

1 **A Cretaceous bug indicates that exaggerated antennae may be a** 2 **double-edged sword in evolution**

3
4 Bao-Jie Du¹†, Rui Chen²†, Wen-Tao Tao¹, Hong-Liang Shi³, Wen-Jun Bu¹, Ye Liu^{2,4},
5 Shuai Ma^{2,4}, Meng-Ya Ni⁴, Fan-Li Kong⁵, Jin-Hua Xiao^{1*}, Da-Wei Huang^{1,2*}
6

7 ¹Institute of Entomology, College of Life Sciences, Nankai University, Tianjin 300071,
8 China.

9 ²Key Laboratory of Zoological Systematics and Evolution, Institute of Zoology,
10 Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100101, China.

11 ³Beijing Forestry University, Beijing 100083, China.

12 ⁴Paleo-diary Museum of Natural History, Beijing 100097, China.

13 ⁵Century Amber Museum, Shenzhen 518101, China.

14 †These authors contributed equally.

15 *Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to D.W.H. (email:
16 huangdw@ioz.ac.cn) or J.H.X. (email: xiaojh@nankai.edu.cn).
17

18 **Abstract**

19 The true bug family Coreidae is noted for its distinctive expansion of antennae and
20 tibiae. However, the origin and early diversity of such expansions in Coreidae are
21 unknown. Here, we describe the nymph of a new coreid species from a Cretaceous
22 Myanmar amber. *Magnusantenna wuae* **gen. et sp. nov.** (Hemiptera: Coreidae) differs
23 from all recorded species of coreid in its exaggerated antennae (nearly 12.3 times
24 longer and 4.4 times wider than the head). The emergence of the bizarre antennae may
25 be the result of natural selection. Such antennal elaboration indicates that
26 long-distance chemical communication or defense behavior in Hemiptera have been
27 already well established in the early of Upper Cretaceous. The specialized antenna
28 maintains in adult like extant coreids, which means that antennae may play an
29 important role in sexual display. Even so, the highly specialized characteristic would
30 also have confronted a substantial investment and high risk, which may have
31 facilitated the final disappearance of the antenna.
32

33 **Keywords:** Cretaceous; Coreidae; chemical communication; defense behavior; sexual
34 display
35

36 **Introduction**

37 The emergence of individual niches facilitates the appearance of new specialized
38 morphological features on the basis of natural selection (Kratochwil et al., 2018; Lee
39 et al., 2011). The antennae of insects play a significant role in locating of potential
40 host plants, suitable spawning grounds, attracting mates and escaping predation (Gao

1 et al., 2016; Pekár and Hrušková, 2006). Expansive and delicate antennae carry more
2 olfactory receptors, which facilitates the life activities of insects, especially in
3 chemical communication and sexual selection behavior (Krogmann et al., 2013;
4 Wappler et al., 2015). The rapid rise of angiosperms has changed the structure of
5 terrestrial vegetation while promoting the development of plant-related insect
6 diversity in the Cretaceous (Engel, 2015; McLoughlin and Pott, 2019). It is especially
7 important to search and occupy survival resources quickly and efficiently in fierce
8 competition. According to fossil evidence, long-distance chemical communication
9 behavior occurred in numerous insect groups in the Early Cretaceous, but has not yet
10 been found in Hemiptera (Gao et al., 2016; Krogmann et al., 2013; Wichard, 2017).

11 Coreids, which are commonly known as leaf-footed bugs because of their leaf-like
12 expansive legs, vary in body form and size (Panizzi and Grazia, 2015). In addition,
13 the similar expansion on the antennae of coreids is also an easily identifiable character
14 (Fracker, 1919). Coreidae is a moderately large family in the insect order Hemiptera,
15 with nearly 500 genera and 2200 species (Hamouly et al., 2010) within four
16 subfamilies: Coreinae Leach, 1815 (Schuh and Slater, 1995); Hydarinae Stål, 1873
17 (Brailovsky, 2010); Meropachyinae Stål, 1868 (Brailovsky and Barrera, 2009) and
18 Pseudophloeinae Stål, 1868 (CoreoideaSF, 2018; Hamouly et al., 2010). The family
19 has a worldwide distribution, particularly in the neotropics and subtropics
20 (CoreoideaSF, 2018). Most species are economic pests that feed on legumes, rice,
21 fruits and other crops, usually causing the host plant to wither or die. They are
22 identified by a combination of characteristics: antennae and rostrum four-segmented;
23 antennal socket visible dorsally; pronotum trapezoid or hexagonal; membrane of the
24 forewings with many parallel longitudinal veins; tarsi three-segmented; scent glands
25 on the thorax between the middle and hind coxae; and antennae, humeral angles or
26 hind tibiae sometimes showing expansion (Schuh and Slater, 1995). Expansion of
27 various body parts plays a significant role in sexual selection and defense behavior
28 (Eberhard, 1998). But we know nothing about the origin or early diversity of these
29 exquisite expansions in Coreidae.

30 All the confirmed fossil records of the Coreidae during Mesozoic are preserved in
31 China, the oldest of which is from the Upper Triassic strata (Hong, 1987; Hong, 1984;
32 Lin, 1992). Fossil representatives are relatively common in Tertiary strata, being
33 known from Eocene strata of the United States (Cockerell, 1909; Scudder, 1890);
34 Oligocene rocks of France (Théobald, 1937), Germany (Heyden, 1858; Statz and
35 Wagner, 1950); Miocene strata of China (Hong et al., 1983; Hong and Wang, 1987;
36 Zhang, 1989; Zhang et al., 1994; Zhang and Zhang, 1990), Croatia (Heer, 1853) and
37 Germany (Heer, 1853); and Pliocene rocks of France (Piton, 1935). *Yuripopovina*
38 *magnifica* of family Yuripopoviniidae is the oldest known specimen of the superfamily
39 Coreoidea preserved in the Cretaceous Lebanese amber (Azar et al., 2011). So far,
40 four species of the family Coreidae have been described from the Cretaceous rock
41 impressions, all of which do not have expanded antennae (Database, 2018).

42 Here, we describe a coreid nymph with exaggerated, expanded antennae that lived
43 in the area of present-day northern Myanmar during the Upper Cretaceous. During the
44 Cretaceous, these bugs were active on gymnosperms, ferns, and early angiosperms,

1 feeding on the nutritional material in the leaves, branches, trunks, flowers and seeds
2 of host plants, especially in young tissue (Panizzi and Grazia, 2015). This nymph
3 represents the first record of the family Coreidae preserved in amber. The
4 characteristic foliated antennal expansion of the coreids is demonstrated to have
5 existed approximately 99 million years ago; this improves our understanding of coreid
6 biodiversity during the Cretaceous Period. In addition, we discuss the important role
7 of specialized antennae in long-distance chemical communication behavior, defense
8 behavior or sexual display, and the possible causes for the eventual disappearance of
9 the antenna.

10

11 **Result**

12 **Systematic paleontology**

13 Order Hemiptera Linnaeus, 1758

14 Suborder Heteroptera Latreille, 1810

15 Infraorder Pentatomomorpha Leston, Pendergrast and Southwood, 1955

16 Superfamily Coreoidea Reuter, 1815

17 Family Coreidae Leach, 1815

18 Subfamily Coreinae Leach, 1815

19 Genus *Magnusantenna* gen. nov.

20 ***Magnusantenna wuae* gen. et sp. nov.**

21 (Figs. 1–4)

22 **Type species.** *Magnusantenna wuae* gen. et sp. nov.

23 **Etymology.** The generic name is derived from Latin prefix *margus*, meaning large,
24 and *antenna*, meaning antenna; referring to the enlarged antennae.

