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Limnocythere (Ostracoda) distribution pattern in the Southern Ethiopian Rift during the Late Pleistocene and Holocene

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Sediment records from two lakes in the biodiversity hotspot of the Southern Ethiopian Rift were retrieved, Lake Chamo (c. 9 ka) and Chew Bahir (c. 45 ka). Sedimentological and palaeoecological proxies infer rapidly changing environmental conditions (wet-dry cycle) such as the African Humid Period. The fossil record in both archives is fairly rich in ostracode taxa throughout the cores and especially diverse in the genus *Limnocythere*.
Here, we discuss the temporal and spatial distribution pattern of *Limnocythere* species in the Omo-Turkana basin in the context of palaeolimnological changes. In addition, we mapped extensively valve characteristics of the L. species to document morphological intraspecific variation also as a supplementary measure of environmental change. Our preliminary results show that regional biogeographical boundaries might have changed as a consequence, too. For instance, members of the *Limnocythere* thomasi –group (sensu Martens 1990) occur in our fossil record. In modern studies this species cluster is regarded as endemic fauna of Lakes Zway, Langano and Shala, which are associated with the freshwater ecoregion of the Northern Eastern Rift.