Sciapodinae from Baltic amber (Diptera: Dolichopodidae): systematic position and possible palaeoclimatic implications

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The subfamily Sciapodinae was first recorded from Baltic amber (BA) by Meunier (1907), but some other species were misplaced by him at generic level. Bickel (1994) supposed that species described by Meunier in the genus *Nematoproctus* belong to the sciapodine genus *Mesorhaga*. Negrobov and Selivanova (2003) described four BA species of *Amesorhaga*. H. Ulrich (pers.com.) has noted after examination of the type material that *Wheelerenomyia* is a sciapodine genus, as also *Neurigona* sensu Meunier (Grichanov, 2008). The comparison of descriptions and figures provided by Meunier, Negrobov & Selivanova leaves no doubt that all 15 species from BA with strongly sinuate vein M should be transferred into the fossil genus *Wheelerenomyia*. This genus is also known from Ukrainian amber, being recorded previously as *Neurigona* (Grichanov, 2000).

There is practically no true Sciapodini+Chrysosomatini in BA, as fossil specimens have distinct preapicals on mid and hind femora and unbranched M. *Wheelerenomyia* is close to Mesorhagini, differing in many plesiomorphic characters. Tertiary Baltic-Dnieper Subprovince embraces large area of modern Europe. Bickel noted that its fauna has no any Gondwanan palaeotropical elements, and the western Palaearctic appears to have been isolated to recent time. Therefore, it is not surprising that extant Mesorhagini are absent in Europe and adjacent regions. The question is still open: could *Wheelerenomyia* give origin to other sciapodine clades? Anyway, their comparative abundance in amber correlates with mainly tree trunk and tree canopy habitats of almost all Sciapodinae. The subfamily is now basically pantropical that supports opinions about subtropical climate of the Baltic region during the Eocene.