25

26 **Diagnosis.** Body slender, length approximately 6.67 mm. Antenna extremely large,
27 subequal to the body length, with four segments. First segment inflated; second, third
28 and fourth segments expanded and remarkably toward the apex. Head square,
29 compound eyes large, spherical, located at the center of each side of the head and
30 prominently protruding. Pronotum and mesonotum trapezoidal. Legs slender.

31 **Remarks.** *Magnusantenna* gen. nov. is similar to the extant *Chariesterus* Laporte,
32 1832 in the following ways: body slender; lateral margins parallel; head subquadrate;
33 compound eyes prominent and protruding; antennal socket protruding forward;
34 antennae subequal to the length of the body; third antennal segment variously foliate;
35 pronotum narrowed anteriorly, without collar; and hind tibiae not expanded. However,
36 *Magnusantenna* gen. nov. can be distinguished from *Chariesterus* by several
37 characteristics: first antennal segment slightly fusiform; second antennal segment
38 approximately rectangular and spreading; fourth antennal segment exhibiting very
39 large triangular spread; rostrum segments each of different length; and pronotum
40 without spinose humeri. Conversely, *Chariesterus* exhibits several characteristics that
41 differ from those of *Magnusantenna* gen. nov.: first antennal segment somewhat
42 triquetral, usually bearing small denticles or acute spines, slightly curved at least in
43 the basal area; second and fourth antennal segments not expanded; and rostrum

1 segments subequal in length, diverging posteriorly to form prominent spinose humeri
2 (Panizzi and Grazia, 2015; Ruckes, 1955). *Magnusantenna* gen. nov. is markedly
3 different from all previously described fossil Coreidae in the scale of the antennal
4 exaggeration.

5

6 ***Magnusantenna wuae* gen. et sp. nov.**

7 (Figs. 1–4)

8

9 **Etymology.** The specific epithet, *wuae*, is in honor of Ms. Wu Lijing, who provided
10 the specimen.

11 **Holotype.** STJS0003. Nymph, probably approach fourth instar. Deposited in the
12 Century Amber Museum (Room 301A No.1, Songrui Road, Songgang Street, Bao'an
13 District, Shenzhen, China). Only known specimen.

14 **Horizon and Locality.** Hukawng Village, Kachin State, northern Myanmar; Upper
15 Cretaceous (earliest Cenomanian), 98.79 ± 0.62 Ma (Shi et al., 2012). Only known
16 from the type locality.

17 **Diagnosis.** as for genus.

18 **Description.** Body slender, length 6.67 mm, width 0.76 mm (Figs. 1, 3, 4). Head
19 subquadrate, length 0.55 mm, width 0.56 mm (Figs. 1, 2A, 4).

20 Labrum long triangle, basal area slightly broad, gradually narrowing toward apex
21 (Fig. 2B). Compound eyes large and spherical, located on the center of the lateral
22 margins of the head and protruding outward significantly (Figs. 1, 2A–B, 3, 4).
23 Rostrum with four segments; first segment close to the ventral surface of the head,
24 reaching the anterior margin of the compound eye, length 0.47 mm; second segment
25 vertical to the body, longest rostrum segment, length 0.92 mm; third and fourth
26 segments parallel to the body, pointing forward, length 0.79 mm and 0.42 mm,
27 respectively, and the apex of the fourth segment sharp (Fig. 2B).

28 Antennae nearly 12.3 times longer than the head and 4.4 times wider than the head.
29 Antennal socket robust, extending in front of the head. Antennae with four segments,
30 length 6.78 mm, almost equal to body length, with significant expansion except for
31 the first segment (Figs. 1, 2A, 4). First antennal segment inflated, 0.42 mm long and
32 0.20 mm wide (Figs. 1, 2C, 4). Second antennal segment approximately rectangular
33 and expanding, with a few setae on the surface, lateral margins serrated and setaceous,
34 distal margin of antennal axis with a sharp angle at apex, proximal margin of antennal
35 axis thickened and cutinized, segment length 1.88 mm and width 0.29 mm (Figs. 1,
36 2D, 4). Third antennal segment petal-shaped, 2.17 mm long and 1.14 mm wide; basal
37 area obtusely rounded, middle of apical area with a sharp angle, all margins bear
38 minute setae; distal extension of antennal axis with sparse setae on the surface,
39 proximal extension of antennal axis with dense setae on the surface, proximal margin
40 with strong keratin thickening (Figs. 1, 2E, 4). Fourth antennal segment triangular,
41 3.15 mm long and 2.49 mm wide, basal area obtusely rounded, apical area a long arc,
42 all margins with minute setae (Fig. 1, 2F); distal extension of antennal axis with
43 sparse setae on the surface (Figs. 2G), proximal extension of the antennal axis with
44 dense setae on the surface (Fig. 2H), proximal margin with strong keratin thickening

1 (Fig. 2I).

2 Pronotum trapeziform, center with shallow longitudinal groove, length 0.65 mm
3 and width 0.57 mm (Figs. 1, 3A, 4). Mesonotum trapeziform, center with shallow
4 longitudinal groove, length 0.49 mm and width 0.58 mm; lateral margin bearing
5 forewing bud, long ovoid, length 0.65 mm and width 0.21 mm, basal area narrow,
6 apical area narrowly rounded, posterior margin surpassing anterior margin of the
7 metanotum, overlapping with the basal area of the hindwing bud (Figs. 1, 3A–B, 4).
8 Metanotum transversely wide, anterior margin nearly fused with posterior margin of
9 mesonotum, length 0.39 mm and width 0.67 mm, lateral margin with hindwing bud,
10 basal area wide, apical area narrowly rounded, posterior margin not reaching the
11 anterior margin of the first abdominal tergite, length 0.34 mm and width 0.24 mm
12 (Figs. 1, 3A–B, 4).

13 Fore femora cylindrical and slightly thick, length 1.98 mm. Fore tibiae narrower
14 than the femora, length 2.03 mm. Fore tarsi with two segments, apices with two claws,
15 length 0.71 mm (Figs. 1, 3A–C, 4). Middle femora slightly shorter than the fore
16 femora, cylindrical, length 1.52 mm. Middle tibiae narrower than the femora, length
17 1.75 mm. Middle tarsi with two segments, apices with two claws, length 0.67 mm
18 (Figs. 1, 3A–D, 4). Hind femora long and thick, cylindrical, length 1.69 mm. Hind
19 tibiae narrower than the femora, length 2.46 mm. Hind tarsi with two segments,
20 apices with two claws, length 0.68 mm.

21 Abdomen length 4.35 mm, width 0.61 mm, nine visible segments. First and second
22 abdominal tergite transversally wide. From third to eighth segment, abdominal
23 tergites longer than the first two tergites. Black scent gland markings visible between
24 the third and fourth, fourth and fifth, and fifth and sixth abdominal tergites. Ninth
25 abdominal tergite trapezoidal, basal area wide, apical area slightly narrow, no
26 recognizable genital structure that should be present in the abdomen (Figs. 1, 2A, 3).

27 **Remarks.** *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. resembles the extant coreid *Chariesterus*
28 *antennator* (Fabricius, 1803) (Fabricius, 1803). In addition to the similarities and
29 differences documented in the Remarks section for the genus, the third antennal
30 segments of both species are obovately dilated, with a width more than one-third of
31 the length of the segment and the apex with an obvious angle. However, *M. wuae* gen.
32 et sp. nov. does not have a notch at the apex of the third antennal segment, and the
33 length ratio of each antennal segment from the first to the fourth is 42:188:217:315. In
34 contrast, *C. antennator* has a conspicuous notch at the apex of the third antennal
35 segment, and the length ratio of each antennal segment from the first to the fourth is
36 105:83:60:51 (Fracker, 1919; Ruckes, 1955). Therefore, *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. is
37 sufficiently distinct from *C. antennator* to justify erection of a new genus and species.

