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## **A bizarre sternorrhynchan wing from the Lower Jurassic of Luxembourg (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha: Pincombeomorpha?)**

Jacek Szwedo<sup>a</sup>, Robert Weis<sup>b</sup> and André Nel<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Department of Invertebrate Zoology, University of Gdańsk, 59, Wita Stwosza St., PL80-308 Gdańsk, Poland. [jacek.szwedo@biol.ug.edu.pl]*

<sup>b</sup>*Musée national d'histoire naturelle, Luxembourg, Section Paléontologie, 25, rue Münster L-2160 Luxembourg, Grand-duché de Luxembourg. [rweis@mnhn.lu]*

<sup>c</sup>*Institut de Systématique, Évolution, Biodiversité, ISYEB - UMR 7205 – CNRS, MNHN, UPMC, EPHE, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Sorbonne Universités, 57, rue Cuvier, CP 50, Entomologie, F-75005, Paris, France. [anel@mnhn.fr]*

Fossil wing of Hemiptera Sternorrhyncha with peculiar venation is described from the lower Toarcian (Lower Jurassic) of Bascharage (Grand-duchy of Luxembourg). It represents new family Xulsigiidae fam. nov., comprising a new genus and species *Xulsigia karetsa* gen. et sp. nov. It is placed preliminarily in extinct infraorder Pincombeomorpha for the presence of three branches of median vein. Key to families of Pincombeomorpha is given and the taxonomic position and venation features of the new fossil are discussed.

**Keywords:** Pincombeomorpha; Xulsigiidae fam. nov.; *Xulsigia karetsa* gen. et sp. nov.; Toarcian; Luxembourg

## **Introduction**

Sternorrhyncha Amyot & Audinet-Serville, 1843 (Insecta: Hemiptera Linnaeus, 1758) is an old lineage of the Hemiptera appearing diversified in the fossil record in earliest Permian, with oldest Aphidomorpha Becker-Migdisova et Aizenberg, 1962, Pincombeomorpha Shcherbakov, 1990 and Psyllaeformia Verhoeff, 1893. The Pincombeomorpha is an extinct group, recorded in the Permian and Triassic, with three families (Shcherbakov 2007); the fossil described below is preliminary included to this infraorder, corresponding to the most recent record of the group.

The Lower Jurassic of Western Europe is characterized by several marine outcrops with thousands of fossil insects, especially in England, Germany, northern France, Belgium, and Luxembourg (Whalley 1985; Ansorge 1996, 2003; etc.). Among them, the entomofauna of the Bascharage area (Grand-duchy of Luxembourg) is exceptionally rich and diverse, although the outcrops opened by road and factory construction works are no longer accessible for study. This fauna comprises Odonata, Dictyoptera, Phasmatodea, Orthoptera, Amphiesmenoptera, Hemiptera, Neuroptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera, and Coleoptera (Fossilworks 2017). For the moment only single representative of the Hemiptera: Coleorrhyncha was described from this locality (Szwedo 2011). Here we present the first representative of Sternorrhyncha from the upper Lower Jurassic of the Grand-duchy of Luxembourg, describing a new family, genus and species for it. We also propose a new key to families of Pincombeomorpha.

