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Hemiptera in the collection of Museum of Amber Inclusions, University of Gdańsk, Poland

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The University of Gdańsk Museum of Amber Inclusions (MIB UG) was established as laboratory unit at Department of Invertebrate Zoology by UG Senate decision of 29 May 1998. Seventeen years on, the collection contains more than 14,000 zoonclusions. This is a great deal, considering that almost all the collection’s items were donated by amber artists, researchers, students and other individuals who support the idea of the University of Gdańsk amber collection. The collection in vast majority covers inclusions in the Eocene Baltic amber, but also inclusions in other fossil resins, e.g. Miocene Dominican amber, as well as collection of fossil resins from all over the World. The exhibition –diorama of first life-size three-dimensional model of the amber forest covers 52 m². It presents the story of Baltic amber—from liquid resin, forming various kinds of traps which captured animals and plants, to inclusions. The specially designed displays present, in detail, 41 animal inclusions.

The Hemiptera inclusions are entombed in 454 lumps with 471 inclusions and synoinclusions, covering almost all infraorders except Coleorrhyncha. The most numerous inclusions are aphids, encircling nearly ⅛ of all hemipteran inclusions, a little less represented group are scale insects and coccids. Planthoppers, leafhoppers and true bugs are much less numerous, and whiteflies and psyllids are rare. It must be noted that such an image do not reflect the diversity of the Hemiptera in taphocoenoses, but taxonomic bias in collecting. Among 40 new species already described from the specimens preserved in the collection of MIB UG, 11 inclusions are holotypes or paratypes of various Hemiptera: Glisachaemus jonasdamzeni Szwedo, 2007 (Cixiidae); Hoffeinsia foldii Koteja, 2008 (Xylococcidae); Loricula polonica Popov et Herczek, 2008 (Microphysidae); Paernis gregorius Drohojowska et Szwedo, 2011 (Aleyrodidae); Patollo natangorum Szwedo et Stroinski, 2013 (Tropiduchidae); Protodikranoeura ferraria Szwedo et Gębiicki, 2008 (Cicadellidae); Thinionia douglundbergi Stroński et Szwedo, 2008 (Issidae); Worskaito stenexi Szwedo, 2008 (Dictyopharidae).

The collection is growing with new specimens and a number of Hemiptera inclusions are under study. New species are going to be described from MIB UG collection, which enrich also the type material housed in the collection.