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## ***Dieneremia rueckeri*, a new genus and species of minute brown scavenger beetle from Baltic amber, with notes on other fossil Latridiidae (Coleoptera: Cucujoidea)**

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### **Abstract**

*Dieneremia rueckeri* **gen. et sp. nov.** is described and illustrated from Upper Eocene Baltic amber (Yantarny village, the Kaliningrad Region, Russia). A new synonymy is established: *Latridius jacquelineae* Hawkeswood, Makhan and Turner, 2009 = *Latridius jantarius* Borowiec, 1985. New fossil records on *Latridius jantarius* Borowiec, 1985 are presented.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Latridiidae, *Dieneremia rueckeri*, Baltic amber, Eocene, new taxa, new synonymy, new fossil records

### **Introduction**

Baltic amber (succinite) is mainly found on the southern coasts of the Baltic Sea and originates from the Eocene. Although an early Middle Eocene (Lutetian) age has been estimated for the Baltic amber-bearing sediments by K-Ar dating (Ritzkowski 1997), palynological biostratigraphy supports a younger, Priabonian determination of the Prussian formation (Aleksandrova and Zaporozhets 2008). A detailed discussion of the stratigraphic basis for the age of Baltic amber deposits can be found from Perkovsky et al. (2007). According to the well-grounded opinion of Turkin (1997), Baltic amber is derived from resin produced by *Pinus succinifera* (Conw.) Schub., which together with oak dominated the Eocene humid mixed forests of Northern and Central Europe. The “amber forests” were situated at the boundary separating the paratropic and temperate climates and consisted of different conifers (Pinaceae: 11+ species; Taxodiaceae: 4 species; Cupresaceae: 2 species), broad-leaved trees (Fagaceae: *Quercus* spp., *Castanea*, *Fagus succinea*, *Lauraceae*), palms and others (Larsson 1978).

Only a small number of species of Latridiidae are known from fossils (Borowiec 1985; Bukejs et al. 2011, 2012; Hawkeswood et al. 2009; Heer 1856; Kirejtshuk and Azar 2008; Kirejtshuk and Nel 2009; Kirejtshuk et al. 2009; Reike 2012; Schlechtendal 1894; Wickham 1913, 1914a, 1914b; Zherikhin 1977). A detailed review of this family in the fossil record is presented in the catalogue by Ponomarenko and Kirejtshuk (2012). Most records of fossil Latridiidae come from Cenozoic deposits, mostly from Baltic amber. However, most records contain nothing more than a generic or family identification, with no formal descriptions (Klebs 1910; Spahr 1981; Hieke and Pietrzeniuk 1984; Kubisz 2000, 2001; Alekseev and Turkin 2007). Records of the genera *Cartodere* Thomson, 1859, *Corticaria* Marsham, 1802, *Enicmus* Thomson, 1859, *Latridius* Herbst, 1793, *Melanophthalma* Motschulsky, 1866 and *Revelieria* Perris, 1869 are mentioned by Klebs (1910) and Kubisz (2000, 2001) from Baltic amber. A list of the minute brown scavenger beetles (14 species belonging to 7 genera) described from Baltic amber is provided in Alekseev (2013). The current knowledge of the latridiid fauna of Baltic amber forests must be regarded as insufficient, and descriptions of species from 3–4 genera can be expected in the near future.

In the current paper, *Dieneremia rueckeri* **gen. et sp. nov.** is described from Upper Eocene Baltic amber, the first description of an extinct genus from Baltic amber. A new synonymy is also established, and new data on fossil Latridiidae are presented.