

THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF THE OLIGOCENE
***Lithoserix williamsi* BROWN,**
(HYMENOPTERA, ICHNEUMONIDAE)
FROM COLORADO (USA)

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Lithoserix williamsi was first described within the family Siricidae [1]. However, the initial description and illustration did not permit determination of the systematic position of this insect and required restudy of the original material. Thanks to the kinds of Dr. P. Robinson (University of Colorado Museum, USA), who made the holotype available for restudy, and of Dr. D. Darling (Museum of Ontario, Canada), who sent for the holotype and transmitted it for study to A. P. Rasnitsyn, it has been possible to establish the following.

The holotype of *Lithoserix williamsi*, from the world-famous Lower Oligocene deposits at Florissant, Colorado, and now in the University of Colorado Museum as UCM No. 31179, is an almost complete impression of an excellently preserved insect (fig. 1). The overall appearance of this fossil insect and the distinctive features of its venation leave no room for doubt that it is a horizontal wasp belonging to the family Ichneumonidae, subfamily Pimplinae, and tribe Ephialtini (Pimplini sensu Townes). Within the tribe this insect is close to, once again in its habit and the details of its venation (the strongly reclivate inner vein of the speculum 2r-m, the nervule with a break above its middle) the genus *Dolichomitus* Smith; it differs from this genus, as from similar genera, in the short basal segments of its flagellum (the first segment of the hind tarsus is equal in length not to the first four, as in these genera, but to the first seven or eight segments of the flagellum) and its long ramellus (the rudiment of RS + M in the discocubital cell of the fore wing). Thus, we confirm the validity of the genus *Lithoserix* Brown, 1986. In addition to the accompanying illustration, we also note the following distinctive features of the morphology of this insect, which are visible in the original impression. The posterior surface of the head and the mesonotum are finely and sparsely punctate, and the metasoma (at least at its base, especially the first tergite) is more coarsely and densely punctate, with puncti equal to or larger than the intervals between them (fig. 1).

Translated from: O sistematicheskom polozhenii *Lithoserix williamsi* Brown (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) iz oligotsena Kolorado (SShA). Paleont. zhur., No. 3, pp. 105-106, 1992.

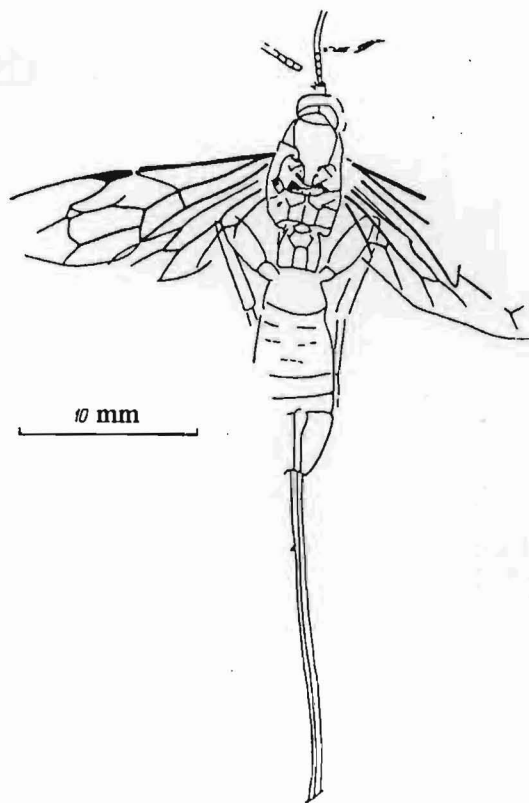


Fig. 1. *Lithoserix williamsi* Brown, Holotype UCM 31179; USA, Colorado, Florissant locality; Lower Oligocene.

REFERENCE

1. Brown, F. M., 1986, *Lithoserix williamsi* (Siricidae: Hymenoptera) a newly recognized fossil horntail from Florissant, Colorado. *Insecta Munci*, Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 119-120.