

Deep-water fossorial shrimps from the Oligocene Kiscell Clay of Hungary: Taxonomy and palaeoecology

Matúš Hyžný and Alfréd Dulai

Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 59 (4), 2014: 947-965 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4202/app.2012.0078>

We describe deep-water ghost shrimp assemblages from the otherwise well known Oligocene Kiscell Clay in Hungary. The described fossorial shrimps (Decapoda: Callianassidae and Ctenochelidae) include: *Ctenocheles rupeliensis* (younger synonym *Callianassa nuda*) and *Lepidophthalmus crateriferus* (younger synonym *Callianassa brevimanus*). The fossil material of the former species is assigned to *Ctenocheles* based on the morphology of the major cheliped, particularly the pectinate fingers, bulbous propodus, cup-shaped carpus and elongated merus. *Lepidophthalmus crateriferus* from the Oligocene of Hungary is the first unequivocal fossil record of the genus, which is distinguished in the fossil record on the basis of the presence of a meral blade and meral hook on the major cheliped. *Lepidophthalmus* is today known exclusively from shallow-water environments. The finding of a deep-water fossil representative of *Lepidophthalmus* therefore appears to be a reverse of the common pattern of groups shifting environments from onshore to offshore over geological time, as seen in many taxa. The presence of *Lepidophthalmus crateriferus* comb. nov. in the Kiscell Clay therefore suggests different ecological requirements for at least some populations of this genus in the geological past.

Key words: Decapoda, Callianassidae, *Lepidophthalmus*, Ctenochelidae, *Ctenocheles*, systematics, deep-water environment, Oligocene, Hungary.

Matúš Hyžný [hyzny.matus@gmail.com], Department of Geology and Palaeontology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University, Mlynská dolina G1, Bratislava 842 15, Slovakia; Alfréd Dulai [dulai@nhmus.hu], Department of Palaeontology and Geology, Hungarian Natural History Museum, Ludovika tér 2, Budapest H-1088, Hungary; (Postal address: H-1431, Budapest, P.O.B. 137).

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