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Short communication

***Chilamnestocoris mixtus* gen. et spec. nov., the first burrower bug (Hemiptera: Pentatomoidea: Cydnidae) in Upper Cretaceous Burmese amber**

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13 ABSTRACT

14 A new genus and species of burrower bug, *Chilamnestocoris mixtus* gen. et sp. nov.
15 (Hemiptera: Cydnidae), is described from Upper Cretaceous Myanmar amber. The new genus
16 is characterized by a very long claval commissure and, therefore, is classified within the
17 extant subfamily Amnestinae. It presents a mixture of generic characters relevant to the genus
18 *Chilocoris* Mayr (Cydninae) and the genus *Amnestus* Dallas (Amnestinae), but also has its
19 own autapomorphies, i.e., each cephalic marginal setigerous puncture arises from its own
20 well-developed tubercle, and the middle and posterior tibiae are strongly compressed and
21 flattened.

23 **Keywords:**

24 Cydnidae

25 Amnestinae

26 *Chilamnestocoris mixtus* gen. et sp. nov.

27 Myanmar amber

28 Upper Cretaceous

29 Burrower bug fossil

1. Introduction

The Cydnidae, commonly known as Burrower Bugs or Burrowing Bugs, is a pentatomoid family, the monophyly of which is constantly being questioned (Grazia et al., 2008; Pluot-Sigwalt & Lis, 2008; Lis, 2010; Lis et al., 2017). The family includes more than 750 species known from tropical, warm, and temperate regions of the world (Cassis & Gross, 2002; Schwertner & Nardi, 2015; Lis et al., 2017), and is, at present, divided into six subfamilies, i.e., Amaurocorinae, Amnestinae, Cephalocteinae, Cydninae, Garsauriinae, and Sehirinae (Pluot-Sigwalt & Lis, 2008; Lis et al., 2017).

The oldest fossil records of Cydnidae are known from the Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous Yixian Formation of China (Yao et al., 2007, 2010). Fossils of the family Cydnidae are represented by 70 species (Vršanský et al., 2015; palaeobiology database [URL: paleobiodb.org; accessed 7 January 2018]), including only nine species in seven genera of the subfamily Amnestinae (Pinto & Ornellas, 1974; Popov, 1986, 1990; Thomas, 1988, 1994; Popov & Pinto, 2000; Shcherbakov & Popov, 2002; Yao et al., 2007, 2010). Among these, only three species, i.e. *Amnestus guapinolinus* Thomas, 1988, *A. electricus* Thomas, 1994, and *A. priscus* Thomas, 1994, have been described from amber (*A. guapinolinus* from the Oligo-Miocene of Chiapas, Mexico; the remaining two species are from the Dominican Republic).

Although 53 species of Hemiptera have been described from Burmese amber (Guo et al., 2017; Ross, 2018), no representative of the family Cydnidae was reported among the Burmite inclusions. In this paper we describe a new genus and species of the subfamily Amnestinae, which is the first Burmite inclusion not only for the family Cydnidae, but also the entire superfamily Pentatomoidea.

2. Material and methods

Burmese amber is of Upper Cretaceous age, probably from the Turonian or Cenomanian (90–100 Ma) (Grimaldi et al., 2002). No particular locality of origin in Kachin State in Northern Myanmar is known, and therefore no further stratigraphic information is available, as is the case for *Aradidae* inclusions described recently in amber pieces originating from the same source (Heiss & Poinar, 2012; Heiss, 2016). However, according to Guo et al. (2017), most known Burmite arthropod inclusions came from the Hukawng Valley, Kachin State in northern Myanmar, where the mining locality is at Noiye Bum, near Tanai Village (26°21'33.41"N, 96°43'11.88"E) (Cruickshank & Ko, 2003; Grimaldi et al., 2002; Bai et al., 2016). The map of Myanmar showing the position of the Hukawng Valley was provided by Dunlop et al. (2015). Detailed investigation of these deposits (Cruickshank & Ko, 2003; Shi et al., 2012) dated them as 97 to 110 Ma (the late Albian of the Early Cretaceous) or 98.8 ± 0.6 Ma old (Cenomanian, earliest Late Cretaceous), respectively.

This study is based on material permanently deposited in the Tiroler Landesmuseum (CEHI Collection Ernst Heiss), Innsbruck, Austria. All photos were captured with a Moticam 1000 digital camera mounted to an Olympus SZX10 microscope using Images Plus 2.0 software (Motic Asia, Hong Kong). Multiple focal planes were merged using Helicon Focus 6.3.0 software (Helicon Soft Ltd.).

