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1 **Zootaxa**

2

3 **A further strange Archaeorthoptera from the Moscovian of Nord-Pas-de-Calais (France)**

4 **(Insecta, Polyneoptera)**

5

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15

16 **Abstract**

17 The new Archaeorthoptera *Duquesnia gallica* **gen. et sp. nov.** Nel & Roques, is described from  
18 the upper Carboniferous of Northern France. It shows several putative synapomorphies with  
19 the three genera *Contracladus* Dvořák *et al.*, 2021 (Pennsylvanian of Germany), *Nugonioneura*  
20 (lower Permian of USA), and *Avionugonioneura* from the Moscovian of Avion (France).

21

22 **Key words:** Insecta, ?Nugonioneuridae, gen. et sp. nov., Late Carboniferous.

23

24 **Introduction**

25 The Nord-Pas-de-Calais region is well-known since a long time for its late Carboniferous  
26 entomofauna, extensively studied by Pruvost (1912, 1914 (1920), 1919) and more recently by  
27 our team, thanks to the new collects of two of us in the slag heap of Avion (P.R. & H.D.). The  
28 superorder Archaeorthoptera is especially diverse in these layers (Coty *et al.* 2014; Prokop *et*  
29 *al.* 2014; Schubnel *et al.* 2020; Nel *et al.* 2020). Here we describe a new fossil found in an  
30 ancient core sample of the area of Lens-Lievin. It shows several strong similarities with the two  
31 genera *Contracladus* (Pennsylvanian) and *Nugonioneura* Tillyard, 1937 (early Permian), and  
32 with *Avionugonioneura* Nel and Roques, 2021 from Avion (Nel & Roques, submitted).

33

#### 34 **Material and methods**

35 The fossil was found by one of us (P.R.) in a core sample of the operating group of Lens-Lievin.  
36 It was examined under a Nikon SMZ1500 and photographed with an AmScope camera MU900.  
37 We follow the wing venation terminology of Béthoux & Nel (2002), supported by the 3D CT  
38 scan studies of Desutter-Grandcolas *et al.* (2017) and Schubnel *et al.* (2019). We also follow  
39 the ‘orthopteroid’ classification of Béthoux and Nel (2002), as supported by the pattern of  
40 venation and a series of strong synapomorphies of the superorder Archaeorthoptera.

41 Wing vein terminology: A, anal vein; C, costa; CuA, cubitus anterior; CuP, cubitus posterior;  
42 CuPa, anterior branch of CuP; CuPb, posterior branch of CuP; MA, median anterior vein; MP,  
43 median posterior vein; PCu, postcubital vein; RA, radius anterior; RP, radius posterior; ScP,  
44 subcosta posterior.

45 urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:57E48519-1857-4636-BC53-5CACF8226BB8

46

#### 47 **Systematic palaeontology**

48 Superorder Archaeorthoptera Béthoux and Nel, 2002

49 Family ?Nugonioneuridae Carpenter, 1976

50 *Duquesnia* **gen. nov.** Nel & Roques

51 LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:8F0CD6CF-99EA-466C-9D8B-F2A91CD2732E

52 **Type species.** *Duquesnia gallica* **sp. nov.** Nel & Roques

53 **Diagnosis.** Forewing characters only. CuPa ending into M+CuA and not in a free CuA;  
54 no CuPa $\beta$ , vein M distally forked; CuA+CuPa forked; ScP ending into RA; no short posterior  
55 branches of CuA+CuPa; three main branches of RP; area between RA and RP broad; CuPb  
56 posteriorly pectinate.

57 **Etymology.** Named after Mr Hervé Duquesne, who found the holotype.

58

59 *Duquesnia gallica* **sp. nov.**

60 (Figs. 1–2)

61 LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:7BC30B27-4A89-4E43-8414-758D43B6CBA0

62 **Type material.** Specimen Fa 0030/DH (a nearly complete forewing, very close but well-  
63 separated from two more poorly preserved hind wings, probably of the same specimen), stored  
64 at The Musée d'Histoire Naturelle de Grenoble, France.