38

39 Discussion

40 Taxonomic status of the nymph specimen preserved in amber

41 The extremely extended and oversized antennae distinguish the new coreid from all
42 other previously known fossil and extant species, even based only on the single
43 nymph available to us. In addition to the Coreinae, the Coreidae includes three other

1 subfamilies. We can rule the nymph out of them by the following characteristics: The
2 Hydarinae are recognized by possession of a third antennal segment that is more than
3 twice as long as the second segment, anterior and posterior lobes of metathoracic
4 peritreme that are completely separated (Brailovsky, 2010); The Meropachyinae are
5 characterized by a distal tooth or spine on the hind tibia, a curved and usually strongly
6 incrassate hind femur (Brailovsky and Barrera, 2009); The Pseudophloeinae are
7 distinguished by a granulated surface of the pronotum, scutellum and hemelytra, with
8 each granule bearing small adpressed setae (Hamouly et al., 2010). All previous fossil
9 examples of Coreidae have been reported from rock impressions, and are generally
10 poorly preserved. The coreid nymph specimen preserved in amber described in the
11 present study most likely belongs to the subfamily Coreinae owing to the following
12 features: third antennal segment only slightly longer than second segment; hind tibia
13 not curved and without prominent tooth or spine distally; and pronotum smooth and
14 not granular. This is the first report of a leaf-footed bug in amber and the second
15 representative of the Coreoidea preserved in amber, enriching the known species
16 diversity of the group during the Cretaceous period.

17 Heteropteran nymphs generally have five instars, which typically resemble adults
18 in their morphological appearance and living environment, except that they are
19 generally much smaller and softer than adults, they have paired scent glands located
20 on the dorsal abdomen, and the number of tarsal segments is one less than that of
21 adults (Panizzi and Grazia, 2015). Wing buds appear in the third instar, and external
22 genitals and ocelli can be observed in the fifth instar (Schuh and Slater, 1995). We
23 regard this new specimen as a nearly fourth instar nymph because of the following
24 features: posterior margins of the hind buds not reaching the anterior margin of the
25 first abdominal tergite; ocelli absent; scent glands located on the dorsal surface of the
26 abdomen; tarsi two-segmented; and genitalia not developed (Schuh and Slater, 1995).
27 Both nymphs and adults of modern *Chariesterus*, *Dalader*, and *Thasus* in Coreinae
28 have the similar expansion on the third antennal segment, but are significantly
29 different from the new species (Fig. 5) (Barrera and Brailovsky, 1994; Prudic et al.,
30 2008). The first antennal segment of the nymph described here is robust (Figs. 1, 2A,
31 C, 3A, 4); the proximal extension of the antennal axis extends from the second to
32 fourth segment with dense setae on the surface; and the proximal margin exhibits
33 strong keratin thickening (Figs. 1, 2A, D–I, 3–4); the fourth antennal segment is more
34 prominent than the third segment (Figs. 1, 2A, E–F, 3–4). Therefore, the antennal
35 expansion should have persisted in the adult stage. This discovery demonstrates that
36 the antennal expansion of the Coreidae originated at least 99 million years ago.

37

38 **Antennal expansion and long-distance chemical communication**

39 Antennal specialization plays a vital role in the adaptive evolution of Coreidae. Along
40 with the flourishing of angiosperms, the species diversity development of coreids
41 increased the competition for survival factors among them (Fisher and Watson, 2015).
42 The antennae sensory hairs are mainly located on the distal segment of the antennae in
43 coreids (Pekár and Hrušková, 2006). The expanded antennae undoubtedly increase the
44 superficial area of the antennae and enhance the sensory function and efficiency of the

1 antennal sensor for potential host plants (Krogmann et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2018a). In
2 addition, younger instars are generally gregarious in coreids (Prudic et al., 2008;
3 Panizzi and Grazia, 2015). Expansive antennae may enable them to receive signals
4 from other conspecifics quickly and accurately, which is beneficial to each individual.
5 The nymph owns the modified antennae, which can identify host plants and mates
6 more efficiently and quickly, improving intraspecific and interspecific
7 competitiveness.

8 The family Coreidae have the expansive antennae, which are relatively common
9 (uniform and slight expansion of all antennal segments or partially segment,
10 alternatively, only obvious expansion occurs on the third antennal segment) in living
11 insects (Fig. 5). However, there was no extension of any form in Mesozoic. Based on
12 reports of modern species, the antennae are likely to still exist during adulthood. We
13 speculate that the exaggerated and exquisite antennae may be associated with sexual
14 selection during the adult. Furthermore, the extremely expanded antennae may
15 become a key factor in long-distance locating of the opposite sex by sensing the sex
16 pheromone.

17 In summary, our finding indicates that the coreid has long-term chemical
18 communication capabilities during the Cretaceous period. It is also the first discovery
19 of long-distance chemical communication in the Cretaceous Hemiptera. This is an
20 adaptive behavior, the result of natural selection (Fig. 6). The only other known
21 hemipteran fossil with expanded antennae are lace bugs (Insecta: Heteroptera:
22 Tingidae), which dates from the Early Eocene and deposits in the Green River
23 Formation (Wappler et al., 2015).

24

25 **Antennal expansion and defense behavior**

26 Camouflage is a common behavior in insects and can effectively reduce the
27 probability of an individual being detected by a predator, and increase the chances of
28 escape from a predator (Garrouste et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2018b; Pérez-de la Fuente et
29 al., 2016; Wang et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2010). A variety of
30 defensive mechanisms in Hemiptera have significant impacts on reducing encounters
31 and avoiding predators, for example, species of Phloeidae can camouflage themselves
32 as a piece of lichen on a tree (Panizzi and Grazia, 2015).

33 Some body parts can regenerate or are expendable. In the face of strong predation
34 pressure, these body parts can attract a predator's attention and protect the vital parts
35 from damage. This defense mechanism has evolved independently for multiple body
36 parts in many animals (Maginnis, 2010). A high incidence of structure loss and
37 regeneration in insect appendages, such as the legs, antennae and cerci, a process that
38 increases survival opportunities, has been reported (Bely and Nyberg, 2010; Tan et al.,
39 2013; Wu et al., 2019; Emberts, 2016).

40 For the nymph described in this article, it's probably simulating a branch with
41 leaves in stationary. Exaggerated antennae may have been a powerful tool to focus the
42 attention of a predator on the antennae rather than on the head or any other part of the
43 body in motion, thus avoiding a deadly attack. The nymph is similar to some extant
44 coreids, in that the leaf-like broadened antennal segments and hind tibiae may have

1 broke up and attracted the attention of a predator to the expendable appendages
2 (Schuh and Slater, 1995). Molting behavior in the nymphal stage provides a greater
3 possibility for regeneration of antennae (Leston, 1957). The exaggerated antennae of
4 *Magnusantenna wuae* gen. et sp. nov. constitute possible evidence for defensive
5 behavior approximately 99 million years ago under natural selection (Fig. 6).

6 7 **Antennal expansion and sexual display**

8 A delicate visual display structure is a prominent signal to attract mates or defeat
9 competitors (Warren et al., 2013). However, the specialized antennae characteristic is
10 little known in ancient species due to the difficulty preservation in fossil. Currently,
11 exceptional structures for sexual display found in fossils include the extremely
12 expanded tibiae (Zheng et al., 2017), the unusually long abdominal terminal segments
13 and sexual organs (Brucearchibald, 2010; Wang et al., 2013) and the dilated antennal
14 segments (Wappler et al., 2015). The expanded antennae have evolved numerous
15 times in different insect groups, especially in males (Krogmann et al., 2013). Previous
16 studies have reported that expanded antennae are associated with sexual displays
17 which is positively correlated with size and appearance of the trait (McCullough et al.,
18 2016; Warren et al., 2013).

