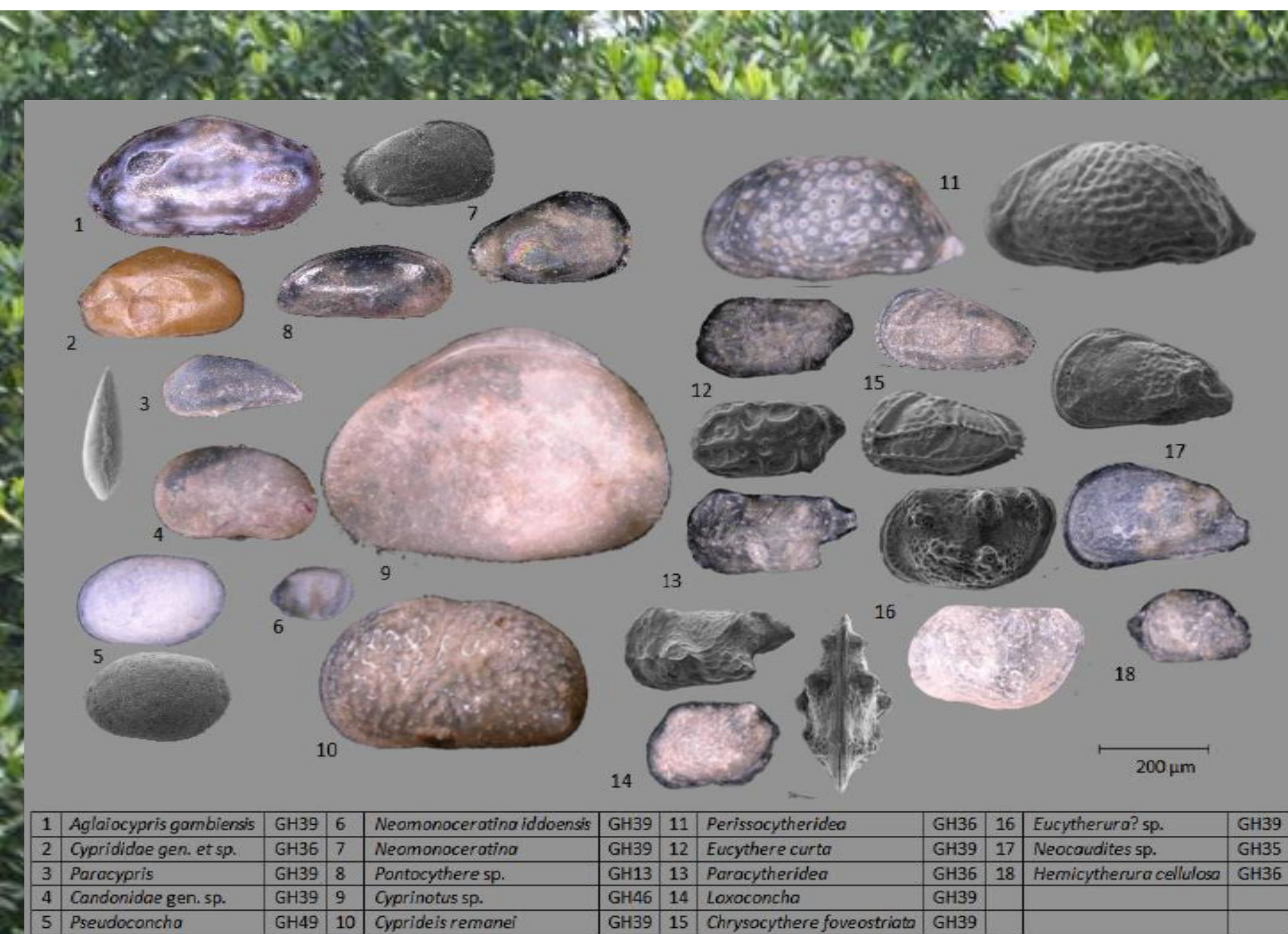


Recent Ostracoda from estuarine systems of Ghana, western Africa

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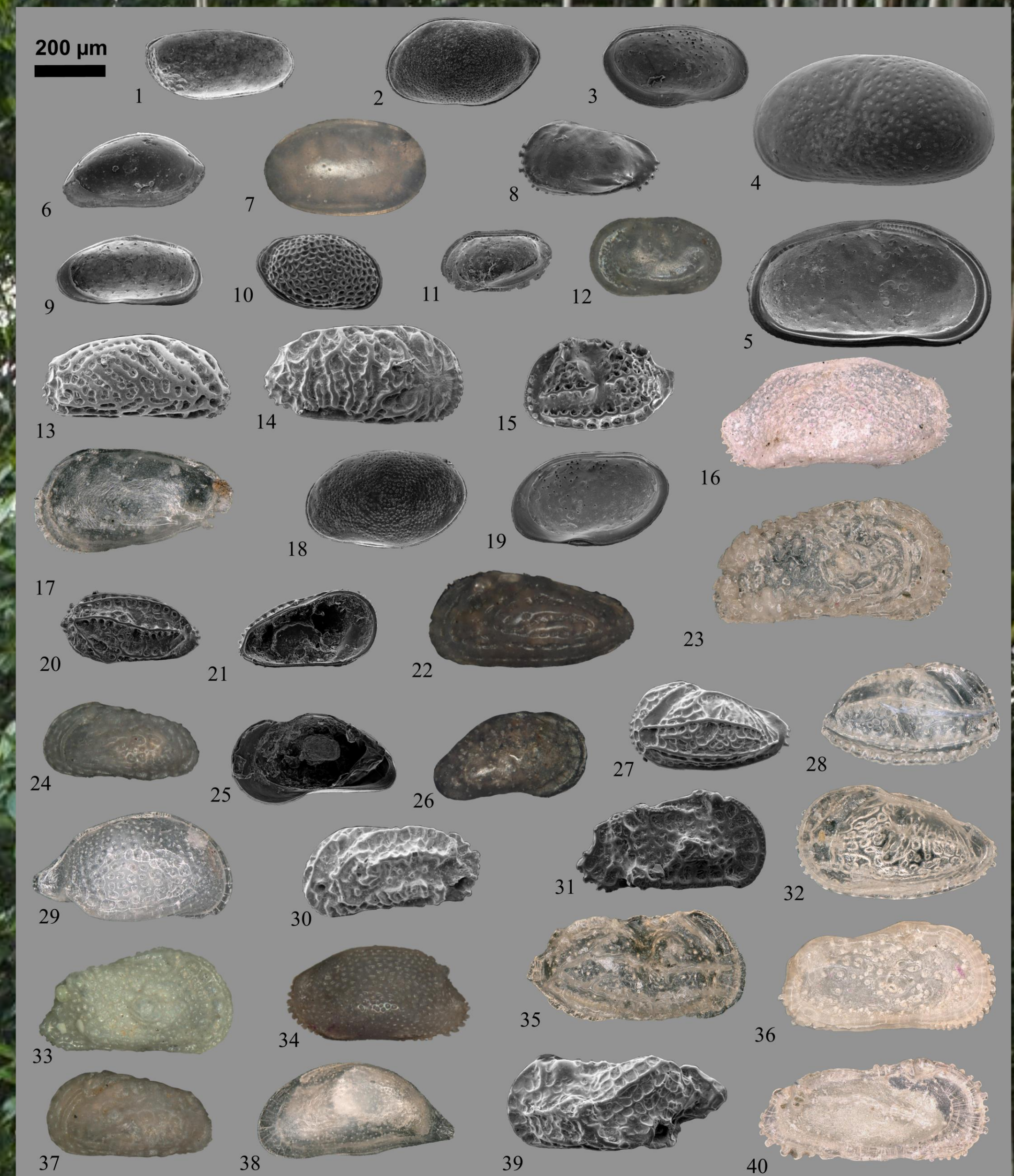


Here we present a faunistic overview of ostracods from ten estuarine systems covering the entire coast of Ghana. In total 58 surface samples and eight short cores were taken for the first study on brackish water ostracods from Ghana. The only previously published papers on Recent ostracods from Ghana are two studies about freshwater taxa.

