



40th

Anniversary of the Palaeoentomological Section
of the Polish Entomological Society

International Palaeoentomological Conference

FOSSIL INSECTS BRIDGING PAST & PRESENT

BOOK of ABSTRACTS

22-25 May 2025 | Kraków | POLAND

A NEW FOSSIL INSECT (DIPTERA, PROTOBRACHYCIDAE) FROM LOWER JURASSIC OF GRIMMEN, GERMANY

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Keywords: Diptera, Protopachyderidae, Lower Jurassic, Toarcium, Grimmen

Lehmhagenia ansorgei Zessin, 2025, a new genus and new species of the family Protopachyderidae (Diptera: Brachycera), is newly described from Grimmen in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Lower Jurassic of Germany). The Grimmen Liassic has provided numerous insects, including Diptera, which are among the most common insects in Grimmen and account for almost 25% of the insect material¹. Naturally, my private collection of Liassic insects, comprising approximately 6,000 specimens, also includes numerous Diptera from the Klein Lehmhagen Liassic clay pit near Grimmen (Western Pomerania), but also from Schwinz near Dobbartin (Mecklenburg), and Schandelah (Lower Saxony), of which only a few have been published². The excellently preserved Diptera wing presented here was discovered by me in 2021 while opening small calcareous concretions that I had collected years ago in the clay pit of the former Grimmen porous sinter works near the village of Klein Lehmhagen.

The first Liassic insects of northern Germany were discovered by Geinitz from the clay pit near Dobbartin. In his seminal masterpiece "Die Fossilen Insekten..." and subsequent works, Handlirsch described, among others, Liassic Diptera from Dobbartin, and later Bode from the Lower Saxon sites around Braunschweig (e.g., Schandelah, Grassel, Hondelage). More recently, Ansorge, Horst (Germany), Krzemiński, Kraków (Poland) and Zessin, Jasnitz (Germany), have focused on the Diptera from Dobbartin, Grimmen and Schandelah^{2,3,5}.

The small leftwing specimen (3.2 mm long) of *Lehmhagenia ansorgei*, gen. et sp. nov., is available from the Zessin Collection, Jasnitz (SZJ LG 1999/1-2), later Natureum at Ludwigslust Castle, Museum of the Mecklenburg Natural History Society. The genus is named after the type locality Lehmhagen near Grimmen, the species after my friend Dr. Jörg Ansorge, Horst, who made a significant contribution to the research of the Liassic entomofauna of Lehmhagen near Grimmen.

For better knowledge some other Jurassic dipteran insects are figured in: *Protopachyceron sinensis* Zhang et al., 2008⁴, *Protopachyceron liasinum* Handlirsch, 1920 and *Liassobrachyceron kotejai* Krzemiński & Ansorge, 2005³.

References

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4. Zhang K. et al. 2008: Zootaxa, 1879: 61-64.
5. Zessin, W. 2025: Virgo, 28: 110-113.



Fig. *Lehmhagenia ansorgei* Zessin, 2025 (5), isolated left wing, liassic-clay pit by Klein Lehmhagen near Grimmen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, Collection Zessin Jasnitz, SZJ LG 1999/1