



New omethid and lampyrid taxa from the Baltic Amber (Insecta: Coleoptera)

SERGEY V. KAZANTSEV

Insect Centre, Donetskaya 13-326, Moscow 109651, Russia
kazantss@mail.ru

Abstract

Two new fossil genera, *Electromethes* **gen. n.** (Omethidae) and *Electotreta* **gen. n.** (Lampyridae), and two new species, *Electromethes alleni* **sp. n.** and *Electotreta rasnitsyni* **sp. n.**, are described from the Baltic amber. The new taxa appear to be related to the extant omethids (*Electromethes*) and ototretines (*Electotreta*) from the East Asia.

Key words: Coleoptera, Omethidae, Lampyridae, new genera, new species, Baltic Amber, palaeoentomology, Eocene.

Introduction

A possibility to study Baltic Amber inclusions allowed discovering two well preserved and relatively well observable male specimens, representing two new, apparently "Cantharoid", genera. While the pronotal shape, the non-flabellate antennomere 3 and laterally exposed outside sternite 9 parameres of the first specimen quite closely match those of (at least some) Omethidae (e.g., Ramsdale, 2010), the second amber specimen has rather much in common with recent ototretines, one of the hypothetically more primitive (and not light-emitting) lampyrid subfamilies, at the same time possessing certain traits linking it with other extant lampyrids: the pronotal contour (with conspicuous posterolateral angles) as in Ototretinae (e.g., *Drilaster* Kiesenwetter, 1879) or Cyphonocerinae, and the prominent humeral elytral costa and large punctuation more reminiscent of certain extant Luciolinae, such as, e.g., *Curtos* Motschulsky, 1845 (McDermott, 1964). For this reason, the two new genera are tentatively attributed, the former, to the family Omethidae, the latter, to the lampyrid subfamily Ototretinae. In neither of the groups fossil taxa have so far been known.

Taxonomy

Electromethes **gen. n.**

Type species: *Electromethes alleni* **sp. n.**

Description. Adult male. Alate, flattened, elongate (Fig. 1). Head transverse, exposed. Eyes moderately large, spherical. Labrum conspicuous, sclerotised, located anteriorly of clypeus. Palps small, slender; ultimate palpomeres securiform. Gula transverse (Fig. 3). Antennal sockets separated by ca. their diameter. Antenna 11-segmented, moderately long, antennomeres 4–10 flabellate; pedicel (antennomere 2) short, subequal in length and width to antennomere 3 and considerably shorter than subsequent antennomeres; pubescence on antennomeres 3–11 short and decumbent (Fig. 2).

Pronotum transverse, narrowed and rounded anteriorly, with punctate convex disk, explanate sides and almost straight posterior angles (Figs 1–2). Prosternum triangular (Fig. 3). Scutellum elongate, rounded at apex (Fig. 1). Discrimen complete, bifurcate near mesoventrite. Elytra elongate, flattened, slightly broadening posteriorly, densely punctate, with inconspicuous longitudinal costae, pubescence short and decumbent (Fig. 1). Epipleuron absent. Metathoracic wings fully developed.