The terminology for cephalic chaetotaxy follows that used by Lis & Pluot-Sigwalt (2002), for mesothoracic wing venation that used by Lis (2002), and for pretarsal structures that used by Lis & Ziaja (2010).

3. Systematic palaeontology

Order: Hemiptera Linnaeus, 1758

Suborder: Heteroptera Latreille, 1810

Infraorder: Pentatomomorpha Leston, Pendergast et Southwood, 1954

Superfamily: Pentatomoidea Leach, 1815

Family: Cydnidae Billberg, 1820

Subfamily: Amnestinae Hart, 1919

Genus *Chilamnestocoris* gen. nov.

LSID urn: lsid:zoobank.org:act:CDCF292B-2478-4F57-A0ED-4BF6E6D44D61

Type species: *Chilamnestocoris mixtus* sp. nov.

Diagnosis. Head margins bearing both peg-like and hair-like setae; each marginal setigerous puncture arising from its own well-developed tubercle; clypeal submargin with four peg-like setae; eyes large, each with an apical seta; ocelli present; antennae five-segmented, second segment minute. Pronotum almost parallel-sided; pronotal disc with an anterior submarginal line clearly visible, pronotal umbones slightly swollen, not concealing the postero-lateral margins of pronotal disc; lateral margins with setigerous punctures bearing long hair-like setae. Scutellum triangular. Corium with very broad clavus, bearing four rows of coarse punctures; claval commissure present, very long. Costal margins with setigerous punctures bearing hair-like setae. Meso- and metapleuron with large evaporatoria, metapleural peritreme very long and strongly recurved. Tibiae of middle and posterior legs flattened. The coxal combs unseen due to the poor visibility of characters on the ventral side of the specimen.

Etymology. The name is a compilation of two generic names, i.e. *Chilocoris* Mayr, 1865 and *Amnestus* Dallas, 1851, in reference to the fact that several characters are intermediate between these two genera (*Chil-amnest-ocoris*).

Chilamnestocoris mixtus Lis J.A., Lis B. & Heiss, sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–3)

LSID urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:5CD2C8A8-E94C-4E39-9E7E-5E4EA760F5D7

Etymology. The specific epithet refers to a mixture of generic characters relevant to the genus *Chilocoris* (Cydninae) and the genus *Amnestus* (Amnestinae).

Holotype female. The specimen belongs to and is deposited as BUR-CYD-01 in the collection of the second author (EH) at the Tiroler Landesmuseum, Innsbruck, Austria.

Type locality. No particular locality of origin in Kachin State in Northern Myanmar is known for this taxon of the Cydnidae (however, see also the section: “Material and methods”).

Diagnosis. As for the new genus.

Description. Completely preserved female specimen (Figs. 1A–D). Body almost unicolorous, its dorsal side slightly polished; head, pronotum and scutellum dark castaneous; antennae, rostrum, tibiae and tibial spines, costal margins, exocorium and mesocorium, and lateral parts of pronotum brown; the ventral body side castaneous.

Head (Figs. 2A–B). Dorsally with clearly visible small punctures, and with slightly developed oblique striae in the posterior part of paraclypei; clypeus as long as paraclypei, broadened in its apical part; clypeal submargin with four (three clearly visible and one torn out) blackish brown, apically more or less sharpened peg-like setae; paraclypei each with a submarginal row of five more or less sharply ended peg-like setae, and three hair-like setae; each marginal setigerous puncture arising from its own well-developed tubercle; eyes large,

brown with a silver tinge, each with an apical seta, ocular index about 2.8; ocelli yellowish, interocellar distance about four times greater than a distance between the ocellus and the eye; antennae five segmented with the second segment minute and hardly visible, about nine times shorter than the third (Fig. 2B), the fifth segment longest; rostrum reaching the midcoxae.