## **Geological setting and location**

The lower Toarcian (Lower Jurassic) sediments outcropping in the southern part of the Grand-duchy of Luxembourg are long renowned for their rich fossil content and excellent preservation (Dittrich 1993; Godefroit 1994), justifying their designation as Konservat-Lagerstätte. Preserved in a similar setting to the coeval Posidonienschiefer Formation of South-West Germany, these outcrops consist of bituminous black shales with intercalated nodular limestone beds that formed at an early diagenetic stage and thus permitted the preservation of delicate fossilized remains (Hanzo 1978, 1979; Henrotay *et al.* 1998). Rare insect remains have been known from the marine formations of the north-eastern Paris Basin since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Maubeuge (1973) first illustrated an odonatan forewing (a Heterophlebioidea erroneously attributed to the Protomyrmeleontidae) from the Grand-duchy of Luxembourg (Schouweiler site), followed by a report of Delsate *et al.* (1992) from the nearby Belgian Province of Luxembourg (Aubange site). Since then, several insects have been reported from different localities, with the best-known site Bascharage (Fig. 1) (Hermoso *et al.* 2014; Nel & Weis 2017), where finds have been made during temporary construction works in the ‘Bommelscheier’ and ‘Op Zaemer’ industrial areas over the last 30 years. The specimen described herein was found in flat, laminated lenticular limestone (named LENT in Henrotay *et al.* 1998, fig. 2; named ‘laminated limestone bed’ in Hermoso *et al.* 2014, fig. 2) at the Bascharage “Bommelscheier” site in the early ‘90. Apart from insect remains, the lenticular limestone also yielded marine organisms such as rare cephalopods, arthropods, small fishes (*Leptolepis* a.o.), occasional marine reptile remains and rare land plants (Henrotay *et al.* 1998; Delsate *et al.* 1999).

## **Material and methods**

Acronym: MNHNL (Musée national d’histoire naturelle, Luxembourg). Macrophotos taken at MNHNL using a Ricoh CX1 camera, with a Rodenstock 35mm f/4 Rodagon lense. The

images were readjusted with CorelDraw and CorelPhoto-Paint X9 software package. We follow the wing venation nomenclature of Nel et al. (2012), with the following abbreviations: cubitus anterior CuA; cubitus posterior CuP; median posterior vein MP; Pcu poscubital vein; radial anterior RA; radial posterior RP; subcostal posterior ScP.

## Systematic palaeontology

### Key to families of Pincombeomorpha

(timespan given in brackets; data not confirmed with described taxa in square brackets)

1. Basal cell (between R+MP and CuA base) and crossvein *m-cu* present; RP forked; clavus with Y-vein..... Boreoscytidae Becker-Migdisova, 1949  
(see Shcherbakov 2007: fig. 5) Permian (Kungurian-Roadian)
- Basal cell, free CuA base and veinlet *mp-cu* absent; RP simple or reduced; clavus with one simple vein ..... 2
2. Veinlet *r-mp* present; stem MP strong and convex up to nodal line; pterostigma small, narrow; claval vein (Pcu) remote from posterior margin ..... Pincombeidae Tillyard, 1922  
(see Shcherbakov 2007: fig. 7) Permian (Changhsingian)-Triassic (Carnian)
- Veinlet *r-mp* absent; stem MP well developed, or fold-like before nodal line, or originating beyond it, or reduced; pterostigma enlarged ..... 3
3. Branch RP originating well before pterostigma, but basad of branch MP<sub>1+2</sub> forking; stem MP or fold-like before nodal line, or originating beyond it, or reduced; branch CuA<sub>1</sub> much shorter than CuA stem; claval vein (Pcu) remote from posterior margin .....  
..... Simulaphididae Shcherbakov, 2007;  
(see Shcherbakov 2007: fig. 9) Permian (Changhsingian)-[Triassic (Norian)]

—. Branch RP originating well before pterostigma, but apicad of branch  $MP_{1+2}$  forking; stem MP well developed, branch  $MP_3$  captured by stem CuA at base; branch  $CuA_1$  longer than CuA stem; claval vein (Pcu) close to posterior margin ..... Xulsigiidae fam. nov.

Jurassic (lower Toarcian)

Order **Hemiptera** Linnaeus, 1758

Suborder **Sternorrhyncha** Amyot et Audinet-Serville, 1843

Clade **Aphidiformes** *sensu* Schlee, 1969 (= *Aphidococca sensu* Kluge, 2010)

Infraorder **Pincombeomorpha** Shcherbakov, 1990

Family **Xulsigiidae** fam. nov.

**Type genus.** *Xulsigia* gen. nov.; here designated.

**Diagnosis.** Forewing characters only. Basal cell absent; stems of R, MP, and CuA fused at wing base, stem ScP slightly shifted then ScP adpressed and parallel to stem R (+MP+CuA); pterostigma small, subapical, delimited posteriorly by ScP, and anteriorly by RA; branch RP originating well before pterostigma stem, RP forked terminally; stem MP well developed, MP with three branches, branch  $MP_{1+2}$  basally fused with radius but branch  $MP_3$  captured by stem CuA at base (apomorphy),  $MP_{1+2}$  forked apically; stem CuA shorter than common portion of stem R+ $M_{1+2}$ , branch  $CuA_1$  distinctly longer than stem CuA; claval portion narrow, with single claval vein Pcu (apomorphy).

