

A New Species of the Scaptiid Beetle Genus *Anaspis* (Insecta: Coleoptera: Scaptiidae) from the Baltic and Rovno Ambers (Upper Eocene of Eastern Europe)

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Abstract—A new fossil species, *Anaspis (Spanisa) horaki* sp. nov., is described from the Baltic and Rovno ambers. It differs from the recent species in the shapes of its last maxillary palpus segment and its antennal club.

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Key words: Coleoptera, Scaptiidae, *Anaspis*, amber, paleontology, Eocene, Russia, Ukraine.

INTRODUCTION

The family Scaptiidae has a worldwide distribution. Its best studied representatives are species of the genus *Anaspis* Geoffroy, 1762, which are common in the faunas of open grassland and forest habitats. Their adults feed predominantly on pollen, thus serving as pollinators of entomophilous plants, and their larvae are decomposers of dead wood. Although records of scaptiids are known beginning from the Late Jurassic (Rasnitsyn, 1988), and the forms ascribed to particular genera are known beginning from the Early Cretaceous (Medvedev, 1969; Ponomarenko, 1990), the scaptiid fossils remain virtually unstudied. Descriptions of the Baltic amber scaptiids published in the previous century (Ermisch, 1941, 1943, Abdullah, 1964) are poorly informative, inadequately illustrated, and mostly emphasize external morphological characters of little importance. As a result, identification of fossil members of the genus *Anaspis* remains highly difficult.

The subgenus *Spanisa* Emery, 1876 differs from the other species of *Anaspis* Geoffroy, 1762 in having the last three antennomeres significantly larger, their size gradually increasing toward the apex. The Late Eocene scaptiid described below is similar in its size and appearance to two recent European species from that subgenus, *Anaspis (Spanisa) subtilis* Hampe 1870 and *Anaspis (Spanisa) labiata* Costa 1854, and the fossil *A. (Spanisa) parva* Abdullah, 1964, while being different from these taxa in the shapes of its antennae and its maxillary palpus terminal segment, as well as in the pronotum-to-elytron length ratio. The holotype of *Anaspis (Spanisa) horaki* n. sp. is in the collection of the Paleontological Institute of the Russian Academy of

Sciences, Moscow (PIN), and the paratype is in the collection of the Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv (SIZK). The photographs were taken by A. V. Mazin on a Leica MZ 9.5 microscope.

SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

Family Scaptiidae Mulsant, 1856

Genus *Anaspis* Geoffroy, 1762

Subgenus *Spanisa* Emery, 1876

Anaspis (Spanisa) horaki sp. nov.

E t y m o l o g y. In honor of the well-known Czech coleopterist Dr. Jan Horák.

H o l o t y p e. PIN, no. 964/1105, sex unknown; Baltic amber, Late Eocene.

D e s c r i p t i o n (Fig. 1). The body and appendages are light brown; the pronotum and elytra in dorsal view are distinctly shiny. The terminal segment of the maxillary palpus is distinctly convex, approximately 2.5 times as long as its maximum width, briefly falcate, with an acute apical angle, with a deep longitudinal groove on the internal surface along most of its length. The antennae are short, almost reaching the base of the pronotum. The two basal antennomeres are massive, cylindrical, of similar shape and size, almost square. The 3rd antennomere is elongate, 1.5 times as long as wide at midlength. The 4th, 6th, and 7th antennomeres are each of equal width and length, of similar size and shape. The 5th and 8th antennomeres are slightly elongated, not more than 1.1–1.2 times as long as wide at midlength. The 9th and 10th antennomeres are of the same length, equal to their apical widths. The 11th antenno-

