

A taxonomic note about *Leptocythere transiens* Pucci

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ABSTRACT – Specimens illustrated by Doruk (1980) as *Leptocythere multipunctata* (Seguenza) and by Aruta (1986) as *Leptocythere meridionalis* Ruggieri, have to be really ascribed to *Leptocythere transiens* Pucci.

RIASSUNTO – [*Leptocythere transiens* Pucci: precisazione tassonomica] – Vengono poste in sinonimia con *Leptocythere transiens* Pucci individui raffigurati da Doruk (1980) come *Leptocythere multipunctata* (Seguenza) e da Aruta (1986) come *Leptocythere meridionalis* Ruggieri.

Doruk (1980) represented a species of the genus *Leptocythere* and she erroneously ascribed it to *Leptocythere multipunctata* (Seguenza). Ruggieri (1983) considered Doruk's specimens to be a new species and he called it *Leptocythere mediorientalis*, fixing as Otype and Paratypes Doruk's figures.

Aruta (1986) figured the species, even if it has been mentioned as *Leptocythere meridionalis* Ruggieri in the text and plates.

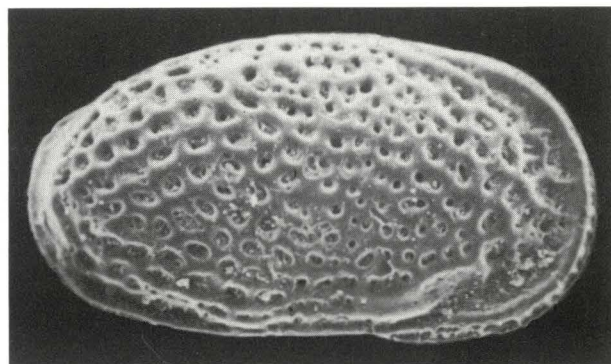
Really both Doruk's and Aruta's specimens have to be ascribed to *Leptocythere transiens* Pucci. Ruggieri (1980) reaffirming the *Leptocythere transiens* validity, which he himself had formerly denied (Ruggieri, 1975), writes (translation): «...to identify *Leptocythere transiens*, it is useful to utilise the original figure (Pucci, 1955, pl. 1, fig. 1) as well as the Ciampo's excellent SEM picture (1972, pl. 1, figs. 3-5)». It is impossible to disjoin these pictures from Doruk and Aruta's figures to a specific level.

Leptocythere transiens and similar *L. multipunctata* are stratigraphically interesting species. Distinctive features are described in Pucci (1955) and in Ruggieri (1980). Revised synonymy is here restricted to articles where specimens are figured and recognisable.

LEPTOCYTHERE TRANSIENS Pucci, 1955

Text-fig. 1

- 1955 *Leptocythere multipunctata transiens* n. subsp. PUCCI, p. 166, pl. 1, fig. 1, text-fig. 3.
1971 *Leptocythere multipunctata transiens* Pucci - CIAMPO, pl. 1, figs. 3-5.
1980 *Leptocythere multipunctata* (Seguenza) - DORUK, 7: 27, 151-154.
1986 *Leptocythere meridionalis* Ruggieri - ARUTA, pl. 1, fig. 4.



Text-fig. 1 - *Leptocythere transiens* Pucci, Fosso Lauro section (Calvello). Santerian (Lower Pleistocene), x 128.

Remarks – *Leptocythere transiens* is a common, often abundant, species through Lower Pleistocene, but it is fairly quoted and occasionally it might have been confused with *Leptocythere multipunctata* and vice versa. I have recorded *L. transiens* in MP1 5 Zone (Late Pliocene) just before the *Discoaster pentaradiatus* LAD and it seems to be the oldest citation for the species. The most recent citation, as *L. meridionalis*, is from Emiliano (Palermo) by Aruta (1986).

Leptocythere multipunctata first occurrence falls around the top of MP15 Zone, between the *Globorotalia bononiensis* LAD and the *Bulimina marginata* first occurrence, where it is quite rare. It is more common through Lower Pleistocene and it becomes extinct during Emiliano. Citations from Recent concern reworked specimens.

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