



The first psallopinous bug from Lowermost Eocene French amber (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae)

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Abstract

Isometopsallops prokopi sp. nov., the oldest known psallopinous Miridae and first representative of the Baltic amber genus *Isometopsallops*, is described from the Lowermost Eocene French amber. A brief discussion on the value and polarity of the available characters for the phylogenetic relationships between Cylapinae, Isometopinae, and Psallopinae is proposed.

Key words: Hemiptera, Miridae, Psallopinae, sp. nov., Lowermost Eocene French amber

Introduction

If the recent mirid bugs are very diverse, the past history of this large family is mainly represented by fossils in amber. The two subfamilies Isometopinae and Cylapinae, dominated the Baltic amber fauna, with 16 genera and 30 described species, after Kulicka *et al.* (1996) and Popov & Herczek (2006). The subfamily Psallopinae is currently considered as closely related to these two groups. Thus it is of great interest for the understanding of the relationships between these 'basal' Miridae. The Psallopinae is one of the smallest mirid subfamilies; it contains two recent genera: *Psallops* Usinger, 1946 (10 species), and *Isometocoris* Carvalho & Sailer, 1954 (one species), mostly inhabiting intertropical and subtropical regions; and two Eocene Baltic amber taxa *Isometopsallops schuhi* Herczek & Popov, 1992 and *Cylapopsallops kerzhneri* Popov & Herczek, 2006. Here we describe four fossil plant bugs from the Earliest Eocene Oise amber dated of ca. 53 Myr. These fossils are closely related to a psallopsine Baltic amber genus, and they can be considered as the oldest representatives of this subfamily.

Genus *Isometopsallops* Herczek & Popov, 1992

Type species. *Isometopsallops schuhi* Herczek & Popov, 1992.

Isometopsallops prokopi sp. nov.

Figs 1–4

Material. Holotype MNHN A30851 (PA 8543, male), allotype MNHN A30852 (PA 6524, female), paratypes