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Sieve-pore analyses of *Cyprideis torosa* (Jones, 1850) of three archaeological sites in Saudi-Arabia

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Cyprideis torosa is a widespread, common ostracod taxon in marginal marine and freshwater habitats. It tolerates a wide range of salinity, temperature and oxygenic conditions. Based on this fact and its common monospecific appearance, it is difficult to reconstruct palaeo-environment from that taxon. Rosenfeld & Vesper (1977) proved that rounded shaped sieve-pores on valves of *Cyprideis torosa* decreased with increasing salinity. In our investigation two Quaternary sites in Saudi-Arabia are compared. One site is an Early Holocene lake in the oasis of Tayma (NW Saudi Arabia) with saline to hypersaline conditions. At this site, *Cyprideis torosa* was associated with foraminifers and barnacles, a Crustacean group of marine origin. In contrast, Pleistocene lake deposits in Mundafan and Khujaymah (S Saudi Arabia) showed fresh-water to slightly saline conditions. In the latter sections a typical freshwater ostracod fauna and oogonia of charophytes were found. Sieve-pore analyses of the valves of *Cyprideis torosa* supports the first idea of different environmental conditions of the two investigated sites and clarifies the salinity changes within the sections.

Reference

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