The First Ctenizoid Mygalomorph Spiders from Eocene Baltic Amber (Araneida: Mygalomorphae: Ctenizidae)

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Abstract—Two new monotypic genera of mygalomorph spiders are described from Eocene Baltic amber: *Electrocteniza* sadilenkoi gen. et sp. nov. and *Baltocteniza* kulickae gen. et sp. nov.; both belong to the Ctenizidae Ctenizinae. The forms described are the first non-dipluroid mygalomorphs from Baltic amber.

**INTRODUCTION**

The spider infraorder Mygalomorphae is poorly represented in the fossil record, mainly known from the Mesozoic (see review in Eskov and Zonstein, 1990; Selden and Gall, 1992). To date a single member of the infraorder, *Clostes priscus* Menge, 1869 has been described from Eocene Baltic amber. Only two specimens of this small (3.5–4.5 mm in total length) dipluroid mygalomorph spider exist; they are in the collections of the American Museum of Natural History, New York (Petrunkevitch, 1946) and the Geologische-Paläontologischen Museum der Universität Hamburg (Wunderlich, 1986); both specimens seem to be immature. In addition, an exuvium of the Ctenizidae Ctenizinae from Baltic amber was mentioned by Wunderlich (1986). Bachofen-Echt (1949, fig. 50) figured an isolated leg of some large-sized spider and attributed it to the mygalomorph family Mygalidae (=Aviculariidae), but this placement seems to be quite doubtful.

Some time ago a new mygalomorph spider was discovered in the private collection of Baltic amber inclusions belonging to Mr. K.M. Sadilenko of Moscow. He generously donated this specimen to the collection of the Paleontological Institute of the Russian Academy of Science, Moscow (PIN). Later a new immature mygalomorph was found by one of the authors in the collections of the Museum Ziemi, Warszawa (MZW) under the care of Dr. R. Kulicka.

Both newly discovered mygalomorphs belong to the recent family Ctenizidae, and should be allocated to different genera. This material is remarkable in two respects. First, these are the first non-dipluroid mygalomorphs from the Baltic amber. Second, the first mature male of clear taxonomic position among the Baltic amber mygalomorphs is found. The description of these new fossils is the object of this paper.

**SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY**

**Family Ctenizidae** Thorell, 1887

**Subfamily Ctenizinae** Thorell, 1887

**Genus *Electrocteniza*** Eskov et Zonstein, gen. nov.

E **tymology.** From Greek *electron* (amber) and the genus *Cteniza*.
Sterrochrotus, as well as from all remaining ctenizid genera, by the complete absence of a cheliceral rastellum and the completely aspinose tibiae, metatarsi and tarsi of legs I and II.

Electrocteniza sadilenkoi Eskov et Zonshtein, sp. nov.
Plate 1, figs. 1–4, Plate 2, figs. 1–5

Etymology. The new species is named after the late amber collector Mr. K.M. Sadilenko (Moscow),
who generously donated this specimen to the collection of PIN.

H o l o t y p e. PIN, no. 363/88, adult male; inclusion in Baltic amber; Upper Eocene.

D e s c r i p t i o n (Figs. 1a–1j, 2a, 2b). Male. The carapace is regularly hexagonal, hairless, and shagreened; the thoracic fovea is deep, U-shaped (Figs. 1a, 2a, Pl. 1, figs. 1, 3). The chelicerae are devoid of a rastellum, with six retromarginal teeth; the maxillae are mediumsized, trapeziform, with several cuspules confined to their probasal corners; the labium is wider than long, provided with several cuspules; the sternum has a pair