

# First species of *Atomaria* (Coleoptera: Clavicornia: Cryptophagidae) from Bitterfeld amber and several notes on Miocene and Cretaceous Cryptophagidae

## Первый вид *Atomaria* (Coleoptera: Clavicornia: Cryptophagidae) из саксонского янтаря и некоторые заметки о миоценовых и меловых Cryptophagidae

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА. Atomariinae, *Shixitomaria*, *Elytrophagus*, *Plastophagus*, поздний эоцен, свита Шиси.

ABSTRACT. *Atomaria saxonica* Lyubarsky et Perkovsky **sp.n.**, a first cryptophagid species from Bitterfeld amber, is described. The new species is the third described Eocene species of Atomariinae. The new species is similar to *A. testacea* Stephens, 1830 and *A. analis* Erichson, 1846. It differs from these species by the structure of antennae. The new species differs from other extinct *Atomaria* species in shape of pronotum, not narrowed towards base. *Shixitomaria* **gen.n.** is established for *Atomaria cretacea* Cai et Wang, 2013 from the Early Cretaceous of China. Mesozoic fauna of Cryptophagidae consist of five extinct genera; in Cenozoic cryptophagid fauna extinct genera unknown. The genera from Miocene of Shandong, *Elytrophagus* Zhang, 1989 and *Plastophagus* Zhang, 1989, probably do not belong to Cryptophagidae.

Роды *Elytrophagus* Zhang, 1989 и *Plastophagus* Zhang, 1989, описанные из миоцена Шаньдун, вероятно, не относятся к Cryptophagidae.

### Introduction

A study of the collection of Christel and Hans Werner Hoeffens (CCHH) revealed a new species of Cryptophagidae. The family Cryptophagidae includes about 600 described species of small beetles, belonging to 53 genera. Cryptophagidae are mainly free-living and mycophagous. The family Cryptophagidae contains two subfamilies: Cryptophaginae and Atomariinae [Leschen, 1996]. The subfamily Atomariinae contains three tribes: Atomariini, Cryptafricini and Hypocoprini. The subfamily can be diagnosed by short body, frons without tubercle, short prosternum in front of coxa, tibia with apical spines.

Representatives of *Atomaria* are found in all biogeographic realms [Leschen, 1996; Johnson *et al.*, 2007]; 127 species are known from the Palaearctic Region [Johnson *et al.*, 2007]. The genus is rarely recorded in the Late Eocene ambers; the first Baltic amber species was described a few years ago [Lyubarsky, Perkovsky, 2013].

Late Eocene Baltic amber is the world's best-known source of inclusions. A list of recorded cryptophagid genera (both Cryptophaginae and Atomariinae) was given in Lyubarsky & Perkovsky [2010]. The present fossil represents the family Cryptophagidae and the

РЕЗЮМЕ. Описан первый вид криптофагид из саксонского янтаря — *Atomaria saxonica* Lyubarsky et Perkovsky **sp.n.** Это третий описанный эоценовый представитель Atomariinae. Новый вид сходен с обычными палеарктическими видами *A. testacea* Stephens, 1830 и *A. analis* Erichson, 1846. От этих видов новый эоценовый вид отличается строением усиков. Новый вид отличается от других вымерших видов *Atomaria* формой переднеспинки, не суженной к основанию. Установлен род *Shixitomaria* **gen.n.** для *Atomaria cretacea* Cai et Wang, 2013 из раннего мела Китая. Мезозойская фауна Cryptophagidae состоит из пяти вымерших родов; в кайнозойской фауне Cryptophagidae вымершие роды не найдены.

genus *Atomaria*, as follows from the tarsal formula 5-5-5, tarsomeres not lobed, antennal club 3-segmented, and other relevant characters.

Two species of *Atomaria* have been described from Baltic amber: *A. gedanicola* Lyubarsky et Perkovsky, 2013, and *A. groehni* Perkovsky et Lyubarsky, 2014 [Lyubarsky, Perkovsky, 2013; Perkovsky, Lyubarsky, 2014]. *A. gedanicola* is similar to *A. fuscipes* (Gyllenhal, 1808). *A. groehni* is similar to *A. pusilla* (Paykull, 1798) and *A. morio* Kolenati, 1846.

