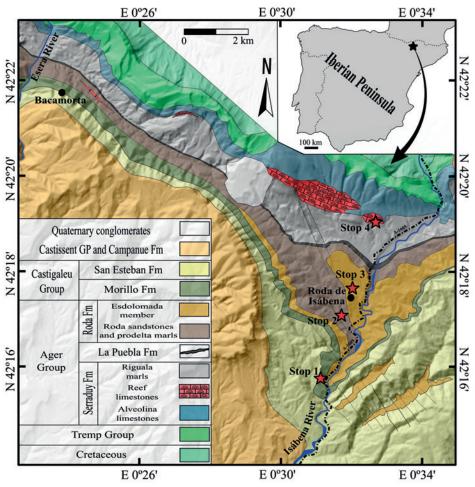


Figure 2. A. Schematic geological setting (south-central Pyrenean zone). Red stars mark the different stops detailed below. B. Synthetic stratigraphic cross section and sedimentary model of the northern margin of the Tremp area during the lower Eocene, with main facies types and the location of the main reefal complexes indicated. Uplifted areas were places of shallow marine carbonate sedimentation facing deeper areas with muddy sedimentation. Equivalence with the lithostratigraphic units used by Serra-Kiel et al. (1994) is indicated in the legend of the different facies types. Modified from Einchenseer (2003) and Pomar et al. (2017). The lunch stop will be at stop 3.

The lower-middle Eocene succession has been divided into four marine formations (Fig. 3). The lower two units (i.e. the Serraduy and La Puebla formations) consist mostly of marls with interbedded carbonate-rich intervals, the Roda formation is mostly terrigenous (clays, silts), while carbonate productivity returns during the deposition of the Morillo formation. The Serraduy formation includes bioclastic-rich intervals represented by the Alveolina Limestones and the reef limestone member (see inset in Fig. 2).

THE EARLY EOCENE DECAPOD RECORD IN THE SOUTH-PYRENEAN CENTRAL UNIT

As explained above, south-central Pyrenean basins record one of the most complete records of Eocene marine sedimentary successions from Europe. This succession has provided several fossil decapod crustaceans (Fig. 3), described in diferent outcrops (i.e., Vía, 1969, 1973; Artal et al., 2013, 2021; 2022; Ossó et al., 2014; Domínguez and Ossó, 2016a, b; López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017; Artal and Van Bakel, 2018a, b; Ferratges et al., 2019, 2020a, b).

The visited outcrops are classically known for their content of decapod crustaceans and their excellent state of preservation. The first decapod studies in the area were carried out by Vía in his major revision of Eocene decapods from Spain (see Vía, 1959, 1969). In this study, Vía stand out the great abundance and good state of preservation of fossil crabs in this region, especially the species *Zanthopsis dufourii*, as well as some interpretations about their distribution and their relationship with carcinic assemblages from other European basins.

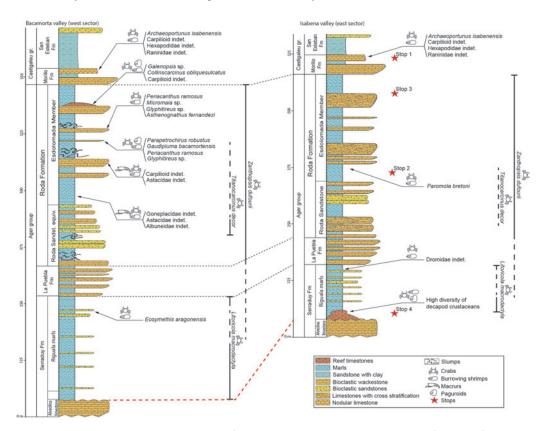


Figure 3. Synthetic stratigraphic logs of the area indicating the main lithological features of the middle Ypresian to lower Lutetian (lower Eocene) formations and the successive levels with recorded decapod associations. To see de high diversity of decapod crustaceans to the bottom of the east sector (reefal interval of the Serraduy Formation), see table 1.



Over the last decades, the knowledge of fossil decapod crustaceans of the SPCU has also substantially increased, and some authors (Vía, 1973; Fraaye, 1995; Artal et al., 2005, 2013a, b; Fraaije and Pennings, 2006; Schweitzer et al., 2007; van Bakel et al., 2012; Ferratges et al., 2019, 2021a, b, c, 2022), have highlighted the interest and relevance of these outcrops, with several new species and occurrences reported. This development is in part related to the excellent outcrop conditions exposing a large variety of shallow marine facies.

An important particular case corresponds to the outcrop known as Ramals (or Font del Oro) known since the end of the 19th century (i.e., Cotteau, 1889). However, only the high diversity and abundance of other benthic organisms such as molluscs and echinoderms was noticed. Latter on, Vía (1973) reported the first specimens of brachyura associated with the distal equivalents of these materials. Artal and Vía (1988) In 1981, with described for the first time the great diversity of crustaceans in the reefal interval included in these outcrops. Since then, several systematic studies have described several species of decapod crustaceans from these materials (Artal and Castillo, 2005; Artal and Van Bakel, 2018a, 2018b; Ferratges et al., 2019; Artal et al., 2022; Ferratges et al., in press), with some representatives that help to elucidate the origin of some modern families.

In the last years, important systematic and exhaustive sampling efforts led to a better understanding of the distribution and relative abundance of these faunas, related to the different environments, making it clear that it is a hot spot of diversity for the early Eocene, with 42 species of decapods in the same outcrop (Ferratges et al., 2021). These authors attributed the decapod faunal turnovers to palaeoecological changes. The works developed since then, show an enormous diversity, with primitive forms of several groups and an unexpected diversity (Artal et al., 2022; Ferratges et al. in press, and in preparation).

STOP 1 - LOWER EOCENE (UPPER YPRESIAN/LOWER LUTETIAN) MORILLO FORMATION.

Location

The section crops out in a road cut of the A-1605 road in its passage through the Roda de Isábena (Fig. 1).

- » Coordinates: 42°15'45"N, 0°31'03"E and 42°16'08"N, 0°31'27"E, Elevation: 693 m.
- » Geological map of Spain, 1:50,000, sheet of Arén (251).
- » Geological setting: Tremp-Graus basin, northeastern Spain.
- » Lithostratigraphical units: Morillo Formation (Fig. 4).
- » Age: Late Ypresian/early Lutetian (lower Eocene).

Aims

- » To show the general aspects of the upper early Eocene succession in the SPCU. Discuss the environment based on fossil preservation and sedimentary structures.
- » To put the decapod-bearing levels into a stratigraphical context.

Description

In this section there is a continuous exposure of the upper Ypresian -lower Lutetian Morillo Formation. The locality is about 3 km south of the small village of Roda de Isábena. The section starts with a few meters after crossing the Isabela River on the A-1605 road Graus-Serradúy.

The Morillo Formation consists of two carbonate levels (limestone or carbonate silt) rich in macroforaminifera, separated by a marly interval. The thickness of this unit increases in an E-W direction, reaching to 30 m in the Isábena river area (Serraduy section) and 57 m in the Esera river area (Campo section). It has been interpreted as a transgressive interval whose most

proximal facies (Isábena river zone) are represented by inner platform carbonates with abundant miliolids, orbitolithids and alveolinids, and the distal facies (Esera river zone) by middle platform carbonated silts with nummulitids and discocyclinids (Serra-Kiel et al., 1994).

The visited outcrop consists of nodular bioclastic limestones with a great diversity of benthic fauna in the Isábena river area. Echinoderms stand out for their abundance, diversity and preservation. Among the decapod crustaceans *Archaeoportunus isabenensis* Artal, Ossó and Domínguez, 2013 (previously assigned to the Roda Formation), is the best represented but other decapod crustaceans have been also recognized (Ferratges *et al.*, 2022). Tosquella (1988) interpreted a depositional setting within the photic zone of a shallow platform.

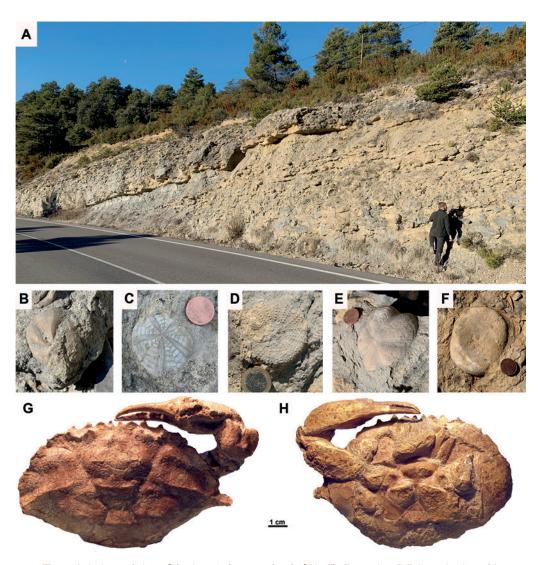


Figure 4. A. General view of the Stop 1, the upper level of Morillo Formation; B-F. Some in situ echinoderms from Morillo Fm; G-H. Holotype of *Archaeoportunus isabenensis* (MGSB68576), in dorsal (G) and ventral view (H); the most iconic crab of this formation described by Artal et al., 2013 and republished in Artal et al., 2021. Photography of *A. isabenensis* courtesy by À. Ossó.

STOP 2 - LOWER EOCENE (UPPER YPRESIAN) RODA FORMATION.

Location

The section crops out in a road cut of the A-1605 road in its passage through the Roda de Isábena (Fig. 5).

- » Coordinates: 42°17'09"N, 0°31'33"E, Elevation: 725 m.
- » Geological map of Spain, 1:50,000, sheet of Arén (251).
- » Geological setting: Tremp-Graus basin, northeastern Spain.
- » Lithostratigraphical units: Roda Formation (Fig. 3).
- » Age: late Ypresian (lower Eocene).

Aims

- » The aim of this stop is to observe the prodelta marls of the Roda Formation with particular emphasis in the stratigraphic levels that have provided great abundance of crabs, especially Zanthopsis dufourii, and occasionally other crabs (Paromola bretoni, Titanocarcinus decor, Carpilidae indet.).
- » Discuss environmental conditions in marly dominated bottoms.

Description

The upper Ypresian (lower Eocene) Roda Formation (Samsó et al., 1990; Tosquella et al., 1990) includes successive levels rich decapod faunas relevant for the understanding Ypresian decapod assemblages, preserver in a progradational deltaic systems. The Roda Formation is a coarsening and shallowing upwards succession (Molenaar and Martinius, 1990) and shows a progradational pattern to the south and southwest (i.e., Leren et al., 2010 and references herein). This formation is divided in two members: (1) the lower member consists of thick prodelta marly bodies with detrital intervals (sandstones). and overlies the alternating sandstones and silt-stones of the La Puebla Formation and Riguala marls member of the Serraduy Formation; (2) the upper member corresponds to the tidally influenced deltaic facies of Roda Sandstone. Elementary sequences consists of detrital sedimentary bodies separated by marly intervals rich in fauna, arranged in a set of offlap-onlap cycles of deltaic and inner platform progradational facies, respectively. This member is especially remarkable in proximal areas. West to the Isábena River, the Roda Formation rapidly transitions to prodelta and open platform marls.

