

ABSTRACTS



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## HOTSPOTS OF FIDELITY: LIVE-DEAD FAITHFULLY OF MARINE OSTRACODS SHED LIGHT ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE MICROFOSSIL RECORD

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Death assemblages provide excellent data on the species composition and structure of communities in diverse settings, even though temporally coarse. Their assessment is essential to determine the trustworthiness of the fossil record as biological evidence. We present herein comparisons of species assemblages in living and dead ostracods from the Vitória-Trindade Chain, encompassing Trindade Island and four seamounts (Vitória, Jaseur, Davis, and Dogressa). The faunal analysis resulted in 2,577 specimens distributed in 54 species. All the species found are benthic forms, belonging to the orders Podocopida, Platycopida, and Halocypridida, the last one present only in the seamounts. The seamounts were richest, though less abundant than the island. Rank abundance tests have shown that life and death assemblages differ substantially in the composition of their dominant species, both on the island and in the seamounts. The live-dead agreement is higher in Trindade, mainly in samples of beach, cove, and islet. The live-dead mismatch in the seamounts may be related to the greater number of juveniles in the life assemblage. This situation possibly arises from the rapid destruction of fragile juveniles' carapaces by post-mortem changes. [CNPq and SECIRM/Marinha do Brasil]