Silken fungus beetles from other Late Eocene ambers are less studied: from Rovno amber were described three cryptophagine species [Lyubarsky, Perkovsky, 2010, 2011, 2012], from other faunas no species were named [Bukejs *et al.*, 2016]. In the present paper we describe a new species of *Atomaria* from Bitterfeld amber.

Photographs were taken at the Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology (Kiev, SIZK) using the microscope Leica MZ 16.

## Taxonomy

Family Cryptophagidae Kirby, 1837

Subfamily Atomariinae LeConte, 1861

Genus *Atomaria* Stephens, 1829

Subgenus *Anchicera* Thomson, 1863

*Atomaria saxonica* Lyubarsky et Perkovsky, **sp.n.**  
Figs 1–4.

**MATERIAL.** Holotype: 1223-4, in collection of Christel and Hans Werner Hoffeins (Hamburg), Bitterfeld amber, Late Eocene. The type will be deposited at the amber collection of Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut Müncheberg (SDEI), Germany. Collection code: CCHH.

**DESCRIPTION.** Length of body 1.35 mm, body elongate (Fig. 1), moderately arched, covered with slightly curved, decumbent pale pubescence of moderate length. Body, legs and antennae entirely dark brown.

Head transverse, finely punctured, distance between punctures greater than diameter of puncture; with hemispherical faceted eyes; length of eye 2 times less than length of head. Eye normally developed, with 14 facets in external margin of eye (when counted from dorsal view at the greatest length of the eye). Antennae short, slender, with club not reaching beyond base of pronotum (Fig. 2), joints of flagellum elongate, about 1.5 times as long as broad, antennomere 1 elongated, slightly curved, a little longer than 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3–6<sup>th</sup> a little shorter, 1.5 times as long as broad, antennomere 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> longer than 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> slightly wider, antennomere 7<sup>th</sup> narrower than 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> slightly transverse, narrower than 10<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> transverse, 11<sup>th</sup> obliquely oval, joints 9–11 equal in width, antennomere 11<sup>th</sup> longer than 10<sup>th</sup>, slightly compressed. Antennae insertions widely separated basally.

Pronotum weakly transverse, of approximately same width from middle to base, 1.2 times as broad as long, weakly and finely punctured, distance between punctures equal to two puncture diameters. Anterior edge not sinuate, anterior angles without thickening or callosity. Sideborders visible from above only in the basal half. Base of pronotum with depression in the middle, with basal pits; hind angles rectangular; pronotal disk convex. Hind margin finely bordered, basal

edge lobed. Prosternum finely punctured, distance between punctures greater than diameter of puncture (Fig. 3). Lines on the prosternal process absent, prosternal process not vaulted. Hind coxae set not far apart. Tarsal formula 5-5-5. Tibia slender, parallel-sided, with two spurs. Longitudinal metasternal line absent. Meta-intercoxal process wider than long. Femoral line absent. Ventrite 5 evenly arcuate; ventrite 5 without crenulations, surface unmodified.

Scutellum small, pentagonal, transverse. Elytra short-oval, moderately convex, humeral corners rounded, weakly curved at sides, maximum breadth of elytra in first third of their length, 2.1 times as long as pronotum, 1.2 times as long as broad (Fig. 4). Surface shining, moderately closely punctured, punctures in basal part slightly stronger than on pronotal disk, and approximately 1.0–1.5 diameters apart their lateral neighbours on an average. Elytral impression absent.

**ETYMOLOGY.** The species is named *saxonica*, because it was found in Bitterfeld amber (Saxony-Anhalt).

**REMARKS.** This species belongs to the subgenus *Anchicera* and to the group of species with decumbent pubescence, pronotum not narrowed towards base, and transversal joints of club of antenna. The new species is similar to *Atomaria analis* Erichson, 1846 and *A. testacea* Stephens, 1830.

They differs from the new species by the following key.

