



A new peculiar isometopine genus (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae) from the Eocene Baltic amber

ALEKSANDER HERCZEK & YURI A. POPOV

¹Silesian University, Department of Zoology 40-Katowice, Bankowa 9, Poland. E-mail: aleksander.herczek@us.edu.pl

²Paleontological Institute Russian Academy of Sciences, Profsoyuznaya Str. 123, 117997 Moscow, Russia.

E-mail: popovpin@gmail.com

Abstract

The paper presents a description of an isometopinae: *Hoffeinsoria robusta* **gen. and sp. nov.**, from inclusion in the Late Eocene Baltic amber. It is described and illustrated here.

Key words: Heteroptera, Miridae, Isometopinae, Myiommini, new genus, new species, Baltic amber

Introduction

This joint article should be considered as a continuation of a series of publications on fossil mirids from the Baltic amber (Prussian Formation). Miridae, or plant bugs, are the largest family of contemporary true bugs (Heteroptera) widespread all over the world, with about 1,500 genera and over 10,000 species (Schuh 1995, Kerzhner & Josifov 1999). Recent Isometopinae is a relatively small subfamily including about 190 species, strongly cryptic in habits and rare in world collections. Some are predaceous and may hunt soft-bodied, mostly aphids and scale insects. Most inclusions of fossil plant bugs are usually found in the Eocene Baltic amber, where mirids are mainly represented by the subfamilies Cylapinae, Isometopinae, and Mirinae (Popov & Herczek 2008). These fossil insects were rather scarce only in the first years of their discovery (Popov & Herczek 1992, 1993; Herczek 1993). Judging from the described and undescribed of Baltic amber mirids known to us just now, the isometopinae are not so rare among other fossil mirids and provide evidence for a considerable diversity at least since Eocene time.

The first fossil Isometopinae was found by Hurd, Smith, & Durham (1962) from Mexican amber, which was later cited by Keilbach (1982) and Spahr (1988). Then other members of Isometopinae were described from the Baltic amber belonging to three extinct (*Electomyiomma*, *Metoisop*, and *Clavimyiomma*) and one extant (*Myiomma*) genera with six new species (Popov & Herczek 1992). Later there was also described another new genus *Archemyiomma* from the same amber (Herczek 1993). So far, 5 new genera and 10 new species have been described just from Baltic amber (Popov & Herczek 2008). There are also several other isometopines—both from Baltic and from Ukrainian amber (the amber find in Rovno province, Ukraine)—which remain undescribed.

Taxonomy

Order Hemiptera Linnaeus, 1758

Suborder Heteroptera Latreille, 1810

Infraorder Cimicomorpha Leston, Pendergrast & Southwood, 1954

Superfamily Miroidea Hahn, 1833