

Silicified shallow-water ostracodes from the Early Carboniferous of South China

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Well preserved silicified ostracodes have been found in a presumably allochthonous detrital limestone lens within argillaceous limestones of the Muhua Formation of the Muhua section in Guizhou Province, South China. Some 32 species have been identified and assigned to 24 genera. *Houhongfeiella microspinosa* gen. et sp. n., *Gortanella ruggierii* sp. n., *Coryellina grammi* sp. n., *Coryellina advenoides* sp. n., *Guerichiella coeni* sp. n., *Knightina jiqiangi* sp. n., *Hypotetragona? sinica* sp. n., *Cavellina robinsoni* sp. n., *Cavellina guizhouensis* sp. n., *Sulcella jonesi* sp. n., *Bairdia cheni* sp. n., and *Bairdiacypris wangi* sp. n. are proposed. Similarity at the generic level exists between ostracode faunas of the Early Carboniferous formations of China, Australia, Europe, Asia and North America. Unlike the ostracodes from the underlying nodular limestones of the Wangyou Formation that represent the basinal 'Thuringian ecotype' fauna, the ostracode assemblage of the studied interval belongs to the 'Eifelian ecotype' and is indicative of a well-oxygenated, normal salinity, high-energy shallow-water environment. The term calcified internal rim is proposed for the internal structure developed along the free margin in some palaeocopid ostracodes. It differs from the calcified inner lamella of podocopids mainly in the lack of marginal pore canals, lack of vestibulae and lack of clear separation from the outer lamella.

Key words: Ostracoda, taxonomy, morphology, palaeoecology, Early Carboniferous, South China.

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