

A new remarkable Xestomyzinae (Insecta, Diptera, Therevidae) genus from Mexican Amber

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Abstract

Peratrimera mexicana n. gen., n. sp. is described from Mexican Amber. The fossil is placed in the Therevidae subfamily Xestomyzinae and its close relationship to the recent genus *Henicomylia* Coquillett is discussed. This is the first fossil of a Xestomyzinae from the New World and the first Therevidae from Mexican Amber.

Key words: Diptera, Therevidae, Mexican Amber, *Peratrimera mexicana* n. gen., n. sp.

Introduction

The Therevidae represents a family of lower brachyceran Diptera. The flies occur most abundantly in dry and sandy habitats and are found on all continents except Antarctica. The elongate larvae are subterranean predators that live within loose soil and leaf litter. The diurnal adults of most species imbibe water, and a few species are known to feed on nectar and honey dew. Over 1000 extant species of this family are currently described with an additional 1000 or more known but not yet described. The family is divided into four subfamilies. The Xestomyzinae (Lyneborg 1972), consists of ten described genera, nine of which are restricted to the southern parts of Africa (Botswana, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) and only one genus, *Henicomylia* Coquillett is found in the New World. The genus *Henicomylia* was revised by Lyneborg (1972), who described five new species, increasing the total number of valid species to six. Only one species has been described since this revision (Irwin & Webb