

A dryinid wasp in Early Eocene amber from the Paris basin (Hymenoptera: Dryinidae)

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Abstract

Pseudodryinus parisiensis sp. n., is described from the Earliest Eocene French amber. The potential relationships of the new species are discussed. The present discovery supports the important differences between the French and Baltic Eocene ambers.

Key words: Insecta, Hymenoptera, Dryinidae, new species, Earliest Eocene, amber, Paris basin, France

Introduction

The Dryinidae is a small family of parasitic wasps; most of them have highly specialised fore tarsi with an enlarged tarsal claw. Their fossil record is rather abundant, with about 34 described species, all from amber ranging between the Early Cretaceous (Lebanon) and the Miocene (Dominican Republic) (Olmi 1984, amended in 1995 and 1999, Olmi & Bechly 2001; Engel 2003). No dryinid wasp is described from lacustrine outcrops. We recently discovered a well preserved female dryinid wasp in the Earliest Eocene amber from Oise, France. After comparing it with described taxa, we conclude that it belongs to a new species. Although many dryinids are known from the Middle–Late Eocene Baltic amber, this is the first Early Eocene representative of this family.

We follow the standard conventions for wing veins proposed by Mason (1986), the wing venational terminology of Goulet & Huber (1993), and the dryinid systematics of Olmi (1984, 1993, 1999).