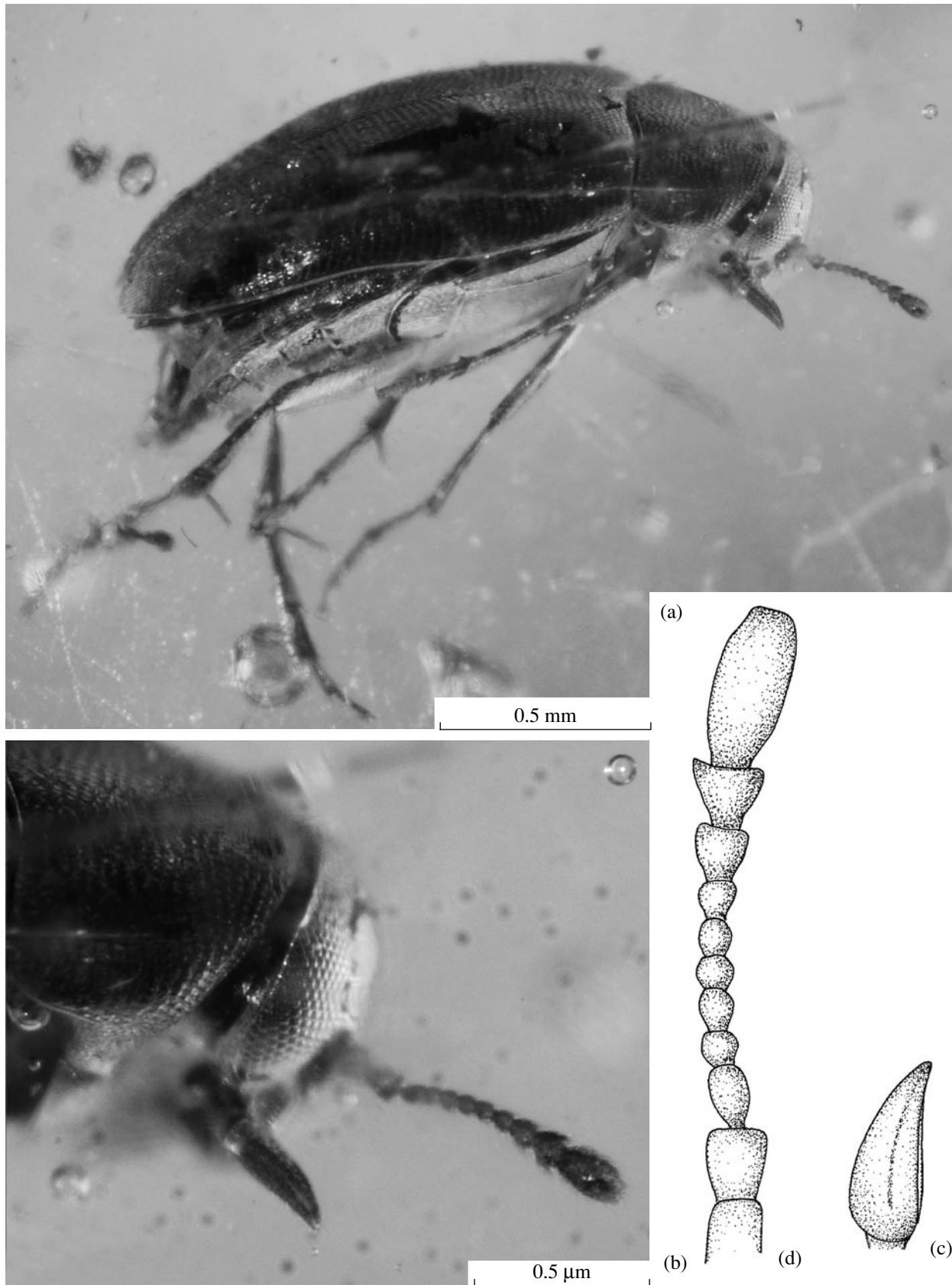


Fig. 1. *Anaspis (Spanisa) horaki* sp. nov., holotype, PIN, no. 964/1105: (a) habitus (photo 1); (b) head (photo 2); (c) terminal segment of maxillary palpus; (d) antenna.

mere is oval, with the apex laterally slightly emarginate, almost straightly truncate at the apex, 2.0 times as long as wide at midlength and as long as the combined lengths of the 9th and 10th antennomeres. The pronotum midline is 3.7–3.8 times shorter than the elytra.

M e a s u r e m e n t s (mm): Holotype, body length from anterior head margin to pygidium apex, 1.7; paratype, body length from anterior head margin to pygidium apex, 1.5.

C o m p a r i s o n. The new species differs from both recent European species, *Anaspis (Spanisa) subtilis* and *A. (Spanisa) labiata*, in having the terminal segment of the maxillary palpus falcate and in the shapes of its antennomeres. *A. (Spanisa) parva* Abdullah, 1964, previously described from the Baltic amber, differs from all the recent and fossil species of the subgenus *Spanis* in having the three apical antennomeres significantly elongated and of equal size.

R e m a r k s. The paratype was found in a 4.7-g piece of the Rovno amber.

M a t e r i a l. In addition to the holotype, paratype SIZK, no. K-1282, sex unknown; Klesov, Rovno amber, Late Eocene.

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