In the area of the Isábena River the Roda Formation has a total thickness of 250 m. A lower 115 m-thick marly-dominated interval includes up to 1 m-thick detrital and carbonate intercalations. Westwrds, in the Campo section, the unit consists of a 500 m-thick succession of marls and sandstones including highly fossiliferous shallow-marine intervals (Martinius and Molenaar, 1991). This member contain a great diversity and abundance of decapod crustaceans and have provided several important assemblages of decapods in different associations (see Fig. 2). The presence of *Zanthopsis dufourii* (H. Milne Edwards, 1850) stands out, which appears associated with other benthic fauna; *Asthenognathus fernandezi* Ferratges, Zamora and Aurell (2022), *Paromola bretoni* Ferratges, Domínguez and Ossó, 2021, *Periacanthus ramosus* Artal and Castillo, 2005, *Eosymethis aragonensis* van Bakel, Guinot, Artal, Fraaije and Jagt, 2012, *Collinscarcinus obliquesulcatus* Artal and van Bakel, 2020, *Titanocarcinus decor* Schweitzer, Artal, van Bakel, Jagt, and Karasawa, 2007; *Gaudipluma bacamortensis* Artal, van Bakel, Fraaije and Jagt, 2013 (Artal et al., 2013), *Parapetrochirus robustus* Ferratges, Artal and Zamora, 2021 (Ferratges et al., 2021a), have been previously documented from the Roda formation in different localities.

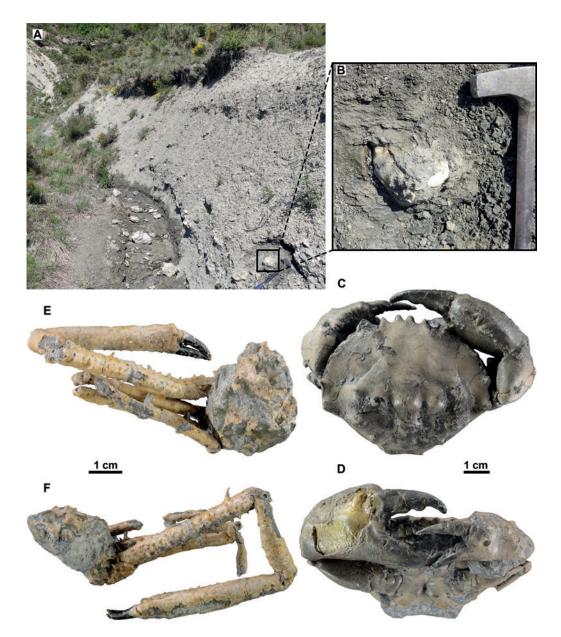


Figure 5. A. View of the visited outcrop in the Stop 3; B. detail of *in situ* articulated fossil of *Zanthopsis dufouri*; C-D. *Zanthopsis dufouri* from the same site in dorsal (C) and oblique frontal view (D); E-F. Holotype of *Paromola bretoni* (MPZ 2020/615) from the same outcrop, in dorsal (E) and frontal view (F).

STOP 3 - VIEWPOINT OF RODA DE ISÁBENA

Location

Viewpoint in the north of Roda de Isábena village (Fig. 6).

- » Coordinates: 42°17'32"N, 0°31'40"E, Elevation: 880 m.
- » Geological map of Spain, 1:50,000, sheet of Arén (251).
- » Geological setting: Tremp-Graus basin, northeastern Spain.
- » Lithostratigraphical units: Serraduy, Roda, Morillo, San Esteban and Campanue formations (Figs. 2, 3 and 6).
- » Age: Ypresian, and early Lutetian (early Eocene).

Aims

- » The objective of this stop is to observe a panoramic view of the whole lower Eocene succession in the area to explain its lithostratigraphy and sedimentary evolution.
- » To discuss the effect of the environmental change to the decapod crustacean communities.

Description

The village of Roda de Isábena is built on the proximal Roda Sandstone Member (explained above), a classical example of a well-exposed multiscale Gilbert-type delta. The elevated relief that these sandstones create with respect to the adjacent marly materials, gives rise to an excellent viewpoint of the sequence that crops out in this sector.

The oldest materials are located to the north, where the Mesozoic materials create important reliefs (Turbón peak especially stands out). Above these, and closer, is the Serraduy Formation, with its three different members (explained below). In the most depressed area of the valley, the upper member of the Serraduy Formation (Riguala marls) and the Roda Formation (Roda marls) crop, with some intercalations of sandstones corresponding to lateral equivalents of the Roda sandstones and the Morillo Formation. Finally, to the south, the great reliefs generated by the fluvial materials (conglomerates) of the Castissent Group and the Campanue Formation stand out (Fig. 6).





STOP 4 – Early Eocene (Ypresian) from Serraduy Formation in La Puebla de Roda: DECAPOD DIVERSITY IN THE RAMALS REEFAL BUILD-UP.

Location

The visited outcrop known as Ramals is a well exposed reef environment located 1.3 km to the north of Pobla de Roda, in northeaster Huesca province (Aragón, Spain) (Fig. 2).

- » Coordinates: 42°18'56"N, 0°32'30"E, Elevation: 800 m.
- » Geological map of Spain, 1:50,000, sheet of Arén (251).
- » Geological setting: Tremp-Graus basin, northeastern Spain.
- » Lithostratigraphical units: Serraduy Formation, with three members: *Alveolina limestones*, *Reef limestones* member, and *Riguala marls* (Fig. 7).
- » Age: early to middle Ypresian (early Eocene).

Aims

- » To visit the outcrop with the highest abundance and diversity of decapod crustaceans from Spain.
- » Discuss the benthic crustacean decapod community replacement related with changes in substrate conditions.
- » To highlight and understand the distribution and high decapod diversity of this site.
- » To put the decapod-bearing levels into a stratigraphical and sedimentological context.
- » To interpret the decapod habitats based on fossil communities and facies distribution.

Description

Around the Ramals area, the Serraduy Formation forms an almost continuous ESE-WNW trending outcrop (Fig. 7A). This formation consists of three lithostratigraphic intervals (Serra-Kiel et al., 1994). The lower member is early Ypresian in age and is traditionally known as *Alveolina Limestone*. This unit was deposited after the widespread transgression that occurred at the onset

Figure 6. Panoramic view of the Isabena valley with the relevant reliefs and outcrops indicated. In the farthest part, the Mesozoic materials of the Turbón massif can be seen. At the eastern end (right) the conglomerates give rise to the Sierra de Sis.



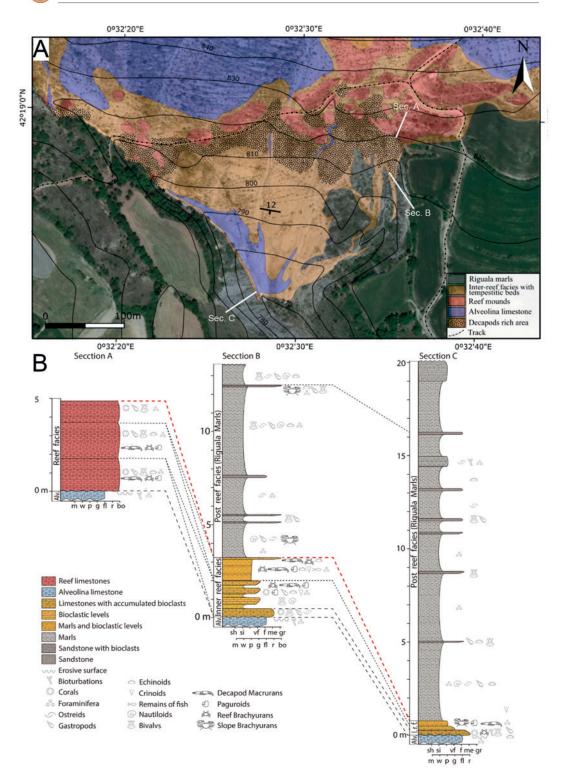
of the Eocene. The topography, together with the warm temperatures, favoured the setting of a low-relief carbonate ramp across the marginal areas of the Tremp-Graus basin at the earliest Eocene, in which the Alveolina Limestones was deposited (Ferrer, 1971; Robador et al., 1991; Luterbacher et al., 1991, Eichenseer and Luterbacher, 1992; Payros et al., 2000; Miller et al., 2005; Zachos et al., 2008; Martinius, 2011; Garcés et al., 2020). The Alveolina Limestones are overlain by a submarine hard-ground surface, formed after a widespread flooding event. This flooding event reached the marginal areas of the Tremp-Graus basin and was related to the southward migration of plate flexure (Fonnesu, 1984; Garcés et al., 2020). Low sedimentary rates during this period of sea level rise favoured the development of a hardened surface that allowed the growth of reef mounds variable in size and morphology (Eichenseer and Luterbacher, 1992). These reefs and associated facies characterize the middle member of the Serraduy Formation (i.e., the Reef limestone member; Serra-Kiel et al., 1994).

Exposed on the north-western margin of the Tremp-Graus basin is the early Eocene reef unit of the middle part of the Serraduy Formation. The classic outcrop known as Ramals exposes a reefal facies belt including closely spaced mounds up to five meters high, and associated inter- and forereef facies (Fig. 8) (Ferratges et al., 2021). The reef framework consists of coral framestones with bioclastic wackestone to packstone matrix, with colonial and solitary corals, crustose red algae, encrusting foraminifers and bryozoans. Analysis of the reef framestone and associated facies, combined with characterization of the associated invertebrate assemblage, indicates that these reefs were developed at euphotic to mesophotic depths, a few tens of meters deep, around or below strom wave base (Gaemers, 1978; Eichenseer, 1988; Pomar et al., 2017), with some nutrient content to maintain the diversity of associated benthic organisms. The reconstruction of the lateral and vertical relationship of the different sedimentary domains provided the overall sedimentological and stratigraphic framework, in which abundant fauna has been found and the different decapod crustacean assemblages are located from proximal to distal areas, and from deeper to shallower facies.

Evidence of episodic activity of storm-induced waves and currents is provided by abundant coral rubble within the reef framework and the skeletal-rich beds accumulated on the inter- and fore-reef domains. These beds are dominated by molluscs, foraminifera, corals, bryozoans, decapod crustaceans, echinoderms and vertebrate fragments. The presence of epibionts in some skeletal remains (such as echinoderms and fragments of vertebrates) indicates long periods of exposure on the sea floor. The studied reef mounds and associated facies allowed the establishment of a rich association of decapods consisting of 42 species (see Ferratges et al., 2021).

The mid-Ypresian deepening event resulted in the eventual flooding of the platform and the sedimentation of Riguala marls of the upper part of the Serraduy Formation. These marls were deposited in a relatively deep, open marine platform, transitioning to a slope-basin environment, and supported a lower concentration of benthic communities (Serra-Kiel et al., 1994). The Riguala marls were dated as lower to middle llerdian, which corresponds to the global Ypresian Stage (Pujalte et al., 2009). At a regional scale, most of the studied reef mounds grew over the hardened discontinuity surface found on a top of the Alveolina limestone (Fig. 7B). However, coral reefs isolated within the Riguala marls have been also found near Suerri. There is also the local record of younger coral reefs in the prodelta marls of the Roda Formation in Bacamorta (Ferratges et al.,

Figure 7. Facies distribution and stratigraphy of the Ramals outcrop. A. Detailed map of the three members of the Serraduy Formation in Ramals. Sec. A, Sec. B and Sec. C correspond to the different logged sections represented below. B. Correlation of stratigraphic logs. Legend: sh: clays; f: fine-grained sandstone; gr: coarse-grained sandstone; m: mudstone; w: wackestone; p: packstone; g: grainstone; fl: floatstone; r: rudstone; bo: boundstone; O.f.r.: Outer fore-reef facies.