65 **Etymology.** Named after Gallia, Latin name for France.

66 **Type locality.** Found in a core sample of the operating group of Lens-Lievin, Pas-de-  
67 Calais, France.

68 **Stratigraphic occurrence.** Moscovian (Westphalian C/D equivalent to  
69 Bolsovian/Asturian).

70 **Diagnosis.** As for the genus by monotypy.

71 **Description.** Forewing elongate, 9.8 mm long, 2.9 mm wide; ScP reaching RA at 6.1  
72 mm from wing base; costal area rather narrow, 0.4 mm wide with a series of simple curved  
73 veinlets; no visible crossvein in area between ScP and R; RP separating from RA 3.9 mm from  
74 wing base; area between RA and RP broad, 0.6 mm wide, with one row of cells, apically

75 narrower; strongly convex RA with a series of short, more or less curved anterior veinlets  
76 between it and anterior wing margin; apex of RA 0.7 mm of wing apex; RP with three main  
77 posterior branches, two of them being twigged distally, parallel to M; RA and RP approximate  
78 in apical parts; a common stem R+M+CuA; convex M+CuA separating from R 3.1 mm from  
79 wing base, straight; M separating from CuA+CuPa 1.0 mm from base of M+CuA+CuPa; M  
80 with two simple branches; strongly convex CuA+CuPa forked; concave CuPa with an angle at  
81 point of separation between CuPa and CuPb, with stem elongate, 2.7 mm long; CuPa short,  
82 diverging vertically upward and ending into M+CuA; concave CuPb with three short posterior  
83 branches; convex PCu curved and simple in its preserved part.

84 Two strongly deformed and incomplete wings very close to the forewing. One shows three anal  
85 veins disposed in a small fan, two of them with distal forks (Figs. 1B, 2C).

86

## 87 **Discussion**

88 The veins of the forewing that we name CuPb and CuA+CuPa cannot belong to the other wing  
89 close to them because they have a quite different orientation with those of this second wing,  
90 and they are too far to belong to it. The forewing of this fossil resembles that of a  
91 'Grylloblattodea' if we suppose that the vein that we name M+CuA is in fact the vein M with  
92 its two branches MA and MP; and that the vein we name CuPa is the strongly modified  
93 crossvein 'M5' between M and CuA (herein named CuPb); plus CuA emerging with CuP from  
94 a common stem Cu (Storozhenko, 1998). But the vein 'MP' under this hypothesis should be  
95 concave or at most neutral while it is strongly convex, and the vein 'CuA' should be convex,  
96 while it is clearly concave. Thus an attribution to the 'Grylloblattodea' is unlikely.

97 The presence of a convex basal stem of R+M+CuA in forewing is a character  
98 convergently present in the superorders Archaeorthoptera and Acercaria (Béthoux & Nel, 2002;  
99 Nel *et al.*, 2012). The presence of only few branches of RP, M, and CuA with only two branches

