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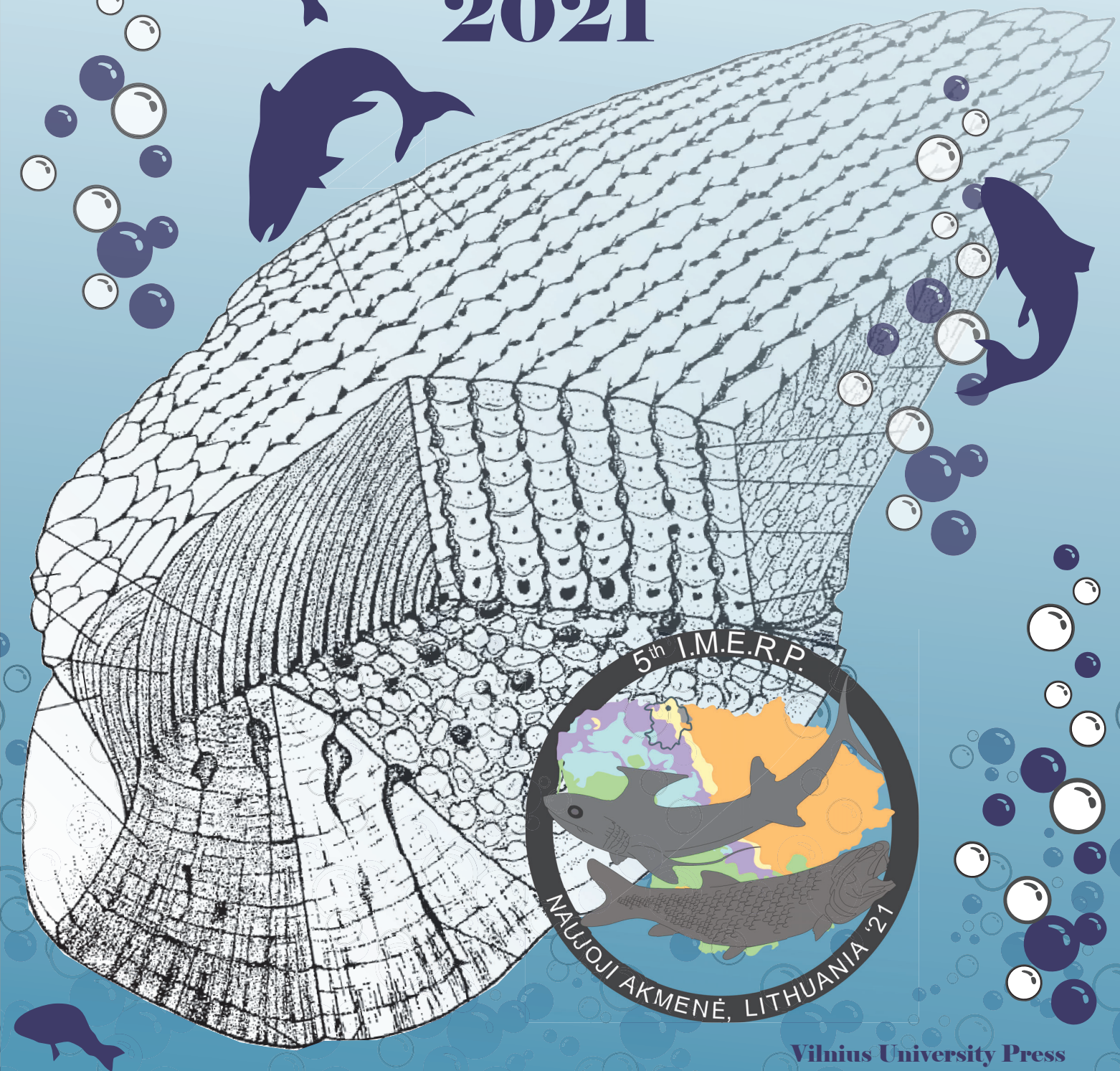

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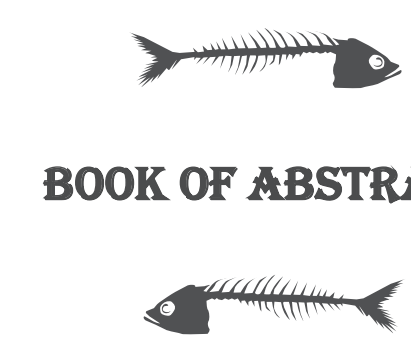
BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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Peacock caught again in amber - the second record of the Tuckerellidae family (Acariformes, Prostigmata) in Baltic amber

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The peacock mites, named by their feather-like setae, are representatives of the monotypic family Tuckerellidae of the Tetranychoidea. Extant species inhabit different climates and geographical regions (Oriental, Palearctic, Nearctic, Australian, Afrotropical, Pacific Islands, Neotropical), feeding on under or aboveground parts of the wide range of plant hosts. The fossil record of the family comes from the Cenozoic era and contains two extinct species – *Tuckerella fossilibus* Khaustov, Sergeyenko et Perkovsky, 2014 and *Tuckerella weiterschani* Sidorchuk et Khaustov, 2018, represented only by three specimens. Those fossils are preserved as inclusions in three types of fossil resins: *T. fossilibus* was found in Rovno (Eocene) and Bitterfeld amber (Eocene or Miocene), *T. weiterschani* is known only from inclusions in Baltic amber (Eocene).

Another finding of Tuckerellidae specimen from Baltic amber is presented in this work. The specimen differs from previously described species but the systematic position requires verification. Inclusions in fossil resins are usually well preserved, showing a great number of taxonomic characteristics. In this case, even the best preservation of specimens does not result in the identification of life stages, which might mislead the final interpretation. More findings and work over already found specimens is required to solve the taxonomical issues and interpreted the ecological position of the Tuckerellidae in the so-called “amber forest”.

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