



# Article

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## A new species of the diverse Cretaceous genus *Cretevania* Rasnitsyn, 1975 (Hymenoptera: Evaniidae) from Spanish amber

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### Abstract

*Cretevania soplaensis* nov. sp. is described from the Early Cretaceous (Albian) amber from El Soplao (Rábago, Cantabria, northern Spain). Although the studied specimen is incomplete, its preserved parts permit us to distinguish it from the previously described species. A discussion about probable sexual dimorphism in *Cretevania* and possible consequences for the identification of new species based on specimens of unknown or uncertain sex is included.

**Key words:** ensign wasps; new taxon; amber; Albian; Spain

### Introduction

Evaniidae (ensign wasps), one of the three extant families of the superfamily Evanioidea, are cosmopolitan hymenopterans, mainly present in the tropic, and parasitoids of cockroach eggs (Dictyoptera) within oothecae (Deans & Huben 2003; Grimaldi & Engel 2005; Deans 2005). Up to now, eight Mesozoic genera of Evaniidae are known, plus the genera *Praevania* Rasnitsyn, 1991 and *Andrenelia* Rasnitsyn & Martínez-Delclòs, 2000 if they are considered evaniids (Peñalver *et al.* 2010). Currently, only one fossil family is included in the Evanioidea with confidence, the family Praeaulacidae (Rasnitsyn 1972), although the validity of Andreneliidae (Rasnitsyn & Martínez-Delclòs 2000) as a separate family remains uncertain (Basibuyuk *et al.* 2002; Grimaldi & Engel 2005; Zhang & Rasnitsyn 2007, 2008). Peñalver *et al.* (2010) provides an updated discussion on the phylogeny of the superfamily Evanioidea. The updated extant and fossil evanioid taxa are available in Deans *et al.* (2012) and Jennings *et al.* (2012).

The most diverse fossil evanioid genus is *Cretevania*, established by Rasnitsyn (1975) and currently a member of the family Evaniidae. *Cretevania* is mainly characterized by its reduced forewing venation and the shape of the hind legs and petiole. Up to now, 13 species of this genus are known from different Cretaceous deposits of amber and compression rocks from Eurasia and the Middle East, the highest diversity being known from Spain as was indicated by the study of abundant material from Early Cretaceous amber present in different localities of this country (Peñalver *et al.* 2010).

A cladistic analysis of fossil and extant members of the superfamily Evanioidea, a summary of the fossil record of the family Evaniidae, a review of the genus *Cretevania* (including an emended diagnosis of the genus), the re-study of the Russian holotypes, the reinterpretation of two Cretaceous genera synonymized with *Cretevania*, and the description of four new species from Spanish amber were provided by Peñalver *et al.* (2010). In addition, this last study of fossil evaniids included a review of the paleogeographical and stratigraphical occurrences of the genus.

The present contribution expands the knowledge of the diverse Cretaceous genus *Cretevania* by describing a new species found in a recently discovered Early Cretaceous amber locality from northern Spain.