

## On a new species of *Potamocypris* (Crustacea, Ostracoda) from Chalakkudy River, Kerala (India), with a checklist of the *Potamocypris*-species of the world

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### Abstract

*Potamocypris narayanani* n.sp. is described from a riverine habitat in Kerala, India. The new species belongs to the 'Cyprilla' group in the genus because of the wide anterior and posterior flanges on the LV. It can be distinguished from its congeners belonging to this group by the large dorsal hump on the RV, which overlaps the LV. The value of some morphological characteristics at different taxonomic levels within the genus *Potamocypris* is discussed and the position of the *Cyprilla*-group within the genus is re-assessed. *Potamocypris angularis* Victor & Michael, 1975 is transferred to *Plesiocypridopsis*. A checklist of the species of *Potamocypris* of the world is added, together with subjective synonymies.

**Key words:** taxonomy, phylogeny, morphology, Ostracoda, zoogeography

### Introduction

*Potamocypris* is a near cosmopolitan genus (it does not occur in Australia). It has always been considered a taxonomically difficult genus, especially in Western Europe. This was primarily due to the fact that the large morphological variability, common in ostracod species with mixed reproduction (Martens, 1998), displayed by most species in this genus was mostly not sufficiently appreciated by ostracod workers and this resulted in the description of a long series of synonymous species. Also, morphological features were often used to discriminate species that could only be observed with great difficulty, and certainly not in