**Included taxon.** Only genus *Xulsigia* gen. nov.

Genus *Xulsigia* gen. nov.

**Type species.** *Xulsigia karetsa* sp. nov.; here designated.

**Diagnosis.** Forewing characters only. Wing large (size comparable to the wings of *Dinoscyta* Shcherbakov, 2007, quite larger than those of the Simulaphididae); a very long areola postica.

**Etymology.** After *Xulsigiae*, triple goddess of fertility of the worshipped at the healing-spring shrine in Augusta Treverorum (present-day Trier), close to the modern Luxembourg.

*Xulsigia karetsa* sp. nov.

(Figs 2-6)

**Material.** Holotype TV045 (a+b) (print and counterprint), stored at the Palaeontological collections of the MNHNL.

**Diagnosis.** As for genus; monotypic.

**Etymology.** Named after kar-etsā, kinswoman in proto-Celtic language.

**Locality and horizon.** “Couches à *Harpoceras falciferum* (lo<sub>1</sub>)”, Lower Jurassic, lower Toarcian, Serpentinum (Falciferum) Chronozone (ca. 182.7 Ma), outcrop temporarily accessible (early '90) during the construction works of a factory at “Bommelschéier”, Bascharage, Grand Duché du Luxembourg.

**Description.** Large Sternorrhyncha, with wingspan over 30 mm. A complete forewing, 15.7 mm long, 3.6 mm wide, apparently hyaline, except for darker area between radius and costa; a weak simple subcostal vein, closely appressed to radius, ending on costa 13.3 mm from wing base; a strong radial vein from which a first strong convex vein CuA separates 2.1 mm from wing base; two simple and curved veins emerge anteriorly from straight stem of CuA, of different shape, first one (interpreted as a basal branch of M) is branching as a secondary vein from CuA, with a faint furrow between it and main stem of CuA and more concave than the stem of CuA; while second one is a true fork of CuA; base of first vein 1.0 mm from base of CuA, base of second anterior branch of CuA 1.7 mm distally; a second vein M emerges from radius 5.2 mm distal of base of CuA, also more concave than stem of CuA; this branch of M is

divided into two simple branches 2.5 mm distally; a third vein RP emerges from radius 3.3 mm distal of base of M; RP is divided into two simple branches 2.6 mm distally; RA making a strong posterior curve 1.4 mm distal of base of RP, delimiting a pterostigma with distal end of ScP; wing base petiolate, very narrow, with a weak undulate vein CuP more or less parallel to CuA and one straight vein (postcubital vein) closely parallel to posterior wing margin.

## Discussion

This wing can be attributed to the clade Acercaria (Miomoptera, Hypoperlida, Psocodea, Permopsocida, Thripida, Hemiptera) sensu Prokop *et al.* (2017) and more precisely to the Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha because of the complete fusion of median and Cubitus anterior veins to radius at wing base, MP and CuA re-emerging more distally, and CuP is simple.

Convex CuA with curved anterior branches emerging from a straight stem is observed in some other insect groups, e.g. in the dictyopteran Palaeozoic Paoliida, some Protrembiidae Tillyard, 1937 (i.e. Permian *Sojanoraphidia* Martynova, 1952), and the Lower Jurassic blattogryllid genus *Dorniella* Bode, 1953 (Storozhenko 1998, Prokop *et al.* 2014, Guan *et al.* 2015, Aristov 2015a, b). But these insects have numerous crossveins and, more important, their cubital and median veins are not basally fused with radius and re-emerging distally as in *Xulsigia* gen. nov. The ‘orthopteroid’ insects have a common stem M+CuA reemerging from radius, unlike in *Xulsigia* and a complex branching of CuP.