Thorax. Pronotum (Fig. 1C) almost parallel-sided; pronotal disc with an anterior submarginal line clerally visible, calli impunctate, the area behind calli with a short row of large punctures laterally on each side; anterior lobe almost impunctate, except for setigerous punctures and a few punctures anteriorly and laterally; posterior lobe with clearly visible punctures; pronotal umbones slightly swollen and impunctate, not concealing the postero-lateral margins of the pronotal disc; lateral margins with seven (right side) and eight (left side) setigerous punctures bearing long hair-like setae, two setae present also on the lateral part of the anterior submarginal line on each side; moreover, two additional setae occur on lateral parts of the anterior lobe of the pronotal disc. Propleuron alutaceous; its anterior and posterior convexities impunctate, a median depression with punctures close to the coxae. Scutellum triangular; scutellar disc evenly punctured with large coarse punctures; scutellar tip narrow, elongated. Clavus (Fig. 1D) very broad, with three rows of coarse punctures parallel to scutellum, and a single row of large punctures close to mesocorium; the latter with two rows of coarse punctures paralleling the clavo-corial suture (one complete row, and the second incomplete, visible only basally) and with several well-spaced punctures forming two hardly visible rows; exocorium almost evenly punctured with large shallow punctures; claval commissure present, very long (Fig. 1D). Costal margins paler than the remaining part of the corium, bearing setigerous punctures (two hair-like setae visible on left hemelytron, and several hair-like seta visible close to the costal margin of right hemelytron); membrane almost translucent, slightly embrowned, distinctly surpassing the tip of the abdomen. Mesopleuron and metapleuron with evaporatorium similar to that of the genus *Chilocoris*, with very long

and strongly recurved peritreme. Legs brown, tibial spines only a little darker; anterior tibia broadened apically, with four spines at the apical margin; mid- and posterior tibiae strongly flattened, only slightly broadened apically, each bearing numerous long spines at the outer margin and only a few at the inner margin; tarsus of posterior legs with 1st and 2nd segments altogether longer than the third; pretarsal claws long and narrow, pulvilli narrow, slightly recurved and apically somewhat capitate (Fig. 2C–D).

Abdomen. Sterna dark brown, alutaceous, laterally with numerous distinct small punctures and whitish shiny semierect hairs; 4th, 5th and 6th visible segments medially with numerous long whitish semierect hairs.

Measurements. Female holotype (in mm): body length (from the head apex to the apex of membrane): 2.85; body width (at the widest part of hemelytra): 1.38; head length: 0.46; head width: 0.70; pronotum length: 0.89; pronotum width: 1.30; scutellum length: 0.41; scutellum width: 0.47; antennal segments: 0.17, 0.03, 0.25, 0.26, 0.28.

4. Remarks on the palaeohabitat of the new species

Burrower bugs, as suggested by their common family name, mostly live underground and feed on plant roots, although some of them inhabit aboveground plant parts, some may be mycetophagous or cavernicolous, and some are associated with ants (e.g., Froeschner, 1975; Schaefer, 1988; Linnavuori, 1993; Lis, 1994; Lis et al., 2000; Kłys & Lis, 2013; Lis, 2015; Lis & Lis, 2016; Schwertner & Nardi, 2015). Extant species of the subfamily Amnestinae are mostly litter inhabitants in various types of humid forests, but have sometimes been found belowground or in guano in bat caves (Froeschner, 1960; Mayorga & Cervantes, 2001; Eger, 2008; Mayorga & Brailovsky, 2012; Mayorga & Cervantes, 2005, 2014; Schwertner & Nardi, 2015).

Nevertheless, no one has ever attempted to reconstruct the habitat in which species of fossil Amnestinae lived, since no accompanying plant fossils have been described along with amnestine fossil remnants. Fortunately, in the piece of amber studied herein, we noticed several plant syninclusions that can be classified into two groups, i.e., branched hairs (Figs. 3A–D) and star-shaped structures (Figs. 3E–F).

The star-shaped structures found in the studied amber piece (Figs. 3E–F) are similar to the structure described by Grimaldi et al. (2002) as an isolated archegoniophore of a *Marchantia*-like liverwort (Hepatopsida: Marchantiaceae) in Burmese amber (Fig. 3F), and by Schmidt et al. (2010) as “stellate hairs” in Cretaceous African amber, resembling those of modern representatives of the tree-fern family Cyatheaceae (Fig. 3E). Several branched hairs (Figs. 3A–D) accompanying our amnestine specimen are known to be quite common in Burmese amber (Heinrichs et al., 2017). The same branched hairs were also recorded in Cretaceous amber from New Jersey and Lebanon, and in Tertiary Baltic amber (Gifford and Foster, 1987; Hall and Burke, 1974; Jones, 1998; Peñalver et al., 2007), and were regarded as originating possibly from a fern or conifer. Similar hairs in Early Cretaceous amber from Spain have been assigned to the fern family Gleicheniaceae (Pérez de la Fuente et al., 2012). Recently, this type of branched hair was found as syninclusions to *Frullania pinnata*, the newly described mid-Cretaceous Burmese amber species of leafy liverwort (Heinrichs et al., 2017). Because, “stellate hairs” occur in various amber sites, but are characteristic mainly of the Baltic amber, and regarded as belonging to Fagaceae (Weitschat and Wichard, 2002), their botanical origin in burmites can’t be precisely defined.