2021). Finally, from the upper Lutetian, the fluvial-deltaic systems gradually prograded and filled the Tremp-Graus basin, reaching the Jaca-Pamplona basin (de Federico, 1981; Bentham, 1992; Nijman, 1998; Barnolas and Gil-Peña, 2001; Montes-Santiago, 2002; Chanvry et al., 2018).

Statistical studies of diversity carried out in this area suggest that the distribution of the different families is not random and were distributed across different facies, as supported by the sedimentological analysis (Ferratges et al., 2021). Thus, in the reef and inter-reef areas, the most representative groups are: Carpilloids, pilumnoids, xanthoids, Aethroids and paguroids; the inner fore-reef are dominated by Axiidae, dromioids, parthenopoids, calappoids and raninoids; in the outer fore-reef area, the most representative taxon is *Litoricola macrodactila* (Figs. 9-10). In addition, the only decapod that remained in the post-reef marls deposited after the collapse of the reef mounds is *Litoricola macrodactyla* (see Ferratges et al., 2021). These analyses also strength the hypothesis that the greatest diversity was found in the reefal facies belt and that an important part of the generated remains in such area were transported to fore reef facies.

Decapod fauna

For the early Eocene, the Ramals outcrop (together with some Italian outcrops), is one of the most diverse Eocene decapod localities in the world associated with a reef environment, and its excellent exposure allows inferring the environmental preferences of certain taxa (Ferratges et al., 2021). This outcrop has yielded 42 decapod species (and several isolated chelas not assignable to any taxon) from the reef mounds and associated facies, which consist of 32 brachyuran crabs, eight paguroids, and two callianassoids (Table 1), and other diverse invertebrate fauna (see Zamora et al., 2018).

The state of preservation, mostly preserved as isolated carapaces or claw fragments, with little abrasion or breakage can be explained, at least partially, from the taphonomic studies carried out by some authors (Jakobsen and Feldmann, 2004; Mutel et al., 2008; Krause Jr et al., 2011; Klompmaker et al., 2017). The fossils material collected in this outcrop (both crustaceans, echinoderms and vertebrate remains), suggest a relatively complex taphonomic history, with resedimentation events and long periods of exposure in the water-sediment interface that lengthened the biostratinomic phase.

Figure 8. Panoramic view of the Ramals outcrop, showing the relationship between reef (red) and inter-reef (orange) facies. The Riguala marls (transparent) are the post-reef deposits. The levels marked with a red star are those that provided the largest number and diversity of decapod crustaceans.



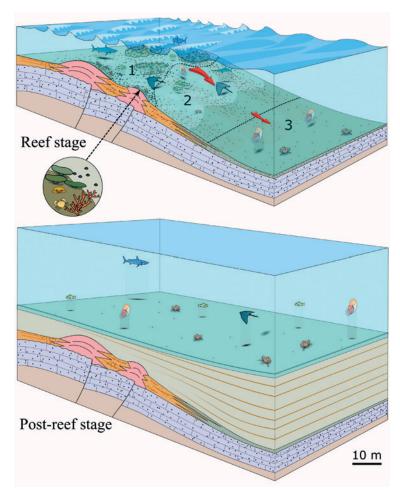


Figure 9. Simplified diagram showing the facies belt distribution. In the reef stage (top left), the reefal and inter-reef facies (1), inner fore-reef facies (2), and outer fore-reef facies (3) are differentiated. The red arrows show the dominant offshore transport of skeletal remains by episodic storm-induced currents. In the second stage (bottom left), the reefs were covered by the post-reef Riguala marls and there was a significant decrease in the diversity of the benthic fauna.



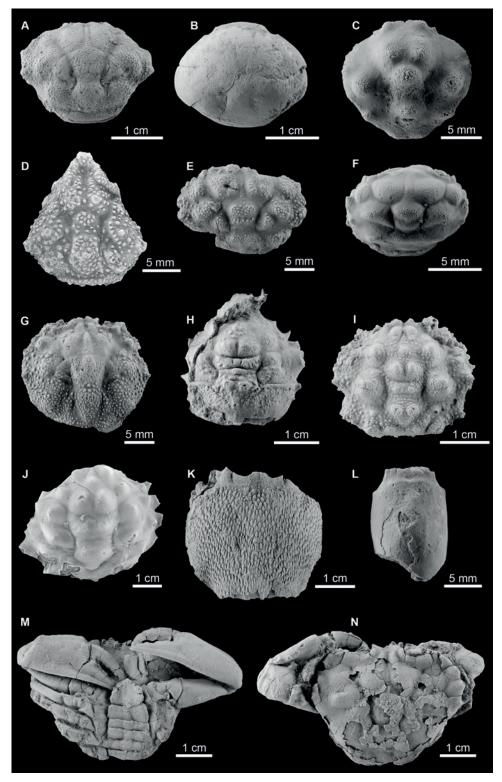


Table 1. Diversity of decapod crustaceans at the Ramals outcrop and their distribution according to the areas described in Ferratges et al., 2021.

Superfamily	Family	Subfamily	Taxon	Area
Callianassoidea	Callianassidae Dana, 1852		Callianassidae indet.	Inner fore-reef
Dana, 1852	Ctenochelidae Man- ning & Felder, 1991	Ctenochelinae Man- ning & Felder, 1991	Ctenocheles cf. cultellus (Rathbun, 1935)	Inner fo- re-reef/outer fore-reef
	Diogenidae Ortmann, 1892		Clibanarius isabenaensis Ferratges Artal, van Bakel & Zamora (in press)	Inner fore-reef
			Parapetrochirus serratus Ferratges Artal, van Bakel & Zamora (in press)	Inner fore-reef
			?Petrochirus sp.	Inner fore-reef
Danumaidaa	Annuntidiogenidae Fraaije, Van Bakel and Jagt ,2017		Paguristes perlatus Ferratges Artal, van Bakel & Zamora (in press)	Inner fore-reef
Paguroidea Latreille, 1802	Calcinidae Fraaije, van Bakel and Jagt, 2017		Dardanus balaitus Ferratges Artal, van Bakel & Zamora (in press)	Reefal facies belt/Inner fore-reef
			Eocalcinus veteris Ferratges Artal, van Bakel & Zamora (in press)	Reefal facies belt to outer fore-reef
	Paguridae		?Pagurus sp.	Inner fore-reef
	Latreille, 1802		Anisopagurus primigenius Ferratges Artal, van Bakel & Zamora (in press)	Inner fore-reef
	Dromiidae De Haan, 1833	Basinotopinae Karasawa, Schweitzer, and Feldmann, 2011	Mclaynotopus longispinosus Artal, Ferratges, van Bakel & Zamora, 2022	Inner fore-reef
		Dromiinae De Haan, 1833	Torodromia elongata Artal, Ferratges, van Bakel & Zamora, 2022	Inner fo- re-reef/outer fore-reef
Dromioidea		Sphaerodromiinae Guinot and Tavares, 2003	Basidromilites glaessneri Artal, Ferrat- ges, van Bakel & Zamora, 2022	Inner fore-reef
De Haan, 1833			Basidromilites sp	Inner fore-reef
	incertae sedis		?Basinotopus sp.	Inner fore-reef
	Dynomenidae Ort- mann, 1892	Paradynomeninae Guinot, 2008	Kromtitis isabenensis Artal, Ferratges, van Bakel & Zamora, 2022	Reefal facies belt/inner fore-reef
			Sierradromia gladiator Artal, Ferratges, van Bakel & Zamora, 2022	Reefal facies belt/inner fore-reef
Homoloidea De Haan, 1839	Homolidae De Haan, 1839		Paromola cf. bretoni Ferratges, Domín- guez & Ossó, 2021	Outer fore-re- ef/post reef
Raninoidea De Haan, 1839	Raninidae De Haan, 1839	Cyrtorhininae Guinot, 1993	Antonioranina ripacurtae (Artal & Castillo, 2005)	Inner fore-reef
		Raninoidinae Lőren- they in Lőrenthey & Beurlen, 1929	Ranina sp.	Inner fore-reef
			Quasilaeviranina sp.	Inner fore-reef
		Rogueinae Kara- sawa, Schweitzer, Feldmann & Luque, 2014	Doraranina sp.	Inner fore-reef
	?Orithopsidae Schweitzer et al., 2003		?Necrocarcinus sp.	Inner fore-reef

Superfamily	Family	Subfamily	Taxon	Area
Aethroidea Dana, 1851	Aethridae Dana, 1851		llerdapatiscus guardiae, Artal & Van Bakel, 2018	Reefal facies belt to outer fore-reef
Calappoidea H. Milne Ed- wards, 1837/ Cancridae Latreille, 1802	Matutidae De Haan, 1841		Matutidae indet.	Inner fo- re-reef/outer fore-reef
Cancroidea	Cancridae		Cancridae indet.	Inner fore-reef
Latreille, 1802	Latreille, 1802	Cancrinae Latreille, 1802	Ceronnectes sp.	Inner fore-reef
Carpilioidea Ortmann, 1893			Carpilius sp.	Reefal facies belt/inner fore-reef
	Carpiliidae Ortmann, 1893		Eocarpilius ortegai Artal & Van Bakel, 2018	Reefal facies belt/inner fore-reef
			Oscacarpilius rotundus Artal & Van Bakel, 2018	Reefal facies belt/inner fore-reef
	Tumidocarcinidae Schweitzer, 2005		Xanthilites sp.	Reefal facies belt/inner fore-reef
Goneplacoidea MacLay, 1838	Euryplacidae Stimp- son, 1871		?Alponella sp.	Inner fore-reef
Hexapodoidea Miers, 1886	Hexapodidae Miers, 1886		Eohexapus sp.	Inner fore-reef
Parthenopoidea MacLeay, 1838	Parthenopidae Ma- cLeay, 1838	Daldorfiinae Ng & Rodríguez, 1986	Aragolambrus collinsi Ferratges, Zamora & Aurell, 2019	Inner fo- re-reef/outer fore-reef
		Parthenopinae MacLeay, 1838	Parthenopidae indet.	Inner fore-reef
Pilumnoidea Sa- mouelle, 1819	Pilumnidae Samouelle, 1819		Galenopsis sp.	Reefal facies belt
Portunoidea Rafinesque, 1815	Portunidae Rafinesque, 1815		Litoricola macrodactyla (Artal & Via 1988)	Outer fo- re-reef
	Carcineretidae Beur- len, 1930	Polybiinae Paul'son, 1875	Lovaroides sp.	Inner fore-reef
			Liocarcinus sp.	Inner fore-reef
			Boschettia sp.	Inner fore-reef
Xanthoidea	Panopeidae Ortmann, 1893	Eucratopsinae Stimpson, 1871	Glyphithyreus almerai Artal & Van Bakel, 2018	Inner fore-reef
MacLay, 1838	Xanthidae MacLeay, 1838		Parhalimede sp.	Inner fore-reef

The most abundant genus is by far *Ctenocheles* sp. representing more than 55% of the total assemblage, but represented only by isolated chelipeds. This great abundance of this single taxon is followed by the great diverse crab assemblage; both brachyuran crabs and paguroids (see Ferratges *et al.*, 2021 for details).