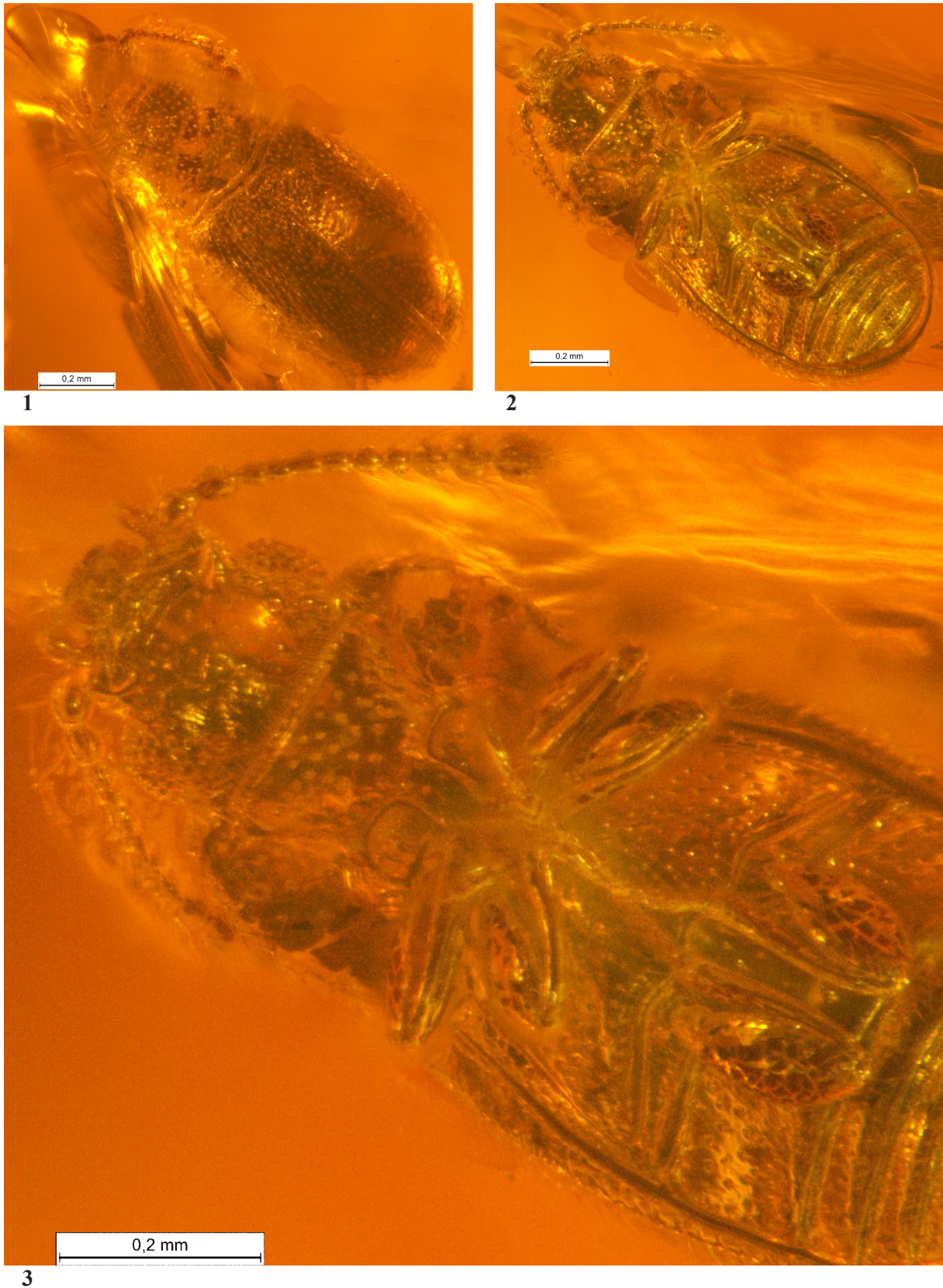
1. 7<sup>th</sup> antennal joint distinctly longer than 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> .....  
..... *A. analis* Erichson  
— 7<sup>th</sup> antennal joint approximately equal to 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> .... 2
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> antennal joint distinctly longer than 5<sup>th</sup>. Elytral punctation distinctly weaker than pronotal punctation .....  
..... *A. testacea* Stephens  
— 3<sup>rd</sup> antennal joint approximately equal to 5<sup>th</sup>. Elytral punctation equal to pronotal punctation .... *A. saxonica* **sp.n.**

