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### Abstract

Two virtually complete termites in Early Cretaceous (Late Albian) amber from Peñacerrada I outcrop, Spain, are described and figured, representing the most well-preserved Isoptera yet discovered from the Albian stage. The material is described as *Ithytermes montoyai*, gen. et sp. nov., and is similar in many details to the slightly younger *Krishnatermes yoddha* Engel, Barden, and Grimaldi of northern Myanmar amber. Given the presence of distinct soldiers in this grade of Cretaceous termites, it is likely that *I. montoyai* also exhibited such a tripartite caste system. In addition to the type material of *I. montoyai*, two fragmentary termites are recorded for the first time in Albian amber from the El Soplao outcrop, and in the few preserved details these taxa are not conspecific with the former.

<b>Keywords</b>	Albian; Euisoptera; eusociality; Mesozoic; taxonomy
<b>Taxonomy</b>	Paleontology, Invertebrate Paleontology
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1 **Early Cretaceous termites in amber from northern Spain (Isoptera)**

2

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34 Peñacerrada I outcrop, Spain, are described and figured, representing the most well-preserved  
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36 gen. et sp. nov., and is similar in many details to the slightly younger *Krishnatermes yoddha*  
37 Engel, Barden, and Grimaldi of northern Myanmar amber. Given the presence of distinct soldiers  
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39 caste system. In addition to the type material of *I. montoyai*, two fragmentary termites are  
40 recorded for the first time in Albian amber from the El Soplao outcrop, and in the few preserved  
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42

43 **Keywords:** Albian; Euisoptera; eusociality; Mesozoic; taxonomy

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## 47 **1. Introduction**

48

49 Termites inspire awe, not the least of which is due to their remarkable societies. All of the more  
50 than 3300 species of Isoptera are highly eusocial (Krishna et al., 2013), living in permanent  
51 colonies and in which the roles of the society's participants are more or less fixed by a system of  
52 castes — workers, soldiers, and winged reproductives. This advanced eusocial syndrome is  
53 ancient among termites and, in fact, termites were perhaps first among the social insects  
54 (Grimaldi and Engel, 2005). Termite eusociality was already present in the Early Cretaceous  
55 (Martínez-Delclòs and Martinell, 1995; Thorne et al., 2000; Engel et al., 2016a), and it is likely  
56 that the earliest termite societies were appearing during the latest Jurassic (Ware et al., 2010).  
57 Not only were basal termites eusocial, but even the complexities of a tripartite caste system were  
58 present by the mid-Cretaceous, and likely also in the Early Cretaceous (Martínez-Delclòs and  
59 Martinell, 1995; Engel et al., 2016a). Despite the presence of intricate societies by the Early  
60 Cretaceous, eusociality did not confer great ubiquity, and it appears to have been the much later  
61 appearance of large colony sizes, supported in part by more developed nests, that permitted  
62 termites to achieve the ecological dominance for which they are so famed today (Engel et al.,  
63 2009). Nonetheless, while the Termitidae are dominant today and inform us greatly about termite  
64 social dynamics and their ecological impact, it remains the frequently smaller societies of the  
65 basal families that more closely approximate characteristics likely to have been influential in  
66 early isopteran social evolution. Relationships among the basal lineages of termites provide a  
67 greater perspective of early termite evolution, and the integration of fossils into this phylogenetic  
68 framework provides the only direct evidence for understanding these episodes (Engel et al.,  
69 2009, 2016a; Ware et al., 2010; Zhao et al., 2019). As such, the paleontological record of