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Figure 10. Some representatives of brachyuran crabs found in the Ramals outcrop; A. *Xanthilites* sp., MPZ 2021/44; B. *Oscacarpilius rotundus* Artal & Van Bakel, 2018, MPZ 2021/49; C. Ilerdapatiscus guardiae Artal & Van Bakel, 2018, MPZ 2021/39; D. *Aragolambrus collinsi* Ferratges, Zamora & Aurell, 2019; E. Xanthidae indet., MPZ 2021/41; F. *Glyphithyreus almerai* Artal & Van Bakel, 2018, MPZ 2021/43; G. Calappidae indet., MPZ 2021/34; H. *Mclaynotopus longispinosus*, Artal et al., 2021, MPZ 2021/46; I. *Kromtitis isabenensis* Artal et al., 2021, MGSB77633; J. *Sierradromia gladiator* Artal et al., 2021, MGSB75454; K. *Ranina* sp., MPZ 2021/47; L. *Quasilaeviranina* sp., MPZ 2021/48; M-N. *Litoricola macrodactylus pyrenaicus* (Artal & Vía 1988), MPZ 2021/45, the only one taxon that remained in the post-reef marls deposited after the collapse of the reef mounds.



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DAY 3: JUNE 24th, 2022

DECAPOD CRUSTACEAN DIVERSITY AND HABITATS IN THE UPPER ALBIAN DEPOSITS OF NAVARRE (WESTERN PYRENEES, SPAIN): THE KOSKOBILO QUARRY LIMESTONES AND THEIR COEVAL DEPOSITS

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Keywords: Crustacea, Decapoda, Diversity, Habitats, upper Albian, Western Pyrenees

INTRODUCTION

The Upper Albian successions of the Basque Cantabrian Basin (Western Pyrenees; North Spain) yield a high diversity of decapod crustaceans, which helps to understand the evolution of this group from the Early to the Late Cretaceous (Fig. 1). As for ammonoids and other groups, decapod diversity during this time is related to paleoecological changes linked to changing environmental conditions during basin evolution.

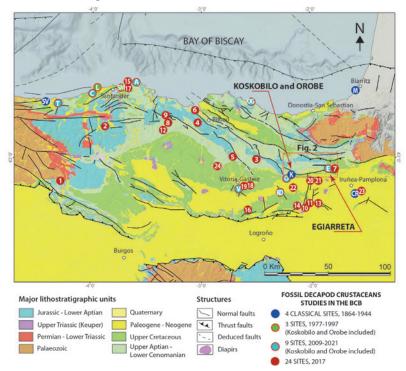


Figure 1. Geological map of the Basque-Cantabrian Basin (Western Pyrenees) with indication of the sites with decapod crustacean fossils arranged into 4 categories: historical references from the 19th and early 20th centuries; late 20th century works; last important references of the earliest 21st century; and the basin-scale compilation of new faunas from the Jurassic to the Miocene. Modified from López-Horgue and Bodego (2017: fig. 1).

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The Basque-Cantabrian Basin (BCB) was a rift basin related to the continental break-up occurring in the Permian-Triassic transition (e.g., Robles, 2014). Several rift phases led to the deposition of continental to transitional and marine sediments from the Permo-Triassic to the Early Cretaceous (Aptian). During the late Aptian to the early Cenomanian, a hyperextensional phase took place (e.g., Tugend et al., 2014), leading to extreme crustal thinning, mantle exhumation, and extreme subsidence rates that were accompanied by very high sedimentation rates. In this context, submarine volcanism spread in the basin center, seaways changed, and new areas of shallow to deep marine settings developed, creating a new paleoecological scenario rich in carbonate platforms with reefal margins facing deeper environments.

On this field trip, we will concentrate on the lower upper Albian outcrops of the Sakana Valley (Navarre province), where a rich decapod fauna has been reported from (e.g., López-Horgue et al., 1996; Fraaije et al., 2008; Klompmaker et al., 2011, 2013a; Van Bakel et al., 2012a; Artal et al., 2012; Klompmaker, 2013; López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017). Here, this succession is mainly composed of shallow marine carbonates forming isolated carbonate build-ups of the Eguino Formation (García-Mondéjar, 1982) and ramps surrounded by deeper siliciclastic successions; the whole succession is called the Albeniz unit (López-Horgue et al., 1996). This unit crops out extensively between the localities of Araia (Araba) and Irurtzun (Navarre) to the south of the Aitzgorri and Aralar mountains (Fig. 2).

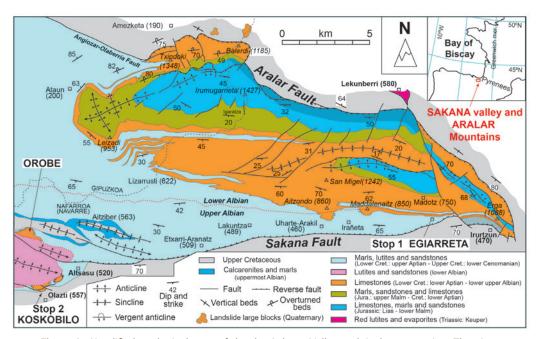


Figure 2. Simplified geological map of the the Sakana Valley and Aralar mountains. The sites with decapod crustacean faunas to be visited are indicated. The reef limestones of Koskobilo and Orobe are well-known sites of decapod biodiversity for the Cretaceous. The Egiarreta site has yielded decapods from siliciclastic muddy bottoms coeval to that of Koskobilo and Orobe. The Orobe site is here considered part of the field-trip due to its historical and scientific value but, unfortunately, it is not possible to visit it. See figure 1 for location in the western Pyrenean area.

Two stops are envisaged:

1. Egiarreta village (near Irurtzun city). The silty marl succession of this site forms a deeper marine succession stratigraphically equivalent to the carbonate build-ups of the Koskobilo and Orobe sites. Decapod diversity is relatively low here.

2. Koskobilo quarry (Olazti). Concrete factories exploited this site in the 1940s, destroying one of the best Pleistocene cave sites (e.g., Arlegi et al., 2018). However, the upper Albian reef limestones contain a collection of decapods known as one of the most diverse Cretaceous decapod localities in the world (Klompmaker, 2013).

Another important site is added as an appendix:

» Orobe quarry (N of Alsasua city). This site was created to provide ballast for the Madrid-Irun railway in the 19th and 20th centuries. A taxonomically similar decapod fauna to that of Koskobilo has been found here as shown in the pioneer papers of Van Straelen (1940, 1944), Ruiz de Gaona (1943, 1952), and Via (1981).

THE BASQUE CANTABRIAN BASIN: Basin evolution and environmental changes

During the latest Permian to Early Triassic, the Pangaea supercontinent underwent a first fracturing phase that led to crustal thinning and the formation of different intracontinental sedimentary basins. Continental extension gave way to plate separation and to a progressive increase in subsidence. Accordingly, the extended area between the Iberian and European plates led to the opening of the Bay of Biscay in the context of crustal thinning in the North Atlantic rifting system. This area is the so-called Basque-Cantabrian Basin (BCB), a sedimentary basin geodynamically related to other basins in the Pyrenean area sharing a similar extension and inversion evolution.

Succeeding environmental changes in the basin led to the creation of new ecological niches through time. Consequently, decapod crustaceans can show a high diversity locally in the Meso-and Cenozoic, having occupied continental, transitional, and marine environments (Klompmaker, 2013; López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017, 2018).

Several rifting phases separated by relative quiescent intervals are distinguished through the BCB evolution from an intracontinental rift to an extended pericratonic rift:

- » Late Permian-Triassic rifting phase (intracontinental rift). Active faulting created tectonic depressions with a high subsidence rate that were filled with siliciclastics deposited from alluvial fans and braided rivers (Permian Buntsandstein facies). Calc-alkalin volcanism affected the basin margins. Rifting subsidence decreased during the Middle and Late Triassic and the basin became filled as a result. However, a transgressive phase permitted the sedimentation of shallow marine carbonates (Muschelkalk facies). Later, the shallowing phase of the Late Triassic is characterised by the deposition of red mudstones and evaporites in a very shallow intracontinental salt-lake environment (sabkha).
- » Latest Triassic (Rhaetian)-Middle Jurassic inter-rift phase. Faulting was not so active and subsidence is mainly related to a slow thermal contraction affecting large areas in the basin (sag-type). Progressive sagging permitted the development of marine epicontinental areas characterized by shallow carbonate ramp environments with a high organismal diversity, such as ammonoids, sponges, and brachiopods. Black shales were deposited in the center of the basin. The glypheid lobster *Paraglyphea* inhabited these hypoxic bottoms. Sponge build-ups punctuated these ramps during the Middle Jurassic (e.g., Fontana et al., 1994).
- » Late Jurassic-Early Cretaceous (early Aptian) rifting. This new extensional phase led to a widening of the basin, the creation of new sedimentary depocenters, and the uplift of basin margins. The subsidence rate increased but was offset by the deposition of thick successions of fluvial origin and coeval coastal to shallow marine environments. Freshwater inhabiting mecochirid lobsters are found in these continental environments. Faulting slowed and transgression took place during the early Aptian: coastal environments in the basin margins were accompanied by coastal lagoons and shallow carbonate areas in the central part. Mecochirids flourished in these new shallow-marine environments, whereas atyid shrimps inhabited coastal brackish lagoons (López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017).

- » Late Aptian-late Albian hyperextended rift phase. A severe increase in continental extension led to extreme crustal thinning and mantle exhumation in the basin center. Thick successions of submarine basalts and volcaniclastites were deposited mainly during the late Albian. Plate separation and basin widening increased substantially and resulted in the opening of the Bay of Biscay, sea deepening, the onset of oceanic conditions, and the connection with nearby marine areas. In this scenario, differential subsidence controlled the sedimentation of shallow marine carbonate environments on uplifted blocks facing deeper marine siliciclastic and mixed successions on hanging wall blocks. Reef communities flourished in these transitional areas where microbial and coralgal communities dominated in the early Albian and in the late Albian, respectively. In these reef facies, one of the highest Cretaceous decapod diversities worldwide is found (Klompmaker, 2013).
- » Cenomanian-Santonian/Campanian boundary: thermal subsidence phase. The early Cenomanian marked the transition from the maximum cortical extension of the basin to a passive margin stage. Fault-related subsidence gave way to a progressive long-ranging slow subsidence. This fact and the onset of a major transgressive episode worldwide (e.g., Haq, 2014) led to the deepening of sea environments, the flooding of continental areas, and, consequently, the creation of new ecological niches. In this context, coastal environments migrated toward basin margins and carbonate ramps facing deep marine environments developed over large areas. Ammonoids and fish turnovers are examples of the faunal replacement associated with the relatively abrupt palaeoecological changes (e.g., López-Horgue et al., 2014).
- » Santonian/Campanian boundary-Eocene/Oligocene: compressive phase. The European and Iberian plates started converging and, consequently, the BCB basin underwent flexure subsidence related to tectonic load. The basin changed from a foredeep to a foreland basin type. At the beginning of this stage, coastal siliciclastic environments prograded over deeper ramps causing a regressive phase in the basin. The Paleocene is a time of relative quiescence of the compressive forces leading to a transgression and the development of carbonate platforms and ramps facing deep marine environments. During the Eocene, a time of high temperatures worldwide, carbonate ramps developed in a tectonic context of migration of foreland areas that gave way to the progressive uplift and encroachment of terrestrial conditions. Eocene carbonate ramp environments were inhabited by zanthopsid crabs typical of the Pyrenean area. One of the earliest representatives of potamid crabs inhabited shallow brackish lakes created after basin inversion atop of diapiric structures (López-Horque and Hernández, 2003).

