



# 3rd Palaeontological Virtual Congress

**Book of Abstracts**

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Palaeontological Virtual Congress

Book of Abstracts

Palaeontology in the virtual era

From an original idea of Vicente D. Crespo

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## A PEACOCK MITE FROM THE MAIG COLLECTION – A TUCKERELLIDAE INCLUSION IN BALTIC AMBER

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The Acariformes mites are the most common group of arachnids preserved as inclusions in fossil resins. Among them, we can find rare groups, like the peacock mites: representatives of the family Tuckerellidae (Prostigmata). The fossil record of this family contains two species *Tuckerella fossilibus* and *Tuckerella weiterschani* described based on only three known specimens. Each of these three inclusions were found in a different fossil resin: *T. fossilibus* in Rovno (Eocene) and Bitterfeld amber (Eocene or Miocene?), and *T. weiterschani* in Baltic amber (Eocene). Another find of a tuckerellid mite from Baltic amber is presented in this work – a specimen from the Collection of Museum of Amber Inclusion in Gdańsk (MAIG). It differs from the previously described taxa in the chaetotaxy of the idiosomal setal set (V1, V2, c, d, e, f) and opisthosomal row h1 - h8. However, its systematic position requires verification. Misidentification of the life stage (even with optimal preservation of inclusions identified) might mislead the final, taxonomical interpretation. This case shows how important for future studies are the findings of rare taxa. Fossils of Tuckerellidae can give clues to the issues on interpretation of the Bitterfeld amber age and shed some light on the taphocoenosis of the so-called “amber forests”.

