

New fossil spider beetles from Baltic amber (Coleoptera Ptinidae)

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Summary - Two new fossil spider beetles, *Sucinoptinus sucini* **nov. gen. nov. sp.** and *Ptinus (Gynopterus) inclusus* **nov. sp.**, included in Baltic amber (Late Eocene) are described. Remarks on these species, on their relationships with the extant Ptinidae, and on their possible association with coniferous forests, are provided.

Zusammenfassung - Zwei neuen fossilen Ptiniden, *Sucinoptinus sucini* **nov. gen. nov. sp.** und *Ptinus (Gynopterus) inclusus* **nov. sp.**, vom baltischen Bernstein (Obereozäne) werden beschrieben. Manche Beobachtungen über diese Diebskäferarten, ihre Beziehungen mit den rezenten verwandten Arten und ihre möglichen Verbindungen mit Nadelwäldern werden besprochen.

Key-words - Coleoptera, Ptinidae, Ptininae, Ptinini, Baltic amber, Eocene, new genus, new fossil species.

Introduction

At present, the family Ptinidae (spider beetles) includes about 70 genera and some 700 extant species (BELLÉS, 1991, see also LAWRENCE and REICHARDT, 1969; PHILIPS, 2000) distributed throughout the major regions of the world but being particularly abundant in the drier parts of the subtropical and temperate areas (HOWE, 1959). Spider beetles are mainly scavengers and both larvae and adults can feed equally readily on vegetal or animal materials. This explains why a number of species have become pests of stored products and have a practically cosmopolitan distribution as a consequence of man-associated travelling (HINTON, 1941; HOWE, 1959). Spider beetles are small-sized, the length ranging from 0.9 mm (*Ptinus longicornis* Bellés, 1992, from the Lesser Antilles) to 5.1 mm (*Ptinus pyrenaicus* Pic, 1987, from Southern Europe). Minute size is in all likelihood related to their scarcity among stone fossils.

The first fossil Ptinids were described by HEYDEN (1859) and HEYDEN & HEYDEN (1866) as belonging to the genus *Ptinus* Linnaeus, 1767, from Late Oligocene brown-coal samples from Salzburg (Austria) and Rott (Rheinland, Germany), respectively. One century later, HAUPT (1956) described two species assigned to *Niptus* Boieldieu, 1856, from Middle Eocene brown-coal samples from