19 Some insect antennae reach remarkable sizes. The antennae in katydids, crickets
20 and some longhorn beetles are often longer than the body, and the antennae in some
21 chafers, moths and mosquitoes are relatively wide in relation to the body (but do not
22 exceed the body width). The dilated antennal segment is known in extant coreid adults,
23 but most of them only occur in the third segment and not wider than the head
24 (CoreoideaSF, 2018; Fracker, 1919; Prudic et al., 2008). In contrast, in the
25 amber-preserved bug nymph specimen described herein, both the length and the width
26 of the antennae are greater than the body length and width. In addition, the shape of
27 each antennal segment of *Magnusantenna wuae* gen. et sp. nov. varies greatly, with
28 the third and fourth segments especially significantly expanded, unlike those in other
29 bugs, in which all segments are similar and mostly longitudinal. Such oversized and
30 bizarre antennae (nearly 12.3 times longer than the head and 4.4 times wider than the
31 head) are unique in the Heteroptera and rare in Insecta. The leaf-like expansion of the
32 hind tibiae and the third antennal segment in modern male coreids is usually used to
33 attract mates, and the mating success rate is closely related to male body size (McLain
34 et al., 1993; Panizzi and Grazia, 2015).

35 Therefore, we suspect that the extremely expanded antennae of *M. wuae* gen. et sp.
36 nov. may be used for sexual display, and the nymph would have developed into an
37 adult. This suggests that if we find an adult in the future, the antennae may be larger.
38 This is a case of the emergence of uncontrolled sexual selection characteristics caused
39 by positive feedback (Fig. 6). The exaggerated antennae may have borne a large
40 number of olfactory receptors, enabling the animal to locate females over long
41 distances and providing a basis for sexual display behavior (Pekár and Hrušková,
42 2006). Interestingly, slightly similar expanded antennae have been found in both
43 ancient lace-bugs and extant leaf-footed bugs as well as in *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov.
44 These similarities imply the occurrence of antennal enlargement in the Hemiptera,

1 suggesting possible behavioral convergence resulting from sexual selection (Wappler
2 et al., 2015).

3

4 **Antennal expansion and the causes of disappearance**

5 Extremely specialized traits have advantages in long-distance chemical
6 communication, defense and possible sexual display, but the owners have to pay a
7 high price for it at the same time, which increase the possibility of characteristic
8 disappearance.

9 Since the Cretaceous, the prosperity of angiosperms has promoted the rise of
10 herbivorous and carnivorous insects, birds and other animals, which improved the
11 diversity and number of competitors and predators of the nymph (Fisher and Watson,
12 2015; Labandeira, 2013; Schachat et al., 2019; Xing et al., 2019). Therefore, the
13 survival pressure of the nymph increased dramatically. As far as the exaggerated
14 antenna is concerned, it requires more energy to produce and maintain, which may
15 increase the probability of disappearance of the characteristic when the external
16 environment changes drastically. Moreover, the spectacular antennae are more likely
17 to have exposed the individual, increasing the chance of being discovered and preyed
18 upon. In addition, the large appendages probably made it move slowly, which would
19 have been a disadvantage when fleeing a predator. The combination of these factors
20 may accelerate the disappearance of the specialized characteristic (Fig. 6). Similar
21 examples are the exaggerated pod-like tibiae of the Cretaceous dragonfly and the
22 extremely elongated abdomens and sexual organs of the mecopterans, these special
23 characteristics disappear with the increase of survival pressure later (Wang et al., 2013;
24 Zheng et al., 2017).

25

26 **Material and Methods**

27 The coreid nymph described herein is preserved in a piece of golden-brown
28 Myanmar amber from an amber deposit in the Hukawng Valley of Myanmar. The age
29 has been estimated to be ca. 99 Ma (98.8 ± 0.6 Ma; earliest Cenomanian, Upper
30 Cretaceous) based on U-Pb dating of zircons from the volcanoclastic matrix of the
31 amber-bearing deposit (Shi et al., 2012). The mining locality is at Noiye Bum, near
32 Tanai Village (26°21'33.41"N, 96°43'11.88"E) (Cruickshank and Ko, 2003; Grimaldi
33 et al., 2002). Details of the geology and stratigraphy of the deposit have been
34 described in previous publications (Cruickshank and Ko, 2003; Shi et al., 2012).

35 The piece of amber was cut, ground and polished to a length \times width \times height of
36 approximately 26.75 \times 20.14 \times 12.43 mm. The specimen was examined with a LEICA
37 M125 C dissecting microscope.

38 Photographs were obtained with a LEICA MC 190 HD fitted to a LEICA M125 C
39 stereomicroscope and a Nikon Digital Sight DS-R1 fitted to a Nikon AZ100M
40 stereomicroscope. Images were stacked with Helicon Focus 6. Photographic figures
41 were constructed in Adobe Photoshop CC.

42

43 **Acknowledgements**

1 We are grateful to Century Amber Museum for depositing the specimen. We sincerely
2 thank Max Barclay at the Natural History Museum in London for his valuable
3 comments on our article. We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Branco, who
4 provided the photos of *Chariesterus armatus*. This project is supported by the
5 National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 31830084, 31672336), and also
6 supported by the construction funds for “Double First-Class” initiative for Nankai
7 University (No.s of 96172158, 96173250 and 91822294).

9 References

- 10
11 Azar, D., Nel, A., Engel, M., Garrouste, R., Matocq, A., 2011. A new family of Coreoidea from the
12 Lower Cretaceous Lebanese Amber (Hemiptera: Pentatomomorpha). Polish Journal of
13 Entomology 80, 627–644.
- 14 Barrera, E., Brailovsky, H., 1994. Descripción de cuatro especies y una subespecie nuevas de la tribu
15 anisoscelidini (Hemiptera-Heteroptera-Coreidae). Anales del Instituto de Biología Universidad
16 Nacional Autónoma de México (Serie Zoología) 65, 45–62.
- 17 Bely, A.E., Nyberg, K.G., 2010. Evolution of animal regeneration: re-emergence of a field. Trends in
18 Ecology & Evolution 25, 161–170.
- 19 Brailovsky, H., 2010. New genus and new species of Hydarini (Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Coreidae)
20 from South America. Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift 57, 85–88.
- 21 Brailovsky, H., Barrera, E., 2009. New Species of *Merocoris* (*Merocoris*) Perty from Brazil, with Keys
22 to Known Subgenera and Species of the Tribe Merocorini (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Coreidae:
23 Meropachyinae). Florida Entomologist 92, 134–138.
- 24 Brucearchibald, S., 2010. Revision of the scorpionfly family Holcorpidae (Mecoptera), with
25 description of a new species from Early Eocene McAbee, British Columbia, Canada. Annales De
26 La Societe Entomologique De France 46, 173–182.
- 27 Cockerell, T.D.A., 1909. Fossil insects from Colorado. The Entomologist 42, 170–174.
- 28 CoreoideaSF, T., 2019. Coreoidea Species File Online. Version 5.0/5.0. [12 May 2019].
29 <<http://Coreoidea.SpeciesFile.org>>.
- 30 Cruickshank, R.D., Ko, K., 2003. Geology of an amber locality in the Hukawng Valley, Northern
31 Myanmar. Journal of Asian Earth Sciences 21, 441–455.
- 32 Database, P., 2019. The Paleobiology Database.
- 33 Eberhard, W.G., 1998. Sexual behavior of *Acanthocephala declivis guatemalana* (Hemiptera: Coreidae)
34 and the allometric scaling of their modified hind legs. Annals of the Entomological Society of
35 America 91, 863–871.

