

Biodiversity patterns of Ostracoda (Crustacea) from the Southern Hemisphere

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Although the largest habitable areas on Earth are in the deep-sea and in the Southern Ocean little is known about their biodiversity patterns. In the present project, we studied more than 100 epibenthic sledge samples collected from the Atlantic and Pacific and Southern oceans from the sublittoral to +6000 m depth. Our first results indicate no clear bathymetric pattern, but fluctuating biodiversity values in different depths. In order to keep our analyses robust, taxonomic revisions of previously described species were performed. We record a large number of new species in the three oceans, indicating that: (1) a considerable part of ostracod biodiversity remains undiscovered; and (2) several species previously considered circum-antarctic or cosmopolitan are actually groups of distinct species.

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