70 termites is of significance and, in fact, Isoptera are not uncommon in many Cenozoic deposits  
71 (e.g., Krishna, 1996; Engel and Krishna, 2007; Engel et al., 2007a, 2011a; Krishna and Grimaldi,  
72 2009). These taxa are, as one would suspect, typically of more derived lineages and while  
73 informative of Paleogene and Neogene events, such as biogeographic patterns and climatic  
74 changes, they reveal little in terms of divergences among early termites. Relicts do exist within  
75 the Cenozoic fauna, such as the diverse and widespread species of *Mastotermes* Froggatt  
76 (Emerson, 1965; Krishna and Emerson, 1983; Krishna and Grimaldi, 1991; Wappler and Engel,  
77 2006; Engel et al., 2015), the most basal of living termites and today native to northern Australia  
78 (Emerson, 1965; Krishna et al., 2013). These species, however, do not give further refinement to  
79 the affinities of mastotermitids among Isoptera. Conversely, Cretaceous termites are more  
80 interesting for their unique combinations of traits placing many of them outside of traditional  
81 concepts of the modern families and most form a well-circumscribed grade of taxa relative to the  
82 basal families (Engel et al., 2009, 2016a). Most Cretaceous Isoptera, particularly those preserved  
83 as compression fossils in sedimentary rock, are represented by the shed wings of alates and are  
84 therefore of limited phylogenetic value due to the absence of so many critical traits present in the  
85 body. Preservation in amber, however, leaves fossilized remains with life-like fidelity and it is  
86 from these taxa that we may extract the greatest amount of character and paleobiological  
87 information. Termites in Cretaceous amber, however, are not overly abundant, perhaps the sole  
88 exception being the abundance of species and individuals in mid-Cretaceous amber from  
89 Myanmar. Species are known in most of the major deposits and spanning the breadth of the  
90 Cretaceous (Table 1), but these range in degrees of completeness, leaving much to be done on  
91 the Mesozoic record of Isoptera. One glimmer of hope rests in the fact that the majority of these

92 taxa have been discovered in the last decade or so, suggesting that continued efforts will reveal  
93 an even greater diversity of material from which to revisit and refine our hypotheses.

94 In this context, we provide a brief account of termites newly recovered from the Early  
95 Cretaceous (Albian) Peñacerrada I (Burgos Province) and El Soplao (Cantabria Province)  
96 outcrops in Spain. Previous records of termites from Albian-aged amber in Spain were two  
97 species from the deposit of Peñacerrada I and one species from the deposit of San Just (Teruel  
98 Province) (Engel and Delclòs, 2010), and those were exceedingly fragmentary. Much is the same  
99 for the newly discovered Spanish amber termites from El Soplao. However, one piece from  
100 Peñacerrada I nicely preserves two nearly complete alates (imagoes) and from these we can  
101 observe more features than from any previously known Albian Isoptera. The Spanish termites,  
102 along with those few from Lebanon (Barremian in age), are the earliest termites preserved in  
103 amber.

104

## 105 **2. Material and methods**

106

107 The amber pieces MCNA 14936 and CES-446 were cut and embedded in a transparent epoxy  
108 resin except the piece CES-552; the preparations were polished once the polymer hardened  
109 (Nascimbene and Silverstein, 2000). These three samples were observed under three different  
110 lenses, i.e., an Olympus SZX-12 stereomicroscope, and a Motic BA310 compound microscope  
111 with reflected and transmitted light. Photomicrographs were taken with a Canon EOS 7D digital  
112 camera attached to an Infinity K-2 long-distance microscope lens for general habitus, and a  
113 Moticam 2500 camera attached to the Motic BA310 microscope for details. All photographs  
114 were arranged and sharpened with Helicon focus and edited with Adobe Photoshop. Illustrations

115 were prepared with the aid of a camera lucida attached to an Olympus BX41 compound  
116 microscope.

117 We have generally followed the classification of termites as presented by Krishna et al.  
118 (2013), and categorically reject proposals to eliminate Isoptera as a name for this clade (Lo et al.,  
119 2007), preferring the rank of infraorder as advocated by Engel (2011) and others, although the  
120 name could equally be used without formal rank, much as is done for Aculeata among the  
121 Hymenoptera. Morphological terminology has also generally followed that of Krishna et al.  
122 (2013), while the format for the descriptions is analogous to those used elsewhere for basal grade  
123 Isoptera (e.g., Engel et al., 2016a). Measurements were taken with the aid of an ocular  
124 micrometer on an Olympus SZX-12 stereomicroscope.

125 Specimen MCNA 14936 is deposited in the Museo de Ciencias Naturales de Álava  
126 (Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain), and specimens CES-446 and CES-552 are deposited in the amber fossil  
127 collection of the Laboratory of the El Soplao Cave (Celis, Santander, Spain).

