The genus *Xestoleberis* (Ostracoda: Xestoleberididae) in the Northern, Northeastern and Eastern regions of the Brazilian continental shelf

NATHÁLIA CARVALHO DA LUZ¹ & JOÃO CARLOS COIMBRA²

¹Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Geociências/Paleontologia, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil.
E-mail: ncarvalho.luz@gmail.com

²Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Departamento de Paleontologia e Estratigrafia, Caixa Postal 15001, 91501-970, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil. E-mail: joao.coimbra@ufrgs.br

Abstract

The analysis of 359 samples from three regions of the Brazilian continental shelf (Northern, Northeastern and Eastern) resulted in the recognition of six species of the genus *Xestoleberis*. One of these species was already described, *X. umbonata* Whatley et al. 1998, four species are new and herein described, *X. inesae sp. nov.*, *X. amazonica sp. nov.*, *X. subtriangularis sp. nov.* and *X. virilis sp. nov.*, and one was maintained in open nomenclature, *Xestoleberis* sp. The species *X. inesae sp. nov.* is widely distributed in the study area, occurring in all mentioned regions, while *X. amazonica sp. nov.* is restricted to the Northern region. *Xestoleberis subtriangularis sp. nov.*, *X. virilis sp. nov.* and *Xestoleberis* sp. occur in the Northeastern and Eastern regions. *Xestoleberis umbonata* was recorded in this study only in the southernmost part of the Eastern region.

Key words: new species, Ostracoda, South Atlantic Ocean, taxonomy

Introduction

The Brazilian continental shelf extends to about 8,000 km, from Orange Cape (~4°N) in the northern Amapá State (AP) to Chui (~33°S) in southern Rio Grande do Sul (RS). In the northern portion, the continental shelf reaches a width of 330 km, close to the Amazon River mouth, and in the southeastern/southern reaches 200-220 km (Knoppers et al. 2002). It comprises different climate zones and a diverseness of input from the hydrographic network. Most of the discharge occurs mainly in two sites on the shelf: in the north, with the Amazon River system, and in the south, with the La Plata River (Muehe & Garcez 2005).

In this context of great climate variability and continental input, an abundant and diverse assemblage of ostracods can be found. These crustaceans have been studied in the last decades for taxonomic, (paleo)zoogeographic and (paleo)ecologic purposes (e.g. Pinto et al. 1978; Coimbra & Ornellas 1989; Coimbra et al. 1992; 1999; Do Carmo & Sanguinetti 1999; Brandão 2004; Machado et al. 2005; Machado 2008; Ramos et al. 2014).

*Xestoleberis* is a cosmopolitan genus of Xestoleberididae, which has been recorded from the north (Coimbra et al. 1999) to the south of the Brazilian shelf (Whatley et al. 1998; Machado et al. 2005) and in the Brazilian oceanic islands (Coimbra et al. 2009; Antonietto et al. 2012; Coimbra & Carreño 2012; Coimbra et al. 2013; Luz & Coimbra 2014). The genus is relatively easy to recognize due to its frequently sub-ovate and smooth carapace, but the similarities among species of *Xestoleberis* makes the identification of singular species difficult, which contributes to keeping several of them in open nomenclature, as discussed by Titterton & Whatley (2005).

The present work aims to contribute to the knowledge of the genus *Xestoleberis* along most of the Brazilian continental shelf, revealing the number of species throughout it, identifying and describing new taxa, as well as discussing their geographic distributions.