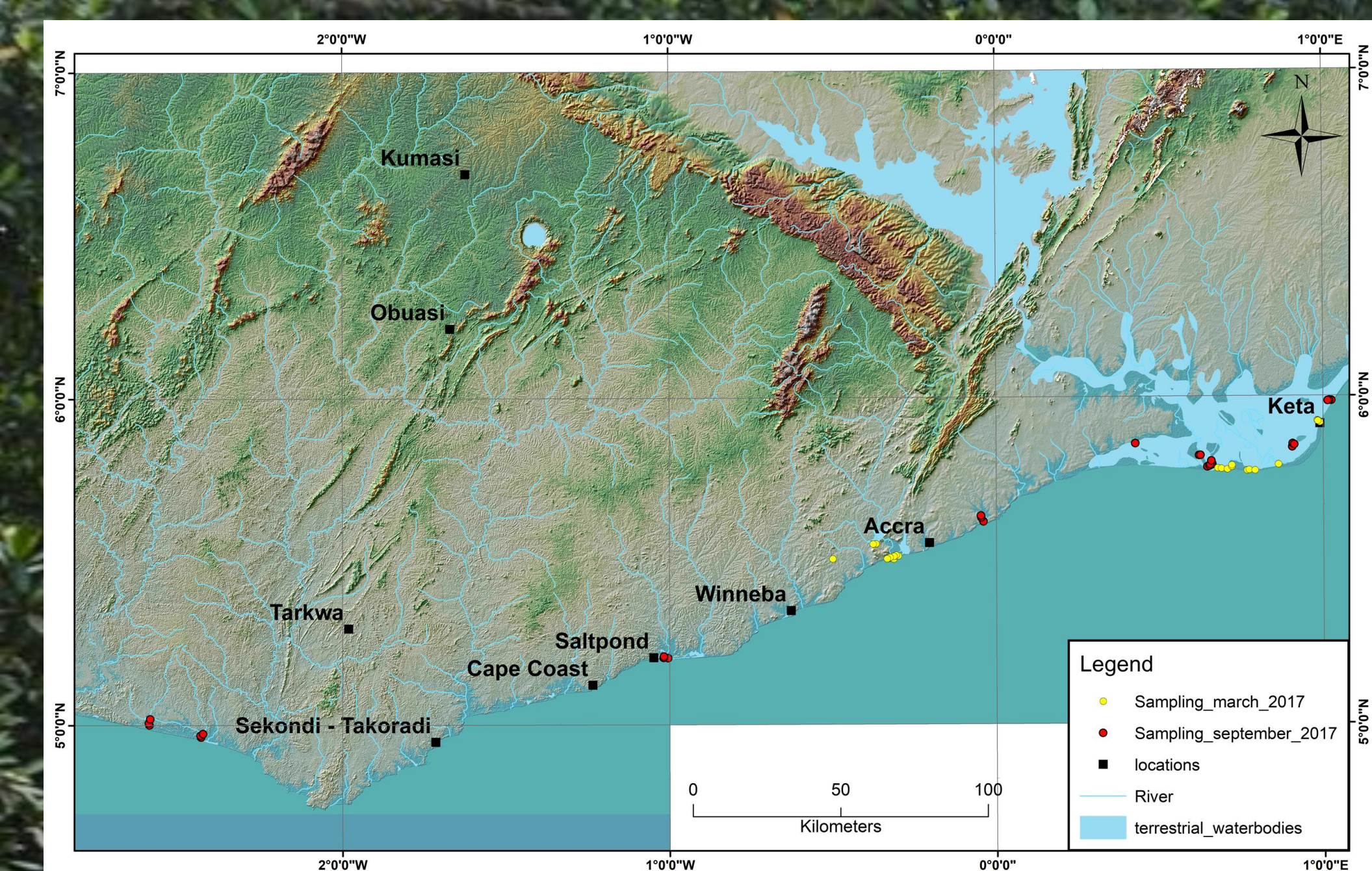
We found 48 ostracod species, three platycopid and 45 podocopid species belonging to 35 genera. The most diverse families are Trachyleberididae and Hemicytheridae, the most diverse genus is *Puriana* with four different species.

The fauna closely resembles the ostracod fauna from adjacent Nigeria and, to some degree, those from Gambia and Senegal but are distinctively different from those of the North African or South African coasts.

Ostracod diversity tends to decrease with salinity, highest values are found in the outer estuaries with polyhaline to euhaline conditions. High abundance of the brackish water taxa *Gibborchella kuznetsovae* (Omatsola 1970) and *Cyprideis remanei* Klie 1940 indicates estuarine waters strongly impacted by organic pollution.



