



Editorial

The Cretaceous – The ‘Golden Age’ of Insect Evolution

It is my great pleasure to introduce this new subject issue of *Insect Systematics & Evolution* which focuses on Cretaceous insects. The Cretaceous (approximately 145–65 million years ago) marks the ‘golden age’ of insect evolution as it was during this geological period that most Recent insect groups first appeared. Major events of the Cretaceous, such as the origin and radiation of angiosperms and the fragmentation of Gondwana had immense impact on insect evolution. Studies of fossils from this period do not only allow unique insights into the past insect diversity but also help understand their complex evolutionary history. The current issue of *Insect Systematics & Evolution* comprises nine original research papers in which significant new fossils from eight different orders are described, analyzed and phylogenetically interpreted. Ten species are newly described and a number of higher taxa proposed including eight new genera, a new subfamily, two new families, and even a new order. The latter is highlighted on the front cover of this issue. I sincerely thank all contributors and reviewers for making this subject issue possible.

Lars Krogmann
Editor-in-Chief