Distribution of the extant *Palaeopsylla* species is Palearctic with a few exceptions in the Oriental. All species are parasites of insectivores (moles and shrews, Talpidae and Soricidae). A key for the identification of fossil species does not exist and assignment to species level of this new record still is under progress. Comparison with main characters of amber *Palaeopsylla* reveals that it is more similar to *P. dissimilis* rather than to *P. baltica* and *P. groehni*. Amber with *P. baltica* was treated in autoclave (Hoffeins 2012), chaetotaxy of abdomen is not well preserved and it is a female. The striking feature of *P. groehni*, a group of spatulate setae on posterior margin of sternite IX, cannot be detected in previously documented images and drawing (JANZEN 2002 figs. 71, 341; www.ambertop.de). Thus, the question arises if the abdominal setae were misinterpreted as "spatulate" caused by a cover of micro air film as it occasionally occurs in amber inclusions and if the author had got into the "amber trap" as exposed by Szwedo and Sontag (2009). Furthermore, the genital ctenidia in *P. dissimilis* and *P. groehni* seem to be identical. Study of the previously described specimens and identification of the new inclusion is matter of a forthcoming project.

References


http://www.ambertop.de/be_raritaeten.html (accessed 15.01.2018)

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**Haematophagous arthropods in Baltic amber**

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Among terrestrial arthropods feeding on blood of vertebrates called haematophagy concerns about 1% of all extant species. Blood feeding arthropods on mammals and birds, rarely on reptiles and amphibians are reported as inclusions in fossil resins dated back to Lower Cretaceous. Eocene Baltic amber from deposits of Gulf of Gdańsk, Rovno and Bitterfeld, dated from 35 to 50 million years ago, contains 48 fossil species of blood feeding arthropods placed in extant and extinct genera. In Baltic amber haematophagous fossil arthropods are reported among Acari (1 species), Phthiraptera (+), Siphonaptera (4), and Diptera (43 species.). Blood sucking flies are represented by six families: Ceratopogonidae (11), Corethrellidae (5), Culicidae (5), Psychodidae (5), Simuliidae (9), and Tabanidae (8 species.). In the Baltic amber forest the number of species of blood sucking dipterans was similar to that in the extant fauna of Poland (3.4%, and 3.2% respectively). A catalogue of named haematophagous arthropods reported from Baltic amber is also provided.