

First fossil representatives of the limoniid dipteran *Rhabdomastix* with extremely elongate antennae from Eocene ambers

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The first representatives of the genus *Rhabdomastix* (Diptera, Limoniide) with extremely long antennae (much longer than the body) is discovered in the fossil record. The paper presents new data on Eocene species of the genus *Rhabdomastix* including a new species with surprisingly long and tiny antennae with characteristic almost black spots on individual flagellomeres from Bitterfeld amber: *Rhabdomastix* (*Rhabdomastix*) *woottoni* sp. nov. Two other species have been discovered and described based on inclusions in Baltic amber: *Rhabdomastix* (*Rhabdomastix*) *setosa* sp. nov. and *Rhabdomastix* (*Rhabdomastix*) *rafali* sp. nov. Antennae with similar morphology are characteristic for the American Recent species collectively known as “*Rhabdomastix illudens*”. New nomenclature decisions include a transfer of three species from Baltic amber with antenna longer than the body to the subgenus *Rhabdomastix*. These species: *Rhabdomastix* (*Rhabdomastix*) *grussica* Podenas, 2006 comb. nov., *Rhabdomastix* (*Rhabdomastix*) *mastix* Podenas, 2006 comb. nov. and *Rhabdomastix* (*Rhabdomastix*) *setix* Podenas, 2006 comb. nov., were not previously classified to any subgenus. New discovery of a species of *Rhabdomastix* with extremely elongate, very narrow antennae, sheds new light on the evolutionary history of this genus. The paper also presents interpretations of the ecological preferences of some modern representatives of the genus and their Eocene ancestors.

Key words: Insecta, Diptera, Limoniide, inclusions, taxonomy, evolution, Baltic amber, Bitterfeld amber, Eocene.

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