From Baltic amber two species of *Atomaria* were described, *Atomaria gedanicola* Lyubarsky et Perkovsky, 2013, and *Atomaria groehni* Perkovsky et Lyubarsky, 2014; Eocene amber species of the genus are keyed below:

1. Pronotum broadest before the middle of its length ..... 2  
— Pronotum of approximately equal width from middle to base ..... *A. saxonica* **sp.n.**
2. Side borders of pronotum visible from above along the entire length; elytra covered by long elevated pubescence .....  
..... *A. groehni* Perkovsky et Lyubarsky  
— Side borders of pronotum not visible from above along the entire length; elytra covered by decumbent pubescence .....  
..... *A. gedanicola* Lyubarsky et Perkovsky

## Several notes on Miocene and Cretaceous Cryptophagidae

**Miocene Epoch.** The fauna of fossil Cryptophagidae belonging to the Cenozoic Era consists of extant genera. Found in the Eocene are *Antherophagus* Dejean, 1821, *Cryptophagus* Herbst, 1792, *Micrambe* Thomson, 1863, and *Atomaria* Stephens, 1829. However, two extinct genera from China were described from the Miocene diatomite from Shanwang Village, Linq County, Shandong Province [Zhang, 1989]. These genera, *Elytrophagus* Zhang, 1989 and *Plastophagus* Zhang, 1989, have no analogues in the modern fauna and probably do not belong to Cryptophagidae.



Figs 1–3. Photo of *Atomaria saxonica* sp.n.: 1 — habitus, dorsal view; 2 — habitus, ventral view; 3 — head and prosternum, ventral view.

Рис. 1–3. Фотография *Atomaria saxonica* sp.n.: 1 — сверху; 2 — снизу; 3 — голова и переднегрудь, снизу.

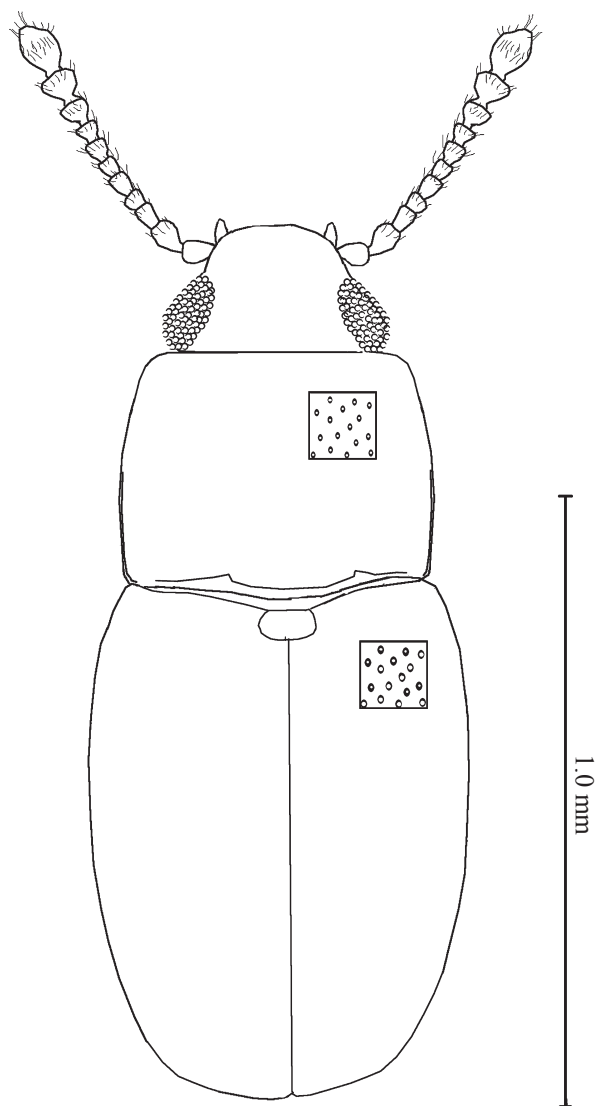


Fig. 4. Drawing of general view of *Atomaria saxonica* sp.n.  
Рис. 4. Общий вид *Atomaria saxonica* sp.n. (рисунок).

