

At the roots of Fulgoroidea – Jurassic and Cretaceous planthoppers (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha)

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The Fulgoromorpha (Insecta: Hemiptera) is an ancient suborder of the hemipterans. It comprises three superfamilies: Coleoscytoidea with Coleoscytidae Martynov, 1935 (Permian) and Surijokocixioidea with Surijokocixiidae Shcherbakov, 2000 (Permian - Triassic). These widespread plant-sucking hoppers comprise 21 extant and 7 extinct families. Descending from Surojokocixiidae ancestors Fulgoroidea lead to prolonged prosperity since the Jurassic. Extinct families of Fulgoroidea Latreille, 1807 are: Jurassic 'Fulgoridiidae' Handlirsch, 1939 and Cretaceous ones – Lalacidae Hamilton, 1990, Neazoniidae Szwedo, 2007, Perforissidae Shcherbakov, 2007 and Mimarachnidae Shcherbakov, 2007 (Hamilton 1990; Szwedo 2007, 2008, 2009; Shcherbakov 2007a, b). The monophyly, relationships, range and content of several families (both extant and extinct) is under discussion.

The extinct family Fulgoridiidae Handlirsch, 1939 needs a full revision as numerous taxa described by Geinitz (1880), Handlirsch (1906, 1939), Bode (1907, 1953), Martynov (1927, 1939) and Becker-Migdisova (1962), as well as more recently described by Lin (1986) and Zhang et al. (2004) must be re-analyzed and the characters of genera and species redefined. It has to be seen now as a paraphyletic assemblage (Bourgoin & Szwedo 2008). There are a number of genera and over 150 species placed in 'Fulgoridiidae' and vast majority of them need to be revised (Szwedo et al. 2004, Szwedo & Żyła 2009). Most of the species reported are based on the tegmen imprints, the hind wings or body structures are rarely preserved and available for examination. Despite taxonomic uncertainties and problems 'Fulgoridiidae' comprises ancestral forms to the fossil and recent families of Fulgoroidea (Bourgoin & Szwedo 2008). 'Fulgoridiidae' had body structure resembling the recent representatives of Cixiidae; this general pattern is also retained in most of the extinct families. However, the venation pattern of 'Fulgoridiidae' is variable, but some tendencies observed also in other extinct and recent units are to be found. Two main trends observed is reduction/development of basicostal area. In most 'Fulgoridiidae' this area is narrow, provided with a few transverse veinlets. In some others this part is reduced and veins Pc+CP and CA are fused at least at base. In comparison veins of costal complex are completely fused in vast majority of recent 'basal' or cixiidae-like planthoppers, while in numerous so-called 'higher' Fulgoroidea basicostal area is enlarged, well developed and provided with numerous transverse veinlets. In the Cretaceous Lalacidae the costal margin is thickened, while in another family known from the Lower Cretaceous of northern China the costal margin is weakened at stigmal area, similarly as in some recent Kinnaridae. In most Cixiidae the extravenal pterostigma is developed in various degree (absent in 'Fulgoridiidae'), other modifications in stigmal area are known in fossil and recent cixiidae-like planthoppers. Also basal cell is modified in various degree (in most cases narrowed) in the descendants of 'Fulgoridiidae'. The patterns of forking of stems Sc+R, M and CuA present enormous variability. The most clear evolutionary tendency to be observed is the reduction of number of branches of CuA; Usually there are four main branches of CuA in 'Fulgoridiidae', the condition retained in Lalacidae, but in most descending forms there are two main branches of CuA (sometimes one secondarily polymerized). Also clavus could be modified – in 'Fulgoridiidae' clavus is usually of closed type. In the descending families Achilidae+Achilixiidae+Derbidae, believed to be one of the most ancient lineages of Fulgoroidea, known since the Lower Cretaceous, the clavus is open; open clavus is known also in the Lower Cretaceous families, highly derivative Perforissidae, and Mimarachnidae.

Another Jurassic family distinct from 'Fulgoridiidae' is found in the Lower Jurassic deposits of Southern China. It superficially resembles so-called 'higher' Fulgoroidea in tegmen shape and venation, however differs from 'Fulgoridiidae' by combination of characters. e.g. stigmal area not developed; longitudinal veins with small tubercles; distinct

sigmoid oblique veinlets *m-cua* and *icua* in well basad half of tegmen; apical portion of tegmen with supranumerary irregular veinlets and secondary veinlets forming polygonal cells and false longitudinal 'veins'; postclaval portion slightly widened; the part of apical margin occupied by terminals of M distinctly smaller than part occupied by terminals of CuA. Weakly known planthoppers are also reported from the Lower Jurassic of Western Australia (Martin 2008), probably represent another family, particularly interesting as poorly known 'Gondwanan' fossils.

The Lower Cretaceous seems to be the period of diversification and various 'cixiidae-like' groups are present there. The Lower Cretaceous Jordanian amber bears a form similar in venation pattern to 'Fulgoridiidae', but characteristic of narrow basicostal area with veinlets in apical portion, elongated C1, multibranching stem R and stem CuA₂ forked basad of nodal line. Lebanese amber *Karebodopoides aptianus* (Fennah, 1987) and related forms resemble strongly 'true Cixiidae' but differ in structure of the stigmal area, lacking pterostigma and reinforcement of the costal margin at this level, cell C5 distinctly longer than cell C1, branches RA and M₃₊₄ not forked apicad of nodal line. Other inclusions found in Burmese amber are characteristic of high basal cell, stems Sc+R, M and CuA leaving basal cell separately, early branching of stems Sc+R and CuA (= long cells C1 and C5), narrow, elongately triangular widening of margin at level of stigmal area, distinctly curved branch ScRA₁ at apex of stigmal area, sclerotised membrane of the tegmen basad of branches ScRA₁ and RA₂ and three terminals of RA apicad of nodal line.

Also Eocene fossil sites present forms deserving familial status. There are forms from the Lowermost Eocene Oise amber characteristic of strongly reinforced costal margin of tegmen, very short common stem Sc+R, a basally straight RP, long cell C1 and distinctly shorter cell C5, and supernumerary terminals for RA, RP, M and CuA, elongate veinlets *r-m* and *m-cu* present at the level of nodal line and distal transverse veins associated in a curved post-nodal line. An extraordinary form, related to so-called 'higher' fulgoroids was found in the Lower Eocene Deposits of Yunnan, China. It is very peculiar, with multibranching CuA occupying the area as large as R and M together is a condition never found in fulgoroids. The monophyly of recent Cixiidae is also challenged and some evidences from the fossil record could support these opinions.

Exploring the early evolution of the Fulgoroidea is quite challenging. The most crucial for this is the analysis of some morphological features in both extinct and extant representatives of the group. As already pointed out (Bourgoin & Szwedo 2008) for such a comparative approach the best set of characters shared by both extinct and extant families are the tegminal characters which used to be the best preserved and often the only trace we have of these fossil taxa.

Key words: planthoppers; fossil; evolution; classification;

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