128

### 129 **3. Geological and paleontological settings**

130

#### 131 Peñacerrada I

132 The Peñacerrada I [=Moraza] amber-bearing outcrop is included within the Utrillas Group *sensu*  
133 Barrón et al. (2015) (eastern area of the Basque-Cantabrian Basin, Burgos Province, northern  
134 Spain), and dated to the Late Albian (Barrón et al., 2015). This outcrop, together with the  
135 Peñacerrada II amber-bearing outcrop in Álava Province, belongs to the so-called ‘Álava amber’.  
136 In this area continental-transitional deposits can be differentiated into three subunits that are  
137 represented by a deltaic succession, with a vertical tendency toward a regression of the deltaic



138 system in the lower-middle subunits and a vertical transgression in the upper subunit. The amber  
139 is found in the middle subunit associated with coal and lignitic beds or organically-rich marl  
140 levels, coinciding with the boundary between the maximum regression and the beginning of the  
141 transgression, and it is mainly present at the top of filling sequences of interconnected channels  
142 within deltaic bays. In general, these two amber deposits of the eastern region of the Basque-  
143 Cantabrian Basin represent paralic-swamp environments (Peñalver and Delclòs, 2010). The  
144 stratigraphy and taphonomy of the Peñacerrada I deposit are provided by Alonso et al. (2000).  
145 Peñacerrada I amber includes a high diversity and abundance of arthropod inclusions. To date,  
146 different hexapod orders have been recognized from this deposit (Collembola, Archaeognatha,  
147 ‘Blattaria’, Isoptera, Orthoptera, Psocoptera, Thysanoptera, Hemiptera, Homoptera, Coleoptera,  
148 Raphidioptera, Neuroptera, Trichoptera, Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, and Diptera), as well as  
149 crustaceans (Isopoda and Tanaidacea), and chelicerates (Acari, Arachnida and  
150 Pseudoscorpionida). Termites are not abundant in Álava amber, with only five specimens  
151 collected thus far of the 1500 bioinclusions. *Morazatermes krishnai* Engel and Delclòs, 2010 was  
152 described from an imago (and wings of a second specimen), and *Cantabritermes simplex* Engel  
153 and Delclòs, 2010 from one isolated forewing (Engel and Delclòs, 2010). Thus, the two imagoes  
154 described in this paper correspond to the third isopteran species from Peñacerrada I.

155

#### 156 El Soplao

157 The El Soplao amber-bearing outcrop is included within the Las Peñas Formation and is near  
158 the village of Rábago, within the El Soplao Territory (western area of the Basque-Cantabrian  
159 Basin, Santander Province, northern Spain). The El Soplao outcrop is dated to the early Albian.  
160 The amber is found in a unit of heterolithic sandstone-siltstone and carbonaceous mudstone

161 related to broadly coastal delta-estuarine environments in unit P2 of the Rábago section (*sensu*  
162 Najarro et al., 2009), but the depositional environment also exhibits a slight marine influence  
163 (Najarro et al., 2010). Together with the amber, there were also dinoflagellate cists, spores of  
164 vascular cryptogams, pollen grains of numerous gymnosperms and some angiosperms (the latter  
165 poorly represented), abundant gymnosperm cuticle remains, fusainized wood, and marine or  
166 brackishwater invertebrates such as gastropods and bivalves (Najarro et al., 2010). The  
167 stratigraphy and taphonomy of the El Soplao deposit are provided by Najarro et al. (2009, 2010).  
168 Embedded in the amber, 549 bioinclusions have been recorded, including fungi, plants, and  
169 diverse arthropods. The hexapod orders hitherto found are Collembola, Blattaria, Isoptera,  
170 Psocoptera, Thysanoptera, Raphidioptera, Neuroptera, Hemiptera, Coleoptera, Trichoptera,  
171 Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Mecoptera, and Diptera (Pérez-de la Fuente, 2012). The record of  
172 Isoptera consists of only two fragmentary specimens (one consisting on isolated partial wings)  
173 collected thus far of the 549 bioinclusions. However, these bioinclusions represent the first  
174 documentation of the order from El Soplao amber.

175

176 Institutional abbreviations

177 CES, Cueva El Soplao, Celis, Cantabria, Spain; MCNA, Museo de Ciencias Naturales de Álava,

178 Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.

179

180 **4. Systematic paleontology**

181

182 Infraorder Isoptera Brullé, 1832

183 Clade Euisoptera Engel et al., 2009

184 'Meiatermes Grade'

185

186 Genus *Ithytermes*, gen. nov.

187

188 *Type species Ithytermes montoyai*, sp. nov.

