



## A new family of Cavilabiata from the Lower Cretaceous Yixian Formation, China (Odonata: Anisoptera)

QI-BIN LIN<sup>1</sup>, DI-YING HUANG<sup>1</sup> & A. NEL<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>State Key Laboratory of Palaeobiology and stratigraphy, Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing, 210008, People's Republic of China.

<sup>2</sup>CNRS UMR 5202, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, CP 50, Entomologie, 45 Rue Buffon, F-75005, Paris, France.

E-mail: [anel@mnhn.fr](mailto:anel@mnhn.fr)

### Abstract

A new genus *Nodalula* **gen. nov.** and species *Nodalula dalinghensis* **gen. et sp. nov.** is described on the basis of a nearly complete specimen from the Lower Cretaceous of North-east China. Its special pattern of wing venation differs from those of the known Mesozoic Cavilabiata genera and allows us to include it in the new family Nodalulidae within the Neobrachystigmata.

**Key word:** Odonata, Anisoptera, Cavilabiata, fam. nov., Early Cretaceous, Jehol biota, China

### Introduction

The morphological disparity of the Cavilabiata (formerly Cordulegastroidea + Libelluloidea) was very important during the Late Jurassic/Early Cretaceous, even greater than nowadays, with about 10 extinct families, representing numerous stages of the wing venation evolution of this clade. Nearly all these Mesozoic forms became extinct before the Late Cretaceous, probably during the Cenomanian-Turonian, probably in relation with the important changes in the lake water quality correlated to the rise and diversification of the Angiosperms (Fleck and Nel, 2003). The present discovery of a new taxon representing a new family, somewhat 'intermediate' between the Hemeroscopidae and the more modern Neobrachystigmata (a clade to which belong the recent families Corduliidae and Libellulidae, among others) is of great interest for our knowledge on the evolution of the whole group and its past diversity.

The wing venation terminology follows Bechly *et al.* (2001).

### Systematic palaeontology

**Order Odonata Fabricius, 1793**

**Suborder Anisoptera Selys, 1854**

**Clade Cavilabiata Bechly, 1996**

**Family Nodalulidae fam. nov.**

**Type genus. *Nodalula* gen. nov.**