100 in the forewing, would suggest a position in the Acercaria Miomoptera or Hypoperlida sensu  
101 Huang *et al.* (2016) and Prokop *et al.* (2017). The Miomoptera (Palaeomanteidae) have very  
102 few, if none, crossveins between the branches of main veins, unlike *Duquesnia* gen. nov. There  
103 are more such crossveins in the Hypoperlida Hypoperlidae. But *Duquesnia* gen. nov. has the  
104 main characteristic of the Palaeomanteidae compared to the Hypoperlidae, viz. a elongate stem  
105 M+CuA. Furthermore, both Hypoperlidae and Palaeomanteidae have a pterostigmal zone  
106 around apex of RA, absent in the forewing of *Duquesnia* gen. nov., but possibly present in its  
107 hind wing. If *Duquesnia* gen. nov. was an Acercaria, the vein more basal to CuA would be CuP,  
108 but this vein is posteriorly pectinate, unlike nearly all the Acercaria, except for the  
109 Carboniferous hemipteran *Protoprosbole* Laurentiaux, 1952 (Nel *et al.*, 2012: fig. 3H). The  
110 putative hind wing of *Duquesnia* gen. nov. has a well-developed anal area with three main  
111 branches while the Hypoperlidae and Palaeomanteidae have reduced anal areas in hind wing  
112 (Tillyard, 1928; Rasnitsyn, 1980: fig. 13; Prokop *et al.*, 2017). Also, in the Acercaria, the vein  
113 between CuA and CuP is a specialized crossvein cua-cup basally concave and distally convex  
114 (Nel *et al.*, 2012). In the Archaeorthoptera, the vein in the same position is concave and an  
115 anterior branch of CuP. In *Duquesnia* gen. nov., this vein is clearly concave. Thus it is likely  
116 the anterior branch CuPa of CuP. Lastly, the vein that is basad to CuP is convex and corresponds  
117 to the vein PCu. An apically forked CuPb is present in some Archaeorthoptera like *Gerarus*  
118 Scudder, 1885 or *Osnogerarus* Kukalová-Peck & Brauckmann, 1992 (Béthoux & Nel, 2002:  
119 figs 12-13). Thus, an attribution of *Duquesnia* gen. nov. to the Archaeorthoptera nec  
120 Panorthoptera is the most probable hypothesis, because of the absence of a fork of CuPa into  
121 two branches CuPa $\square$  and CuPa $\square$ .

122         Within this clade, *Duquesnia* gen. nov. has a very particular pattern of the vein  
123 M+CuA+CuPa, viz. CuPa reaches M+CuA well basad to the point of separation between M  
124 and CuA. Similar patterns are present in few Archaeorthoptera, and only in *Bruaylogus*

125 *magnificus* Coty *et al.*, 2014 among the Panorthoptera. *Bruaylogus* strongly differs from  
126 *Duquesnia* gen. nov. in the presence of two branches CuPa $\square$  and CuPa $\square$  of CuPa, of secondary  
127 branches of the two branches of M and of several posterior branches of CuA+ CuPa $\square$  (Coty *et*  
128 *al.*, 2014: fig. 2). The other Archaeorthoptera with a vein M+CuA+CuPa are *Contracladus*  
129 *impar* Dvořák *et al.*, 2021 (Carboniferous, Germany), *Nugonioneura problematica* Tillyard,  
130 1937 (Permian, USA), plus *Avionugonioneura jouaulti* Nel and Roques, 2021 from the  
131 Moscovian of Avion (Pas-de-Calais, France) (Nel & Roques, 2021). All these fossils have no  
132 vein CuPa $\square$ , excluding them from the Panorthoptera. *Contracladus* differs from *Duquesnia*  
133 gen. nov. in the presence of 7-8 branches of RP, instead of only three, and of six branches of  
134 CuA+CuPa instead of only two (Dvořák *et al.*, 2021: fig. 1). *Nugonioneura* differs from  
135 *Duquesnia* gen. nov. in the presence of three branches of CuA+CuPa, of more numerous  
136 veinlets between RA and anterior wing margin (Aristov, 2020: Figs 3-4). But they both share  
137 with *Duquesnia* gen. nov. a ScP ending into RA. *Avionugonioneura* differs from *Duquesnia*  
138 gen. nov. in the simple M, presence of seven branches of RP, a very long anterior branch of  
139 CuA+CuPa, and a ScP ending into anterior wing margin instead of RA. Nevertheless, they share  
140 the presence of numerous anterior veinlets between RA and anterior wing margin (Nel &  
141 Roques, 2021).

142

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145

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221

222 **FIGURE 1.** *Duquesnia gallica* gen. et sp. nov., holotype Fa 0030/DH. Photograph. (A) fore-  
223 and putative hind wings; (B) forewing. Scale bars = 1 mm.

224 **FIGURE 2.** *Duquesnia gallica* **gen. et sp. nov.** , holotype Fa 0030/DH. Reconstructions of  
225 wings. (A) forewing; (B) putative hind wing; (C) putative hind wing. Scale bars = 1 mm.

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