

Publication**New fossil paussids from Dominican amber with notes on the phylogenetic systematics of the paussine complex (Coleoptera, Carabidae)****JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)****ID** 487554**Author(s)** Nagel, P**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Nagel, Peter](#) ;**Year** 1997**Title** New fossil paussids from Dominican amber with notes on the phylogenetic systematics of the paussine complex (Coleoptera, Carabidae)**Journal** Systematic entomology**Volume** 22**Number** 4**Pages / Article-Number** 345-362**Keywords** amber, fossil beetles, Paussinae, Carabidae, Coleoptera, Neotropical Region

The first fossil representative of the Protoaussinae and the second fossil *Eohomopterus* (Paussinae) are described from amber inclusions of Tertiary age collected in the Dominican Republic on the West Indian island of Hispaniola (*Protopaussus pristinus* sp.n., *Eohomopterus poinari* sp.n.). These finds increase the total number of paussids present in Dominican amber to four species in three genera (*Protopaussus*, *Eohomopterus*, *Homopterus*). A key is provided for the identification of the New World genera of Protoaussinae and Paussinae and for the species of *Eohomopterus*. Based on synapomorphic character states, the paussid beetles are split into two subfamilies, the monobasic Protoaussinae and the more inclusive Paussinae (the twenty-three genera are placed into two supertribes: the Carabidomemnitae comprising two tribes and the Paussitae comprising eight tribes. The extant congeners of *Eohomopterus* and *Homopterus* live in the Neotropical Region, while the extant members of *Protopaussus* are known only from the Oriental Region. This record of New World Tertiary *Protopaussus* adds another example of the Old World relationships of taxa from Dominican amber. The temporal and geographical distribution of *Protopaussus* indicates that its present zoogeographical range may represent the relict of a wide Laurasian distribution in the past. It does not support the previously suspected Oriental centre of origin for the ancestral stock of {Protoaussinae + Paussinae}.

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