

**A new fossil species from the genus *Falsomordellistena*
ERMISCH, 1941 (Coleoptera, Mordellidae)
with description of a new subgenus**

Daniel KUBISZ

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Abstract. *Falsomordellistena eocenica* sp. nov. from the Baltic amber is described and placed in the new subgenus *Palaeostena* subgen. nov.

Key words: Coleoptera, Mordellidae, *Falsomordellistena*, Baltic amber, new species, new subgenus.

Daniel KUBISZ, Museum of Natural History, Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Sebastiana 9, 31-049 Kraków, Poland.

E-mail: kubisz@isez.pan.krakow.pl

I. INTRODUCTION

The widespread recent genus *Falsomordellistena* ERMISCH, 1941 was divided till now into two subgenera: *Falsomordellistena* s. str. and *Falsomordellistenoda* ERMISCH, 1950, which differ mainly in the structure of antennae. Species of the first subgenus are recently distributed in East and South-East Asia and Africa; in the Palaearctic region it was found recently in Japan. The species of *Falsomordellistenoda* occur in South and Central America, including the Caribbean region. In the collection of inclusions of the Museum of Natural History of the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals in Kraków a new species of *Falsomordellistena* representing – in my opinion – a yet unknown subgenus has been discovered.

A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s. I would like to thank mgr Andrzej PALACZYK for the determination of syninclusions.

II. SYSTEMATIC PART

Family: **Mordellidae** LATREILLE, 1810

Genus: ***Falsomordellistena*** ERMISCH, 1941

Subgenus: ***Palaeostena*** subgen. nov.

D i f f e r e n t i a l d i a g n o s i s. The new subgenus is closely related to *Falsomordellistena* s. str. by the character of antennae (see below in the description of species). From

both known subgenera, *Palaeostena* subgen. nov. differs above all by non-hairy eyes and by shape of last segment of maxillary palpi male (Fig. 3). In Recent subgenera eyes are hairy and last segment of maxillary palpi male is elongate-securiform. Remaining features used in systematics of Mordellidae (ERMISCH 1950; FRANCISCOLO 1957) are in the taxon described above conformable with the description of the genus (ERMISCH 1941, 1950). Type species. *Falsomordellistena (Palaeostena) eocenica* sp. nov.

An extinct subgenus, known from Baltic amber (Eocene, ca. 40 Ma).

***Falsomordellistena (Palaeostena) eocenica* sp. nov.**

D i a g n o s i s. A new species differs from the recent species of *Falsomordellistena* (besides described subgeneric characters) in lack of pubescence of almost whole body (with exception of pygidium). Apical spurs of hind tibiae in Recent species differ in length, while in *Falsomordellistena eocenica* n. sp. both spurs are almost equal. The Recent species of this genus are usually larger.

M a t e r i a l. Holotype, male (Fig. 1): Baltic amber collection of Museum of Natural History Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals Pol. Acad. Sci. in Kraków, No. 1/148a/187/01; donated to the Museum by Wiesław KRZEMIŃSKI on 30 III 2001. The specimen is very well preserved, with visible apex of aedeagus; only some details (e.g. labial palpi, penultimate segments of maxillary palpi) are invisible.

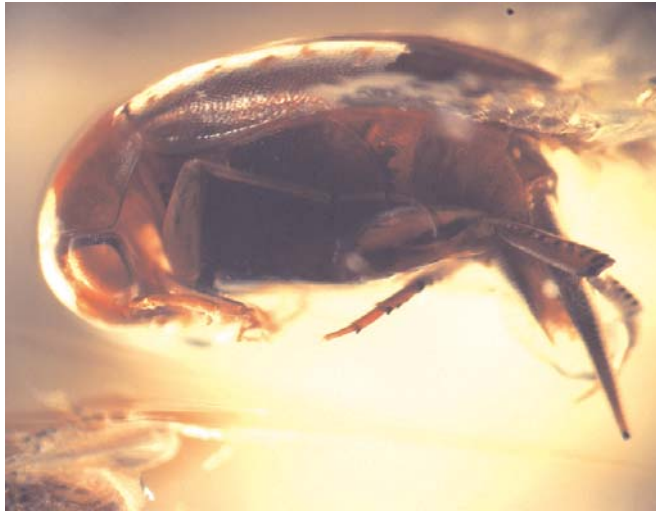
D e s c r i p t i o n. Body length (from the anterior margin of pronotum to apices of elytra) 2.9 mm, maximum width (in the middle of pronotum) 1 mm. Body reddish brown; prothorax, head, fore and middle legs, antennae and maxillary palpi more bright, reddish yellow. The ridges on hind tibiae and tarsi are black. Almost whole body without pubescence; only along the margins of elytra and on the pygidium brownish setiferous pubescence is visible.

