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A new European species of *Nevrorthus* in the Iberian Peninsula (Insecta, Neuropterida)

V. J. MONSERRAT¹ & O. GAVIRA²

¹Departamento de Zoología y Antropología Física, Facultad de Biología, Universidad Complutense, E-28040 Madrid, Spain.

E-mail: artmad@bio.ucm.es

²Camino Castillejos 9, 1ºD, E-29010 Málaga, Spain. E-mail: ogavira@hotmail.com

Abstract

A new species of *Nevrorthus* (Insecta, Neuropterida: Nevrorthisidae) has been found in the south of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain, Malaga): *N. reconditus* Monserrat & Gavira n. sp. This new species represents the first record of this genus and this family in the Westernmost Mediterranean basin. A key to the known species of this genus is provided.

Key words: Neuroptera, Nevrorthisidae, Western Mediterranean, Spain, Malaga

Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie de *Nevrorthus* (Insecta, Neuropterida: Nevrorthisidae) del sur de la Península Ibérica (España, Málaga): *N. reconditus* Monserrat & Gavira n. sp. Esta nueva especie representa la primera cita de este género y de esta familia en el Mediterráneo más occidental. Se aporta una clave de las especies conocidas de este género.

Introduction

The family Nevrorthisidae Nakahara, 1915 represents one of the most primitive, enigmatic and interesting families from the point of view of phylogeny within the order Neuroptera (Aspöck 1992, 2002; Aspöck *et al.* 1980, 2001; Aspöck & Aspöck 1994, 1999, 2007, 2008a, 2010; Haring & Aspöck 2004; Beutel *et al.* 2010; Liu *et al.* 2012), and is considered to be a real living fossil according to the criterion of Thenius (2000).

The fossil records of Nevrorthisidae (Map 1) begins in the Lower Cretaceous amber (c. 99–112 Ma) from Myanmar (Burma) with larvae thought to belong to this family (Grimaldi *et al.* 2002). In addition, several genera and species have been found in Baltic and Rovno (Ukraine) amber (Eocene-Oligocene, 34–55 Ma), and Saxonian amber (Lower Miocene, 22 Ma) from Bitterfeld (Germany), with 3 genera and 5 species described (Parfin & Gurney 1956; MacLeod 1970; Nel & Jarzembowski 1997; Jarzembowski 1980; Grimaldi 1996; Wichard & Weitschat 1996; Weitschat & Wichard 1998, 2002; Wichard *et al.* 2002, 2009, 2010; Grimaldi *et al.* 2002; Grimaldi & Engel 2005; Makarkin & Perkovsky 2009; Wichard *et al.* 2010; Liu *et al.* 2012, etc.).

The family Nevrorthisidae currently has a markedly fragmented and relict distribution, with species isolated from one another (Map 1). It includes 16 species belonging to four genera: *Nevrorthus* Costa, 1863 (central Mediterranean basin), *Nipponeurorthus* Nakahara, 1958 (east Asia), *Austroneurorthus* Nakahara, 1958 (southeastern Australia) and *Sinoneurorthus* Liu, Aspöck & Aspöck, 2012 (China) (Map 1) (Nakahara 1915, 1958; Kuwayama 1962; Monserrat 1977; Aspöck *et al.* 1977, 1978, 1980, 2001; Yang & Gao 2001; Aspöck & Aspöck 1983; Aspöck, 2004; Wichard *et al.* 2010; Liu *et al.* 2012).

In the Mediterranean region, the genus *Nevrorthus* is represented by four species of the central Mediterranean basin: *Nevrorthus fallax* (Rambur, 1842) from Sardinia and Corsica, *Nevrorthus iridipennis* Costa, 1863 from the

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