*Xulsigia karetsa* gen. et sp. nov. presents unambiguous set of characters placing it in clade Aphidiformes sensu Schlee, 1969 (= Aphidococca sensu Kluge 2010). Unfortunately there is still no phylogenetic analysis of this clade including fossil and extant taxa. Thus we are obliged to propose a provisional attribution based on shared similarities, rather than putative synapomorphies. Several features are shared with Aphidomorpha Becker-Migdisova *et al.* Aizenberg, 1962 (Shcherbakov 2007, Heie & Wegierek 2009): (i) distinctly broad pterostigma,



(ii) common ScP+R+(MP)+CuA stem, (iii) MP vein forked, (iv) absence of crossveins, (v) RP vein emerging a little basal of pterostigma, and (vi) ScP not extending into pterostigma. After the key of Shcherbakov (2007), the newly described *Xulsigia karetsa* falls near the Simulaphididae Shcherbakov, 2007 because of the following characters: basal cell absent (no *cua-cup* veinlet); crossvein *r-m* absent; base of RP well basal of pterostigma. The Coccidomorpha, Naibioidea, and basal Aphidomorpha have a RP originating near or beyond the base of the pterostigma. Fossils of the extinct families Boreoscytidae and Pincombeidae (Pincombeomorpha) have crossveins, especially the *cua-cup* (plesiomorphic state, this vein is typically present in the ground plan of Paraneoptera, see Nel *et al.* 2012; Huang *et al.* 2016; Prokop *et al.* 2017).

The main apparent difference between *Xulsigia* gen. nov. and all other Aphidomorpha is the presence of two strong veins emerging anteriorly from a straight stem of CuA. But as noted above, the first of these veins is emerging as a secondary vein and is less convex than CuA, unlike the second one that is a real fork of CuA. We hypothesize that the first branch is in fact a branch of the median vein that is captured by CuA and re-emerges distally, while the second part of MP separates from radius much more distally. Thus MP has three branches as in Pincombeomorpha Shcherbakov, 1990 (Boreoscytidae, Pincombeidae, Simulaphididae), and CuA has two distal branches (areola postica). The important difference with these families is that the most basal branch of MP is still captured by the stem of CuA while there is a second distal branch of MP (itself forked) that emerges from radius independently from CuA. The development of the median area in *Xulsigia* is remarkable, found only in the Pincombeomorpha, but not observed in known Aphidomorpha. Another difference from the Simulaphididae is the forked RP in *Xulsigia*. The shape of the pterostigma in *Xulsigia* is similar to that of *Simulaphis*, with a distinct posterior curvature of RA and a basal closure by a short apical part of ScP.

*Xulsigia karetsa* sp. nov. corresponds to a new family Xulsigiidae fam. nov., that we place provisionally in the Pincombeomorpha. This group is diagnosed by set of characters (Shcherbakov 2007: 48, his use of veins names in square brackets): forewing with RP [RS] originating well before pterostigma, convex up to nodal line and concave beyond it; nodal line crossing RP [RS]; MP [M] and CuA forming a short common stalk; claval vein(s) remote from posterior margin, Pcu+A<sub>1</sub> [Pcu+1A] entering margin before claval apex. Any of these characters is apomorphic (Gavrilov-Zimin et al. 2015), and the group is probably paraphyletic.

**Remark.** This fossil Sternorrhyncha is remarkable for its very large and petiolate wing, superficially resembling that of a fly of the family Ptychopteridae. Extant Sternorrhyncha are generally smaller insects, thus it would appear surprising to have such a large fossil taxon. But we have to keep in mind that such phenomena are known in other insect clades (e.g., the giant Meganeuridae have wing span ca. 10 times larger than extant Odonata).