THE DECAPOD RECORD IN THE BCB (WESTERN PYRENEES)

The first studies in the area refer to Eocene fossils from the eastern and western margins: the Muliña site near Biarritz (Jacquot, 1864) and San Vicente de la Barquera in Cantabria (Quiroga, 1887; Mengaud, 1920). In the first so-called modern study on decapods in the Iberian Peninsula, Van Straelen (1927) formally described the Eocene specimens referred to by Mengaud (1920). Also from the Eocene, Ruiz de Gaona (1943) referred to one species from the Lutetian of El Carrascal (Navarre). Via (1969) studied the Eocene faunas from Cantabria and Navarre in his major revision of Eocene decapods from Iberia.

It is not until 1940 that Mesozoic decapods were first reported when Van Straelen described mid-Cretaceous decapods from the Orobe quarry. His work was based on the collection amassed by Máximo Ruiz de Gaona from 1935-1940 in this quarry located near Alsasua (Navarre), the limestones of which were used in the refurbishment of the Norte (Madrid-Irun) railway line (previously, in the 1860-1870s, Norte Railway Company also extracted limestone here). Van Straelen and Ruiz de Gaona described several species from 1940 to 1954 (e.g., Van Straelen, 1940, 1944; Ruiz de Gaona, 1943). Via (1981, 1982) revised these decapods adding a new galatheoid species to the



known record. Some decades later, substantial collecting efforts mainly during 2008–2010 within the coeval Aldoirar limestones of the Koskobilo quarry led to the discovery of a diversity hotspot for the Cretaceous (e.g., Klompmaker et al., 2011, 2012a, 2012b, Klompmaker, 2013; Fraaije et al., 2012, 2019), with 39 decapod species. A rare isopod species has also been described in the same limestones (Fraaije et al., 2019).

The knowledge of fossil decapods of the BCB besides Koskobilo has also substantially increased due to intense research activity in the last 15 years, with several new species and occurrences from the Aptian, Albian, Santonian, and Campanian (e.g., López-Horgue, 2009; Van Bakel et al., 2012a, 2012b; Ossó and Díaz-Isa, 2014; González-León et al., 2016).

The enhanced exploration and revision of successions from the Lower Jurassic to the Miocene in the BCB permitted the updating of the stratigraphical record of Decapoda in the area (López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017, 2018) with the description of 24 new sites, 29 new occurrences, and 3 new species. These authors attributed the decapod faunal turnovers to palaeoecological changes in the context of basin evolution (see Fig. 1).

An updated decapod species and occurrences list in the BCB is presented here (Table 1).

Table 1. The updated record of Decapoda from the Basque-Cantabrian Basin (Western Pyrenean area), with listed taxa, environments, and age.

Localities	Taxon	Environment	Age
(in López-Horg	gue and Bodego, 2017)		
1 -Aguilar de Campóo	Paraglyphea sp.	Hemipelagic carbonate ramp	Pliensba- chian-Toarcian
2 -Ontaneda	Mecochiridae indet.	Shallow fresh-water lake	Berriasian
3 -Eskoriatza	Delclosia almeni López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017	Shallow coastal lagoon	Hauterivian-Ba- rremian
4 -Zaramillo	Atherfieldastacus magnus (M´Coy, 1849)	Prodelta, shallow marine	early Aptian
C -Cuchía	Callianassidae indet. 1	ld.	early Aptian
5 -Gorbea	Atherfieldastacus magnus (M´Coy, 1849)	Distal shallow marine mixed ramp	late Aptian
6 -Sestao	Callianassidae indet. 2	Distal marine siliciclastic ramp	late Aptian
A -Ajo	Hoploparia sp. 1	Shallow marine mixed ramp	early Albian
7 -Irurtzun	Joeranina sp.	Siliciclastic trough in shallow marine carbona- te platform	late Albian
E -Egiarreta	Cenomanocarcinus sakanaensis López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017	ld.	early late Albian
8-La Escrita, 9-Sopeña, 10-Zubielki, 11-Larrion	Callianassidae indet. 3 (8); Callianassidae indet. 4 (9); Callianassidae indet. 5 (10-11)	Prodelta	late Albian
12 -Baljerri	Cenomanocarcinus aff. cantabricus Van Bakel et al., 2012a, b	Offshore siliciclastic platform	early late Albian
13-Allotz	Etyxanthosia inflata López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017	ld.	latest Albian
L -Liencres	Hoploparia sp. 2	Shoreface-offshore carbonate ramp	early Cenoma- nian
14 -Antzin	? Paguroidea	Offshore carbonate ramp	Coniacian
15 -Langre beach	? Caloxanthus sp.	Shallow marine carbonate platform	late Santonian

Localities	Taxon	Environment	Age
16 -Bajauri	Mesostylus sp.	Shoreface carbonate ramp	early Campa- nian
17 -Loredo-1	Callianassidae indet. 6; Brachyura indet.	Offshore carbonate ramp	early Campa- nian
V -Vitoria Pass	Enoploclytia aff. collignoni Secrétan, 1964; Cretacoranina aff. schloenbachi (Schlüter, 1879)	Prodelta	late Campanian
18 -Ulliba- rri-Jauregi, 19 -Egileta	Callianassidae indet. 7	Prodelta	late Campanian
20 -Andia 1	Zanthopsis leachii (Desmarest, 1817)	Offshore carbonate ramp	late Ypresian
21 -Andia 2	Harpactoxanthopsis quadrilobatus (Desmarest, 1817)	Offshore carbonate ramp	early Lutetian
22-Urbasa	Harpactoxanthopsis sp.	Shallow marine carbonate ramp	early Bartonian
23-Ardanaz	Decapoda indet.	Delta front to prodelta	early Bartonian
24-Izarra	Potamidae	Freshwater to brackish swamp	early Miocene
(in González-Le	eón et al., 2016)		
C -Cuchía	Rathbunopon viai González-León et al., 2016 Mithracites vectensis Gould, 1859	Prodelta	early Aptian
(in Ossó and M	loreno-Bedmar, 2020)		
C -Cuchía	Etyus tresgalloi Ossó and Moreno-Bedmar, 2020	Prodelta	early Aptian
(in Ossó et al.,	2021)		
C -Cuchía	Cuchiadromites jadeae Ossó et al., 2021	Prodelta	early Aptian
(in López-Horg	ue, 2009)		
A -Ajo	Meyeria magna M´Coy, 1849 (=Atherfieldastacus magnus (M´Coy, 1849) sensu Robin et al., 2016)	Shallow marine mixed ramp	early Albian
(in Van Bakel e	t al., 2012a)		
A -Ajo	Cenomanocarcinus cantabricus Van Bakel et al., 2012a	Shallow marine mixed ramp	early Albian
(in Agirrezabal	a et al., 2013)		
OG -Ogella	Callianassa	Offshore; deep marine siliciclastic trough	late Albian
(in Van Bakel e	t al., 2012a)		
E -Egiarreta	Joeranina gaspari Van Bakel et al., 2012a	Siliciclastic trough in shallow marine carbonate platform	early late Albian
13-Allotz	Eucorystes navarrensis Van Bakel et al., 2012a	Offshore siliciclastic platform	latest Albian
V -Pto. Vitoria	Cretacoranina schloenbachi (Schlüter, 1879)	Prodelta	late Campanian
	n, 1940, 1944; Ruiz de Gaona, 1943; Via, 1981, 1982; Artal <i>et al</i> aker, 2013; Klompmaker et <i>al.,</i> 2011a,b,c, 2012a,b, 2013a, 2020		2009, 2012, 2013,
K-Koskobilo quarry-Aldoi- rar carbonate build-up, and Orobe quarry-Orobe carbonate build-up	Achelata Paleopalinurus serratus Fraaije et al., 2019 Brachyura Acareprosopon bouvieri (Van Straelen, 1944) Albenizus minutus Klompmaker, 2013 Caloxanthus paraornatus Klompmaker et al., 2011c Cretamaja granulata Klompmaker, 2013 Distefania incerta (Bell, 1863) Distefania renefraaijei Klompmaker et al., 2012b Eodromites cristinarobinsae Klompmaker et al., 2020 Etyxanthosia fossa (Wright and Collins, 1972) Faksecarcinus koskobiloensis (Klompmaker et al., 2011c) Glyptodynomene alsasuensis Van Straelen, 1944	Shallow marine carbo- nate platform (coral and microbialite facies)	early late Albian

Localities	Taxon	Environment	Age
	Goniodromites laevis (Van Straelen, 1940)		
	Graptocarcinus texanus Roemer, 1887		
	Koskobilius postangustus Klompmaker, 2013		
	Laeviprosopon crassum Klompmaker, 2013		
	Laeviprosopon edoi Klompmaker, 2013		
	Laeviprosopon hispanicum Klompmaker, 2013 Laeviprosopon planum Klompmaker, 2013		
	Navarradromites pedroartali Klompmaker et al., 2012b		
	Navarrahomola hispanica Artal et al., 2012		
	Navarrara betsiei Klompmaker, 2013		
	Rathbunopon obesum (Van Straelen, 1944)		
	Viaia robusta Artal et al., 2012		
	Galatheoidea		
	Eomunidopsis aldoirarensis Klompmaker et al., 2012a		
	Eomunidopsis navarrensis (Van Straelen, 1940) Eomunidopsis orobensis (Ruiz de Gaona, 1943)		
	?Palmunidopsis sp. (see Klompmaker et al., 2012a; Fraaije,		
	2014)		
	Hispanigalathea pseudolaevis Klompmaker et al., 2012a		
	Hispanigalathea tuberosa Klompmaker et al., 2012a		
	Nykteripteryx rostrata Klompmaker et al., 2012a		
	Serraphylctaena multisquamata (Vía Boada, 1981)		
	Vasconilia ruizi (Van Straelen, 1940a)		
	Vasconilia straeleni (Ruiz de Gaona, 1943) Gastrodoroidea		
	Gastrodorus cretahispanicus Klompmaker et al., 2011a		
	Paguroidea		
	Annuntidiogenes worfi Fraaije et al., 2009 (carapace)		
	Cretatrizocheles olazagutiensis Fraaije et al., 2012 (carapa-		
	ce) (?=Pylochelitergites alatus Fraaije et al., 2013 (tergite))		
	Mesoparapylocheles michaeljacksoni Fraaije et al., 2012		
	(carapace) (?=Parapylochelitergites pustulosus Fraaije et al.,		
	2013 (tergite)) Paguritergites yvonnecoleae Fraaije et al., 2013 (tergite)		
	Pylochelitergites rugosus Fraaije et al., 2013 (tergite)		
	OROBE		
	Brachyura		
	Acareprosopon bouvieri (Van Straelen, 1944)		
	Etyxanthosia fossa (Wright and Collins, 1972)		
	Eodromites grandis (von Meyer, 1857)		
	Glyptodynomene alsasuensis Van Straelen, 1944		
	Goniodromites laevis (Van Straelen, 1940) Graptocarcinus texanus Roemer, 1887		
	Necrocarcinus labeschei (Eudes-Deslongchamps, 1835)		
	Rathbunopon obesum (Van Straelen, 1944)		
	Sabellidromites scarabaea (Wright and Wright, 1950)		
	Galatheoidea		
	Eomunidopsis navarrensis (Van Straelen, 1940)		
	Eomunidopsis orobensis (Ruiz de Gaona, 1943)		
	Serraphylctaena multisquamata (Vía Boada, 1981)		
	Vasconilia ruizi (Van Straelen, 1940a) Vasconilia straeleni (Ruiz de Gaona, 1943)		
	Annieporcellana dhondtae Fraaije et al., 2008		
	Paguroidea		
	Annuntidiogenes ruizdegaonai Fraaije et al., 2008		
n Ossó, 2017			
-Trasvía	Cenomanocarcinus sp. 2	Offshore carbonate ramp	middle Turo- nian
n Van Bakel	et al., 2012b)		
0 -Kontrasta	Graptocarcinus urbasaensis Van Bakel et al., 2012b	Offshore carbonate ramp	Santonian
-Olazagutia	Graptocarcinus urbasaensis	ld.	Santonian
M-Santa	Graptocarcinus urbasaensis	ld.	Santonian
Marina		I	

