

## SCIENTIFIC NOTE

***SPHAEROPSOCUS KUENOWII* HAGEN  
IN ROVNO AMBER FROM THE UKRAINE  
(PSOCOPTERA: SPHAEROPSOCIDAE)<sup>1</sup>**Michael S. Engel<sup>2</sup> and Evgeny E. Perkovsky<sup>3</sup>

The Sphaeropsocidae is a small family of troctomorphan bark lice notable for elytriform forewings in females, complete loss of hind wings, and reduced compound eyes. While most modern sphaeropsocids are of austral distribution (aside from a few exceptions, Northern Hemisphere records are adventive species), their distribution was certainly wider in the past as evidenced by the fossil record (e.g. Weitschat and Wichard, 2002; Lienhard and Smithers, 2002; Grimaldi and Engel, 2005).

Herein we report on the recent identification of *Sphaeropsocus kuenowii* Hagen, 1882, a not uncommon bark louse in Eocene Baltic amber, from the Late Eocene Rovno amber. *Sphaeropsocus kuenowii* is well documented in Baltic amber (e.g. Weitschat and Wichard, 2002; Engel, pers. obs.). The discovery of this species in both deposits further attests to the roughly contemporaneous age (i.e., perhaps within five million years) of the ambers and can be added to the growing list of shared taxa (*vide* Perkovsky et al., 2003).

The following abbreviations are used for institutions holding material: MCZ = Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge (P. Perkins); SEMC = Fossil Insect Collection, Division of Entomology, University of Kansas Natural History Museum, Lawrence (M. S. Engel); UA = Institute of Zoology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev (E. E. Perkovsky) (for the Rovno amber specimens, D stands for the Dubrovitsa deposit while K stands for the Klesov deposit).

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## SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

*Sphaeropsocus kuenowii* Hagen

## Figure 1

*Sphaeropsocus künowii* Hagen, 1882: 226.

*Atropos succinica* Hagen, 1882: 231.

*Troctes succinicus* (Hagen); Kolbe, 1883: 190.

*Palaeotroctes succinicus* (Hagen); Enderlein, 1911: 350.

*Sphaeropsocus künowi* Enderlein, 1911: 352. *Lapsus calami*.

**Comments.** Rovno amber material was compared with specimens in Baltic amber, including the holotype. No structural differences could be identified between the individuals in either deposit. Indeed, no differences were found that could even be classified as geographical or temporal variations. While some species are unique to Rovno amber (e.g. Perkovsky and Fedotova, 2004; Engel and Perkovsky, 2006), there remains considerable taxonomic overlap between the Ukrainian deposits and Baltic amber (only about 26% of the ants are unique to Rovno amber: Dlussky and Perkovsky, 2002; Perkovsky et al., 2003). *Sphaeropsocus kuenowii* represents one more example of taxa shared between these two Paleogene amber sources.

**Material Examined.** Holotype female, Baltic amber (MCZ). Four female specimens, Baltic amber (SEMC). Three female specimens, Rovno amber (UA-332; UA-D-2222; UA-K-1039).

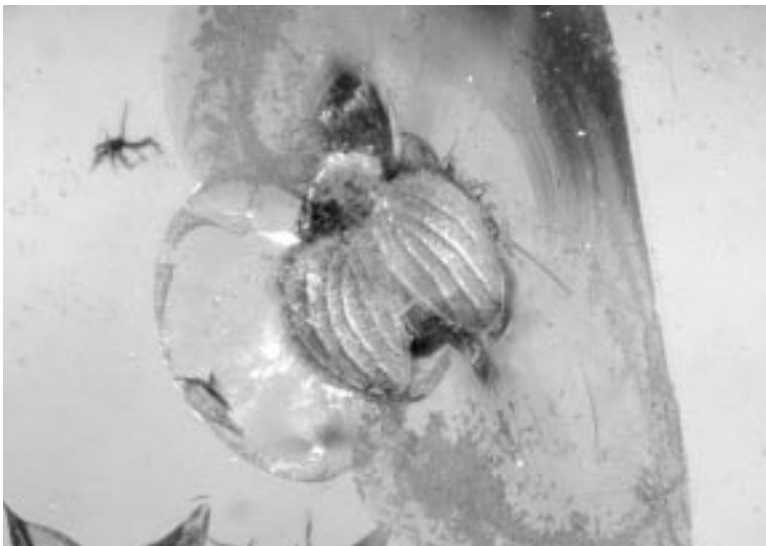


Figure 1. Female of *Sphaeropsocus kuenowii* Hagen in Rovno amber (UA-332).

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