

This hymenopteran fossil assemblage found in the French amber is somewhat distinct both in present groupings and relative abundance, compared to the rest of the fossiliferous Cretaceous ambers.

Only Apocritans have been discovered in the French amber, and Parasitica make up 85% of the total hymenopteran specimens belonging to 11 families: Trigonalidae, Megalyridae, Scelionidae, Diapriidae, Ibalidae, Braconidae, Ichneumonidae and undetermined families of the Ceraphronoidea, Proctotrupeoidea, Chalcidoidea and Cynipoidea. Aculeata belong to the three families Scolebythidae, Sphecidae and Formicidae. Scelionidae dominate this assemblage with 16% of specimens collected in four distinct species, and Formicidae is the next largest family with 12%, although Chalcidoidea and Proctotrupeoidea are still not studied at the family level but seem to be well diversified.

The Trigonalidae is the first and oldest accurate fossil representative of this family. The records of Belytinae and Ambositrinae are the oldest for these diapriid subfamilies, which were not previously known before the Eocene. The Protorhyssalinae is the second and the oldest known representative of this extinct braconid subfamily which was only previously known from the Turonian New Jersey amber. Lastly, the formicid specimens also are the oldest known records for ants, together with those from the contemporaneous amber of Myanmar.

Centenary of Boris B. Rohdendorf and 125th birthday of Andrey V. Martynov

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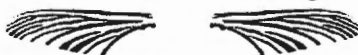
In 2004 we celebrated two dates especially remarkable for Russian and world palaeoentomology. It was a centenary year for Boris B. Rohdendorf and the 125th birthday of Andrey V. Martynov. The origin and development of palaeoentomological studies in Russia is closely linked to these two names. A. Martynov started to collect fossil insects in various parts of the Soviet Union from the mid-1920s, working for the zoological and geological museums in Leningrad (currently St. Petersburg). He realised deeply that the only successful way for palaeoentomology is in effective specialisation within a group of palaeoentomologists, and undertook efforts to organise such a group. In January 1936, the Arthropoda Laboratory was established in the Palaeozoological (currently Palaeontological) Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences (currently Russian Academy of Sciences), and A. Martynov became its first head. Sadly, he was happy to lead the laboratory for only 14 months before his death, and B. Rohdendorf, who joined the laboratory in 1936, became the second head of the laboratory for some 40 long years. Under his supervision, the team began growing, and eventually reached 12 specialists during the mid-60s of the last century, becoming and remaining the world's leading research unit in palaeoentomology.

New ommatids from the Late Jurassic of western Liaoning, China (Coleoptera: Archostemata)

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Although the family Cupedidae was described in the 1900s, its phylogenetic position was poorly understood until the early part of the 20th century. In Lacordaire's major work, *Omma* (Omma Newman, 1839) was tentatively placed at the end of the Cucujides, while the family Cupesides (Cupes Fabricius, 1801) was placed between the Lymexylones and Ptiniore (Lawrence, 1999). On the basis of hind-wing venation, Ganglbauer placed the cupedids in the suborder Adephaga, believing them to be a modified family of that group (Atkins, 1963). However, Klobe in a later work considered the group to be a subdivision (Archostemata) of the suborder Symphogastra (Lawrence, 1999). It was Forbes (1926) and Böving and Craighead (1931) who recognized the



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