**High level nomenclature in Sternorrhyncha.** There are several misunderstandings and unclears in concepts and contents of various groups placed in Sternorrhyncha. The groups as aphids in broad sense, coccids, or scale insects in broad sense are often united, but little attention was given in these statements to the fossil taxa. Schlee (1969) made the first attempt to unite aphids and scale insects, proposing the group named Aphidiformes to unite Aphidina (i.e. aphids, adelgids and phylloxerids) and Coccina (i.e. coccids, scale insects) – these names were used as chresonyms, without author's attributions. The name Aphidina was firstly introduced by Burmeister (1835: 85), but the group contained not exclusively aphids. This opinion was later used by Shcherbakov (2007), but with introduction of another chresonym 'Aphidinea Handlirsch, 1903 *sensu lato*' for this unit, ranked by him as suborder and with inclusion to it the fossil groups as Pincombeomorpha. Handlirsch (1903: 738) proposed a name Aphidoidea as suborder to contain only aphids, and another suborder Coccoidea (scale insects). Beier (1938:

2426, 2427) first introduced the name Aphidinea (ranked as suborder), exclusively for aphids, adelgids, and phylloxerids, and in the same sense used by Shaposhnikov (1964: 489). Therefore, the content of the group named ‘Aphidinea Handlirsch, 1903 *sensu lato*’ was enlarged and redefined by Shcherbakov (2007: 48), with placement within extinct Pincombeomorpha, Aphidomorpha and Coccomorpha s. str (another chresonym explained below). Shcherbakov (2007: 51) used chresonym – ‘Coccomorpha Fallén, 1814, *sensu lato*’ for the group containing scale insects and extinct superfamily Naibioidea Shcherbakov, 2007. Fallén (1814: 3, 23) introduced name ‘Coccides’ (as family). Chou (1963: 592) introduced the name Coccomorpha (ranked as suborder) for scale insects. Williams (1969) presented several family-group names based on the genus *Coccus* Linnaeus, 1758. The use of name Coccomorpha was recently discussed by Williams & Hodgson (2014). However, the name *Coccomorpha* was firstly used by Rübсаamen (1899: 534), for a new genus of cecidomyiid fly, still available for nomenclature as generic synonym of *Rhizomyia* Kieffer, 1898. Generic name *Coccus* Linnaeus, 1758 is based on the ancient Greek word ‘*kokkos*’ (κόκκος), meaning a seed or berry (gender masculine); it should be used under second declension, i.e. *coccus*, *cocci*. Following the “~morpha” principle for naming the units above family-groups, and unification of endings of them, the name Coccidomorpha was proposed by Heslop-Harrison (1952: 688).

To avoid confusion with *Coccomorpha* Rübсаamen and contrary to opinion of Williams & Hodgson (2014) the name Coccidomorpha Heslop-Harrison, 1952 should be conserved. Recently Kluge (2010: 248) proposed another name for the group uniting aphids and scale insect (but without fossils) – Aphidococca. This name was adopted by Gavrillov-Zimin *et al.* (2015: 336), but omitted in their classification proposal (Gavrillov-Zimin *et al.* 2015: 336–337). In the same list and paper, the fossil groups were not listed or treated taxonomically. But in their Figure 1, entitled “Phylogeny of Aphidococca placed on geochronological scale”, the fossil groups Archescytinoidea, Pincombeoidea, and Naibioidea were figured together with the

recent superfamilies. This leads to further confusion in taxonomic and nomenclatorial treatment and content of this evolutionary lineage.

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**Figure 1.** Fig. 1. A, Geographic map of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (L) with indication of the study area; B, Close-up of the study area (region of Bascharage), with indication of the insect-bearing sites; C, Simplified stratigraphic log of the Bascharage section (adapted from Hermoso et al. 2014) with indication of the insect-bearing limestone bed.