- 1 Engel, M.S., 2015. Insect evolution. *Current Biology* 25, 868–872.
- 2 Fabricius, J.C., 1803. *Systema rhyngotorum: secundum ordines, genera, species: adiectis synonymis,*
3 *locis, observationibus, descriptionibus.* C. Reichard, Brunsvigae.
- 4 Fisher, H.L., Watson, J., 2015. A fossil insect egg on an Early Cretaceous conifer shoot from the
5 Wealden of Germany. *Cretaceous Research* 53, 38–47.
- 6 Fracker, S.B., 1919. *Chariesterus and Its Neotropical Relatives (Coreidae Heteroptera).* *Annals of the*
7 *Entomological Society of America* 12, 227–230.
- 8 Gao, T., Shih, C., Labandeira, C.C., Santiagoblay, J.A., Yao, Y., Dong, R., 2016. Convergent evolution
9 of ramified antennae in insect lineages from the Early Cretaceous of Northeastern China.
10 *Proceedings Biological Sciences* 283.
- 11 Garrouste, R., Hugel, S., Jacquelin, L., Rostan, P., Steyer, J.S., Desutter-Grandcolas, L., Nel, A., 2016.
12 Insect mimicry of plants dates back to the Permian. *Nature Communications* 7, 13735.
- 13 Grimaldi, D.A., Engel, M.S., Nascimbene, P.C., 2002. Fossiliferous Cretaceous amber from Myanmar
14 (Burma): Its rediscovery, biotic diversity, and paleontological significance. *American Museum*
15 *Novitates* 62, 1–71.
- 16 Hamouly, H.E., Sawaby, R.F., Fadl, H.H., 2010. Taxonomic review of the subfamily Pseudophloeinae
17 (Hemiptera: Coreidae) from Egypt. *Egyptian Journal of Biology* 12, 108–124.
- 18 Heer, O., 1853. *Die Insektenfauna der Tertiärgebilde von Oeningen und von Radoboj in Croatien.*
19 *Dritte Theil: Rhynchoten.* *Neue Denkschriften der allgemeinen Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für*
20 *die gesammten Naturwissenschaften* Zürich, Zürich.
- 21 Heyden, C.v., 1858. Fossile Insekten aus der Braunkohle von Salzhausen. *Palaeontographica* 5, 115–
22 120.
- 23 Hong, Y., 1987. The study of Early Cretaceous insects of Kezuo, west Liaoning. *Professional Papers of*
24 *Stratigraphy & Palaeontology* 18, 76–87.
- 25 Hong, Y.C., 1984. *Insecta.* *Palaeontological Atlas of North China, II, Mesozoic,* 128–185.
- 26 Hong, Y.C., Cora, J., Johnson, N., 1983. Fossil insects in the diatoms of Shanwang. *Bulletin of the*
27 *Tianjin Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources* 8, 1–15.
- 28 Hong, Y.C., Wang, W.L., 1987. Miocene Heteroptera and Coleoptera (Insecta) from Shanwang of
29 Shandong Province, China. *Journal of the Lanzhou University of Natural Science* 33, 116–124.
- 30 Kratochwil, C.F., Liang, Y., Gerwin, J., Woltering, J.M., Urban, S., Henning, F., Machado-Schiaffino,
31 G., Hulsey, C.D., Meyer, A., 2018. Agouti-related peptide 2 facilitates convergent evolution of
32 stripe patterns across cichlid fish radiations. *Science* 362, 457–460.
- 33 Krogmann, L., Engel, M.S., Bechly, G., Nel, A., 2013. Lower Cretaceous origin of long-distance mate

- 1 finding behaviour in Hymenoptera (Insecta). *Journal of Systematic Palaeontology* 11, 83–89.
- 2 Labandeira, C.C., 2013. A paleobiologic perspective on plant-insect interactions. *Current Opinion in*
3 *Plant Biology* 16, 414–421.
- 4 Lee, M.S.Y., Jago, J.B., Garcia-Bellido, D.C., Edgecombe, G.D., Gehling, J.G., Paterson, J.R., 2011.
5 Modern optics in exceptionally preserved eyes of Early Cambrian arthropods from Australia.
6 *Nature* 474, 631–634.
- 7 Leston, D., 1957. 'Compensatory Hyper-regeneration' in the Antenna of Hemiptera. *Nature* 181, 1144–
8 1145.
- 9 Lin, Q.B., 1992. Late Triassic insect fauna from Toksun, Xinjiang. *Acta Palaeontologica Sinica* 31, 313
10 –335
- 11 Liu, Q., Lu, X., Zhang, Q., Chen, J., Zheng, X., Zhang, W., Liu, X., Wang, B., 2018a. High niche
12 diversity in Mesozoic pollinating lacewings. *Nat. Commun.* 9, 3793.
- 13 Liu, X.Y., Shi, G.L., Xia, F.Y., Lu, X.M., Wang, B., Engel, M.S., 2018b. Liverwort Mimesis in a
14 Cretaceous Lacewing Larva. *Current Biology* 28, 1–7.
- 15 Maginnis, T.L., 2010. The costs of autotomy and regeneration in animals: a review and framework for
16 future research. *Behavioral Ecology* 17, 857–872.
- 17 McCullough, E.L., Miller, C.W., Emlen, D.J., 2016. Why Sexually Selected Weapons Are Not
18 Ornaments. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 31, 742–751.
- 19 McLain, D.K., Burnette, L.B., Deeds, D.A., 1993. Within season variation in the intensity of sexual
20 selection on body size in the bug *Margus obscurator* (Hemiptera Coreidae). *Ethology Ecology &*
21 *Evolution* 5, 75–86.
- 22 McLoughlin, S., Pott, C., 2019. Plant mobility in the Mesozoic: Disseminal dispersal strategies of
23 Chinese and Australian Middle Jurassic to Early Cretaceous plants. *Palaeogeography,*
24 *Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 515, 47–69.
- 25 Panizzi, A.R., Grazia, J., 2015. True Bugs (Heteroptera) of the Neotropics. Springer Netherlands.
- 26 Pekár, S., Hrušková, M., 2006. How granivorous *Coreus marginatus* (Heteroptera: Coreidae)
27 recognises its food. *acta ethologica* 9, 26–30.
- 28 Pérez-de la Fuente, R., Delclòs, X., Peñalver, E., Engel, M.S., 2016. A defensive behavior and
29 plant-insect interaction in Early Cretaceous amber-The case of the immature lacewing
30 *Hallucinochrysa diogenesi*. *Arthropod Structure & Development* 45, 133–139.
- 31 Piton, L.E., 1935. La faune entomologique des gisements mio-pliocenes du Massif Central. *Revue des*
32 *Sciences Naturelles d'Auvergne (N. S.)* 1, 65–104.

