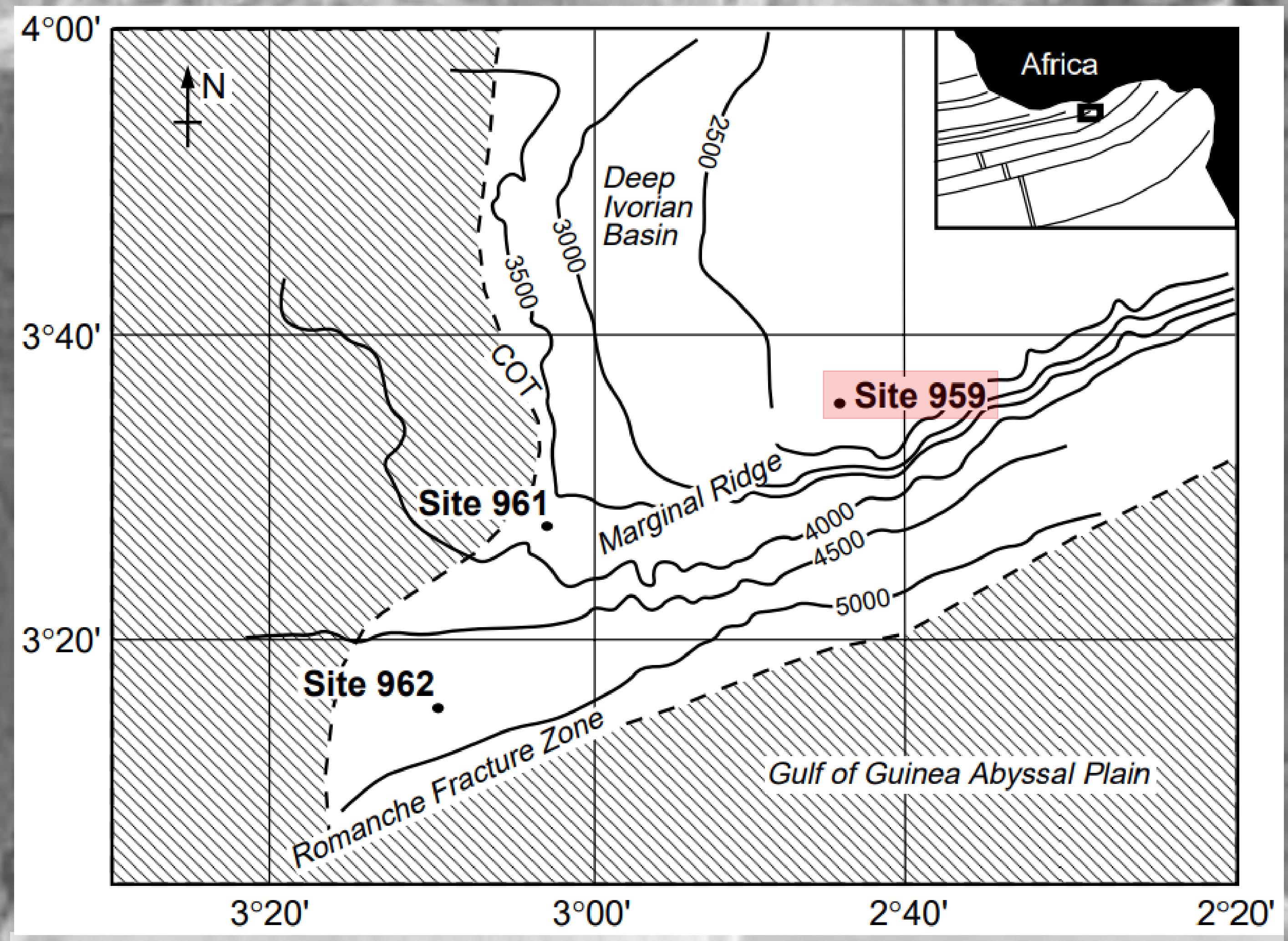
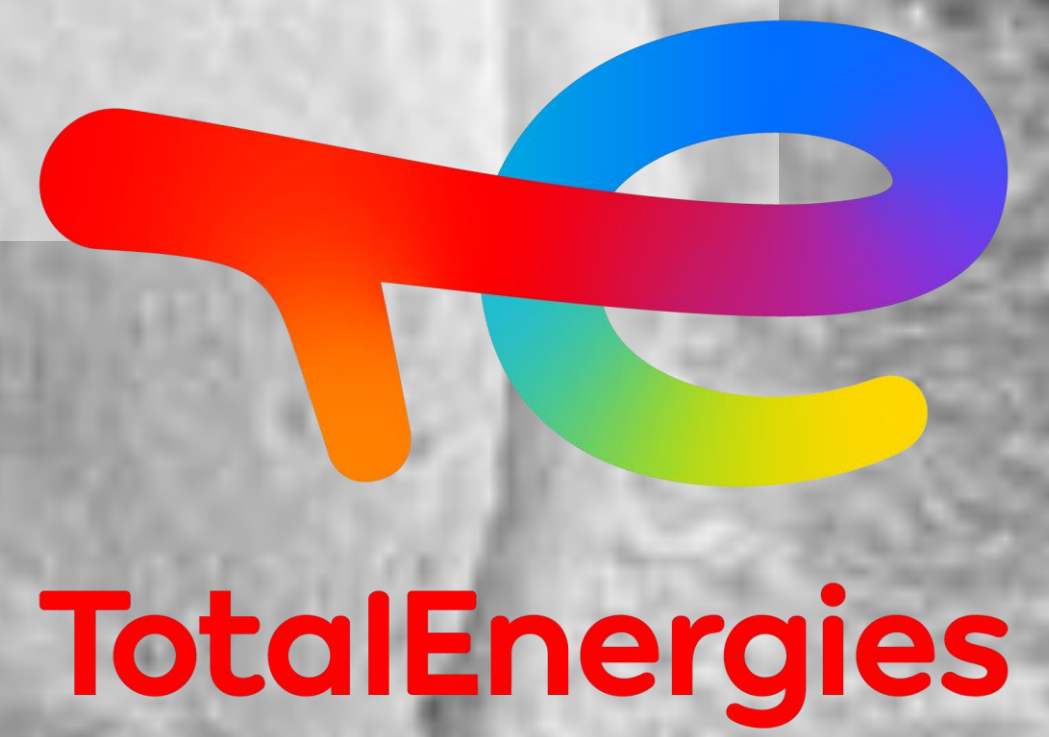