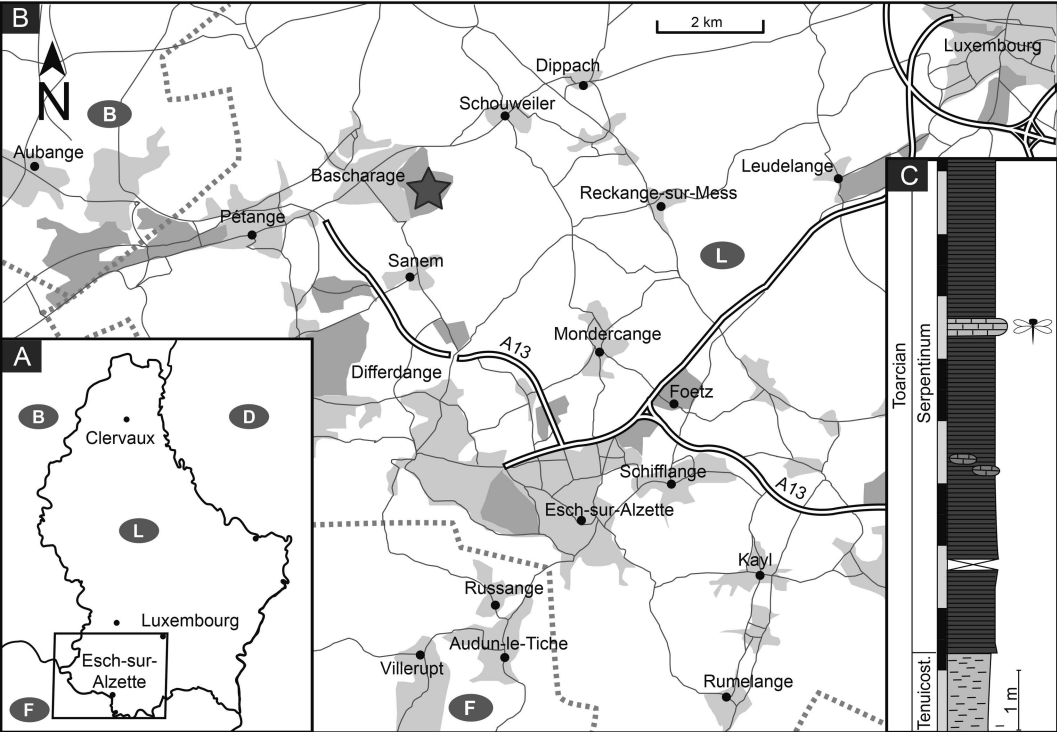
**Figure 2.** *Xulsigia karetsa* gen. et sp. nov., holotype TV045 (a+b), photograph of complete wing. Scale bar = 5 mm.

**Figure 3.** *Xulsigia karetsa* gen. et sp. nov., holotype TV045 (a+b), photograph of complete wing under alcohol. Scale bar = 5 mm.

**Figure 4.** *Xulsigia karetsa* gen. et sp. nov., holotype TV045 (a+b), reconstruction of complete wing with interpretations of main veins. Scale bar = 2 mm.

**Figure 5.** *Xulsigia karetsa* gen. et sp. nov., holotype TV045 (a+b), photograph of wing apex. Scale bar = 1 mm.

**Figure 6.** *Xulsigia karetsa* gen. et sp. nov., holotype TV045 (a+b), photograph of wing base. Scale bar = 1 mm.



Urban areas

Industrial areas

Road network

Motorway

Country borders

Insect-bearing site

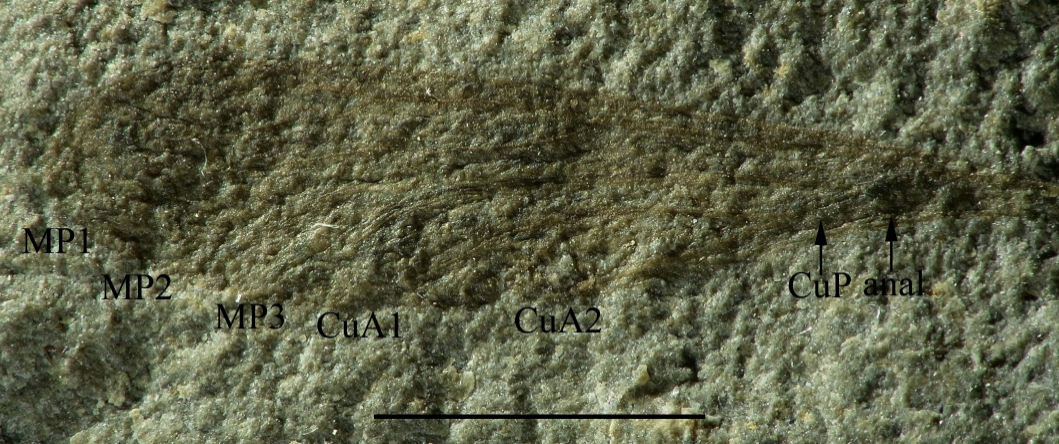
marls

'black shales'

