



New soldier beetles (Coleoptera, Cantharidae) from the Eocene Baltic amber

ANTONI KUŚKA¹ & IWONA KANIA²

¹Department of Biological Sciences, Academy of Physical Education Katowice, ul. Raciborska 1, 40-065 Katowice, Poland.

E-mail: antokusk@neostrada.pl

²Department of Environmental Biology, Rzeszów University, Aleja Rejtana 16c, 35-959 Rzeszów, Poland.

E-mail: ikania@univ.rzeszow.pl

Abstract

The paper presents description of new cantharid taxa from the inclusions in the Eocene Baltic amber: *Hoffeinsensia jantarica* **gen. nov.** and **sp. nov.**, *Sucinocanthis baltica* **gen. nov.** and **sp. nov.**, *Malthinus danieli* **sp. nov.**, *Malthodes sucinopenninus* **sp. nov.** and *Malthodes sucini* **sp. nov.** The new genera are characterised by 12- or 16-segmented antennae.

Key words: Insecta, new genera, new species, fossils, Eocene, Baltic amber

Introduction

The number of recent species of the family Cantharidae is over 5000. The family is subdivided into 5 subfamilies: Cantharinae, Silinae, Dymorphocerinae, Malthininae and Chauliognathinae (Brancucci 1980). However, cantharid beetles in amber inclusions are still poorly understood. Only two species were described (Spahr 1980) until the 1980s, when six further species were added (Kuśka 1992, 1996; Kuśka & Kupryjanowicz 2005). The antennal structure is one of the most important features of the family. The antennae are usually 11-segmented, and rarely, in the genus *Heteromastix* Boheman, 1858, they are 12-segmented. The fossil species *Sucinorhagonycha kulickae* Kuśka, 1996, described from the Baltic amber, also has 12-segmented antennae. Occurrence of this character was confirmed in the female of this genus (Kubisz 2000). Among species described below, which surely belong to the family Cantharidae, two new genera are characterized by either 12- or 16-segmented antennae. Middle segments of antennae in these specimens are saucer-shaped.

Material and methods

The suprageneric classification used follows Brancucci (1980). Nine specimens in the Baltic amber were examined: six from the private collection of Christel and Hans Werner Hoffeins, Hamburg, Germany and three in the private collection of Jacek Serafin, Piaseczno, Poland. The type materials are to be deposited in Deutsches Entomologisches Institut (DEI) im Zentrum für Agrarlandschafts- und Landnutzungsforschung e.V., Germany. All specimens have been photographed under the lens camera Pentax K100, and drawings were made from the photos.