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A new species of *Palaeopoecilostola* Meunier, 1899 (Diptera: Limoniidae) from the Eocene Baltic amber

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Abstract

A new species of the genus *Palaeopoecilostola* Meunier, 1899 (Diptera: Limoniidae) from the Baltic amber (Upper Eocene) is described. The cladistic analysis of the species included in this genus is provided. The distributional pattern of the *Palaeopoecilostola* species is discussed. *Palaeopoecilostola* as numerous and remarkable representative of Limoniidae, can be treated as the marker genus of the Baltic amber in broad sense (including Bitterfeld and Ukrainian ambers). *Anepsiomyia atterraneus* Nazarov, 1994 is resurrected from synonymy with *Palaeopoecilostola speciosa* Meunier, 1906. *Ryta berestiana* Nazarov, 1994 appears a junior synonym of *Palaeopoecilostola speciosa* Meunier, 1906.

Key words: *Palaeopoecilostola*, Limoniidae, Diptera, Baltic amber, Upper Eocene, taxonomy, new species, *Palaeopoecilostola eocenica* sp. nov., synonymy

Introduction

The oldest representatives of the family Limoniidae are known in fossil records as far as from the Upper Triassic (Krzemiński 1992, Shcherbakov et al. 1995, Krzemiński & Krzemińska 2003). Limoniidae are numerous among the fossil representatives of Diptera in the Jurassic, Cretaceous and Paleogene fossil sites (Krzemiński & Evenhuis 2000, Krzemiński & Kovalev 1988, Lukashovich 2009). Limoniidae frequently representing also the present-day genera are known from the Baltic amber (Upper Eocene). Many taxa of these dipterans have been described from the Baltic amber by Loew (1850, 1851, 1861), who gave the earliest information about the fossil representatives of the family Limoniidae from the Baltic amber, by Meunier (1894, 1895, 1899a, 1899b, 1906a, 1906b, 1906c, 1916, 1917), who described a number of new species and by Alexander (1931), who also made a critical revision of the taxa described previously. Very important data about Cenozoic representatives of the Limoniidae from the Baltic amber can be found in the works of Savchenko (1967, 1983), Krzeminski (1985, 1990a, 1990b, 1993, 1998a, 1998b, 2000a, 2000b, 2001), Krzemiński et al. (2010) and Podenas (1999a, 1999b, 2001, 2003a, 2003b, 2003c, 2003d, 2005, 2006). The latter author described many new species, made a revision and supplemented the previous descriptions of species by Loew, Meunier and Alexander.

The extinct genus *Palaeopoecilostola* was described by Meunier in 1899a, but the exact position of this taxon was not given. In 1906c, Meunier, proposed to synonymize generic name *Palaeopoecilostola* under the genus *Lasiomastix* Osten Sacken (1864). Later, Alexander, in his monograph of Limoniidae from Baltic amber (1931), proposed to resurrect the genus *Palaeopoecilostola*, as having nothing in common with *Lasiomastix*.

The fossil record of the Eocene Limoniidae comprises representatives of the extinct genus *Palaeopoecilostola* Meunier, 1899, known exclusively from the resins of the Baltic amber group. Four species were known up so far, with *Palaeopoecilostola longicornis* described by Meunier (1906) as type-species. Within this species, Alexander (1931) distinguished two subspecies: *Palaeopoecilostola longicornis longicornis* Meunier, 1906 and *Palaeopoecilostola longicornis parallela* Alexander, 1931. Due to evident differences in morphology of antennae