- 1 Prudic, K.L., Noge, K., Becerra, J.X., 2008. Adults and nymphs do not smell the same: The different
2 defensive compounds of the giant mesquite bug (*Thasus neocalifornicus*: Coreidae). *Journal of*
3 *Chemical Ecology* 34, 734–741.
- 4 Ruckes, H., 1955. The genus *Chariesterus* de Laporte (Heteroptera, Coreidae). *American Museum*
5 *novitates* 1721, 1–16.
- 6 Schachat, S.R., Labandeira, C.C., Clapham, M.E., Payne, J.L., 2019. A Cretaceous peak in family-level
7 insect diversity estimated with mark–recapture methodology. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B:*
8 *Biological Sciences* 286, 20192054.
- 9 Schuh, R.T., Slater, J.A., 1995. True bugs of the world (Hemiptera: Heteroptera): classification and
10 natural history. Cornell University Press, New York.
- 11 Scudder, S.H., 1890. The Tertiary insects of North America. George Mason University Press,
12 Washington
- 13 Shi, G., Grimaldi, D.A., Harlow, G.E., Wang, J., Wang, J., Yang, M., Lei, W., Li, Q., Li, X., 2012. Age
14 constraint on Burmese amber based on U–Pb dating of zircons. *Cretaceous Research* 37, 155–163.
- 15 Statz, G., Wagner, E., 1950. Geocorisae (Landwanzen) aus den Oberoligocäner Ablagerungen von Rott.
16 *Journal of Differential Equations* 34, 496–522.
- 17 Tan, L.F., Zhao, Y., Lei, C.L., 2013. Development and integrality of the regeneration leg in
18 *Eupolyphaga sinensis*. *Bulletin of Insectology* 66, 173–180.
- 19 Théobald, N., 1937. Les insectes fossiles des terrains Oligocènes de France. *Bulletin Mensuel*
20 *(Mémoires) de la Société des Sciences de Nancy* 1, 1–473.
- 21 Wang, B., Xia, F., Engel, M.S., Perrichot, V., Shi, G., Zhang, H., Chen, J., Jarzembowski, E.A.,
22 Wappler, T., Rust, J., 2016. Debris-carrying camouflage among diverse lineages of Cretaceous
23 insects. *Science Advances* 2, e1501918.
- 24 Wang, Q., Shih, C., Ren, D., 2013. The earliest case of extreme sexual display with exaggerated male
25 organs by two middle Jurassic Mecopterans. *PLoS ONE* 8, e71378.
- 26 Wang, Y., Labandeira, C.C., Shih, C., Ding, Q., Wang, C., Zhao, Y., Ren, D., 2012. Jurassic mimicry
27 between a hangingfly and a ginkgo from China. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*
28 *of the United States of America* 109, 20514.
- 29 Wang, Y., Liu, Z., Wang, X., Shih, C., Zhao, Y., Engel, M.S., Ren, D., 2010. Ancient pinnate leaf
30 mimesis among lacewings. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States*
31 *of America* 107, 16212–16215.
- 32 Wappler, T., Guilbert, E., Labandeira, C.C., Hörnschemeyer, T., Wedmann, S., 2015. Morphological
33 and behavioral convergence in extinct and extant bugs: The systematics and biology of a new
34 unusual fossil lace bug from the Eocene. *PLoS ONE* 10, e0133330.
- 35 Warren, I.A., Gotoh, H., Dworkin, I.M., Emlen, D.J., Lavine, L.C., 2013. A general mechanism for
36 conditional expression of exaggerated sexually-selected traits. *BioEssays* 35, 889–899.

- 1 Wichard, W., 2017. A remarkable caddisfly with bipectinate antennae in Cretaceous Burmese amber
2 (Insecta, Trichoptera). *Cretaceous Research* 69, 198–203.
- 3 Wu, P., Wu, F., Yan, S., Liu, C., Shen, Z., Xiong, X., Li, Z., Zhang, Q., Liu, X., 2019. Developmental
4 cost of leg-regenerated *Coccinella septempunctata* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae). *PLoS ONE* 14,
5 e0210615.
- 6 Xing, L., Niu, K., Evans, S.E., 2019. Inter-amphibian predation in the Early Cretaceous of China.
7 *Scientific Reports* 9, 7751.
- 8 Zachary Emberts, C.M.S.M., Christine W. Miller, 2016. Coreidae (Insecta: Hemiptera) limb loss and
9 autotomy. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 109, 1–6.
- 10 Zhang, J.F., 1989. Miocene insects from Shanwang of Shandong, China and their bearing on
11 palaeoenvironment. *Proceedings of International Symposium on Pacific Neogene Continental and*
12 *Marine Events*, 149–156.
- 13 Zhang, J.F., Sun, B., Zhang, X.Y., 1994. Miocene insects and spiders from Shanwang, Shandong.
14 Science Press Beijing.
- 15 Zhang, J.F., Zhang, X.Y., 1990. Fossil insects of cicada (Homoptera) and true bugs (Heteroptera) from
16 Shanwang, Shandong. *Acta Palaeontologica Sinica* 29, 337–348.
- 17 Zheng, D., Nel, A., Jarzembowski, E.A., Chang, S.-C., Zhang, H., Xia, F., Liu, H., Wang, B., 2017.
18 Extreme adaptations for probable visual courtship behaviour in a Cretaceous dancing damselfly.
19 *Scientific Reports* 7, 44932.
- 20

1 **Figure captions:**

2

3 **Fig. 1 Overview of the amber.** Scale bar, 5 mm.

4 **Fig. 2 Head of *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. (STJS0003).** A, C–I. Lateral views of the
5 antenna: (A) Overall view. Scale bar, 1 mm. (C) First segment. Scale bar, 200 μ m. (D)
6 Second segment. Scale bar, 1 mm. (E) Third segment. Scale bar, 1 mm. (F) Fourth
7 segment. Scale bar, 1 mm. (G) Setae on the distal extension of the fourth antennal axis.
8 Scale bar, 100 μ m. (H) Setae on the proximal extension of the fourth antennal axis.
9 Scale bar, 100 μ m. (I) Strong keratin thickening of the proximal margin of the fourth
10 antennal axis. Scale bar, 200 μ m. (B) Ven-lateral view of head. Scale bar, 500 μ m.

11 **Fig. 3 Thorax and abdomen of *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. (STJS0003).** (A) Dorsal
12 view of body. Scale bar, 1 mm. (B) Dorsal view of wing buds. Scale bar, 500 μ m. (C)
13 Lateral views of tibiae and tarsi of fore leg. Scale bar, 1 mm. (D) Lateral views of
14 tibiae and tarsi of middle leg. Scale bar, 500 μ m. (E) Lateral views of tibiae and tarsi
15 of hind leg. Scale bar, 1 mm.

16 **Fig. 4 Reconstruction of the habitus of *M. wuae* gen. et sp. nov. (STJS0003).** Scale
17 bar, 1 mm.

18 **Fig. 5 Images of some modern coreids.** (A–B) *Chariesterus antennator* (downloaded
19 from <https://www.gbif.org/occurrence/gallery>). (C–D) *Chariesterus armatus*
20 (downloaded from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/brutamonte>). (E–F) *Dalader* sp.
21 (downloaded from <http://www.natureloveyou.sg>). (G–H) *Thasus neocalifornicus*
22 (downloaded from <http://arizonabeetlesbugsbirdsandmore.blogspot.com>). A, C, E, G.
23 Nymphs; B, D, F, H. Adults.