189

190 *Diagnosis Imago.* Large termites, approximately 9.5 mm in length, with comparatively long,  
191 erect setae prominent on much of body and wing scales. Head longer than wide; mandible  
192 completely covered by labrum (dentition not visible in available material); antenna moniliform,  
193 with 20 articles; compound eye circular, without emargination, separated from posterior border  
194 of head by more than compound eye length; ocelli absent; fontanelle absent; occipital carina  
195 present; subgenal sulcus present; ventral cervical sclerite absent. Pronotum large, slightly  
196 broader than head, anterior border concave, posterior border medially straight, lateral borders  
197 broadly rounded and slightly convergent posteriorly, apicolateral angles broadly rounded.  
198 Procoxa apparently with weak ventral keel; femora not carinate or keeled ventrally; all tarsi  
199 wholly pentamerous; tibial apical spur formula 3-4-4, spurs minutely serrate, asymmetrical;  
200 tibiae with outer and pre-apical spurs present; pretarsal claws long, arolium present and large.  
201 Wing membrane hyaline, reticulate; forewing scale large, greatly overlapping hind wing base,  
202 humeral margin convex, basal suture convex, all veins originating within scale, surface of scale  
203 tegminous with numerous erect setae, with distinct reticulation in scale posterior to M, CuA, and  
204 CuP; CuP arched, termination of CuP (claval fissure) on posterior wing margin basal to basal  
205 suture; Sc long; multiple, elongate R veins, extending beyond wing midlength; R<sub>1</sub> apparently  
206 simple; R<sub>2</sub> with numerous branches, particularly apically; Rs long, branching in apicalmost part

207 of wing (an indeterminate number of branches but inferior branches lacking); radial field only  
208 slightly expanding apically; M branching near wing midlength; CuA extensively branched and  
209 apparently encompassing majority of posterior wing margin. Hind wing without defined scale,  
210 lacking distinct basal suture, apparently without anal lobe. Abdominal styli prominent, thin, long,  
211 projecting beyond abdominal apex; cerci short, with five short and somewhat indistinct  
212 cercomeres.

213

214 *Etymology* The new generic name is a combination of *ithyos*, meaning, “upright”, and *termes*,  
215 common generic stem meaning, “termite.” The name refers to the comparatively abundant and  
216 upright setae of the head and body. The gender of the name is masculine.

217

218 *Ithytermes montoyai*, sp. nov.

219 (Figs. 1–4)

220

221 *Holotype* Imago (Figs. 1, 2A–C), MCNA 14936, Early Cretaceous, Late Albian, Peñacerrada I  
222 outcrop [Peñacerrada I = Moraza], Utrillas Group (Barrón et al., 2015), eastern area of the  
223 Basque-Cantabrian Basin, Burgos, northern Spain; deposited in the Museo de Ciencias Naturales  
224 de Álava, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.

225

226 *Paratype* A single imago (Figs. 1, 2D–F, 3, 4), preserved in the same piece of amber with the  
227 holotype, and in the same repository.

228

229 *Other syninclusions* include a microlepidopteran and a male ceratopogonid.

230

231 *Diagnosis* As for the genus (*vide supra*).

232

233 *Description Imago.* Large, total body length 9.46 mm (from apex of abdomen to tip of labrum);

234 head longer than wide, length of head to apex of labrum 2.30 mm, width across compound eyes

235 1.50 mm, width posterior to compound eyes 1.15 mm; labrum wider than long, length 0.30 mm,

236 width 0.50 mm; compound eye length 0.50 mm; median length of pronotum 1.08 mm, depth of

237 anterior concavity 0.15 mm (maximum width of pronotum cannot be adequately measured in

238 either specimen but is wider than head); length of metatibia 2.05 mm; length of forewing scale

239 1.50 mm; forewing length (including scale) at least 9.5 mm (neither individual with completely

240 preserved forewings, but nearly complete, partially folded left forewing of paratype at least 9.5

241 mm in length and missing portion of apex suggests it could have been perhaps slightly more than

242 10 mm in life); styli length 0.31 mm; cerci length 0.19 mm.

