



A World enchanted in amber. Foreword from the Editors

AGNIESZKA BUGAJ-NAWROCKA^{1,3}, JUNG GON KIM² & ARTUR TASZAKOWSKI^{1,4}

¹*Institute of Biology, Biotechnology and Environmental Protection, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Silesia in Katowice, Bankowa 9, 40-007 Katowice, Poland.*

²*Private office, Gyebaek-ro, Jung-gu, Daejeon, Korea.*

✉ thesv12@gmail.com; <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0594-7618>

³✉ agnieszka.bugaj-nawrocka@us.edu.pl; <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3484-3527>

⁴✉ artur.taszakowski@us.edu.pl; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0885-353X>

We would like to present a special issue of *Zootaxa* that is published in honour of Professor Aleksander Herczek (Fig. 1) from the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland. On the occasion of Aleksander Herczek's 70th birthday in 2023, we wanted to honour him with the scientific contribution collected in this occasional publication.



FIGURE 1. Aleksander Herczek during his PhD student's public defence (University of Silesia in Katowice, 2008).

Aleksander Herczek was born on the 9th of December 1953 in Czechowice-Dziedzice, Poland. He became a Doctor of Philosophy in 1981 at the University of Silesia. In 1975, Aleksander started his work at the University of Silesia in Katowice, at the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection. Since 2002, he has been a Full Professor. He has taught several courses in his teaching career, including Invertebrate and Vertebrate Zoology, Entomology, Field Research Methods, and Inventory and Valorisation of the Natural Environment. He promoted over 70 master's students and nine doctoral students. He was the head of the Department of Zoology until 2020 (Figs 2 & 3).



FIGURE 2. Aleksander (foreground, first from the left) with the Department of Zoology members. XXV National Hemipterological Congress of the Hemipterological Section of the Polish Entomological Society (Kochojce, April 2017).

From the beginning of his career, Aleksander was fascinated by the systematics, taxonomy, communities and ecology of true bugs, with particular emphasis on the Miridae family. His first studies focused mainly on Miridae communities in various regions of Poland. Subsequently, his interests focused on the poorly known subfamily Miridae, the Isometopinae. In 1993, a comprehensive monographic study on jumping tree bugs by Herczek was published (Fig. 4). In the 1990s, Aleksander Herczek began working with amber specimens, which resulted in numerous descriptions of new species, especially from the Cylapinae, Isometopinae and Psallopinae subfamilies (Fig. 4). With Yuri Alexandrovich Popov, Aleksander created a team that, for almost 25 years, has made many valuable and essential discoveries for understanding the origin of Miridae, Anthocoridae and Microphysidae. With Jacek Gorczyca, he prepared two keys for identifying the Miridae of Poland, a review of selected species of the land snails of Poland, and an atlas and key of amphibians and reptiles of Poland. He prepared countless zoocenotic and bio-identification studies describing the assemblages of true bugs in selected plant communities, specifying their stability, structure and qualitative and quantitative dynamics.

Moreover, he authorises valorisation works in selected regions of the Silesian Voivodship and neighbouring Voivodeships. These are nature descriptions of selected areas of the region intended for conservation services and state administration units dealing with nature conservation. In most cases, they concern environmentally valuable areas, essential for the preservation of the natural diversity of the region and implementing protection tasks.



FIGURE 3. Aleksander during 8th European Hemiptera Congress (Zawiercie, June 2018). On the Professor's left, his friend and research collaborator, Jacek Gorczyca.

Awards and honorary positions

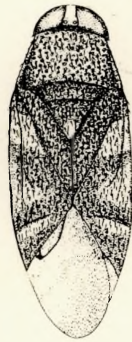
Aleksander Herczek led a team of naturalists carrying out valorisation work in selected regions of the Silesian Voivodeship and neighbouring areas, chaired numerous competition committees in the field of biology, was vice-chairman of the Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection, chairman of the Council of Landscape Parks of the Silesian Voivodeship, member of the Voivodeship Specialist Team for verifying the completeness of the NATURA 2000 network in the Opolskie and Śląskie Voivodships, member of the Supervisory Board of the Provincial Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Katowice. He also chaired faculty committees related to applications for the award of the academic title of Professor of Biological Sciences. As a teacher, he participated in numerous committees as a reviewer for the award of the degree of doctor or professor.

