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The New Caledonian archipelago, situated in the Pacific Ocean, North East of Australia, and one of Earth's top 25 priority conservation regions (Myers *et al.* 2000), is known for its rich biodiversity and a high proportion of endemism in flora and fauna. Thus far, only 16 species of non-marine ostracods were reported. After three hydrobiological expeditions (2016, 2017, 2018) to the main island of the archipelago (Grande Terre) organized by the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Paris, France), several more species were found.

We have collected about 350 samples from a variety of water bodies, such as rivers, small streams, lakes and temporary pools (Figure 1). We have found close to 40 species of Ostracoda of which several taxa are new to Science (Table 1, Figure 2). Two new species, *Cyprinotus drubea* and *Strandesia mehesi* have already been described.

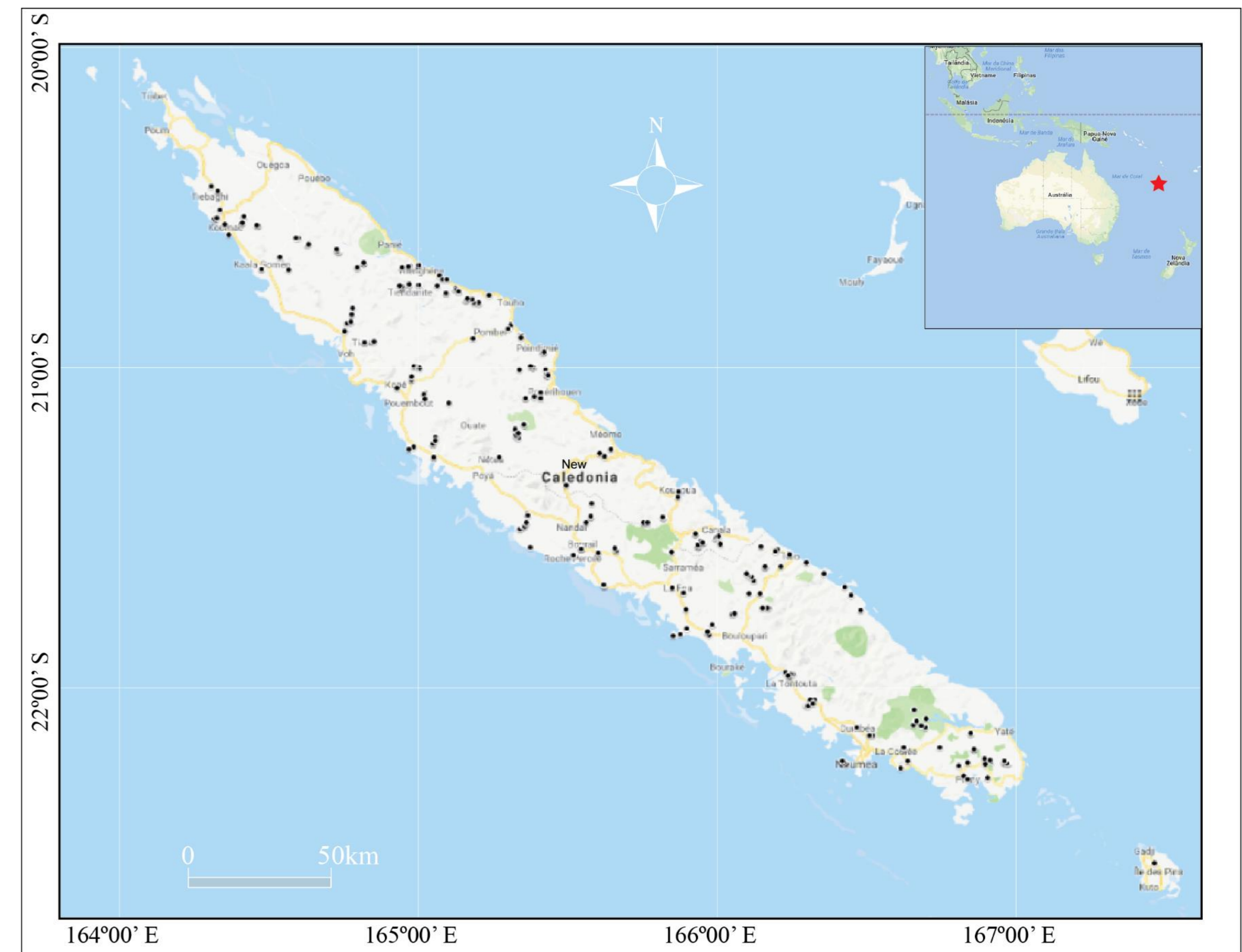


Figure 1. Location of sampling points on the New Caledonia island.