24 **Fig. 6 Possible driving forces in exaggerated antennae evolution.**

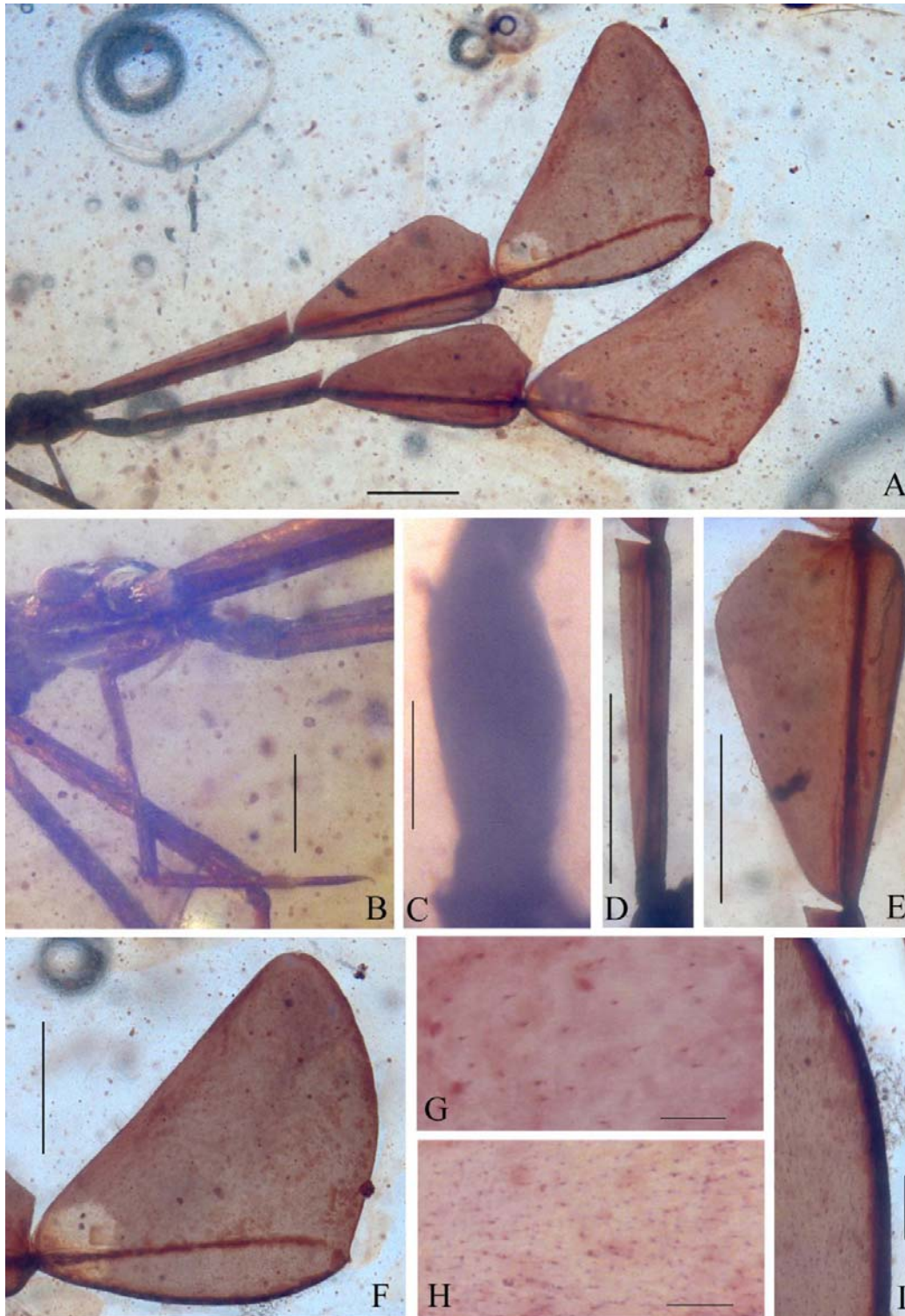
25

1 **Fig. 1**



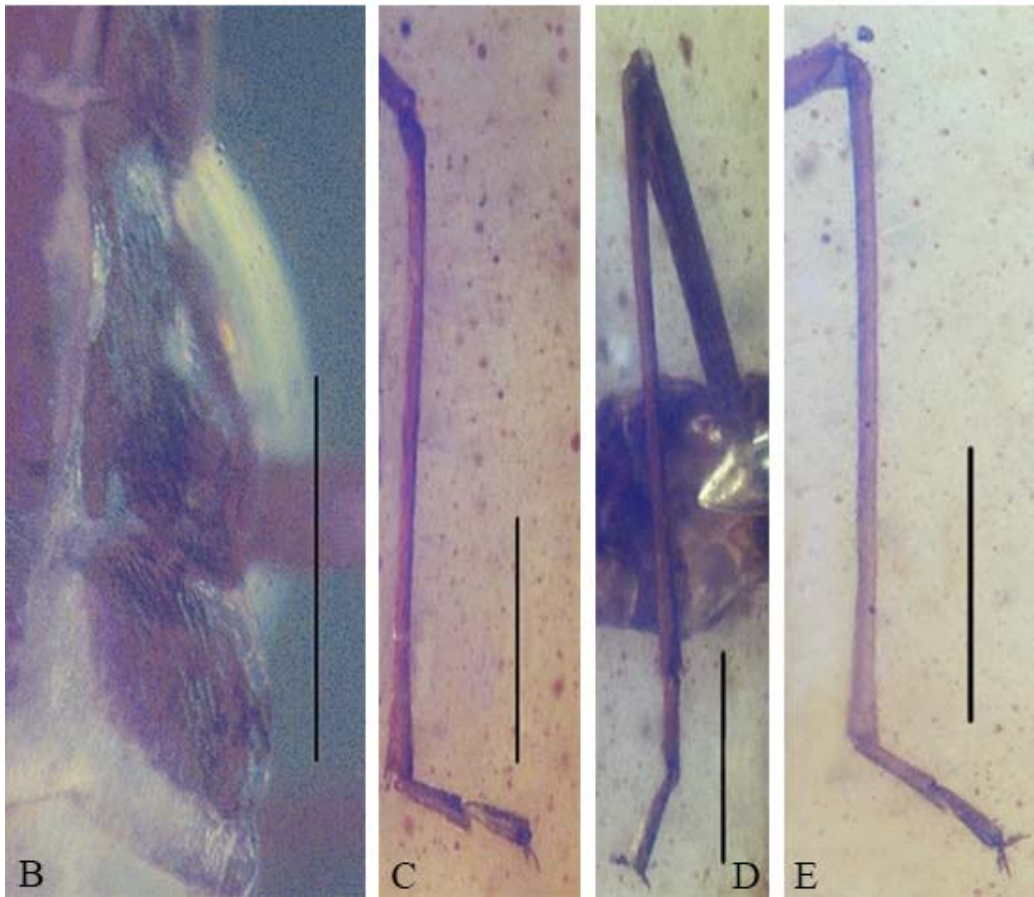
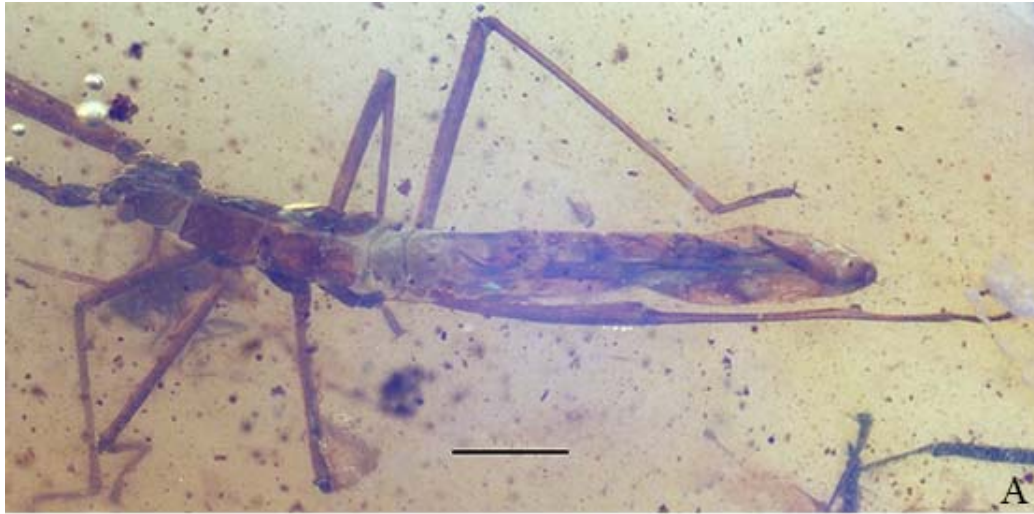
2
3