Publications Overview

Aleksander Herczek published 93 journal articles, nine monographs and books (Fig. 5), 30 popular science articles, 19 expert opinions and scientific reports, and 62 valorisation reports up to 2023, including 37 new genera and 77 new species. When writing papers, he most often collaborated with Yuri Popov, Jacek Gorczyca, and his long-time mentors—Sędzimir Klimaszewski and Waław Wojciechowski. However, this did not eliminate international cooperation—43 publications were created based on such collaborations. Moreover, in recent years, Aleksander has established partnership with a younger generation of researchers, thus laying the foundations for an international research team that will continue to study the issues that the Professor has been dealing with for over three decades of his scientific activity. Maintaining continuity in taxonomic research on a particular group is very important, so the actions taken by Aleksander in this regard are worth emphasizing.

Aleksander Herczek

Systematic position
of *Isometopinae* FIEB.
(*Miridae*, *Heteroptera*)
and their intrarelationships



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Revision of the genus *Metoisops* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera, Miridae, Isometopinae) from late Eocene European amber

ALEKSANDER HERCZEK¹ & YURI A. POPOV²

¹Silesian University, Department of Zoology 40-007 Katowice, Bankowa 9, Poland. E-mail: aleksander.herczek@us.edu.pl
²Borissiak Paleontological Institute Russian Academy of Sciences, Profsoyuznaya Str. 123, 117997 Moscow, Russia. E-mail: popovpin@gmail.com, lab@palaentomolog.ru

Abstract

Metoisops akingbohungbei, *M. groehni*, *M. punctatodiffusus*, *M. intergerivus*, *M. grabenhorsti*, *M. variabilis*, and *M. con-similis* are described as new species from the late Eocene Baltic, Ukrainian, (Rovno) and Saxonian (Bitterfeld) amber. The new diagnosis of the genus *Metoisops* and also all species of this genus presented, along with illustrations. An analysis of all studied specimens referring to of *Metoisops* from different Eocene European amber demonstrates the great variability of their features, and allows for differentiation of species. Ratios of the width and length of body, eye, vertex, antennal and rostral segments, pronotum, mesoscutum and scutellum, claval commissura, length of hind femur, tibia and tarsus, corium and cuneus length, as well as ratio of membrane cell's width and length of all 9 species of the genus *Metoisops* are presented.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Miridae, Isometopinae, *Metoisops*, extinct, species, new species, Eocene Baltic, Rovno and Saxonian amber

Introduction

Representatives of the subfamilies Isometopinae, Cylapinae, and likely also Psallopinae are dominant mired groups in the European amber fauna (Popov & Herczek, 2008; Popov et al., 2011). However, members of these subfamilies are still quite poorly investigated, and their actual number of species present at the time must have been much greater. These three subfamilies are recognized as the “basal” Miridae (e.g. Gorczyca, 2000), and relationships among them are of great interest for understanding their historical development (Konstantinov, 2003). Undoubtedly the discovery of the fossil bugs from these subfamilies in Baltic, Ukrainian (Rovno), Saxonian (Bitterfeld), French, and even Dominican amber clearly indicates that appearance and spreading of these peculiar mirid groups happened during not later than the early Cenozoic. For instance, the oldest psallopine mirids were recently described from the Lowermost Eocene French (Oise) amber and it was included in the same genus *Isometopsallops* from Baltic amber (Vernoux et al. 2010). Another psallopine bug referring to the extant genus *Psallops* was recently described from Dominican amber (Herczek, 2011). But there are still many undescribed fossil Isometopinae, Psallopinae (including the extant genus *Psallops*), and especially Cylapinae, where representatives of the first subfamilies are being presently described in this work.

This article is a continuation of a series of joint works on the systematic of fossil plant bugs (Miridae) of the closely related subfamilies Isometopinae, Cylapinae, and Psallopinae from the Eocene European amber fauna by the authors. The first fossil Isometopinae were described from Baltic amber: *Electromyiomma weincheiti* Popov & Herczek, *Eschulzei* Popov & Herczek, *E. polonicum* Popov & Herczek, *Metoisops karalimari* Popov & Herczek, and *Myiomma voigtii* Popov & Herczek (Popov & Herczek, 1992). Later, several other isometopines were also described from Baltic amber: *Archemyiomma curvalhoi* Herczek (Herczek, 1993), *Metoisops punctatus* Popov & Herczek (Popov & Herczek, 1993), *Electroisops ritzkowskii* Herczek & Popov (Herczek & Popov, 1997), *Hoffeinsoria robusta* Herczek & Popov (Herczek & Popov, 2012), and *Archemyiomma schaeferi* Herczek & Popov (Herczek et al., 2013). This paper is an attempt to trace the variability among established species of *Metoisops* and estimate the character differentiation.

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FIGURE 4. On the left, an extensive monographic study on jumping tree bugs published 30 years ago; on the right, one of numerous papers focusing on fossil Isometopinae.

