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Glesirhanis bercioi, a new genus and species from Baltic amber (Coleoptera: Endomychidae: Leiestinae) with a checklist and nomenclatural notes regarding fossil Endomychidae

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Abstract

A new genus and species of handsome fungus beetle, *Glesirhanis bercioi* **gen. nov.**, **sp. nov.** (Coleoptera: Endomychidae: Leiestinae) is described from Baltic amber. The newly described genus is compared with all known extant and extinct genera of the subfamily. A key to the genera of Leiestinae including fossils and a checklist of fossil Endomychidae are provided. The status of two taxa previously placed in Endomychidae, *Palaeoendomychus gymnus* Zhang and *Tetrameropsis mesozoica* Kirejtshuk & Azar, is discussed, and a new status for the latter, elevating it to the family-level as Tetrameropseidae **status nov.**, is proposed.

Key words: new genus, new species, new status, Coleoptera, Endomychidae, Leiestinae, Baltic amber, Tertiary, Eocene, key, checklist, fossil

Introduction

Baltic amber (succinite) constitutes the largest known deposit of fossil plant resin and the richest repository of fossil insects of any age. Unfortunately, most references to Coleoptera in Baltic amber are only determined to family or generic levels. Thus far, only about 425 Coleoptera species have been described (Alekseev 2013), leaving the knowledge of the fauna of Eocene Baltic amber forests still inadequate. Studies of fossils, particularly inclusions in amber, are necessary because they provide an additional line of evidence and source of character data for reconstructing the phylogeny and resolving the evolutionary history of extant groups, as well as for understanding present-day distributions of more recent lineages.

Endomychidae Leach, 1815, also known as the handsome fungus beetles, is a family with worldwide distribution, including 1782 extant species classified in 130 genera and 12 subfamilies (Shockley *et al.* 2009). The subfamily Leiestinae Thomson, 1863 is an exclusively Holarctic group with 13 extant species in 6 genera, restricted to North America (5 species from 3 genera), Europe (2 species from 1 genus) and Asia (7 species from 3 genera) (Shockley *et al.* 2009, Tomaszewska 2000a, Tomaszewska 2007). Tomaszewska (2000b) reviewed the adults of Leiestinae and performed a phylogenetic analysis of the extant genera, and Burakowski & Ślipiński (2000) treated the immature stages of Leiestinae. Neither study included any mention or discussion of the known fossils of Leiestinae.

Although endomychids have often been included in lists of fossil taxa, only Strohecker (1953), Shockley *et al.* (2009) and Kirejtshuk & Nel (2009) specifically provide checklists of the known fossil endomychids, but many of these names and fossils require examination to confirm taxonomic status. Prior to this study, 8 extant genera in 6 subfamilies of Endomychidae had been reported from Baltic amber (Table 1). Of those, only 1 species was from the subfamily Leiestinae: *Phymaphoroides antennatus* Motschulsky, 1856. In addition, two other endomychid species have been described, but from other amber formations: *Palaeoestes eocenicus* Kirejtshuk & Nel, 2009 (Leiestinae) from lowermost Eocene French amber and *Discolomopsis dominicana* Shockley, 2006 (Anamorphinae) from mid-Miocene Dominican amber.

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