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An extraordinary tribe of Tropiduchidae from the Eocene Baltic amber (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha: Fulgoroidea)

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Abstract

The new tribe Patollini **trib. n.** of the Tropiduchidae with the extinct genus *Patollo* **gen. n.**, comprising two species *Patollo natangorum* **sp. n.** and *P. aestiorum* **sp. n.** from Eocene Baltic amber is described. Taxonomic placement of some fossil taxa ascribed to Tropiduchidae is discussed. The classification of Tropiduchidae is discussed, as well as phylogenetic position and fossil record of Tropiduchidae and related taxa.

Key words: Patollini **trib. n.**, *Patollo* **gen. n.**, *Patollo natangorum* **sp. n.**, *Patollo aestiorum* **sp. n.**, Baltic amber, Palaeogene, classification, phylogeny, taxonomy, fossil record, Baltic amber, new tribe, new genus, new species.

Introduction

Fossil representatives of the family Tropiduchidae were described from both imprints and fossil resins. The oldest descriptions of taxa ascribed to this family comes from Germar & Berendt (1856) monograph of inclusions from the Eocene Baltic amber (Emeljanov 1983; Shcherbakov 2006). Other taxa from the Baltic amber were added by Szwedo (2000) and Szwedo & Stroiński (2010), and from imprints from the Eocene deposits of the Green River (Shcherbakov 2006).

The family Tropiduchidae Stål, 1854, is one of the smaller planthopper families comprising 575 described species in 164 genera (Yang *et al.* 1989; Shcherbakov 2006; Gnezdilov 2007; Bourgoin 2012). Tropiduchidae are distributed in the warmer regions of the world, feed on shrubs and trees, and some are crop pests. (Fennah 1982; Wilson *et al.* 1994; O'Brien 2002). The most recent higher classification of the family was provided by Fennah (1982) who recognized 15 tribes (three of them divided into subtribes), based on body structure and tegminal venation. This subdivision was primarily based on diagnostic characters without discussion of homology and evolutionary trends (Asche & Wilson 1989). The tribes and subtribes recognized by Fennah (1982) are as follows: Trypetimorphini Melichar, 1914, Neomatissini Fennah, 1982, Tambiniini Kirkaldy, 1907, Turneriolini Fennah, 1982, Paricanini Melichar, 1914, Isporisini Fennah, 1982, Eporini Fennah, 1982 (subtribes Eporina Fennah, 1982, Clardeina Fennah, 1982), Catullini Melichar, 1914, Cyphoceratopini Fennah, 1945, Tangiini Melichar, 1914 (subtribes Tangiina Fennah, 1982, Neotangiina Fennah, 1982), Alcestini Melichar, 1914, Remosini Fennah, 1982, Tropiduchini Melichar, 1914, Eutropistini Kirkaldy, 1906 (subtribes Duriina Fennah, 1982, Kazerunina Dlabola, 1977, Eutropistina Fennah, 1982) and Cixiopsini Fennah, 1982. Later, the extinct tribe Jantaritambiini Szwedo, 2000, described from Baltic amber was added (Szwedo 2000). Shcherbakov (2006) added another extinct tribe Emilianini, based on the imprint of tegmen from the Eocene of the Green River, Colorado. Subsequently, Szwedo & Stroiński (2010) added another extinct tribe from the Eocene Baltic amber – Austrini Szwedo et Stroiński, 2010. Gnezdilov (2007) transferred the Gaetuliina Fennah, 1978 from Nogodinidae to Tropiduchidae giving it tribal status, and Trienopini Fennah, 1954 from Issidae.

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