#### *Elytrophagus* Zhang, 1989

Type species: *Elytrophagus porphyroleucus* Zhang, 1989.

From extant Cryptophagidae this species distinguishes in several characters. The extant Cryptophagidae have a maximum body length up to 5.2 mm (*Antherophagus*). *Elytrophagus porphyroleucus* has body length 6.7 mm. In the description it is indicated that there is a three-segmented club of antenna. However, in the photography and the drawing, four segments of the club of antenna are visible. Among the Cryptophagidae there are no antennae of this type, with a 4-segment antennal club. Occasionally, a club of antenna may consist of 1 segment, or of 2, usually of 3, but never of 4. Elytra of *Elytrophagus* are covered by 8 rows of punctures. Almost all Cryptophagidae have a confused punctuation in the elytra. Punctate stria on elytron are present in *Henotiderus* Reitter, 1877 and *Striatocryptus* Leschen, 1996 only, but *Elytrophagus* completely different from these genera.

Probably, *Elytrophagus* Zhang belongs to Tenebrionidae. Antennae of *Elytrophagus* are short, 11-jointed with indistinctly 4-jointed club. A characteristic morphological

character distinguishing Tenebrionidae is that the forehead of the frons is expanded in the form of a "peak" and covers the base of the antennae. Femora in *Elytrophagus* are stout. 1<sup>st</sup> ventrite is the same length as other ventrites while Cryptophagidae always have 1 ventrite longer than any other.

We conclude that *Elytrophagus* Zhang, 1989 does not belong to Cryptophagidae.

#### *Plastophagus* Zhang, 1989

Type species: *Plastophagus pellous* Zhang, 1989.

Strongly different from all extant Cryptophagidae. *Plastophagus pellous* have body length 13.2 mm. Antennae thick, elongated, containing 11 segments, without club or with only indistinct club. Longest is 3<sup>rd</sup> joint of antenna; 11<sup>th</sup> joint small. In Cryptophagidae 3<sup>rd</sup> antennomere is slightly smaller than, or equal in length to, the 2<sup>nd</sup> antennomere. In Cryptophagidae the last segment of the antennae may be subequal to penultimate antennomere or 2x the length of the penultimate antennomere, but not less than penultimate antennomere. In *Plastophagus*, hind femora are stout. 1<sup>st</sup> ventrite is slightly longer than other ventrites, while in Cryptophagidae the first ventrite is usually twice as long as the following ones.

Probably, *Plastophagus* Zhang, 1989 does belong to Cryptophagidae either. Body size is very large. Antennae of *Plastophagus* are very thick, without a distinct club. There are differences in the structure of the first ventrite. Probably, *Plastophagus* belongs to Cleridae, and is closest to *Mathesius* Kolibáč et Huang, 2011.

**Mesozoic Era.** Thus, the Cenozoic fauna of cryptophagids consists entirely of extant genera, and we are well aware of the appearance of the beetles of this fauna. Completely different is the situation with the Mesozoic fauna. Until recently, there were almost no Mesozoic findings of cryptophagids, but now we have a general picture of this fauna. The second Lower Cretaceous genus is established below.

Family Cryptophagidae Kirby, 1837

Subfamily Atomariinae LeConte, 1861

#### Genus *Shixitomaria* gen.n.

Type species: *Atomaria cretacea* Cai et Wang, 2013.

The specimen was collected from the Lower Cretaceous (Aptian-Albian) Shixi Formation [Hu *et al.*, 2017] at a locality near Qingxi, Shangrao City, Jiangxi Province of southern China.

