



3rd Palaeontological Virtual Congress

Book of Abstracts

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Book of Abstracts

Palaeontology in the virtual era

From an original idea of Vicente D. Crespo

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FOSSIL RECORD OF DELPHACIDAE (INSECTA: HEMIPTERA: FULGOROMORPHA)

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The planthopper family Delphacidae Leach, 1815 (Hemiptera, Fulgoromorpha: Fulgoroidea) is a relatively large (over 2200 species in ca. 430 genera) and worldwide distributed group of opophagous insects, feeding on plants. Their fossil record is very scarce, with the oldest one in the Eocene Baltic amber, and a few reports from the Oligocene and Miocene, many needing revisionary studies. The family is commonly accepted as a monophyletic unit, but origin of the family remains doubtful. Several previous studies based on either morphological or molecular evidence suggested that Delphacidae might have arisen from within the planthopper family Cixiidae – resulting in the paraphyletic status of the latter. A few new inclusions in Miocene Dominican amber representing Delphacidae were recently identified. These fossils are important, not only as new records enriching the knowledge on the group and its fossil record. They present combinations of morphological characters challenging some of taxonomic concepts proposed for the New World Delphacidae. The fossils are to be placed in Asiracinae: Ugyopini, but their placement at the genus level needs to be more deeply and carefully considered, possibly resulting in taxonomic and nomenclatorial changes among the Recent species accommodated in New World Ugyopini.

