

***Dacochile microsoma* Poinar & Brown, not a tanyderid but a bruchomyiine psychodid (Diptera: Psychodidae, Tanyderidae)**

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Abstract

A review of the characters used by Poinar & Brown (2004) to place their new fossil fly from Burmese amber, *Dacochile microsoma*, in the family Tanyderidae conclusively demonstrates that the fly actually belongs to the subfamily Bruchomyiinae in the family Psychodidae.

Key words: Diptera, Tanyderidae, Psychodidae, Bruchomyiinae, fossil, Burmese amber

Introduction

There has always been a high level of interest in insects fossilized in amber because of the remarkable quality of their preservation. Poinar & Brown (2004) recently described a fossil dipteran, *Dacochile microsoma*, from Burmese amber reported to be of Lower Cretaceous age. The fly was purported to be in the family Tanyderidae, a group of crane-fly-like Diptera with generalized wing venation. In this paper, I present evidence indicating that this insect is a member of the Psychodidae, subfamily Bruchomyiinae and can be placed within the existing classification of that family. In fact, *D. microsoma* is quite similar to the extant psychodid genus *Nemapalpus* Macquart. It is further surprising that the authors made this taxonomic error, since a recent paper extensively reviews the phylogenetic position of another psychodid fossil in Burmese amber (Duckhouse 2000), and notes that additional psychodids are undescribed from Burmese amber. Also, another paper (Ansorge 1994) cited by the authors discusses characters of Tanyderidae and Psychodidae that should have led the authors to a different conclusion.

Character states and their distribution

In this section an itemized discussion of important characters in *Dacochile microsoma* is presented. Those that Poinar & Brown deemed of importance in placing their new taxon in