

First fossil record of polypore fungus beetles from Lower Cretaceous amber of France

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The first fossil genus and species of Tetratomidae (Coleoptera) is described, from the Lower Cretaceous amber deposits of France. The new genus represents the first insect to be recognized inside an opaque piece of amber, through the use of propagation phase contrast X-ray microtomography using synchrotron radiation. This new finding proves the capabilities of this imaging technique in amber inclusions, as well as increases the knowledge of fossil tenebrionoids, a group scarcely recognized in the Cretaceous fossil record.

Key words: Coleoptera, Tetratomidae, amber, propagation phase contrast X-Ray microtomography, synchrotron, Cretaceous, Charentes, France.

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