243 Integument dark brown throughout except lighter on antenna, tarsi, and styli; impunctate

244 and generally faintly imbricate except on head distinctly and coarsely imbricate. Integument with

245 scattered, fine, erect to suberect, moderately long setae (setae on average about one half length of

246 compound eye); setae largely pale brown in color except on legs seemingly darker (either dark

247 brown or nearly black); setae particularly prominent on head, pronotum, forewing scale, and

248 abdominal terga; antenna with numerous setae arranged in irregular whorls, setae as long as or

249 slightly longer than individual antennal articles; legs with numerous, erect, stiff, bristle-like

250 setae, particularly prominent on tibiae; forewing scale with scattered, erect, fine, long setae; styli

251 and cerci with numerous, minute, fine, mostly apically-directed or suberect setae.

252           Head robust, longer than wide, posterior border broadly and gently rounded, lateral  
253 borders parallel-sided; mandibles covered entirely by labrum (dentition cannot be discerned as  
254 preserved); labrum subquadrate, wider than long; postclypeus flat, transverse, much wider than  
255 long; antenna moniliform, with 20 articles (based on right antenna of paratype; left antenna of  
256 paratype and both antennae of holotype damaged and incomplete); compound eye without  
257 anterior emargination, circular, separated from lower margin of head by slightly more than  
258 compound eye diameter, separated from posterior border of head by about 1.5 times compound  
259 eye length; ocelli ('ocelloids' sensu Engel et al., 2009) absent; fontanelle absent; Y-shaped  
260 ecdysial cleavage scar absent; ventral cervical sclerite absent. Pronotum large, broad, broader  
261 than head; anterior border concave, with rounded apicolateral angles, concavity comparatively  
262 shallow; lateral borders slightly convergent posteriorly, convex, with posterior corners gently  
263 rounded and tapering inward; posterior border medially straight. Procoxa with weak ventral keel;  
264 femora not carinate or keeled ventrally; all tarsi wholly pentamerous; tibiae with 2–3 outer spines  
265 along length, tibial spur formula 3-4-4, spurs of all legs asymmetrical; arolium present and  
266 comparatively large, pretarsal claws long, simple. Wings hyaline, membrane reticulate (faint as  
267 preserved but discernible), not pimplate or nodulate. Forewing veins Sc, R, and Rs more strongly  
268 pigmented than remainder of veins; forewing scale large, greatly overlapping hind wing base,  
269 scale about as long as medial length of pronotum, humeral margin convex, basal suture convex;  
270 all major longitudinal veins originating inside wing scale, with strong reticulation between veins  
271 posterior to M within scale; Sc long, simple, terminating along anterior wing margin apparently  
272 near one-third wing length; R1 simple, terminating slightly proximal wing midlength; Rs  
273 elongate, with numerous branches and sub-branches; radial field not greatly expanded apically; M  
274 elongate, simple, paralleling and nearest to Rs; CuA branching extensively and across its entire

275 length, CuA field encompassing entire posterior margin of wing. Hind wing without basal suture  
276 and without anal lobe. Abdomen somewhat compressed, lateral borders roughly parallel; styli  
277 present, thin, slender, projecting beyond abdominal apex; cerci short, distinctly shorter than styli,  
278 with five cercomeres.

279

280 *Etymology* The specific epithet honors Dr. Plinio Montoya, Universitat de València (Spain).

281

282 Indeterminate (Fig. 5)

283

284 *Material* Imago, CES 552, Early Cretaceous, Albian, Las Peñasas Formation, El Soplao outcrop;  
285 deposited in the Laboratory of the El Soplao Cave, Celis, Santander, Spain.

286

287 *Comments* Isolated partial wings.

288

289 Indeterminate

290

291 *Material* Imago, CES 446, Early Cretaceous, Albian, Las Peñasas Formation, El Soplao outcrop;  
292 deposited in the Laboratory of the El Soplao Cave, Celis, Santander, Spain.

293

294 *Comments* A fragmentary alate largely obscured by fractures and debris but with pentamerous  
295 tarsi discernible and about 5 mm in total length. No other meaningful details of this specimen  
296 can be observed but it nonetheless records a smaller form of basal grade termite within the El  
297 Soplao deposits.