limestone

observation gap

presence of insect fossils



MP1

MP2

MP3

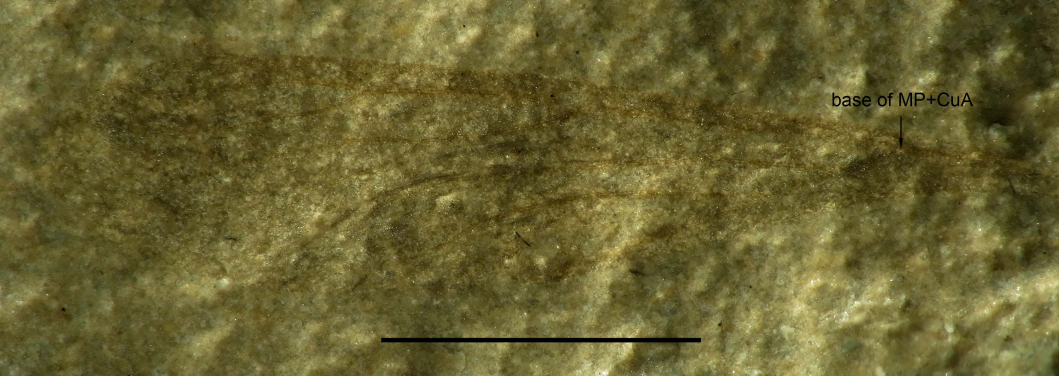
CuA1

CuA2

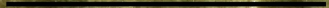
CuP

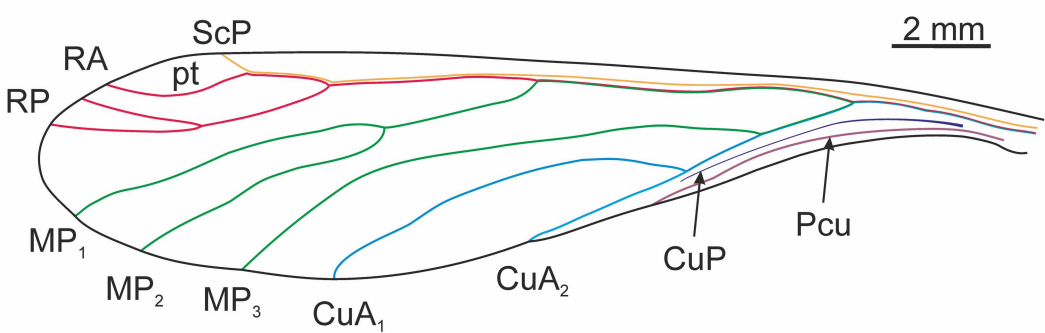