**DESCRIPTION.** Body elongate, narrow, length 2.6 mm. Eyes large, hemispherical. Head slightly narrower than pronotum width. Frons without tubercle. Antenna relatively long, nearly reaching the posterior margin of the pronotum, with 3-segmented club. Antennomere 1 is dilated and is the longest and widest. Antennal insertions are visibly close, the distance between them being shorter than their distance from the eyes. Antennal inserted into anterior margin of head. Antennal grooves are absent. A frontoclypeal suture is clearly present and slightly curved. Gular sutures are absent.

The pronotum is parallel-sided, its greatest width nearly at the middle, 0.54 mm long and 0.69 mm wide. The anterior pronotal margin is nearly straight. The lateral pronotal margin is present and smooth, not dentate. The prosternum apparently lacks parallel lines. Prosternum before coxae long, anterior part of prosternum (seen before coxae) twice as long as prosternal process. The procoxae are moderately separated.

The elytra are elongate, covering the whole abdomen. The elytral epipleuron gradually narrows, is incomplete, and its ends are nearly positioned at the level of the metacoxae. The mesoventrite is not divided by a longitudinal groove. The mesocoxal cavities are moderately separated. Metacoxae are narrowly separated and do not extend laterally to meet the elytra.

The abdomen is five-segmented, gradually tapered to the apex; ventrites are apparently free. Abdominal ventrite 1 is a bit longer than any of the remaining ventrites.

**DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS.** *Shixitomaria* **gen.n.** belongs to Cryptophagidae: antenna with 11 antennomeres, with 3-jointed club; epipleura incomplete, reaching the level of metacoxae; abdominal ventrite 1 longer than each of the remaining ventrites.

*Shixitomaria* **gen.n.** differs from *Atomaria*: 1) Eye large, exceeding the length of 1 antennal segment; 2) The antennae are inserted on the anterior margin of the head, on the apex of the forehead (in extant Atomariinae and Cryptophaginae the antennae are inserted under the lateral edge of the forehead or in the middle of the forehead); 3) Boss on front of head absent (in *Atomaria* the boss present); 4) The anterior part of prosternum is twice as long as the prosternal process (in *Atomaria*, anterior part of prosternum is 1–1.5x the length of the prosternal process); 5) 1<sup>st</sup> ventrite a little longer than any other ventrites (in *Atomaria*, 1<sup>st</sup> abdominal segment is usually as long as the two following ones taken together).

In Cai & Wang [2013], the type species it is placed in the extant Atomariinae based on the presence of a distinct frontoclypeal suture. However, the length of prosternal process and anterior part of prothorax are not typical for the tribe Atomariini, nor the length of the first ventrite. From the tribe Cryptafricini this species is different in body shape, and from the tribe Hypocoprini in frontoclypeal suture present. Judging by frontoclypeal suture, it belongs to Atomariini, but there are some characters of Hypocoprini as well. For the time being it should be attributed to the tribe Atomariini.

Thus, the Mesozoic fauna includes five genera of Cryptophagidae: three genera of Cryptophaginae: *Albocryptophagus* Peris, Lyubarsky et Perkovsky, 2017 (1 extinct species, Albian Spanish amber); *Microticus* Lyubarsky, Perkovsky, 2015 (1 extinct species, Santonian Taimyr amber); *Ennoticus* Lyubarsky et Perkovsky, 2017 (1 extinct species, Santonian Taimyr amber) [Peris *et al.*, 2017; Lyubarsky, Perkovsky, 2017a]; and two genera of Atomariinae: *Nganasania* Zherikhin, 1977 [Lyubarsky, Perkovsky, 2014, 2017b: 2 extinct species, Santonian Taimyr amber]; *Shixitomaria* **gen.n.** (1 extinct species, Aptian-Albian, Jiangxi, China). All 5 genera occur only in the Aptian-Santonian. From the Cenozoic fauna the fauna of the Mesozoic differs by a complete change in the composition of genera.

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