Localities	Taxon	Environment	Age				
(in Ossó and Díaz-Isa, 2014)							
17 -Loredo-2	Cantabroxanthus loredoensis Ossó and Díaz-Isa, 2014	Offshore carbonate ramp	early Campa- nian				
(in Via, 1969)							
SV-San Vicente de la Barquera (first ref.: Qui- roga, 1887)	Ctenocheles cf. cultellus (Rathbun, 1935); Harpactocarcinus jacquoti A Milne-Edwards, 1865; Xanthopsis bruckmanni (von Meyer, 1862) (Neozanthopsis bruckmanni sensu Schweitzer, 2003); Harpactoxanthopsis quadrilobatus (Desmarest, 1817)	Offshore carbonate ramp	early Lutetian				
CR-El Ca- rrascal (first ref. Ruiz de Gaona, 1943)	Lophoranina reussi Woodward, 1866; Notopella vareolata Lõrenthey and Beurlen, 1929	Offshore carbonate ramp	middle Lutetian				
M -Muliña (Larralde; first ref. Jacquot, 1864)	Harpactocarcinus jacquoti A. Milne-Edwards, 1865	Offshore carbonate ramp	late Lutetian- Bartonian				

THE UPPER ALBIAN SUCCESSION IN THE SAKANA VALLEY (NAVARRE): Stratigraphy, Environments, and Palaeontology

The Albian stage in the BCB represents an interval of very high subsidence due to extreme faulting and crustal thinning. Both the increasing siliciclastic input and the favorable conditions of the sea (temperature, nutrient level, oceanic currents, and seaways connecting other adjacent basins) allowed the deposition of very thick shallow carbonate successions on paleogeographic highs and siliciclastics in coeval deeper troughs. High sedimentation rates accompanied the tectonic subsidence leading to stratigraphic thicknesses up to 6.5 km in the depocenter of the basin (S of Bilbao) and 3 km in the Sakana Valley. From these thicknesses, up to 5 km and 2 km correspond to the upper Albian substage in Bilbao and the Sakana Valley, respectively. Hence, it is clear that the late Albian represented a time of extreme subsidence and corresponding environmental changes.

The extreme input of siliciclastics during the late Albian substantially filled the accommodation space created by subsidence and led to an overall shallowing of the BCB margins. The shallow marine carbonate sedimentation was confined to the more elevated areas, and the deeper troughs were siliciclastic ramps (e.g., López-Horgue et al., 1999). The basin center and some parts of the northern margin show substantially deeper troughs with steep slopes and are filled mainly with turbidites (e.g., Agirrezabala and López-Horgue, 2017). Volcanic successions in the basin center reached up to 500 m in thickness (e.g., Castañares et al., 2001).

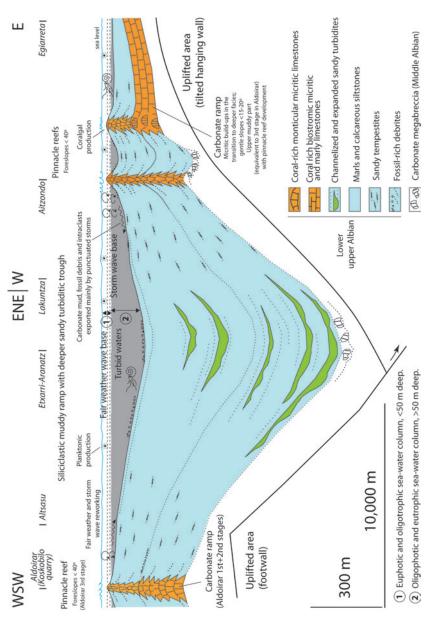
The change to a thermal subsidence and the onset of the transgression during the latest Albian resulted in diminished siliciclastic input in the BCB and the drowning of the shallow marine carbonate platforms in the area.

In the Sakana Valley, the upper Albian succession is divided into two main intervals:

- lower upper Albian

In the eastern part, it is composed of shallow-marine carbonate ramp deposits (Aralar platform, late stage) with siliciclastic intraplatform troughs and reef build-ups facing deeper siliciclastic facies (Aitzondo-Maddalenaitz areas). In the western part, shallow marine carbonates formed at least four reef build-ups of variable extension (Egino, Aldoirar-Koskobilo, Altsasu and Orobe), separated by marly troughs and forming an overall shallow-marine carbonate area. Between these two contrasting shallow carbonate areas, a N-S oriented deeper turbiditic trough developed (Lizarrusti) (Fig. 3).





subsidence. Uplifted areas were places of shallow marine carbonates edimentation facing deeper areas with muddy and sandy sedimentation affected by storms and turbiditic currents. Breccia deposits may be linked to carbonate margin erosion after tectonic activity. Carbonates evolved from ramps to pinnacle structures withanoverallreductionofthe carbonate sedimentary area; in deeper siliciclastic areas thereis a markedfining upwards trend. A shallow intraplatform muddy area developed between Aitzondo and Egiarreta. Decapod crustaceans are mainly found in limestones of the pinnacle carbonates and also in the muddy area of Egiarreta. Carbonate production on reefal areas occurred under clear waters (euphotic zone) and likely oligotrophic conditions. Deeper areas are characterized by Figure 3. Sedimentary model of the lower upper Albian interval in the Sakana Valley (Navarre). Tectonic synsedimentary control created areas with differential turbid waters (oligophotic) and eutrophic conditions.



Carbonate build-ups are composed of micritic limestones rich in corals (e.g., flabeloids of the *Plesiosmilia* group; O. A. Bonilla, pers. comm. 2019), rudists, and green algae that lived in shallow marine euphotic conditions (e.g., Klompmaker et al., 2013a; Zamora and López-Horgue, 2022). Red algae, platy corals, sponges, bryozoans, and the crinoid *Proholopus holopiformis* (Remeš, 1902) are characteristic of the fore-reef in transition to an oligophotic marly deeper area, periodically affected by local storm waves.

Decapod crustacean diversity in these carbonate build-ups is the highest known worldwide for the Cretaceous thus far, with representatives of 45 decapod species reported from the Eguino Formation (Albeniz unit) (Klompmaker, 2013; Fraaije et al., 2019).

In the shallowest siliciclastic areas coeval to these carbonates, representatives of only two decapod families (palaeocorystid and cenomanocarcinid crabs) have been found thus far (Van Bakel et al., 2012a; López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017).

Ammonites of the genera *Desmoceras*, *Hamites*, *Kossmatella*, and the orbitolinids *Mesorbitolina subconcava* Leymerie, 1878, and *M. aperta* (Erman, 1854) have been found in the Koskobilo build-up, indicating an early late Albian age (Klompmaker, 2013; López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017) rather than Cenomanian or Albian/Cenomanian as was used previously. This is supported by the occurrence of ammonites of the same age (*Mortoniceras* cf. *geometricum* (Spath, 1932), *Hysteroceras* sp., *Kossmatella muhlenbecki* (Fallot, 1885), *Hamites* (*Stomohamites*) *virgulatus* (Brongniart, 1822), *Hamites* (*Plesiohamites*) *multicostatus* (Brown, 1837), *Hypophylloceras seresitense* (Pervinquiere, 1907), and *H. algeriense* Wiedmann, 1962) in coeval and overlying deposits from the Etxarri-Aranaz locality, studied by Wiedmann (1962).

- upper upper Albian

Carbonate drowning occurred near the start of the latest Albian. The top of the carbonates near Altsasu show in places dissolution features and banded cements that suggest the stop of the shallow marine carbonate factory and a non-depositional time (hiatus). The coeval interval in the siliciclastic areas is marked by carbonate breccias. Accordingly, this mid upper Albian unconformity in the Sakana Valley is marked by a tectonic event (García-Mondéjar et al., 2004), which caused the erosion of previous sediments, the end of marked deeper troughs, and the retreat of the sandy coastal systems. In other parts of the basin, this event is indicated by an angular unconformity (e.g., López-Horgue et al., 2000; western margin of the BCB) and represents the end of an important volcanic phase (e.g., López-Horgue et al., 2009; BCB center).

A shallow marine siliciclastic platform dominated in the whole Sakana Valley except for a small area (Aitziber) to the north of Altsasu where calcarenite deposits formed in a shallow marine, wave-dominated uplifted tectonic block. The sediments are mainly fine-grained: calcareous siltstones, marls, and scattered thin fine-sand tempestites. This type of sedimentation extended towards the south (Estella-Lizarra in López-Horgue *et al.*, 1999) and represents the retreat of sandy input in the basin.

The transition to the lower Cenomanian deposits is marked by a gradual decrease of silt input, a feature that continues during the earliest Cenomanian, being diachronous towards the southern margin of the BCB while the transgression was taking place.

Etyid and paleocorystid crabs are the only known decapods from the shallow-marine muddy environments of this age to the south of the Sakana Valley, in the Estella-Lizarra area (Van Bakel et al., 2012a; López-Horque and Bodego, 2017).

Ammonites ascribed to *Cantabrigites* cf. *subsimplex* (H. G. Owen, pers. comm. 2000) found in the calcareous siltstones stratigraphically overlying the Koskobilo limestones are indicative of a latest Albian age. However, the topmost marls stratigraphically overlying Koskobilo limestones are of middle Cenomanian age (López-Horgue *et al.*, 1996), indicating a hiatus encompassing the latest Albian and most of the early Cenomanian (Fraaije *et al.*, 2019).

STOP 1 - DECAPODS IN SEA MUDDY-BOTTOMS: THE EGIARRETA INNER PLATFORM SUCCESSION.

Location

The Egiarreta village is located to the west of the Irurtzun town (Navarre) but is part of the Arakil municipality. The locality was settled on the southern flank of the Aralar mountains near the northern bank of the Arakil river, in the eastern end of the Sakana (or Barranca) Valley (Fig. 2).

- » Coordinates: 42°55'33.74"N, 1°51'46.11"W, Elevation: 491 m.
- » Geological map of Navarre 1:25.000, sheet 114(II) Uharte-Arakil (López-Horgue et al., 1997a).
- » Geological setting: Southern margin of the inverted BCB, Western Pyrenees.
- » Lithostratigraphy: Calcareous siltstones, marly limestones, and fine-grained sandstones of an intra-platform trough coeval to the upper part of the lower upper Albian limestones of the Sakana Valley (Fig. 3). Time-equivalent to the Aldoirar carbonate build-up (see Koskobilo quarry stop).
- » Age: early late Albian.