Counting only publications and monographs, most of them are taxonomic and revision studies (57%), followed by faunistic (33%), morphological (3%) and others (7%). They concern primarily Heteroptera, particularly Miridae (88%), as well as aphids (6%), Auchenorrhyncha and scale insects (6%).

Because Aleksander Herczek devoted much attention to faunistic studies in his career, mainly on the Heteroptera, as well as other Hemiptera representants, more than half of his publications were published in national journals (53%), while taxonomic studies were published mainly in *Zootaxa*, *Zookeys*, strictly paleo-entomological journals and others (47%).

A unique place in Aleksander's scientific work was occupied by fossil representatives of bugs, especially specimens preserved as amber inclusions. The Professor was the author or co-author of 28 genera and 52 species of fossil representatives, mainly Miridae, but also Anthocoridae and Microphysidae (see Supplement).

Acknowledgements

We thank all the authors and reviewers whose efforts provided the high-quality papers presented in this issue. We also thank Marzena Zmarzły for preparing the drawing of *Sophianus palawanensis*. We particularly thank *Zootaxa* Editorial Team for supporting this project and their hard work publishing this Festschrift.

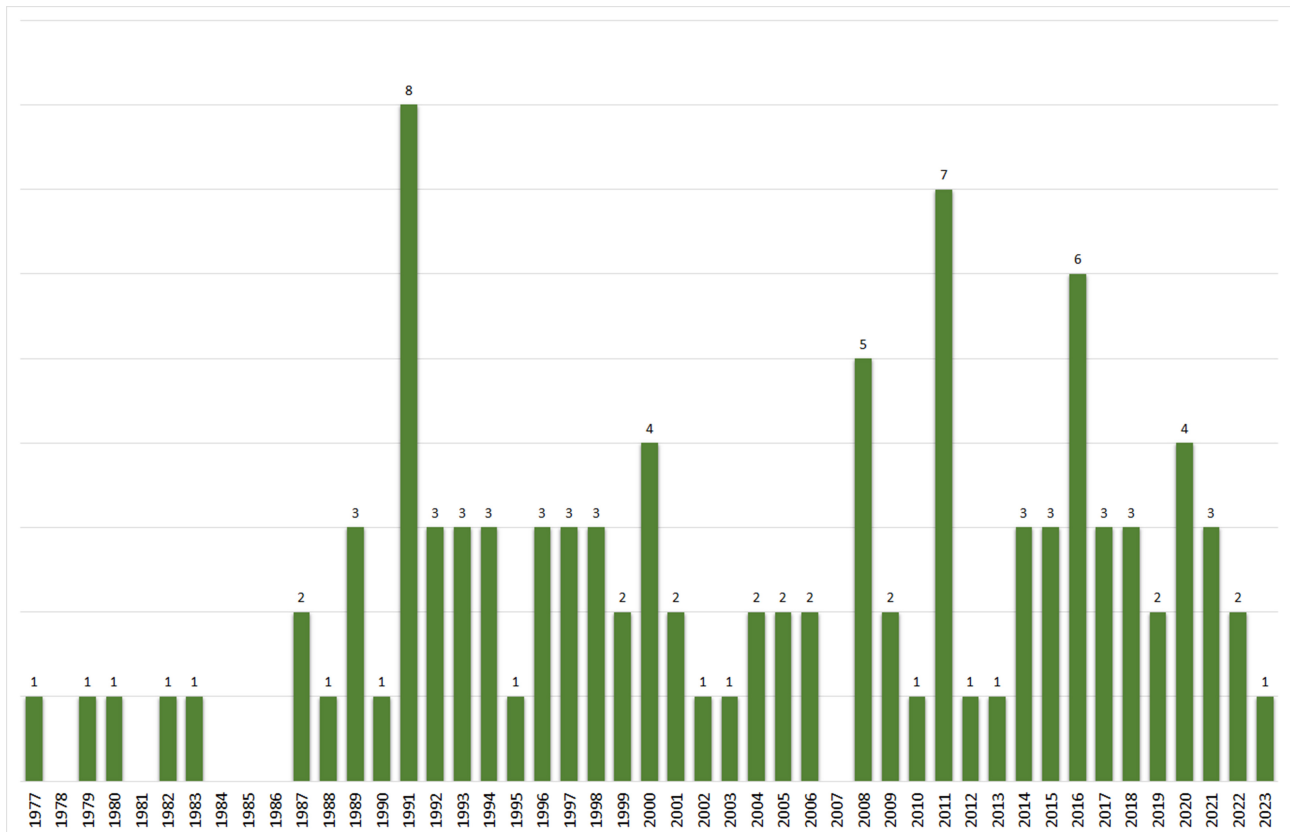


FIGURE 5. Aleksander’s publications overview—number of journal articles, monographs and books together over the years.