Ostracod taxa of Keta Lagoon and Densu Estuary. (1) *Basslerites punctata*; (2-3) *Pseudoconcha* sp.; (4-5) *Cyprideis remanei*; (6) *Paradoxostoma* sp.; (7) *Cytherella hanaii*; (8) *Neomonoceratina* sp. 2; (9) *Pontocythere* sp.; (10-11) *Loxococoncha lacunensis*; (12) *Cytherella* sp.; (13) *Puriana* aff. *interasilis*; (14) *Puriana* cf. *rugosa*; (15) *Neomonoceratina* sp.; (16) *Neonesidea* sp.; (17) *Neomonoceratina* sp.; (18-19) *Pseudoconcha hartmanni*; (20-21) *Neomonoceratina* cf. *ikoroduensis*; (22) *Soudanella africana*; (24) *Puriana trituberculata* (25-26) Eucytheridea, gen. et sp. inc.; (27) *Chrysocythere foveostriata*; (28) *Neomonoceratina* cf. *ikoroduensis*; (29) *Perissocytheridea* (*Kroemmelbeinella*) *perfidiosa*; (30) *Puriana mediocostata*; (31) *Hermanites* cf. *foveolata*; (32) *Chrysocythere foveostriata*; (33) *Clectocythereis* sp.; (34) *Neonesidea* sp.; (35) *Carinocythereis* sp.; (36) *Neocaudites* sp.; (37) *Mackenziella lagosensis*; (38) *Gibborchella kuznetsovae*; (39) *Paracytheridea* sp.; (40) *Neocaudites lindesae*.



- Class Ostracoda Latreille 1802**
- Subclass Platycopina Sars 1866
 - Order Platycopina Sars 1866
 - Superfamily Cytherelloidea Sars 1866
 - Family Cytherelloidea Sars 1866
 - Cytherella hanaii* Omatsola 1970
 - Cytherella* sp.
 - Cytherelloidea ?*lobitoensis* Hartmann 1974
 - Subclass Podocopa Sars 1866
 - Order Podocopa Sars 1866
 - Superfamily Bairdioidea Sars 1865
 - Family Bairdioidea Sars 1865
 - Neonesidea* sp.
 - Superfamily Cypridoidea Baird 1845
 - Family Candonidae Kaufmann 1900
 - Aglaiocypris gambiensis* Witte 1993
 - Paracypris* sp.
 - Family Cypridoidea Baird 1845
 - Cyprinotus* sp.
 - Heterocypris* sp.
 - Superfamily Cytheroidea Baird 1850
 - Family Cushmaniidae Puri 1974
 - Pontocythere* sp.
 - Family Cytheridae Baird 1850
 - Gibborchella* sp.
 - Family Cytherelloidea Sars 1925
 - Cyprideis remanei* Klie, 1940
 - Perissocytheridea ebuetmettaensis* (Omatsola 1970)
 - Perissocytheridea* (*Kroemmelbeinella*) *libidiosa* (Witte 1986)
 - Perissocytheridea* (*Kroemmelbeinella*) *perfidiosa* Witte 1993
 - Family Cytheruridae Müller 1894
 - Cytheropteron* sp.
 - Cytherura* sp.
 - Gibborchella kuznetsovae* (Omatsola 1970)
 - Hemicytherura* sp.
 - Semicytherura duracina* Witte 1993
 - Family Eucytheridae Puri 1954
 - Eucythere curta* Ruggieri, 1975
 - Eucytheridea* sp.
 - Family Hemicytheridae Puri 1953
 - Hermanites* cf. *foveolata* Omatsola 1972
 - Hermanites* sp.
 - Neocaudites lindesae* Witte 1993
 - Neocaudites* aff. *lindesae* sensu Witte 1993
 - Puriana mediocostata* Omatsola 1972
 - Puriana* aff. *interasilis* sensu Omatsola 1972
 - Puriana* cf. *rugosa* Omatsola 1972
 - Puriana trituberculata* Omatsola 1972
 - Family Leptocytheridae Hanai 1857
 - Leptocythere* sp.
 - Family Loxococonchidae Sars 1925
 - Loxococoncha lacunensis* Omatsola 1970
 - Pseudoconcha hartmanni* (Omatsola 1970)
 - Pseudoconcha* sp.
 - Family Paracytheroidea Puri 1957
 - Paracytheridea* sp. A sensu Witte 1993
 - Paracytheridae gen. et sp. inc.
 - Family Paradoxostomatidae Brady and Norman 1889
 - Paradoxostoma* sp.
 - Family Schizocytheridae Howe 1961
 - Neomonoceratina ikoroduensis* Omatsola 1970
 - Neomonoceratina* sp. 1
 - Neomonoceratina* sp. 2
 - Family Trachyleberididae Sylvester-Bradley 1948
 - Acanthocythereis* sp.
 - Basslerites* (*Loculiconcha*) *punctata* Omatsola 1970
 - Chrysocythere boldi* Omatsola 1970
 - Chrysocythere foveostriata* (Brady 1870)
 - Clectocythereis* sp.
 - Reymenia ijeburum* Omatsola 1970
 - Ruggieria nigeriana?* Omatsola 1970
 - Soudanella africana* Omatsola 1972
- Ostracoda incertae sedis
 - Mackenziella lagosensis* Omatsola 1972

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