298

299 **5. Discussion**

300

301 *Ithytermes montoyai* gen. et sp. nov. is a comparative large termite, approximating the  
302 proportions of other large Cretaceous alates such as those recently described from Cenomanian  
303 amber from Myanmar (Engel et al., 2016a). While not as massive as some Tertiary species, such  
304 as those of the genus *Gyatermes* Engel and Gross, 2009 which had forewing lengths of about 27–  
305 34 mm (Engel and Gross, 2009; Engel and Tanaka, 2015), the present species is still among the  
306 larger of fossil termite species. Among described genera, *Ithytermes* gen. nov. appears to share  
307 most features in common with *Krishnatermes* Engel, Barden, and Grimaldi, 2016 in Burmese  
308 amber (Engel et al., 2016a). Aside from their proportions, both genera have many shared traits,  
309 although most are clearly symplesiomorphies shared with other basal lineages including  
310 mastotermitids. Like *Krishnatermes*, *Ithytermes* share with mastotermitids the presence of well-  
311 developed, asymmetrical tibial spines; a 3-4-4 tibial spur formula; wholly pentamerous tarsi; a  
312 large, apicolaterally rounded pronotum; a massive forewing scale with all primary veins  
313 originating within, and a dense reticulate pattern present between the veins within the scale;  
314 multiple Rs branches within a comparatively narrow radial field along anterior wing margin (not  
315 greatly widening toward wing apex); and the absence of a hind wing scale. The presence of styli  
316 is another noticeably primitive feature of *Ithytermes*, shared across most basal termite lineages  
317 (Krishna et al., 2013). Unfortunately, the mandibles are obscured in the holotype and paratype  
318 and it is therefore unknown whether or not a subsidiary tooth was present. Such a tooth is present  
319 in Archotermopsidae and some *Meiatermes*-grade genera, where known. However, *Ithytermes*  
320 differ from *Krishnatermes* by the presence of a large arolium; distinct subgenal and occipital



321 sulci; long, slender styli; larger number of cercomeres; and the numerous, elongate, erect setae  
322 on the head, pronotum, and forewing scale.

323         It was recently documented that at least some species of the *Meiatermes* grade had  
324 tripartite castes and specialized soldiers, representing a dramatic degree of specialization among  
325 early termite societies (Engel et al., 2016a). Given the phylogenetic placement of these genera  
326 relative to Mastotermitidae, Archotermopsidae, and Hodotermitidae, families in which well-  
327 developed soldiers are present, and the presence of similar soldiers in at least *Krishnatermes*  
328 *yoddha* Engel, Barden, and Grimaldi, 2016 and *Ginormotermes rex* (Engel, Barden, and  
329 Grimaldi, 2016) (Engel et al., 2016a, b), it is reasonable to conclude that all *Meiatermes*-grade  
330 species had such castes. Thus, this would be true for the present species as well.

331         Collectively, the Cretaceous record of termites, inclusive of those known less completely  
332 from compression fossils, reveals a considerable diversity and one that was scarcely hinted at  
333 merely 20 years ago, particularly those from the Early Cretaceous (e.g., Thorne et al., 2000;  
334 Engel et al., 2007b; Grimaldi et al., 2008). Although termites were not abundant at the time and  
335 their colonies were likely small, the group had nonetheless experienced considerable  
336 cladogenesis such that disparate species could be found throughout the world (Engel et al., 2009,  
337 2016a; Krishna et al., 2013). From this diversity and the specialization of their societal  
338 structures, it is apparent that termites were under considerable influence from their surroundings  
339 and likely interactions with other organisms such that there was selective maintenance for  
340 complex systems of colony defense. This pressure could have been from vertebrate predators that  
341 would see a colony as a concentration of resources, but also from other social lineages such as  
342 ants, the present-day rivals of the termites. Indeed, advanced eusocial ants and termites co-  
343 existed during the Cretaceous (Barden and Grimaldi, 2016; Engel et al., 2016a), but the latter

