

An annotated checklist of Myerslopiidae with notes on the distribution and origin of the group (Hemiptera: Cicadomorpha)

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Abstract

An annotated checklist of extant and fossil representatives of the family Myerslopiidae is presented, and the distribution and fossil record of the family are discussed. Taxonomic characters and position as well as evolution, extinction, and migrations of the family are considered.

Key words: Insecta, Hemiptera, Myerslopiidae, checklist, distribution, phylogeny

Introduction

The family Myerslopiidae is a small group of curious leafhoppers, once believed to be part of Ulopidae (Evans 1957, Linnavuori 1972, Oman et al. 1990). The tribe Myerslopiini was established by Evans (1957) to comprise a few taxa from Madagascar and New Zealand. Evans (1961[1962], 1977) added to the group a few species found in Chile and Australia. Later, the tribe Myerslopiini was raised to subfamily status by Linnavuori (1972). However, Nielson & Knight (2000) referring to Oman, Knight & Nielson (1990) listed tribe Myerslopiini of subfamily Ulopinae within Cicadellidae. Hamilton (1999) also showed that some species once classified as Myerslopiinae belong to two other subfamilies, and raised the others to family status. In his opinion, the morphological similarity of these species resulted from considerable convergence, probably due to their similar lifestyles. *Myerslopella* Evans, 1977 (Australia) and *Sagmation* Hamilton, 1999 (New Caledonia + Australia), were placed in a newly established tribe Sagmatiini of the subfamily Euacanthellinae (Cicadellidae). Evansiolini, with 3 species of the genus *Evansiola* China, 1957, found only on Juan Fernández Island near Chile, was placed within Megophthalminae (=Agallinae). By contrast, Linnavuori & DeLong (1977), Dietrich (2001) and Nielson & Knight (2000) treat Evansiolinae as a distinct subfamily close to, but distinct from Megophthalminae and Agallinae.