Zootaxa 1061: 29–34 (2005)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

1061

Pachygaster hymenaea sp. nov. and *P. antiqua* James, 1971 (Diptera: Stratiomyidae) in Neotropical ambers

MARTIN GRUND[1] & MARTIN HAUSER[2]

1) Institut für Paläontologie, Universität Bonn, Nussallee 8, 53115 Bonn, Germany
e-mail: mjlgrund@web.de
2) Department of Entomology, University of Illinois, 131 N.S.R.C., MC-637, 1101 West Peabody Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, USA
e-mail: hauser1@uiuc.edu

Abstract

We describe *Pachygaster hymenaea* sp. nov. from Dominican amber from a female specimen and compare it with the only other amber pachygastrine, *P. antiqua* James, 1971 from Mexican amber. The two species differ by the shape of the ocellar tubercle and the width of the frons. Comments about differences between the holotype of *P. antiqua* and the original description are given.

Key words: Dominican amber, Mexican amber, Pachygastrinae

Introduction

Evenhuis (1994) listed 24 species of fossil Stratiomyidae of which only one, *Pachygaster antiqua* James, 1971, belongs in the subfamily Pachygastrinae. This species was described from Mexican amber. We describe a second fossil species of *Pachygaster* Meigen from Dominican amber, which we compare with *P. antiqua* and correct some inaccuracies in the description of latter.

Dominican amber originates from the Dominican Republic, Hispaniola, Greater Antilles. The deposits of this fossil resin are of early to middle Miocene (15–20 Mya) age (Iturralde-Vinent & MacPhee 1996, Iturralde-Vinent 2001). The fossil flora and fauna trapped in the amber indicates that the resin-producing tree was part of a moist tropical forest (Poinar & Poinar 1999).

Mexican amber occurs in the region of Chiapas, Mexico. Until now Mexican amber was considered to be of upper Oligocene to lowest Miocene age (Poinar 1992). This means an absolute age of 22.5–26 million years according to Berggren & Van Couvering (1974).

Accepted by N. Evenhuis: 4 Oct. 2005; published: 11 Oct. 2005