Table 1. Ostracod species from New Caledonia island.

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|---|--|
| Superfamily Darwinuloidea Brady & Robertson, 1885 | Subfamily Cypricerinae McKenzie, 1971 |
| Family Darwinulidae Brady & Robertson, 1885 | <i>Strandesia mehesi</i> Kisseih, Higuti & Martens, 2020 |
| <i>Darwinula stevensoni</i> (Brady & Robertson, 1870) | <i>Strandesia sanoamuangae</i> Savatentalinton & Martens, 2010 |
| <i>Vestalenula marmonieri</i> Rossetti & Martens, 1999 | <i>Strandesia</i> sp. 3 sp. n. |
| Also as <i>Penthesilenula brasiliensis</i> (=stage A-1 of Vm) | <i>Strandesia</i> sp. 4 sp. n. |
| <i>Vestalenula</i> group <i>pagliolii</i> | |
| <i>Vestalenula</i> group <i>danielopoli</i> sp.n. | |
| Superfamily Cytheroidea Baird, 1850 | Subfamily Herpetocypridinae Kaufmann, 1900 |
| Family Cytherideidae Sars, 1925 | <i>Candonocypris novaezelandiae</i> (Baird, 1843) |
| ? <i>Cyprideis australiensis</i> Hartmann, 1978 | Syn. <i>Candonopsis caledonica</i> (in Meisch <i>et al.</i> 2007) |
| <i>Cyprideis consobrina</i> (Brady, 1890) | Syn. <i>Herpetocypris caledonica</i> Méhes, 1939 |
| | Syn. <i>Herpetocypris caledonica</i> var. <i>minor</i> Méhes, 1939 |
| Family Limnocytheridae Sars, 1925 | <i>Ilyodromus</i> sp. 1 |
| <i>Limnocythere notodonta</i> Vávra, 1906 | <i>Ilyodromus</i> sp. 2 |
| (<i>Elpidium</i> ssp.n.) | <i>Ilyodromus</i> gen. n. sp. 1 sp. n. |
| (<i>Gomphocythere</i> ssp.n.) | <i>Stenocypris major</i> (Baird, 1859) |
| Family unknown | Syn. <i>Stenocypris malcolmsoni</i> Brady, 1886 (in Méhes, 1939) |
| (Cytheroidea ssp. n.) | <i>Stenocypris malayica</i> Victor & Fernando, 1981 |
| | As: <i>Stenocypris marginata</i> Daday, 1910 (in Méhes, 1939) |
| Superfamily Cypridoidea Baird, 1845 | <i>Stenocypris</i> sp.3 |
| Family Notodromadidae Kaufmann, 1900 | Herpetocypridinae gen.n. spec.n. |
| <i>Kennethia major</i> (Méhes, 1939) | |
| Syn: <i>Notodromas major</i> Méhes, 1939 | Subfamily Cyprettinae Hartmann, 1971 |
| Family Cyprididae Baird, 1845 | <i>Cypretta</i> ssp.n. |
| Subfamily Cypridinae Baird, 1845 | |
| <i>Cypris granulata</i> (Daday, 1910) | Subfamily Cypridopsinae Kaufmann, 1900 |
| | <i>Cypridopsis vidua</i> |
| Subfamily Cyprinotinae Bronstein, 1947 | Syn. <i>Cypridopsis sarasini</i> Méhes, 1939 (new syn.) |
| <i>Cyprinotus drubea</i> Martens, Yavuzatmaca & Higuti, 2019 | |
| <i>Heterocypris incongruens</i> (Ramdohr, 1808) | Uncertain species |
| <i>Hemicypris</i> sp. 1 | ? <i>Eucypris wolffügeli</i> Méhes, 1914 |
| | ? <i>Strandesia rouxi</i> Méhes, 1939 |

