



Ostracodes as an indicator of habitat (case study of Holocene ostracodes from the delta of Kura river in the Caspian Sea of Azerbaijan Republic)

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It has been known that ostracodes are the most wide-spread organisms existing in Brackish waters of such basins like the Caspian Sea. Ecological peculiarities of these organisms have not been studied well enough yet, especially in respect of the Caspian Sea. For this reason of a special value is a work of E.A.Hoffman (1966). However the investigated area of the Caspian Sea, namely the delta of Kura river, has not been investigated very well yet and due to this, the work proposed by us is urgent. Taking into account the sedimentation rate, our results spread over about the last 6000 years of geological evolution of the investigated region. There has been determined a complete systematic composition of ostracodes existing in the investigated region: 52 species of ostracodes related to 16 genera. In the delta of Kura river there have been drilled 5 wells 20-22m deep and 12 piston core up 3 m deep. There have been constructed schemes of vertical distribution of micro fauna in the sections. More than 350 samples of core of the Holocene deposits have been analyzed. During the drilling depth of the sea, temperature and salinity of near-bottom waters have been measured and samples of bottom sediments have been selected. This information has been used while determining alterations of bionomic environment existing in Holocene. In the complex of ostracods in the delta of Kura river there exist specimens with large and well-developed shells and with distinctly expressed specific features. The Holocene deposits of the Caspian Sea near the delta of the Kura River contains termofilic littoral-shallow-water, wave-cut-water, deep-water zone, and eurybathial forms. Among them there exist brackish-water-stenohaline, brackish water-euryhaline and fresh-water forms.