Head slightly narrower than pronotum, very finely and densely punctured, and with fine, polygonal, net-like microsculpture. Eyes slightly convex, without emargination, very finely faceted (G-type according to FRANCISCOLO 1962), not hairy. Last segment of maxillary palpi not securiform, distinctly elongated, oblong-oval with rounded apex (Fig. 3), a little shorter than segments 1-3 of antenna combined. Antennae rather slender, reaching base of pronotum. Segments 1 and 2 subequal in length, about twice as long as wide, first segment a little thickened. Segments 3 and 4 shorter, a little longer than wide. Segments 5-10 about one-half longer than wide, slightly serrate. Last segment elongated, about 1.5 times longer than the penultimate one, pointed at apex.

Pronotum distinctly transverse, with rounded sides, widest at midlength, and a little wider than elytra at base. Basal lobe in the front of scutellum broadly rounded; pronotal margin distinctly convex in anterior portion, and much lesser in lateral and posterior ones. Punctuation and microsculpture similar as on head, dense and fine. Scutellum broadly triangular, with punctuation and microsculpture similar as on elytra.

Elytra rather slender, 2.2 mm long, widest at base (0.9 mm), with distinct humeri and oblong depression behind scutellum, along the sutural margin to their midlength. Punctuation and microsculpture more distinctly marked, larger and deeper than on head and pronotum. Epipleural punctuation and microsculpture similar as on the dorsal surface of elytra. Apices of elytra broadly rounded.

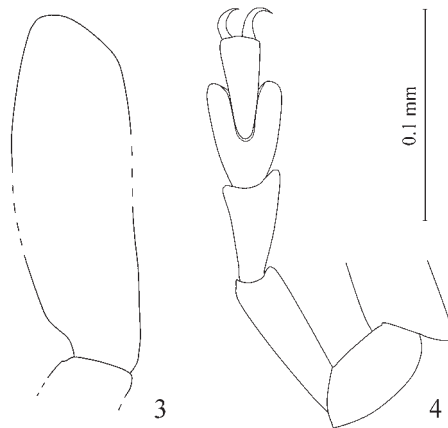
Anterior tibiae slightly curved to inside and distinctly narrowed in apical one-third of length. Anterior tarsi dilated, segments 1-3 triangular; the first one shorter than the second and equal in length with the third. Fourth segment cordiform, dorso-apically emarginated (Fig. 4). Mid tibiae straight, as long as middle tarsi. First segment of middle tarsi as long as second and third combined, fourth slightly but distinctly emarginated apically. Anterior and middle femora slender, the posterior ones thickened (Fig. 1). Posterior tibiae wide, as long as two first segments of posterior tarsi combined, with distinct apical and short lateral ridges, dorsal ridge absent (Fig. 2). On the left tibia there are five well developed lateral ridges and traces of two next. On the right tibia only two distinct lateral ridges are developed; remaining ridges reduced to only few dark granules distributed irregu-



1



2



Figs 1-4. Fig. 1. *Falsomordellistena (Palaeostena) eocenica*, sp. nov.: 1 – lateral view; 2 – posterior tibia; 3 – last segment of maxillary palpus; 4 – anterior tarsus.

larly. Apical spurs of hind tibiae long, reaching half length of first tarsal segment, subequal in length, an outer spur only imperceptibly shorter than the inner one. First segment of hind tarsi with four, the second with two ridges, and the third without ridges. Claws of all tarsi simple, without teeth.

Ventral side of body (thorax and abdomen) densely punctured, with net-like microsculpture. Size of puncture and type of microsculpture similar as on elytra. Metasternum with deep medial depression over entire length. Metepisterna narrow, parallel-sided. Pygidium long and slender, slightly emarginated at apex, deeply and densely punctured, and distinctly pubescent. The last abdominal sternite (hypopygium) about twice shorter than pygidium, rounded at apex; its margin bordered by a row of long, brownish setae.

S y n i c l u s i o n s. Two specimens of Diptera from the families Ceratopogonidae and Psychodidae.

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