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## First record of *Microscapha* LeConte from Baltic amber with description of a new species and list of fossil Melandryidae (Coleoptera: Tenebrionoidea)

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### Abstract

*Microscapha andrzeji* sp. nov., the first fossil representative of the genus is described from Eocene Baltic amber. An updated list of fossil Melandryidae (Coleoptera: Tenebrionoidea) is provided. The presence of *Microscapha* within Baltic amber suggests some potential for palaeoenvironmental inferences based on the melandryid assemblage within the deposit.

**Key words:** false darkling beetles, Melandryinae, Orchesiini, new species, Tertiary, Eocene, fossil resin

Первый вымерший представитель рода, *Microscapha andrzeji* sp. nov., описан из эоценового балтийского янтаря. Приведен дополненный список вымерших Melandryidae (Coleoptera: Tenebrionoidea). Наличие *Microscapha* в балтийском янтаре важно при возможной реконструкции условий окружающей среды местонахождения на основании комплекса жуков-тенелюбов.

**Ключевые слова:** жуки-тенелюбы, Melandryinae, Orchesiini, новый вид, третичный период, эоцен, окаменевшая смола

Der erste fossile Vertreter der Gattung *Microscapha*, *M. andrzeji* sp. nov., wird aus dem Baltischen Bernstein beschrieben und eine aktualisierte Liste der ausgestorbenen Melandryidae (Coleoptera: Tenebrionoidea) präsentiert. Der *Microscapha*-Nachweis im Baltischen Bernstein lässt gewisse Schlussfolgerungen über die Paläoumweltbedingungen aufgrund der Dürstkäfervergesellschaftung dieses Vorkommens zu.

**Schlüsselwörter:** Dürstkäfer, Melandryinae, Orchesiini, neue Art, Tertiär, Eozän, Bernstein

### Introduction

Melandryidae Leach, 1815 currently comprises about 420 extant described species worldwide (Ślipiński *et al.* 2011). According to Bouchard *et al.* (2011), the family consists of two subfamilies: Melandryinae Leach, 1815 and Osphyinae Mulsant, 1856 (1839). The genus *Microscapha* LeConte, 1866 belongs to the tribe Orchesiini in Melandryinae and currently includes 15 described species (Nikitsky & Below 1982; Sasaji 1987; Nikitsky 1992; Ishikawa & Sakai 2004). The extant species of *Microscapha* are distributed throughout the tropics and subtropics of South and Eastern Asia (Japan, the Himalayas of Nepal, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines), Central Africa (Congo), and Southern and Central America (Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and Guatemala); only one species, *M. clavicornis* LeConte, inhabits temperate latitudes in the eastern USA (Pollock 2002) and in southeastern Canada (LeSage 1991; Webster *et al.* 2012).

Baltic amber occurs in the “blau Erde” (“blue earth”), which can be found throughout northern Europe (Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Poland, and Lithuania), approximately 45 m below the surface, and in many places