Aims

- » To show the siliciclastic facies succession coeval to the Koskobilo and Orobe carbonate build-ups with decapods.
- » To put the decapod-bearing levels into a stratigraphical context.
- » To show the decapod habitats based on fossil communities and facies interpretation.

Description

This siliciclastic unit is usually covered by forest in the Sakana Valley. The Egiarreta outcrops developed due to deforestation and grazing.

The decapod-bearing siliciclastic muddy succession (Fig. 4) is overlying limestones and marly limestones (rich in corals, orbitolinids, and rudists) and underlying calcareous siltstones and tempestites. Laterally to both the west and east, this muddy series changes to coralline limestones, in the Maddalenaitz and Etxeberri sites, respectively.

All units in the southern flank of the Aralar mountains are cut by low-displacement faults orthogonal to the regional 60/180 bedding.

Egiarreta succession

A gradual increase in the subsidence of the Sakana area during the late Albian led to a more than 50% areal reduction of the carbonate production environments from the early to the late Albian (García-Mondéjar et al., 2004; see Fig. 2).

The upper Albian carbonate platform is divided into shallow platform areas with siliciclastic muddy input in the Egiarreta area, and a coralline micritic rim with gentle slopes facing deeper muddy facies in the Maddalenaitz area.

Platy and tabular coral limestones alternate with orbitolinid-rich muddy beds; green algae and rudists are common in certain beds. The siliciclastic content in these inner platform carbonates increases upwards in the succession leading to the silty succession of Egiarreta (Fig. 4). The lower part shows a transition from orbitolinid-coral rich limestones to silty marls with scattered limy beds with orbitolinids, as well as scarce ahermatypic corals and siderite nodules (28 m thick). The marly succession shows an upwards increase in the carbonate content leading to a top interval (8 m thick) of coral-chaetetid rich marly limestones.

EGIARRETA Lower upper Albian succession (partial)

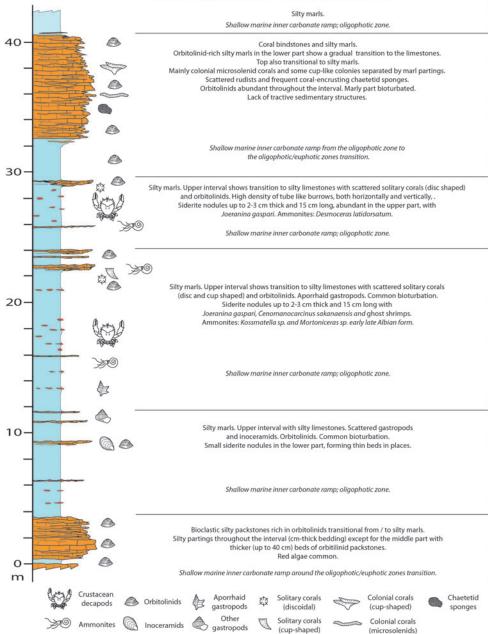


Figure 4. Intraplatform setting section of the lower upper Albian succession in Egiarreta (Navarre). A shallow marine muddy setting was developed after carbonate accumulation dominated by orbitolinid and coral macrofossils. At least 3 metric-scale cycles of siltstones to silty marls are distinguished in the muddy interval. The recovery of the carbonate producers atop of the succession is represented by platy corals and orbitolinids that tolerated some input of siliciclastic silt and mud, after which the drowning of the carbonate platform took place before the latest Albian. See figure 3 for location.

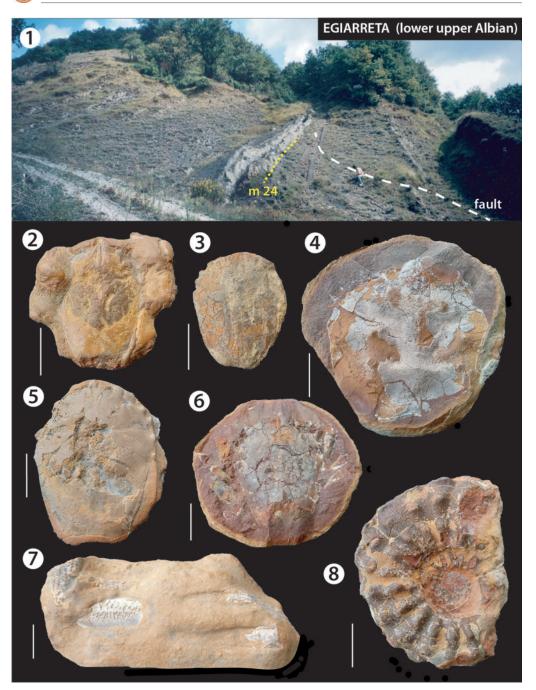


Figure 5. Egiarreta site (Navarre). 1. Outcrop of the muddy intraplatform setting represented in figure 4. Representative fossils of the upper part of the succession: 2, 3. *Joeranina gaspari* Van Bakel *et al.*, 2012a. And from the lower part: 4. *Cenomanocarcinus sakanaensis* López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017, holotype BCB-D16; 5, 6. *J. gaspari*; 7. Callianassidae indet.; 8. *Mortoniceras* sp., early late Albian form. Scale bar: 1.0 cm. Specimens housed in the collections of the Geology department of the University of the Basque Country; waiting for repository after formal description.



Decapods are preserved in the siderite nodules from the marly interval where ammonites have also been found (Fig. 5). Ammonites indicate a substantially deeper environment. In the Maddalenaitz area, crinoids inhabited fore reef environments near 50 m depth in transition to deeper silty facies with ammonites (Zamora and López-Horgue, 2022).

Only two decapod species are known from this site thus far: *Joeranina gaspari* Van Bakel et al., 2012a, and *Cenomanocarcinus sakanaensis* López-Horgue and Bodego, 2017 (Fig. 5). Both crab species are typical of muddy substrates in siliciclastic coastal environments, areas of high nutrient levels.

STOP 2 - DECAPOD DIVERSITY IN THE ALDOIRAR CARBONATE BUILD-UP: THE KOSKO-BILO QUARRY.

Location

Koskobilo is the name of a limestone hill located to the north of Olazti locality (Navarre), near the northern bank of the Arakil river, at the western end of the Sakana (or Barranca) Valley (fig. 2).

- » Coordinates: 42°52'57.03"N, 2°11'56.48"W, Elevation: 562 m.
- » Geological map of Navarre 1:25.000, sheet 113(IV) Olazagutia (López-Horgue et al., 1997b).
- » Geological setting: Southern margin of the inverted BCB, Western Pyrenees.
- » Lithostratigraphy: Aldoirar carbonate reef build-up (Figs. 3, 6) of the former Eguino limestone Formation; today included in the Albeniz unit.
- » Age: early late Albian.

Aims

- » To show the facies architecture of a carbonate build-up surrounded by siliciclastics. To put the decapod-bearing levels into a stratigraphical context.
- » To show the decapod habitats based on fossil communities and facies interpretation.
- » To highlight and understand the high decapod diversity of this site.

Description

The Koskobilo hill and other coeval limestone bodies in the area were intensely quarried in the 19th and 20th centuries for concrete and railway track purposes (Fig. 7). Ruiz de Gaona highlighted the paleontological importance of the quarry through the discovery of a key Pleistocene fauna in karstic cavities of the limestone due to quarry exposures in 1940 (Arleqi *et al.*, 2018).

The regional bedding is around 90/60S - 60/60SSE near the top. Two faults of only metric-scale displacement cut across the limestone, located in the southern flank of the Aitzgorri anticline.

Abandonment of active limestone mining for at least the last 30 years provided the opportunity for both geological and paleontological exploration in the 2010s, during which a peak Albian decapod diversity was found (e.g., Klompmaker, 2013).

The Aldoirar carbonate build-up is surrounded by calcareous silty facies, with a lateral extension around 1.3 km and a total thickness around 400 m (Fraaije *et al.*, 2019). The build-up shows three main limestone intervals (Fraaije *et al.*, 2019; Fig. 6). The Koskobilo quarry is excavated mainly in the upper interval, where the majority of decapod fauna was found (Klompmaker *et al.*, 2013a).

Recently, the municipality of Olazti initiated a project to preserve Koskobilo as an important paleontological site for future generations.

Aldoirar limestones

The lower limestone interval of the Aldoirar build-up is made up of floatstones to packstones rich in platy corals and chaetetids with a ramp-like architecture and rapid transitions to fine-grained sandstones and siltstones. Upward in the succession, marly limestones with planar corals and sponges are at the base of the middle limestone interval with wackestones and floatstones rich in large planar corals, algae and rudists; gentle clinoforms are at the transition to siltstones. The top of this second interval is marked by a limestone breccia with ammonoids and marls; this marks the development of a local discontinuity likely related to tectonic pulses in the area. Above this, carbonate production recovered. The upper limestone interval shows the steepest clinoforms in transition to calcareous siltstones and a striking reduction of the limestone depositional area through time.

The limestones exposed at the Koskobilo quarry have been further subdivided into a wackestone/carbonate mudstone, a floatstone, and a boundstone zone (Klompmaker *et al.*, 2013a; Figs. 7-3). Paleoecological analyses has shown that water depth varied between 20–80 m and energy levels may have increased toward younger strata.

Overall, the Aldoirar facies architecture shows a wedding cake form, indicative of the progressive abandonment of carbonate production and ultimate drowning of the build-up, likely linked to the inability of carbonate producers to keep up with increasing depths and to the siliciclastic trapping (e. g., López-Horgue et al., 1993).

ALDOIRAR CARBONATE BANK

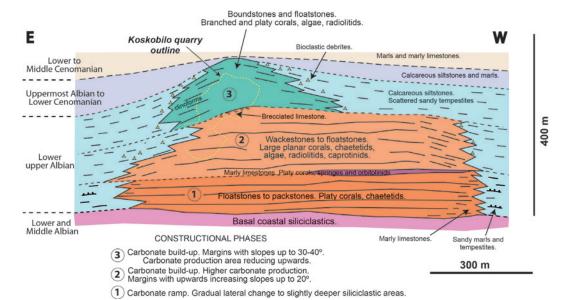


Figure 6. Aldoirar carbonate bank model with lateral changes to siliciclastic muddy deeper troughs. This carbonate system is divided into three constructional stages that show an upwards overall reduction of the carbonate sedimentation area and development of steeper clinoforms in the transition to siliciclastics. The approximate position of the Koskobilo quarry is highlighted. The main decapod fauna has been found in the third interval.

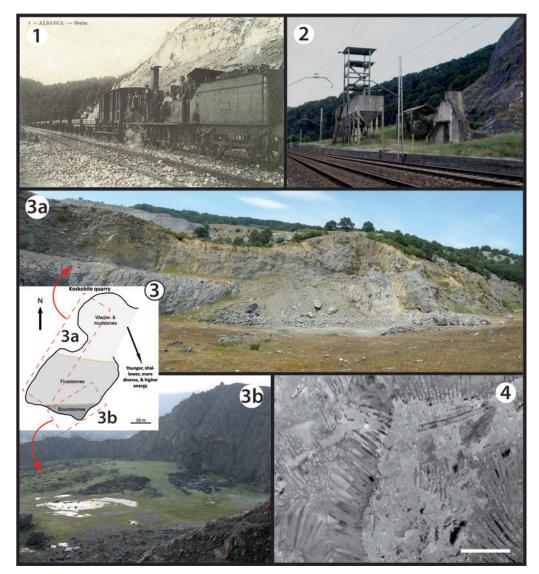


Figure 7. Koskobilo (Aldoirar carbonate bank) and Orobe (Orobe carbonate bank) quarries. 1. Historical photo of a ballast train of the Norte Railway Company in ca. 1910 during the exploitation of the Orobe quarry, likely to be full of thousands of decapods and other fossils. 2. Orobe quarry in the 1990s after the abandonment of the quarry, showing the train loading system. 3. Inset showing the location of panoramic views of the Koskobilo quarry, modified from Klompmaker *et al.* (2013: fig. 4), with permission: 3a, northwestern part of the quarry with wackestones and carbonate mudstones in the NW part and floatstones in the SW part; 3b, southern part, where most of the decapods have been found in floatstones and boundstones. 4. Boundstone of the Koskobilo quarry, showing branched corals of the *Plesiosmilia* group and a micritic matrix rich in bioclasts; decapods are common in this facies. Scale bar: 1.0 cm.