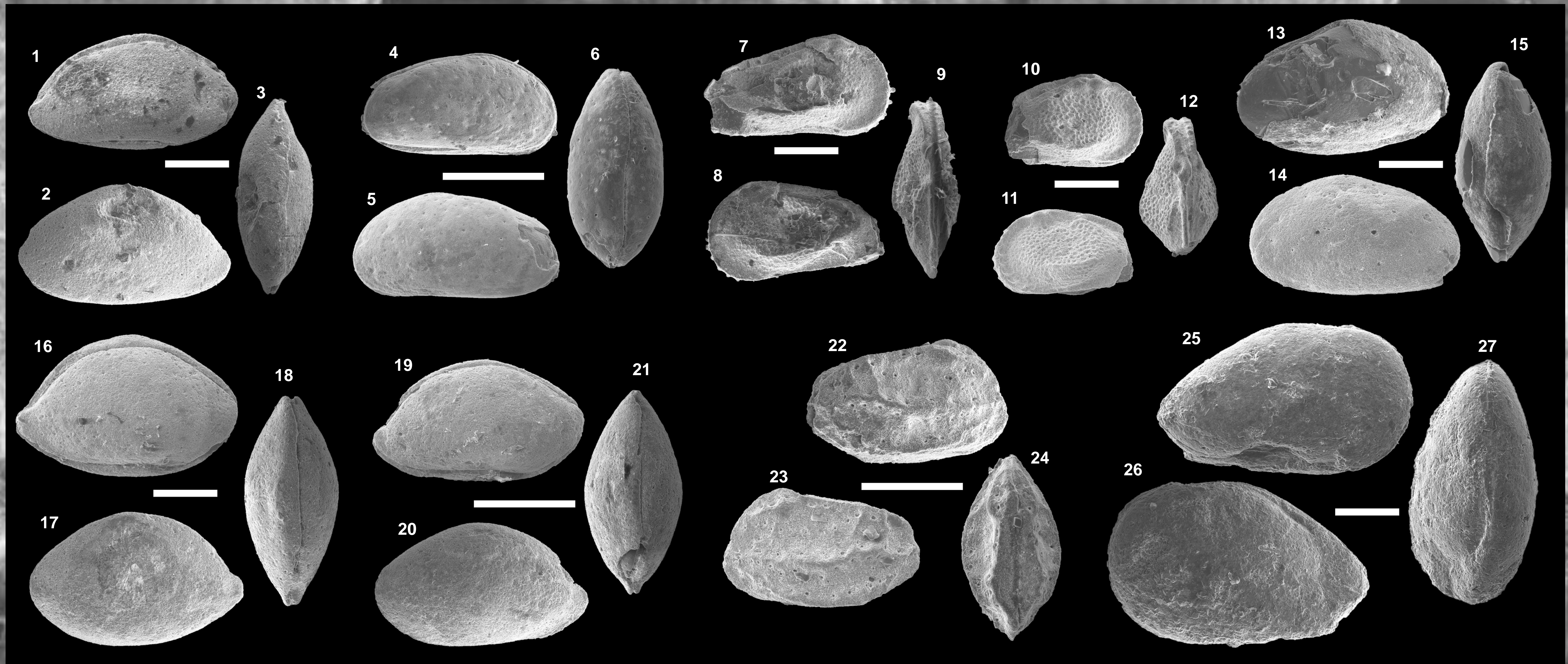
# Lower Cretaceous ostracods from the ODP Site 959, Ivory Coast

