

Pavlostysia wunderlichi gen. nov. and sp. nov.,
the first fossil spider-web bug (Hemiptera: Heteroptera:
Cimicomorpha: Plokiophilidae) from the Baltic
Eocene amber

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Abstract. *Pavlostysia wunderlichi* gen. nov. and sp. nov., a remarkable new fossil genus and species of the cimicomorphan family Plokiophilidae, is described from Baltic amber.

Key words. Heteroptera, Cimicomorpha, Plokiophilidae, taxonomy, new genus, new species, fossil, comparative notes, Baltic amber

Introduction

The present paper is a continuation of a series devoted to fossil true bugs described or recorded so far from different types of amber (mainly Baltic and Dominican amber). The fossil fauna in the Eocene Baltic amber has certain similarities with the extant Oriental, Ethiopian, and Australian faunas (WUNDERLICH 1986) and the fauna of Central America. This opinion is supported, e.g., by the occurrence of some reduviids from the Oriental subfamily Centrocneminae in Baltic amber (PUTSHKOV & POPOV 1993, POPOV & PUTSHKOV 1998). Families known at present only from Southern Hemisphere also occur in Baltic amber, e.g., the Thaumastocoridae (*Proxylastodoris gerdae* Bechly & Wittmann, 2000); recent representatives of this family show a discontinuous distribution in South America, the Caribbean, Australia, and Southern India (BECHLY & WITTMANN 2000, HEISS & POPOV 2002).

A record of the small arachnophilic family Plokiophilidae from Baltic amber is therefore not totally unexpected. The first record of a fossil Plokiophilidae from Baltic amber, described here as *Pavlostysia wunderlichi* gen. nov. and sp. nov., was made by POPOV (2006). An undescribed fossil bug from the Early Cretaceous Canadian amber (75 mya) was also assigned to the Plokiophilidae (GRIMALDI & ENGEL 2005).

The Plokiophilidae, living as commensals only in the webs of a few tropical spiders or embiopterans, were first described as an aberrant subfamily of the Microphysidae (CHINA & MYERS 1929, CHINA 1953, CHINA & MILLER 1959, SCHUH 2006) and only later on raised