

Silurian myodocope ostracods from Poland

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Newly collected material reveals that the Silurian myodocope ostracods from the Holy Cross Mountains, Poland comprise ten species (one new to science) belonging to four families: Bolbozoidae, Entomozoidae, Rhomboentomozoidae, and Cypridinidae. Biostratigraphic control using graptolites indicates that all three Polish outcrops investigated are of about the same chronostratigraphical level: middle Gorstian, lower Ludlow. The new occurrences in Poland extend the known distribution of several species and reinforce data that show many Silurian myodocope species with wide dispersal. Our new observations on the Holy Cross Mountains material confirm that the occurrences of Silurian myodocopes are mostly associated with pelagic animals and with rocks ranging from mudstone, siltstone or shale deposited in open- or deep-shelf marine settings. The cosmopolitan distribution of these ostracods, coupled with their facies and faunal associations, supports the notion of an ostracod (myodocope) ecological shift from benthic to planktonic habitats during the late Wenlock and Ludlow.

Key words: Ostracoda, Myodocopa, Silurian, Ludlow, Poland, Holy Cross Mountains.

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