

Two new species of Ostracoda from hydrothermal vents of *Riftia pachyptila* aggregations on the East Pacific Rise (Halocypridina; Cladocopina)

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Abstract

Two new species of Ostracoda, *Archiconchoecia* (*Archiconchoecia*) *chavturi* (Halocypridina) and *Polycopetta pax* (Cladocopina), are described from two diffuse flow vent localities (Tica Site and Riftia Field Site) within *Riftia pachyptila* (Siboglinidae, Vestimentifera) aggregations on the East Pacific Rise, slightly north and west of 9°50' N, 104°17'W, depth 2500 m.

Key words: Ostracoda, Halocyprida, Halocypridina, Cladocopina, taxonomy, new species, *Archiconchoecia*, *Polycopetta*, vent

Introduction

Kornicker (1991:28–39) described several species of the halocyprid genus *Bathyconchoecia*, and reported specimens identified only to the subfamily Conchoecinae that had been collected in a plankton tow 3–4 m above the bottom (depth 2000 m) in the Guaymas Basin (Southern Trough). Unnamed Conchoecinae also have been reported from Rift Valley, East Pacific Rise (depth 2600 m), and unnamed Cladocopina have been reported from the National Geographic Site, East Pacific Rise (depth 2592 m) (Kornicker, 1991:41,42), and Halocypridae, Cyndroleberidae, and Polycopidae from the Guaymas Basin and East Pacific Rise (depth 2592–2600 m) (Berg and Van Dover, 1987:391). Those sites are all north of 20°N.

The two new species described and illustrated herein, the halocyprid *Archiconchoecia* (*Archiconchoecia*) *chavturi* and the cladocpid *Polycopetta pax* are from two vigorous diffuse flow vent sites (after Hessler et al., 1985), on the East Pacific Rise, slightly north and west of 9°50'N, 104°17'W (depth 2500 m). The animals were collected within *Riftia pachyptila* (Siboglinidae, Vestimentifera) aggregations growing on bare basalt.