Taking all the above into account, especially the environmental conditions in which the species of *Frullania* lived (Grimaldi et al., 2002; Heinrichs et al., 2017), we conclude that *C. mixtus* most probably inhabited areas surrounding the conifer tree trunks where ferns and liverwort grew. We are aware that our hypothesis is highly speculative and the presence of the

described trichomes can simply show that the habitat could have been arboreal. However, it is consistent with the biology of some extant species of the subfamily Amnestinae, which live in the litter of various types of humid forests (Mayorga & Cervantes, 2001; Eger, 2008; Mayorga & Cervantes, 2014; Schwertner & Nardi, 2015).

5. Discussion

The new genus was placed in the family Cydnidae based on the following characters: (1) the presence of cephalic chaetotaxy, including peg-like setae (Figs. 1C, 2A–B), (2) spinose tibiae (Figs. 1A–B, 2C), and (3) margins of pronotum and costal margins of hemelytra with hair-like setae (Figs. 1B–C). It can easily be classified within the subfamily Amnestinae due to the presence of the claval commissure (Figs. 1A–B, D), which is a diagnostic feature of this burrower bug subfamily.

This new genus possesses the same characters as those occurring in species of the genus *Amnestus* Dallas, 1851, i.e., clypeus with four apical peg-like setae (Fig. 2A), pretarsal structures with long, slender claws and narrow, slightly recurved and apically somewhat capitate pulvilli (Fig. 2D), and mesothoracic wing venation bearing the vein R entirely coalescent with M, and the vein 2A present and clearly visible (Fig. 1B).

However, the new genus also has several characters in common with species of the genus *Chilocoris* Mayr, 1865 (representing tribe Cydnini of the subfamily Cydninae), i.e., clypeus as long as paraclypei and apically bearing peg-like setae similar to those occurring in many species of *Chilocoris* (Fig. 2A) (in Amnestinae the clypeus is distinctly longer than the paraclypei, and usually bears pegs on the clypeus apical margins), metapleural peritreme long and strongly recurved (in Amnestinae it is not as long, and never as strongly apically recurved), and the membranal suture almost straight (Fig. 1B) (in species of *Amnestus* it is deeply emarginated on the inner half, and in species of *Lattinestus* it is almost straight, but

this character is connected with the coleopterous form of the hemelytra in all species of the genus).

Beside the fact that *Chilamnestocoris mixtus* displays a mixture of characters found in *Chilocoris* and *Amnestus*, it also has its own two autapomorphies, i.e., (1) strongly compressed and flattened middle and posterior tibiae (Fig. 2C) (the middle and posterior tibiae in *Chilocoris* and species of Amnestinae are more or less semicircular in diameter), and (2) each cephalic marginal setigerous puncture arises from its own well-developed tubercle (Fig. 2B). What is most important is that the latter character is unknown elsewhere in the family Cydnidae.

6. Concluding remarks

Burrower bugs (Cydnidae) recorded in fossil amber are extremely rare. *Chilamnestocoris mixtus* gen. et sp. nov. is the first Burmite inclusion not only for the family Cydnidae, but also the entire superfamily Pentatomoidea. The presence of a very long claval commissure enables to classify this new taxon within the subfamily Amnestinae. However, it presents also several generic characters relevant to the genus *Chilocoris* of the subfamily Cydninae, but also has its own autapomorphies. *C. mixtus* most probably inhabited areas surrounding the conifer tree trunks where ferns and liverwort grew, what is consistent with the biology of some extant species of the subfamily Amnestinae.

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FIGURE CAPTIONS

Fig. 1. Holotype female of *Chilamnestocoris mixtus* gen. et sp. nov. in Burmese amber. A. Dorsal view of entire specimen. Scale bar: 1 mm. B. Reconstruction of specimen. Scale bar = 1 mm. C. Head and pronotum. Scale bar: 1 mm. D. Scutellum, clavus and claval commissure (c – clavus, cc – claval commissure, s – scutellum). Scale bar: 0.1 mm.

Fig. 2. Holotype female of *Chilamnestocoris mixtus* gen. et sp. nov. in Burmese amber. A. Dorsal view of entire head. B. Head dorsal view showing the first three antennal segments and the paraclypeal margin (s – second antennal segment, t – setigerous punctures tubercles). C. Tibia and tarsus of the posterior leg (ps – pretarsal structure). D. Pretarsal structure (cl – claw, pv – pulvillus). Scale bars: 0.1 mm.

Fig. 3. Plant syninclusions. A–D. Branched hairs. E. Stellate hairs. F. Star-shaped structure. Scale bars: 0.1 mm.