anal

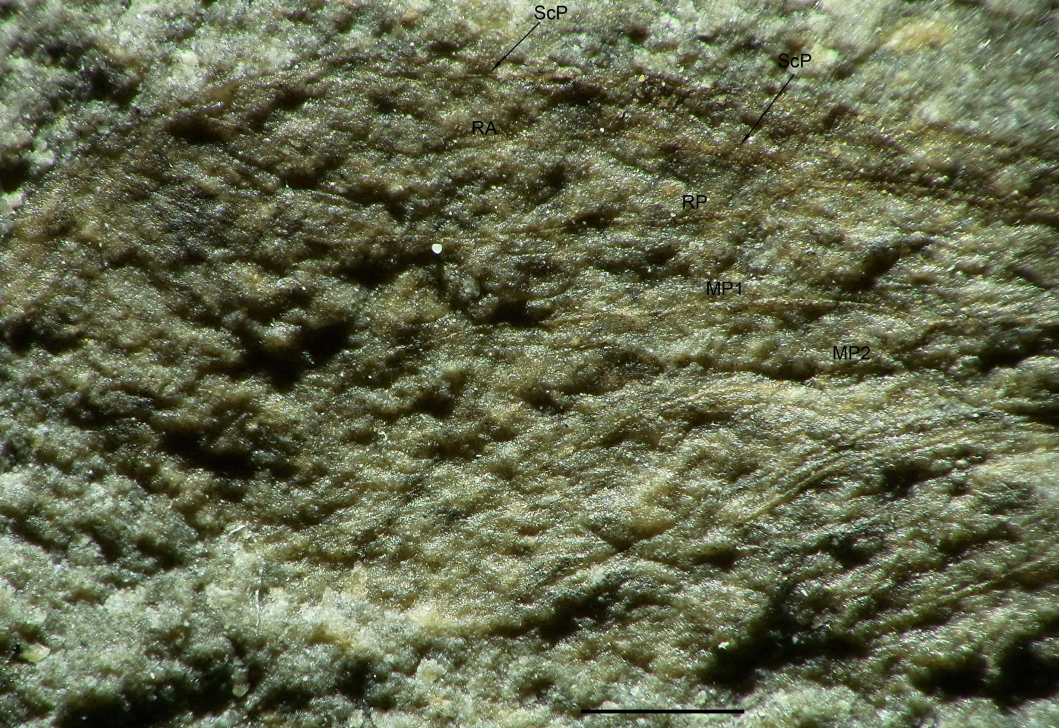




base of MP+CuA







ScP

ScP

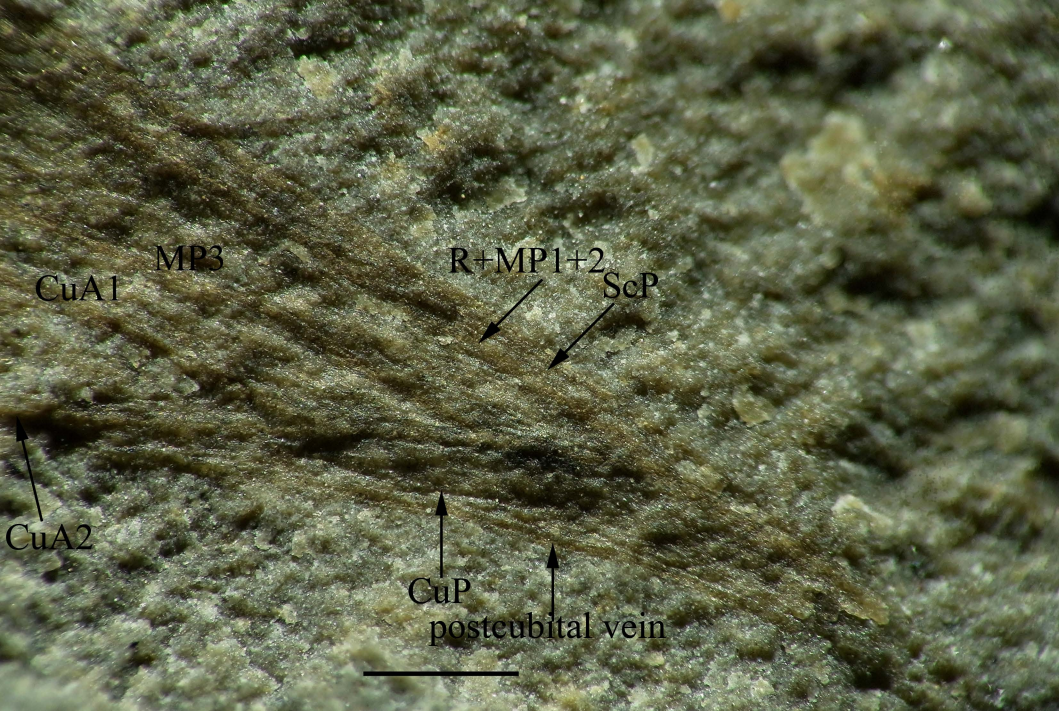
RA

RP

MP1

MP2





CuA1

MP3

R+MP1+2

ScP

CuA2

CuP

postcubital vein