SUPPLEMENT

List of taxon names given in honour of Aleksander Herczek (names published in this volume are indicated with an asterisk):

- **Adesmiaphylus herczeki* Carpintero, Chérot & Henry
- **Balticranocapsus aleksanderi* Kim, Tazsakowski & Jung
- Baltiomiris herczeki* Kim, Chérot & Jung, 2021
- **Brixia herczeki* Walczak, Gębicki & Junkiert
- **Brontostoma herczeki* Gil-Santana
- **Calisiomorpha herczeki* Heiss
- **Carvalhygia herczekia* Brailovsky & Barrera
- Cretamystilus herczeki* Kim, Lim & Jung, 2021
- Dicranomyia herczeki* Krzemiński & Kania, 2015
- Electromyiomma herczeki* Kim & Jung, 2021
- Gurnardinia herczeki* Popov, 2019
- Koenigsbergia herczeki* Popov, 2003
- **Macrosiphoniella herczeki* Kanturski, Barjadze & Kaszyca-Tazsakowska
- **Nannogermalus herczeki* Kóbor
- **Pleciobates herczeki* Leng & Ye
- **Punctifulvius aleksanderi* Yasunaga, Wolski & Tazsakowski
- Peyrierocoris herczeki* Chłond, 2014
- **Snotra herczeki* Drohojowska & Szwedo

List of taxa established by Aleksander Herczek

Detailed information is available in the Zoobank.

LSID: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:9F2C8372-B6CF-4B70-BFA1-A905196FFD5C

Fossil species were marked with a dagger (†).

Genus group

- Amberofulvius*[†] Herczek, 1991
- Ambocylapus*[†] Herczek & Popov, 2000
- Anirma*[†] Popov & Herczek, 1998
- Aragocylapus*[†] Herczek, Popov & Peñalver, 2000
- Archemyiomma*[†] Herczek, 1993
- Armanomiris*[†] Popov & Herczek, 1998
- Balticofulvius*[†] Herczek & Popov, 1997
- Brachypicritus*[†] Popov & Herczek, 2011
- Bruneimetopus* Taszakowski, Kim & Herczek, 2020
- Clavinyiomma*[†] Popov & Herczek, 1992
- Cretamiris*[†] Popov & Herczek, 1998
- Cylapopsallops*[†] Popov & Herczek, 2006
- Electroisops*[†] Herczek & Popov, 1997
- Electromyiomma*[†] Popov & Herczek, 1992
- Epigonomiris*[†] Herczek & Popov, 1998
- Epigonopsallops*[†] Herczek & Popov, 2009
- Fronsonia* Herczek, 1993
- Germarofulvius*[†] Herczek & Popov, 1999
- Hallodapomimus*[†] Herczek 1998
- Hoffeinsoria*[†] Herczek & Popov, 2012
- Isometopsallops*[†] Herczek & Popov, 1992
- Isomyiomma*[†] Herczek, Popov & Drohojowska, 2020
- Jozefus* Herczek, 1993
- Leptomimus*[†] Herczek & Popov, 2010
- Megalofaciatus* Taszakowski, Kim & Herczek, 2021
- Metoisops*[†] Popov & Herczek, 1992
- Mixocapsus*[†] Herczek, 1991
- Paratopus* Herczek, 1993
- Paratotta* Herczek, 1993
- Persephonocoris*[†] Popov & Herczek, 2001
- Planicapitus* Taszakowski, Kim & Herczek, 2020
- Popovia* Herczek, 1993
- Samlandia*[†] Herczek & Popov, 2005
- Stenopterna*[†] Herczek & Popov, 2009
- Sulawesimetopus* Herczek, Gorczyca & Taszakowski, 2018
- Tytthophysa*[†] Popov & Herczek, 2009
- Xylosteles*[†] Popov & Herczek, 2011

Species group

- Alcecoris heissi* Herczek & Popov, 2011
- Amberofulvius dentatus*[†] Herczek, 1991
- Ambocylapus kulickae*[†] Herczek & Popov, 2000
- Anirma longiclavalis*[†] Popov & Herczek, 1998
- Aragocylapus miocaenicus*[†] Herczek, Popov & Peñalver, 2000