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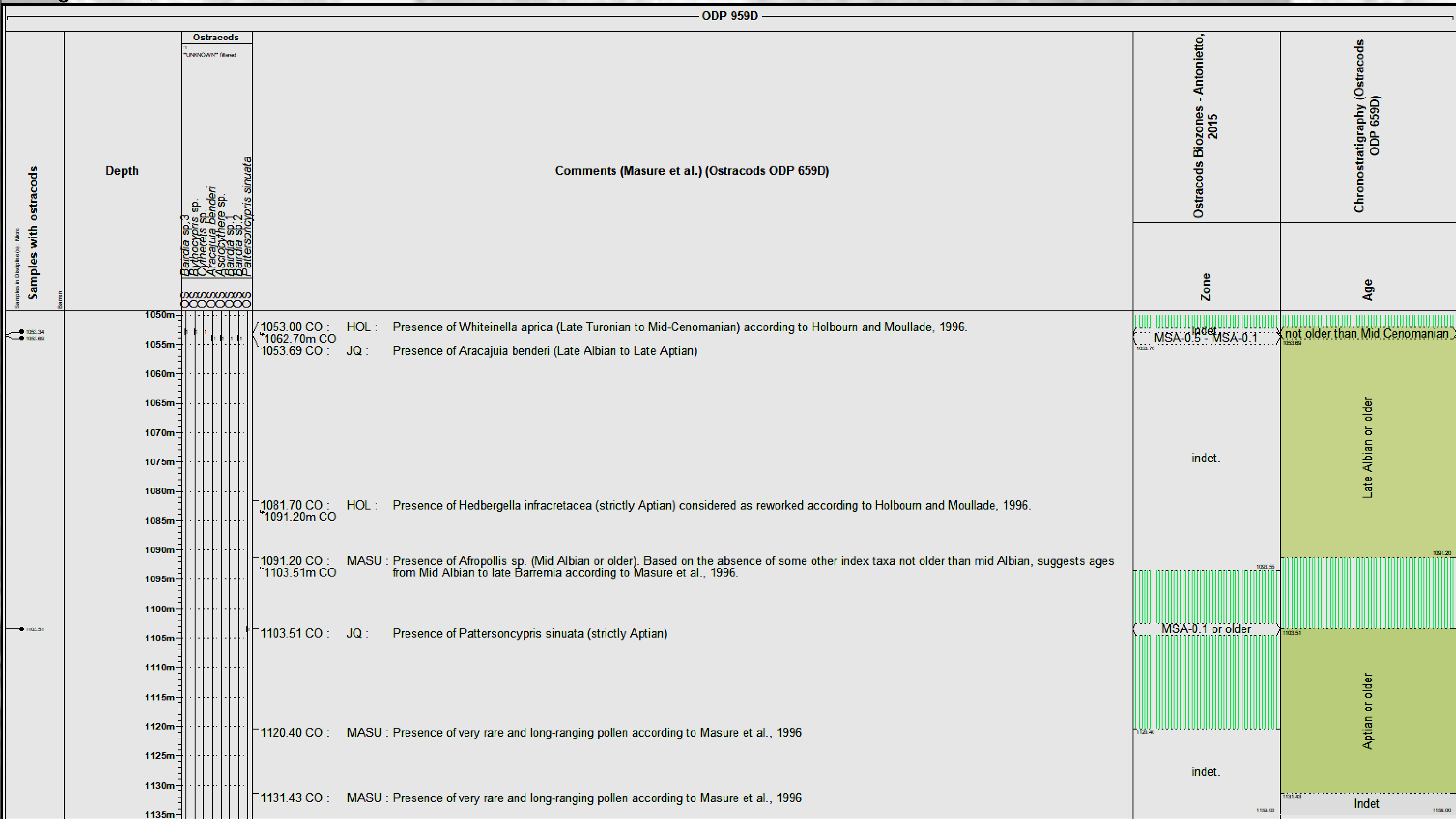


