

First record of *Cyprideis torosa* (Jones, 1850) (Crustacea: Ostracoda) in the East of Al-Hammar Marshes, Southern Iraq

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(Received: 29 June 2022 - Accepted: 28 August 2022)

Abstract - *Cyprideis torosa* is recorded for the first time in east Al-Hammar marshes and it belong to genus *Cyprideis*, it collected from three stations (Al-Sallal, Al-Nagara and Al-Mashab) in east of Al-Hammar marshes between January and December 2021 and it was classified. The ecology based on ecological parameters were (water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, salinity and turbidity).

Keywords: Al-Hammar Marshes, *Cyprideis*, First Record, Ostracoda.

Introduction

Ostracoda in generally can be found in most types of water including fresh, brackish, and saline waters. Because they are sensitive to the changes in the aquatic environment, Ostracods are used as indicators of physical and chemical conditions, for example seasonal variations in water temperature may affect their distribution, life span, and abundance (Kykoynoglo and Vineyard, 1988). Although Ostracods are important in both biological and paleontological studies and previous studies indicate high and unique species richness and biogeographic distributions of specific composition of freshwater Ostracoda faunas.

Cyprideis occurs from fresh to marine waters with fluctuating salinity, it prefers a mud or sandy mud substrate but is also found on pure sand and algae. (Frenzel, 1991). It is found in a wide range of salinities from almost freshwater to fully marine water.

It is a very variable species, some species bear nodes on their carapace and some are without nodes (Karanovic, 2012). There are two opinions regarding the cause of the nodes, one is that this is genetically influenced, and the second, there is influenced by the change in salinity that the *Cyprideis torosa* appears bearing nodes in few salinity values (Aladdin, 1993). It has its greatest development at salinities of 2-16.5% (Wagner, 1964).

The recent studies supplied information concerning relationship between species occurrence/absence and both physical and ecological factors (Baltanas *et al.*, 1990). Individuals, generally eggs can be carried passively by some Insects (Fryer, 1953), Snails (Sohan and Kornicker, 1979), Amphibians (Seidel, 1989), Fish (Vinyard, 1979), Birds (Scharf, 1988) Waterfowl (De Deckker, 1983). Additionally, Ostracods can expand their distribution actively by swimmers. There are no studies on Ostracoda in east Al-Hammar marshes and this is the first study on Ostracoda in this region The purpose of this preliminary study was to investigate the classify and ecology freshwater Ostracods by examining their relationships with selected parameters in Al-Hammar marshes.