Archemyiomma carvalhoi[†] Herczek, 1993
Archemyiomma schaeferi[†] Herczek & Popov, 2013
Archeofulvius kotejai[†] Herczek & Popov, 2005
Armanomiris klimaszewskii[†] Popov & Herczek, 1998
Balticofulvius kulicki[†] Herczek & Popov, 1997
Brachypicritus ribesi[†] Popov & Herczek, 2011
Bruneimetopus simulans Tazakowski, Kim & Herczek, 2020
Clavimyiomma henryi[†] Popov & Herczek, 1992
Cretamiris zherikhini[†] Popov & Herczek, 1998
Cylapopsallops kerzhneri[†] Popov & Herczek, 2006
Deraeocoris balticus[†] Herczek & Gorczyca, 1991
Electroisops ritzkowskii[†] Herczek & Popov, 1997
Electromyiomma herczeki[†] Kim & Jung, 2021
Electromyiomma polonicum[†] Popov & Herczek, 1992
Electromyiomma schultzi[†] Popov & Herczek, 1992
Electromyiomma weitschati[†] Popov & Herczek, 1992
Epigonomiris skalskii[†] Herczek & Popov, 1998
Epigonopsallops groehni[†] Herczek & Popov, 2009
Fronsonia ochracea Herczek, 1993
Hallodapomimus antennatus[†] Herczek & Popov, 2015
Hallodapomimus elektrinus[†] Herczek, 2000
Hallodapomimus krzeminskiorum[†] Herczek & Popov, 2010
Hallodapomimus succinu[†]s Herczek, 2000
Hemiophthalmocoris raunoi Wolski, Gorczyca & Herczek, 2016
Hoffeinsoria robusta[†] Herczek & Popov, 2012
Isometopsallops schuhi[†] Herczek & Popov, 1992
Isometopus africanus Herczek, 2004
Isometopus longisetosus (Herczek, 1993)
Isometopus ovatus Herczek, 1991
Isomyiomma hirta[†] Herczek, Popov & Drohojowska, 2020
Jordanofulvius klebsi[†] Popov & Herczek, 2003
Jozefus guineiensis Herczek, 1993
Leptomimus jonasdazeni[†] Herczek & Popov, 2010
Loricula polonica[†] Popov & Herczek, 2008
Megalofaciatus foliotibialis Tazakowski, Kim & Herczek, 2021
Megalofaciatus gibbosus Tazakowski, Kim & Herczek, 2021
Metoisops akingbohungbei[†] Herczek & Popov, 2014
Metoisops consimilis[†] Herczek & Popov, 2014
Metoisops grabenhorsti[†] Herczek & Popov, 2014
Metoisops groehni[†] Herczek & Popov, 2014
Metoisops intergerivus[†] Herczek & Popov, 2014
Metoisops kerzhneri[†] Popov & Herczek, 1992
Metoisops michalskii[†] Kim, Tazakowski & Herczek, 2023
Metoisops punctatodiffusus[†] Herczek & Popov, 2014
Metoisops punctatus[†] Popov & Herczek, 1993
Metoisops variabilis[†] Herczek & Popov, 2014
Mixocapsus eocenicus[†] Herczek, 1991
Myiomma adusta Herczek, 2004
Myiomma amaranion Herczek & Popov, 2006
Myiomma jankotejai Herczek & Popov, 2006
Myiomma latifrons Herczek, 2004
Myiomma scotti Herczek, 2004

Myiomma voigti[†] Popov & Herczek, 1992
Paratotta orientalis Herczek, 1993
Persephonocoris kulickae[†] Popov & Herczek, 2001
Planicapitus luteus Tazsakowski, Kim & Herczek, 2020
Popovia fijiensis Herczek, 1993
Psallops bitterfeldi[†] Herczek, Popov & Gorczyca, 2015
Psallops coloratus Herczek, Popov & Gorczyca, 2017
Psallops eocenicus[†] Herczek, Popov & Gorczyca, 2015
Psallops linnavuorii Herczek, Popov & Gorczyca, 2016
Psallops niedzwiedzki Herczek & Popov, 2016
Psallops popovi[†] Herczek, 2011
Psallops schmitzi Herczek & Popov, 2014
Psallops webbi Herczek & Popov, 2014
Samlandia rossi[†] Herczek & Popov, 2005
Sophianus palawanensis Tazsakowski, Kim & Herczek, 2021
Stenopterna sambiensis[†] Herczek & Popov, 2009
Sulawesimetopus henryi Herczek, Gorczyca & Tazsakowski, 2018
Tythophysa sylwiae[†] Popov & Herczek, 2009
Xyloesteles kerneggeriorum[†] Popov & Herczek, 2011
Xyloesteles parvulus[†] Popov & Herczek, 2011

Aleksander Herczek's list of publications

Journal articles

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