

Distributional and palaeoecological pattern of the Lower Cretaceous Mimarachnidae (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha)

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Received: 2008-08-23

Accepted: 2008-09-19

Szwedo J [Mus Inst Zool, Pol Acad Sci, PL-00679 Warszawa]: **Distributional and palaeoecological pattern of the Lower Cretaceous Mimarachnidae (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha)**. – Entomol Gener 31(3): 231–242; Stuttgart 2008-12. – – – [Note]

A new genus, *Nipponoridium* gen nov, is established to comprise *Nipponoridium matsui* (Fujiyama 1978) comb nov, described from Neocomian Kuwajima 'Kaseki-kabe'; placed in the extinct family Mimarachnidae of the superfamily Fulgoroidea. The distributional and ecological features of the family Mimarachnidae are discussed.

Key words: *Nipponoridium* gen nov – *Nipponoridium matsui* (Fujiyama 1978) comb nov – Neocomian – Japan – palaeoecology

Szwedo J [Mus Inst Zool, Pol Akad Wissensch, PL-00679 Warschau]: **Verbreitung und pläontologische Eigenheiten der unterkretazischen Mimarachnidae (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha)**. – Entomol Gener 31(3): 231–242; Stuttgart 2008-12. – – – [Mitteilung]

Eine neue Gattung, *Nipponoridium* gen nov, wird errichtet um die neue Art, *Nipponoridium matsui* (Fujiyama 1978) comb nov, aufzunehmen, die aus dem Neocomium Kuwajima 'Kaseki-kabe' beschrieben wird. Sie wird in die ausgestorbene Familie Mimarachnidae der Superfamilia Fulgoroidea gestellt. Verbreitung und Ökologie der Familie Mimarachnidae werden erörtert.

Schlüsselbegriffe: *Nipponoridium* gen nov – *Nipponoridium matsui* (Fujiyama 1978) comb nov – Neocomium – Japan – Paläoökologie

1 Introduction

The Fulgoromorpha family Mimarachnidae was recently described by SHCHERBAKOV [2007b] on the basis of specimens from the Lower Cretaceous Baissa locality deposits of Zaza Formation, Vitim River, Buryatia, Russia, aged Berriasian–Barremian, ca 145–125 Ma [ZHERIKHIN et al 1999]. Several other, yet undescribed fossils belonging to this family were found in the Early Cretaceous (earliest Cretaceous of Turga, Chita Region; Aptian of Bon-Tsagan, Mongolia; Albian of Khetana, Khabarovsk Region) and Late Cretaceous (Turonian of Kzyl-Zhar, Kazakhstan [SHCHERBAKOV 2007b]). Two genera: *Mimarachne* Shcherbakov 2007, and *Saltissus* Shcherbakov 2007, were included in Mimarachnidae. The simplified venation of the tegmen, metatibial pecten setigerous, and sensory pits retained in adult Mimarachnidae are similar to Cretaceous Perforissidae Shcherbakov 2007. Mimarachnidae are believed to be spider mimic planthoppers because of the spider-like dark silhouette and several small black eyespots with pupils on rear parts of their folded tegmina [SHCHERBAKOV 2007b].

0171–8177/08/0031-0231 \$ 3.00

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