1 **Fig. 2**



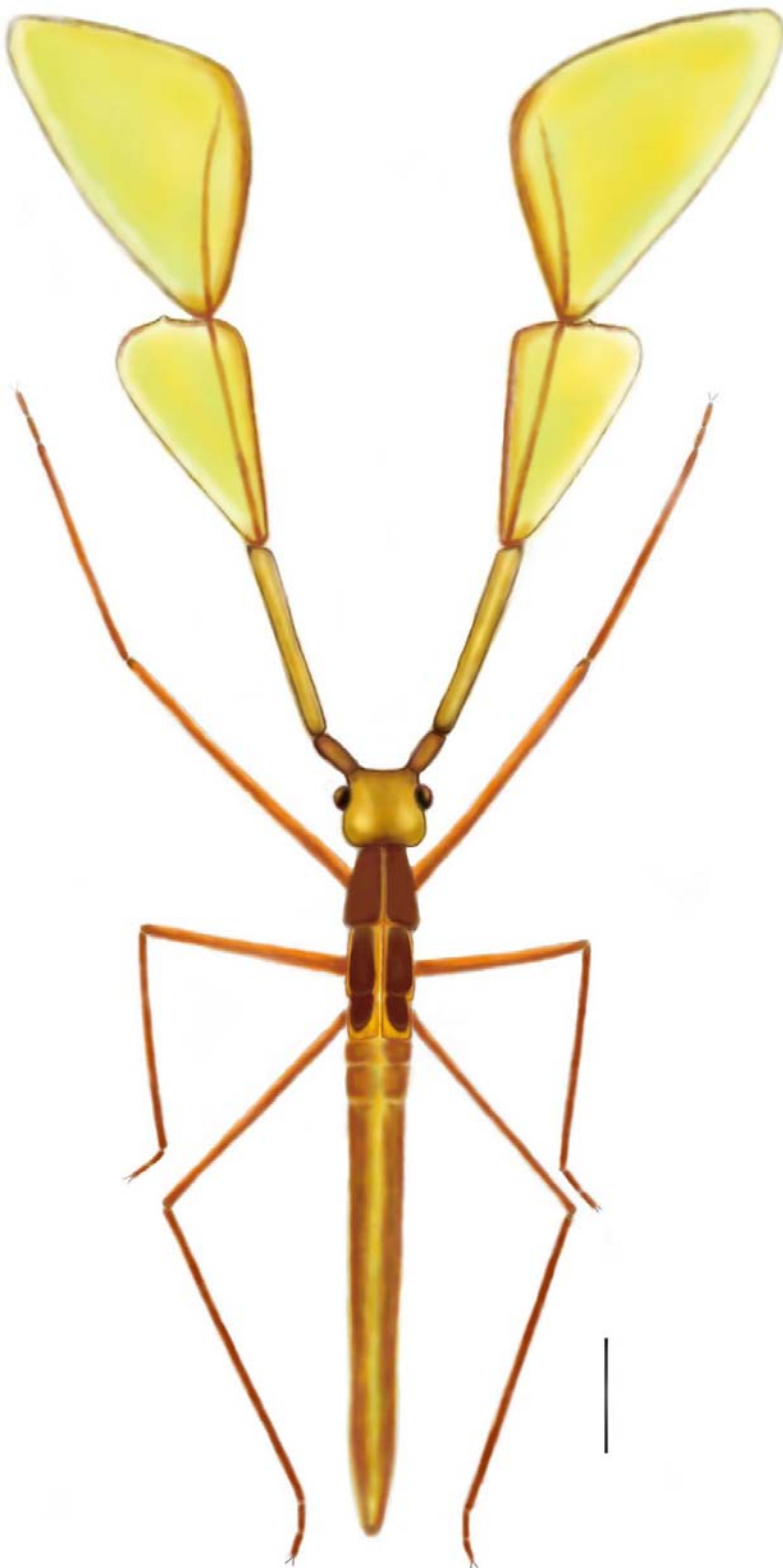
2
3
4

1 **Fig. 3**



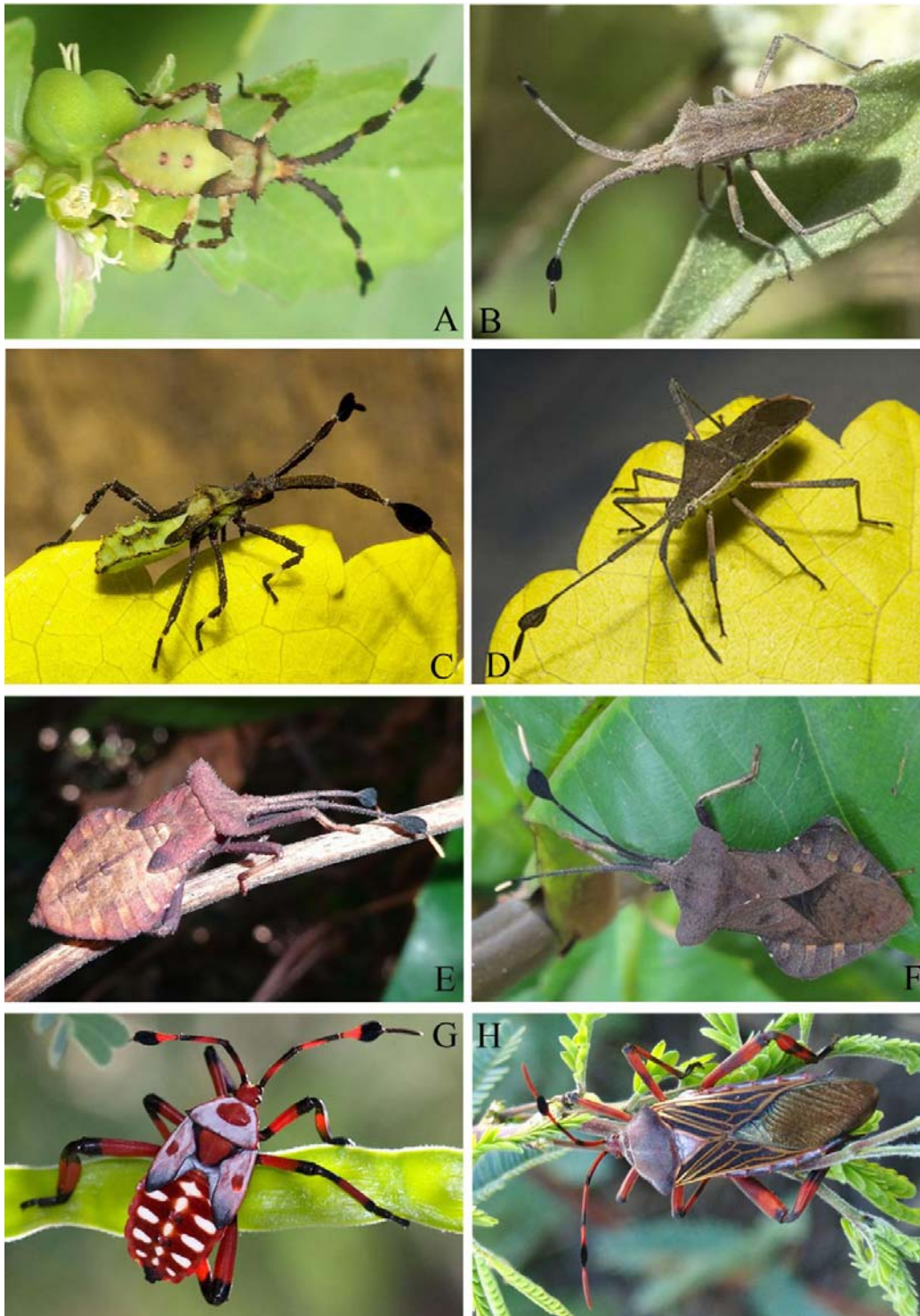
2
3
4

1 **Fig. 4**



2
3

1 **Fig. 5**



2
3

1 **Fig. 6**

