ACTA PALAEONTOLOGICA POLONICA

Earliest true moth lacewing from the Middle Jurassic of Inner Mongolia, China

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Acta Palaeontologica Polonica 61 (4), 2016: 847-851 doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.4202/app.00259.2016

A new moth lacewing *Guithone bethouxi* gen. et sp. nov., is described from the Middle Jurassic Jiulongshan Formation (Inner Mongolia, China). This taxon is characterized by robust body, head retracted under pronotum, and remarkable costal space (expanded basad, narrowed distad). Herein, we propose a detailed definition of the lineages of Ithonidae sensu lato (moth lacewings, giant lacewings, and montane lacewings) based on extant groups in order to clarify the systematics of fossil species within the taxon. The comparison shows that *Guithone bethouxi* gen. et sp. nov. unquestionably represents the earliest true moth lacewing, implying that lineage differentiations within Ithonidae sensu lato must have taken place before the Middle Jurassic. Furthermore the new genus possessing some particular venation characters, such as irrecurrent humeral veinlet and simplified crossveination in radial sector, represents an important intermediate group in the evolution of Ithonidae sensu lato.

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