

**A new species of *Neolitochropus* Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2016  
from Eocene Baltic amber  
(Coleoptera: Cucujoidea: Cyclaxyridae)**

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**Taxonomy, new species, description, fossils, Coleoptera, Cyclaxyridae, Eocene, Baltic amber, Poland**

**Abstract.** Based on a single well-preserved adult from the Eocene Baltic amber, *Neolitochropus michalskii* sp. nov. is described and illustrated. From a similar species *Neolitochropus bedovoyi* (Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2011), it differs by the brown body and structure of antennae.

## INTRODUCTION

The beetle genus *Neolitochropus* was described by Lyubarsky & Perkovsky (2016) in the family Phalacridae. Gimmel et al. (2019) recently transferred the genus to the family Cyclaxyridae. The family currently contains three genera *Cyclaxyra* Gimmel, Leschen & Ślipiński, 2009, *Neolitochropus* Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2016 and *Electroxyra* Gimmel, Szawaryn, Cai & Leschen, 2019; known from New Zealand, earliest Cenomanian Burmese amber and Rovno, Baltic and Bitterfeld ambers, respectively. In the present article, a second species belonging to the genus *Neolitochropus* Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2016 is described from the Baltic amber.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The habitus photograph was made by a digital camera using Canon EOS 4000D on stereobinocular microscope Nikon SMZ800 + SMZ1500 + PLAN APO lens.

The type material is deposited in the following collection:

JHAC Private Entomological Laboratory and Collection, Jiří Háva, Únětice u Prahy,  
Prague west, Czech Republic.

Holotype specimen of the new species described here is provided with a red, printed label showing the following text: HOLOTYPE *Neolitochropus michalskii* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2020.

SYSTEMATIC PALAEONTOLOGY

Order Coleoptera Linnaeus, 1758  
Superfamily Cucujoidea Latreille, 1802  
Family Cyclaxyridae Gimmel, Leschen & Ślipiński, 2009

Genus *Neolitochropus* Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2016

*Neolitochropus*: Gimmel et al., 2019: 2.

*Neolitochropus*: Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2020: 147.

**Type species:** *Neolitochropus hoffeinsorum* Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2016.

*Neolitochropus bedovoyi* (Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2011)

*Neolitochropus bedovoyi* (Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2011) (from *Stilbus*): Gimmel et al., 2019: 2.

*Neolitochropus hoffeinsorum* Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2016: Gimmel et al., 2019: 2 (as synonym).

*Neolitochropus michalskii* sp. nov.

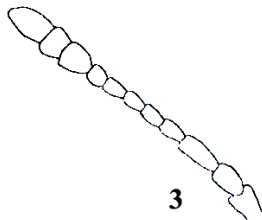
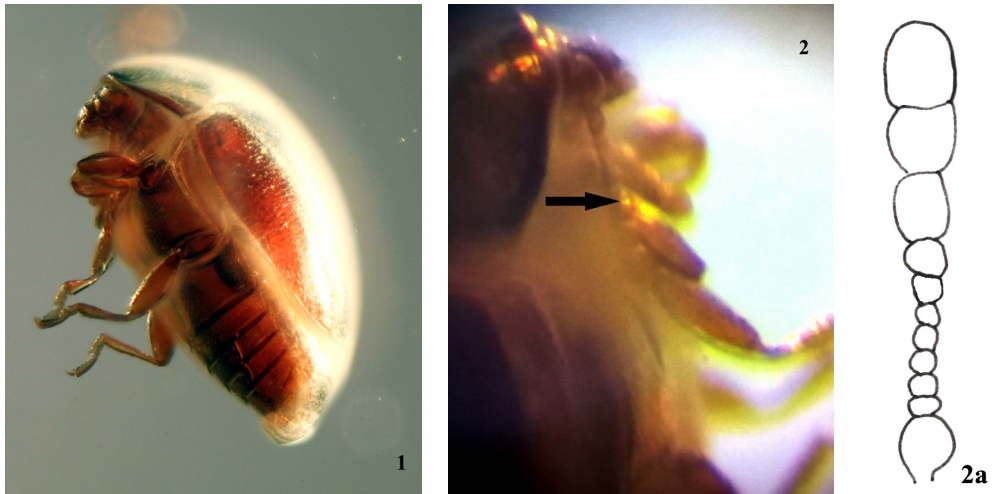
(Figs. 1-2)

**Type material.** Holotype (unsexed): Baltic Amber inclusion No. 5871, Poland, Gdansk city area, [*Neolitochropus* sp., T. Ueno det.], (JHAC).

The complete beetle is included in a transparent amber piece, with dimensions of 28×15 mm (Fig. 4). Syninclusions consist of numerous minute organic particles.

**Description.** Body brown, upper side without light markings, underside brilliant (Fig. 1). Total length 1.1 mm. Total width cca. 0.7 mm. Head with medium sized eyes; facets convex; perioocular groove absent. Frontoclypeus emarginate above antennal insertion; clypeal apex not visible. Antennal club 3-segmented (Figs. 2, 2a). Apical maxillary palpomere not visible. Pronotum strongly transverse, weakly and rarely punctured, with moderately developed scutellar lobe. Procoxal cavity with anterolateral notch-like extension. Prosternal process without setae at apex. Protrochanter without setae; protibia without ctenidium on front side, slender. Scutellar shield small. Elytron without spectral iridescence, though usually with microsculpture-induced iridescence; without sutural stria; humeri with very small bump. Mesocoxal cavities widely separated, by more than half coxal cavity width. Mesotibia club-shaped. Mesotarsomere III weakly bilobed. Metaventral plate strongly punctured. Anterior margin of metacoxa without emargination sublaterally; metatibial foreface without apical ctenidium; spurs cylindrical, longest spur shorter than width of tibial apex. Metatibia slender. Tarsal formula 5-5-5 (sex unknown). Metatarsomere I 1.5 times longer than metatarsomere II. Abdomen. Metaventral postcoxal (femoral) lines separated from mesocoxal cavity margin, arcuate. Ventrites punctured. Ventrite I almost as wide as ventrites II and III combined. Ventrites II, III and IV of approximately equal widths. Ventrite V arcuate, with a series of chetae on the posterior edge.

**Differential diagnosis.** The new species similar to *Neolitochropus bedovoyi* (Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2011) (= *Neolitochropus hoffeinsorum* Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2016) but differs from it by the unicolorous brown body and structure of antennae (Figs. 2, 2a, 3).



Figs. 1-3. *Neolitochropus michalskii* sp. nov.: 1- habitus (photo by A. Michalski); 2- antenna; 2a- antenna schematically; *Neolitochropus bedovoyi* (Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2011) (= *Neolitochropus hoffeinsorum* Lyubarsky & Perkovsky, 2016); 3- antenna.



Fig. 4. Baltic Amber inclusion No. 5871 with *Neolitochropus michalskii* sp. nov.

**Name derivation.** Patronymic, dedicated to amber specialist and my very good friend Artur Michalski (Wroclaw, Poland).

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