Palaeobiogeography of the Freshwater Isopods Microcerberidae (Crustacea) from Caribbean and North America

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Freshwater species of the interstitial Microcerberidae (Crustacea Isopoda) occur in restricted, local areas of the world, compared to the world-wide distribution of the coastal marine representatives. In U.S.A., two inland species of Microcerberus form the sister group of the species from Rumania and Bulgaria. On Cuba, Yvesia lives in brackish water of wells. The two genera exhibit plesiomorphic characters. Both plate tectonics and Tethys regressions provide an understanding of their evolutionary history. The marine ancestors lived in the littoral of the Tethys since the opening of the Central Atlantic and could have settled in freshwater of Southeastern USA at the end of the Cenomanian regression. The Caribbean plate derived from the Pacific toward the East, between the North and South American plates and small islands emerged since the Aptian. On Cuba, the ancestor of Yvesia striata might have been left by one of the regressions from Aptian up to the Eocene.