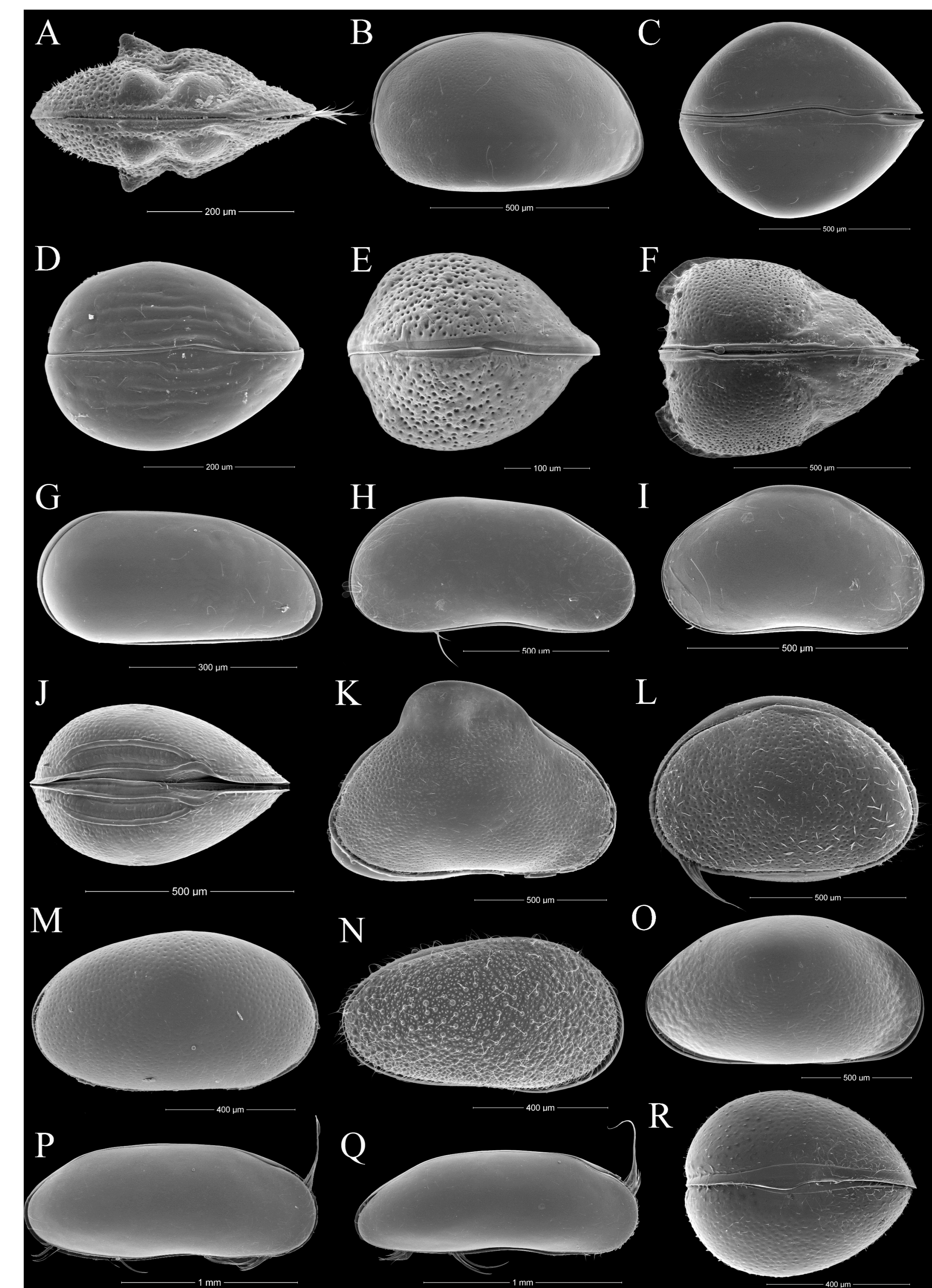


Figure 2. Examples of ostracods from New Caledonia, illustrated with Scanning Electron Microscopy. A: *Limnocythere*; B, C: *Elpidium*; D, E: *Cytheroidea* ssp.n.; F: *Gomphocythere*; G: *Vestalenula*; H: *Candonopsis*; I: *Candona*; J: *Newnhamia*; K: *Cyprinotus*; L: *Hemicypris*; M-O: *Strandesia*; P, Q: *Stenocypris*; R: *Cypretta*.

Most noteworthy are an endemic radiation of *Gomphocythere*, different species of *Elpidium*, and several new species of *Cypretta*. *Elpidium* are invasive species, because they were imported through their host bromeliads, a true case of "Noahs Arch" invasions. But as these species can only live in their bromeliad tanks, they form no danger for native New Caledonian faunas.

The New Caledonia Hydrobiological expedition 2016-2018 (PI: Philippe Bouchet) is a part of a cluster of expeditions under the *Our Planet Reviewed / La Planète Revisitée* programme, implemented by the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN - Pascale Joannot, Head of expeditions programme) in partnership with the Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels (CEN), and with funding from the Gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, Province Sud, Province Nord, Office des Postes et Télécommunications (OPT), Maison de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, and the French Ministry for the Overseas.