Location map of Site 959 and the other Leg 159 sites, (modified from Watkins *et al.*, 1998).

This study presents the micropaleontological results from core samples taken in the lowermost part of the ODP Leg 159, Site 959, Hole D drilled on the Ivory-Coast – Ghana and dated as Late Albian to Aptian in the Marginal Ridge in the Ivorian Basin. Despite the few ostracods retrieved it was possible to add biostratigraphic and palaeoecological information in strata below the one already studied by foraminifera and nannofossils.



Ostracods found at the basal section of the 659 D Site in the Ivory Coast – Ghana transformant margin. SEM images 1 to 12 at the depth of 1053,34m, SEM images 13 to 24 at the depth of 1053,69m and SEM images 25 to 26 at 1103,51m. 1 to 3: *Bairdoppilata* sp. 3, 1 right view, 2 left view and 3 dorsal view; 4 to 6: *Bithocypris* sp., 4, right view, 5 left view and 6 dorsal view; 7 to 9: *Cythereis* sp. (male), 7, right view, 8 left view and 9 dorsal view; 10 to 12: *Cythereis* sp. (female), 10 right view, 11 left view and 12 dorsal view; 13 to 15: *Asciocythere?* sp., 13 right view, 14 left view and 15 dorsal view; 16 to 18 *Bairdoppilata* sp. 2, 16 right view, 17 left view and 18 dorsal view; 19 to 21: *Bairdoppilata* sp.1, 19 right view, 20 left view and 21 dorsal view; 22 to 24: *Aracajuia benderi*, 22 right view, 23 left view and 24 dorsal view; 25 to 27 *Pattersoncypris sinuata*, 25 right view, 26 left view and 27 dorsal view.



The ostracods determined to the species level could provide two relative datings for the upper and lower strata, thus *A. benderi*, as Aptian-Albian still is coherent with the previous nannofossils ages, although the appearance of *Pattersoncypris sinuata* dating the Aptian is a new feature for the ODP 959 ages and paleoenvironment.

Biostratigraphy of the lower section from Site 959.