



***Spatiator martens* n. sp., a second species of the extinct spider family Spatiatoridae in Eocene Baltic amber (Araneae)**

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Abstract

Spatiator martensi n. sp. (Araneae: Spatiatoridae) is described from the Early Tertiary Baltic amber forest. It is the second known species of this extinct family of spiders. Ants as syninclusions point to a possible ant mimicry or myrmecophagy.

Key words: Fossil spiders, Tertiary, new species, mimicry, myrmecophagy, myrmecomorphy

Introduction

Spiders in Eocene Baltic amber are quite diverse, 51 families were reported by Wunderlich (2004). Spatiatoridae Petrunkevitch 1942 is an extinct spider family of the superfamily Eresoidea s. l., which includes Archaeoidea s. str. = Palpimanoidea s. str. sensu Forster & Platnick (1984), (cf. Wunderlich 2004: 763). Spatiatoridae is probably related to the extant family Huttoniidae of the Australian region; Palpimanidae is the most closely related extant family in Europe.

Only a single genus and — a rarely collected — single species have been described from the Spatiatoridae: *Spatiator* Petrunkevitch 1942 with its type species *Spatiator praeceps* Petrunkevitch 1942, see Wunderlich (2004: 757, 767, 806–807, figs 48–56). A second genus — *Adorator* Petrunkevitch 1942 — has been described sub Spatiatoridae but is actually a member of the family Zodariidae (Wunderlich 2004: 757, 767, 806–807).

Spatiatoridae (Figs 1–5) is characterized by a long and slender body and slender legs which bear spatulate setae, a raised cephalic part (absent in young juveniles), cheliceral peg teeth, retrolateral cheliceral stridulatory files, completely bristle-less legs and a large cymbium which encloses the bulbus similar to that in the Huttoniidae, but is different to all other related families.

Besides its beautiful preservation, the holotype and only specimen of the new species