Decapod fauna

For the Cretaceous, the Koskobilo quarry is one of the most diverse decapod localities in the world (Klompmaker, 2013: fig. 16). Thus far, this quarry has yielded a decapod fauna consisting of 39 species based on well over 1,000 specimens (Fraaije et al., 2009, 2012, 2013, 2019;

Klompmaker et al., 2011a-c, 2012a-b, 2013a, 2020; Klompmaker, 2013). Those 39 species consist of 22 brachyuran crabs, 10 galatheoid squat lobsters, five paguroids (hermit crabs), one gastrodoroid, and one achelatan lobster (Table 1). Swimming shrimps ascribed to Dendrobranchiata and Caridea have not been found so far, almost certainly due to their relatively low preservation potential as shown experimentally (Klompmaker et al., 2017). The eight most abundant species include (in descending order) Eomunidopsis navarrensis, Goniodromites laevis, Vasconilia ruizi, Distefania incerta, Graptocarcinus texanus, Acareprosopon bouvieri, Caloxanthus paraornatus, and Eomunidopsis orobensis (Klompmaker, 2013: table 5; Fig. 8). Jointly, they make up ~83% of specimens of the decapod fauna.

Besides a high species diversity, a relatively high number of specimens can be found. A quantitative assessment collecting nine hours each at four sites in the southern part of the quarry yielded 235 decapods, or 6.5 specimens per hour on average (Klompmaker et al. 2013a). In terms of ecology, nearly all species were living exclusively on or in the bottom, but *Faksecarcinus koskobiloensis* was almost certainly a swimmer given its flattened, wider than long carapace with a short height.

The highest diversity of decapods is found in the southeastern part of the quarry (Fig. 7-3) based on several diversity analyses (Klompmaker et al., 2013a). Here, boundstones consisting of branching corals (Fig. 7-4) are common in between which decapods are frequently encountered. Paguroid carapaces are most commonly found in this part of the quarry too. Decapod sizes, using maximum carapace width, are statistically smaller in this part of the quarry because of (a) the relative scarcity of species with a large maximum size (b) the relatively frequent occurrence of species with a small maximum size, and (c) the common presence of small individuals of *Goniodromites laevis* (Klompmaker et al., 2013a).

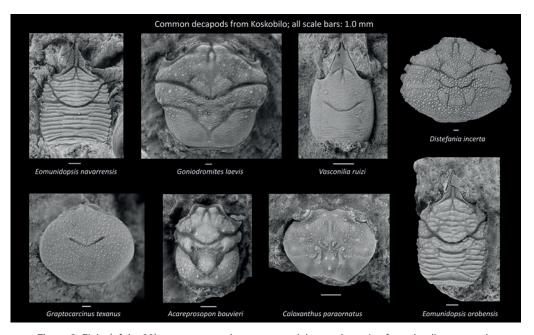


Figure 8. Eight (of the 39) most commonly encountered decapod species from the diverse southern part of the Koskobilo quarry, arranged from most common to less common. These eight species comprise ~83% of all decapod specimens found from 2008–2010 (Klompmaker, 2013: table 5). Specimen images reproduced with permission from Klompmaker et al. (2011a, 2012a-b) and Klompmaker (2013). Image of *Acareprosopon bouvieri* specimen is new. Specimen museum numbers from upper left to bottom right: MAB k2535, MAB k2608, MAB k2972, MAB k2938, MAB k2669, MAB k2482, MAB k2649, and MAB k2932 (all Oertijdmuseum, Boxtel, The Netherlands).



Despite the very high diversity, the preservation of decapods in Koskobilo is not exquisite. None of the specimens have been found with the appendages, sternum, and/or abdomen attached to the carapace. This result suggests that favorable preservational circumstances cannot explain the high diversity. Instead, the reef environment with various subhabitats at Koskobilo providing ample places for shelter and food can explain this high diversity, as is known from modern reef habitats. Highly diverse decapod faunas have been found as well in other Meso- and Cenozoic reefs (e.g., Müller, 1984; Fraaije, 2003; Schweitzer and Feldmann, 2009; Beschin et al., 2016, Robins and Klompmaker, 2019; Ferratges et al., 2021; Hyžný and Dulai, 2021) and decapod diversity and reef abundance are positively correlated in the Mesozoic (Klompmaker et al., 2013b).

While most species from Koskobilo have been described, discover additional species may be possible because the rarefaction curve has not fully flattened out yet (Klompmaker, 2013: fig. 15). For example, a single specimen (Klompmaker et al., 2012b: fig. 12; Fraaije, 2014) ascribed to the galatheoid ?Palmunidopsis sp. is insufficiently complete to ascribe it to a species, but would almost certainly constitute a new species had it been complete. Additional paguroid carapace-based taxa are also expected because only three carapace-based species are known compared to the four tergite-based taxa (Fraaije et al., 2009, 2012, 2013). Only two of the tergites can be provisionally linked to their carapaces (Fraaije et al., 2013).

Koskobilo was also home to other crustaceans such as a cyclid (Van Bakel et al., 2011), a cirolanid isopod (Fraaije et al., 2019), myodocopid ostracods, and almost certainly multiple species of epicaridean isopods (Klompmaker et al., 2014). Body fossils of epicarideans have not been found due to their low preservation potential (Klompmaker et al., 2017, 2022), but they have caused swellings in the gill chamber of ten decapods species in 4.2% of the specimens in the assemblage suitable for this analysis (Klompmaker et al., 2014). This swelling received the trace fossil name *Kanthyloma crusta* Klompmaker et al., 2014.

The still active, larger Olazagutia quarry in the same Koskobilo hill has also yielded some decapods such as unidentified propodi of ghost shrimps not reported from the Koskobilo quarry thus far and the squat lobster *Vasconilia ruizi* (Klompmaker et al., 2012b-c). This quarry has not been explored extensively for decapods.

Appendix - ANOTHER REEFAL HOT SPOT OF DIVERSITY: THE OROBE QUARRY.

Here, we include the Orobe decapod site since it is coeval to that the Koskobilo quarry. Unfortunately, only 4X4 vehicles can reach the Orobe quarry easily so it is not possible to visit this classic site. Because of the importance of this site and its relevance for this day, information is given to present a more comprehensive overview of the reef limestones and their crustacean fauna during an environmentally changing late Albian episode of the Basque-Cantabrian Basin.

Location

Orobe is the name of a place where a limestone quarry started producing aggregates for the Norte Railway at the end of the 19th century (Figs. 2, 7).

- » Coordinates: 42°55'03.19"N, 2°12'31.79"W, Elevation: 595 m.
- » Geological map of Navarre 1:25.000, sheet 113(IV) Olazagutia (López-Horgue et al., 1997b) and 113(II) Zegama (López-Horgue et al., 1997c).
- » Geological setting: Southern margin of the inverted BCB, Western Pyrenees.
- » Lithostratigraphy: Orobe carbonate reef build-up of the former Eguino limestone Formation; today included in the Albeniz unit.
- » Age: early late Albian.

Description

The quarry exploitation has been intimately linked to the needs for ballast used in the construction of the railway Madrid-Irun in the nearby area at several times (end of 19th and 20th centuries). Thanks to the excellent outcrops, Ruiz de Gaona found the first decapod remains around 1935 just before the Spanish civil war (1936-1939). Limestone mining intensified after the war, reaching a volume of 60 railway wagons per day (Ruiz de Gaona, 1954). The limestone was directly put onto the train in the quarry. Up to 1150 war prisoners were working on the refurbishment of the railway track between 1938 and 1944 (https://altsasumemoria.wordpress.com/category/batallontrab_-altsasu/).

The Orobe build-up is located on the northern flank of the Aitzgorri anticline. This is the classic site from which Van Straelen (1940, 1944), Ruiz de Gaona (1943), and Via (1981, 1982) studied decapods. The limestone is about 200 m thick, and divided into three main limestone intervals (Gómez-Alday and Fernández-Mendiola, 1994).

Orobe limestones

Compared to the Aldoirar limestones, the Orobe build-up is thinner, indicating a less subsiding area for the early late Albian. The lower unit at Orobe is composed of calcarenites and marly limestones rich in sponges, orbitolinids, bryozoans, and red algae, with scarce radiolitid clusters, overlying lutites with tempestite beds. This unit can be divided into two intervals separated by silty marls and limestones. A gradual increase in carbonate production gave way to the upper interval composed of alternating floatstones with planar corals and orbitolinid-rich packstone-grainstones changing laterally to silty marls by means of clinoforms (Gómez-Alday and Fernández-Mendiola, 1994). The top of the Orobe limestones is an irregular surface overlain by Santonian marls and marly limestones, indicating a hiatus of ~15 Ma (e.g., Quintanar-Soto, 2003). Decapods are most abundant in the Orobe upper unit in association with corals. This upper part is time-equivalent to the upper part of Aldoirar build-up as suggested by orbitolinids and time-equivalent marls with ammonoids (López-Horgue *et al.*, 1997; Quintanar-Soto, 2003).

Decapod fauna

The general palaeontology and sedimentology of the Monte Orobe locality was described in detail by Ruiz de Gaona (1943, 1952, 1954) and López-Horgue et al. (1996). In addition to Ruiz de Gaona's 1943 paper, decapod crustaceans from this locality have also been recorded by Van Straelen (1940, 1944), Via (1981, 1982), Gómez-Alba (1989) and López-Horgue et al. (1996). Fraaije et al. (2008), Artal et al. (2012), Klompmaker et al. (2012b), Robins et al. (2013, 2016) also studied one or several specimens from this site.

Via (1981) listed the then known decapod crustacean species from this locality, nineteen in total (see Fraaije et al., 2008: table 1). Klompmaker (2013: appendix A) provided an updated list of 24 decapod species found at Monte Orobe, nearly all of which have also been found at Koskobilo. Exceptions include the galatheoid Annieporcellana dhondtae Fraaije et al., 2008 (see Robins et al., 2016), the paguroid Annuntidiogenes ruizdegaonai Fraaije et al., 2008, the brachyuran Necrocarcinus labeschei (Eudes-Deslongchamps, 1835), and the brachyuran Sabellidromites scarabaea (Wright and Wright, 1950).

Collecting on two (parts of) days in 2008 and 2009 have yielded species commonly found in Koskobilo: *Eomunidopsis navarrensis*, *Goniodromites laevis*, *Vasconilia ruizi*, *Distefania incerta*, and *Graptocarcinus texanus* (Florida Museum of Natural History collection). One of use (RHBF) recalls that some decapods at Orobe may be larger on average than conspecifics from Koskobilo.

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