



INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON  
FOSSIL INSECTS,  
ARTHROPODS &  
**AMBER**  
SANTO DOMINGO 2019

ABSTRACTS

Edited by Paul C. Nascimbene



Amber World Museum



INTERNATIONAL  
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**Museum of Amber Inclusions, University of Gdańsk:  
20 years of science and education**

**Elżbieta Sontag, Błażej Bojarski, Alicja M. Brysz Agata Pielowska,  
& Jacek Szwedo\***

*Laboratory of Evolutionary Entomology and Museum of Amber Inclusions, Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology, Faculty of Biology, University of Gdańsk, 59, Wita Stwosza St., PL80-309 Gdańsk, Poland;  
e-mail: elzbieta.sontag@biol.ug.edu.pl*

The Museum of Amber Inclusions (MAIUG) was established in 1998 by the University of Gdańsk Senate. The founder of the Museum, Professor Ryszard Szadziewski, was then the head of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology. The MAIUG is now an integral part of the Laboratory of Evolutionary Entomology and the Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology, Faculty of Biology, University of Gdańsk, Poland. The university's collection of amber inclusions is extensive, preserving numerous amber pieces, and particularly amber samples with biological inclusions for taxonomic research. In addition, it is a fundamental tool for understanding the palaeobiodiversity, palaeobiology and palaeoecology of the ancient amber forest.

The Museum was an outgrowth of the collaboration between scientists and the amber-workers of Gdańsk, who were focused on a return to the pre-World War II tradition of collection and research on the natural history of amber. The museum's collections and activities began humbly with an initial number of 63 amber pieces with inclusions, 50 kg of raw Baltic amber, and a small dark room with a simple polishing machine and steel cabinet housed in the former Department of Invertebrate Zoology in Gdynia in 1998. The collection was erected for scientific purposes, but with a growing number of specimens and growing interest in amber inclusions, the educational and exhibition aspects of the museum were developed, as well as meetings and courses devoted to amber and its inclusions. In 2013, the Department and Museum moved to a new building of the Faculty of Biology. In this building, the Amber Laboratory was established, with new equipment for preparation of amber samples and for documenting inclusions, which has significantly facilitated new research. The Museum now contains a 150m<sup>2</sup> exhibition area with a life-size diorama of the Baltic amber forest, and a diverse selection of Baltic amber inclusions on display. The MAI UG collection presently includes nearly 6000 amber pieces with

over 15000 described zoinclusions, including over 60 Type specimens. Eocene Baltic amber is the main component of the collection. However, other fossil resins with and without bioinclusions are also housed there. A fossil database of the bioinclusions is available, with numerous data recorded concerning each amber piece itself, organisms entombed within (inclusions and syninclusions), its provenance, collectors and investigators, as well as treatment. All these data are unique and provide a reliable base for understanding the palaeobiodiversity, palaeobiology and palaeoecology of the ancient amber forest, and also enable researchers to carry out taxonomic and taphonomic studies concerning amber and its inclusions.

Please visit our website: <http://muzeum.gda.pl>



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