344 certainly predated the former as did their societies (Engel et al., 2009; Ware et al., 2010). In fact,  
345 while termites extend well into the Early Cretaceous and were likely already present in the latest  
346 Jurassic (Engel et al., 2007b; Grimaldi et al., 2008; Ware et al., 2010), the earliest occurrences of  
347 true ants are from the earliest Cenomanian, although they most certainly must have been present  
348 during at least the Albian (Perrichot, et al., 2008a; LaPolla et al., 2013; Barden and Grimaldi,  
349 2016; Barden, 2017). It is therefore fascinating that termites are the sole social insects known  
350 from Spanish amber. Arthropod inclusions are abundant from the varied Albian amber deposits  
351 across the Iberian Peninsula, and most of the major orders of hexapods are represented (e.g.,  
352 Delclòs et al., 2007; Peñalver and Delclòs, 2010; Pérez-de la Fuente, 2012; Engel et al., 2015b;  
353 Sánchez-García et al., 2015; Sánchez-García and Engel, 2016a, b). Termites have been  
354 previously described from the Peñacerrada I locality (Engel and Delclòs, 2010), and those  
355 together with the present material document a rather diverse representation of basal Euisoptera  
356 within the fauna at that time. Termites are also present in the slightly younger, Early  
357 Cenomanian deposits of nearby localities in France (e.g., Engel et al., 2011b), and those taxa also  
358 belong to the basal *Meiatermes* grade of genera. Further afield geographically but roughly coeval  
359 with the deposits of France, there is also a diverse termite fauna present in the amber of northern  
360 Myanmar (Engel et al., 2007b, 2016a). In the Burmese and French deposits ants are similarly  
361 well represented (e.g., Engel and Grimaldi, 2005; Perrichot et al., 2008b; Perrichot, 2014, 2015;  
362 Barden and Grimaldi, 2016; Barden, 2017). However, no ants have been recovered from any of  
363 the Spanish localities and this absence is striking given the close geographic and temporal  
364 proximity to deposits with significant myrmecofaunas.

365

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376

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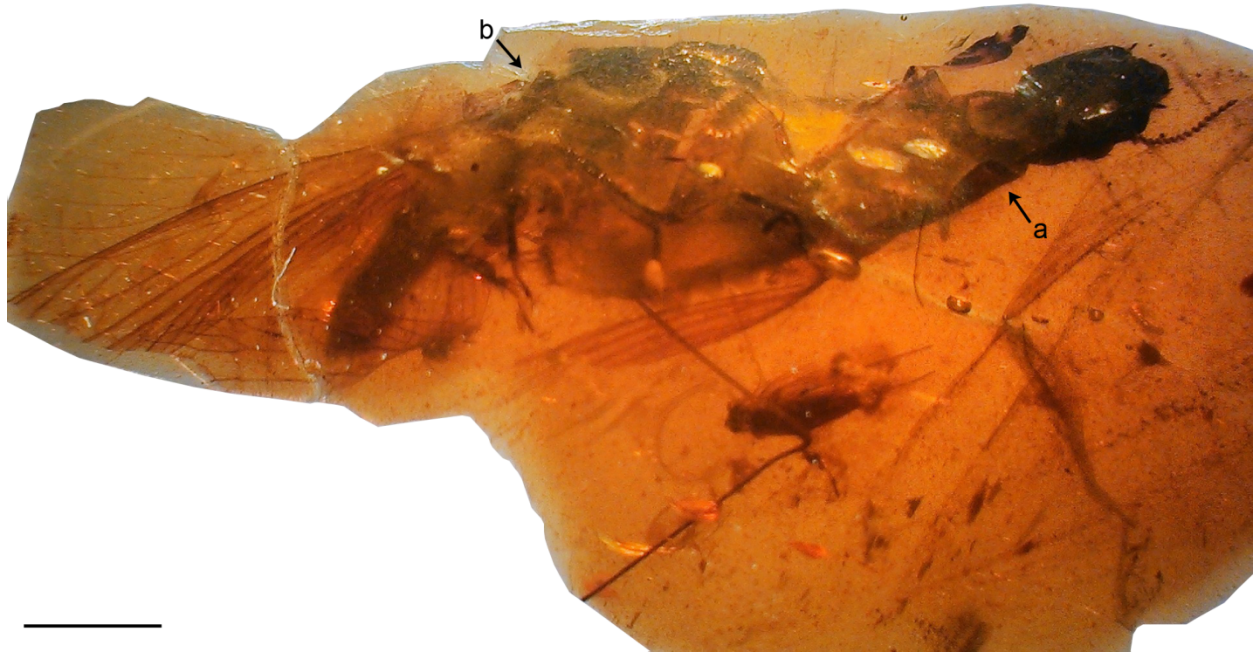
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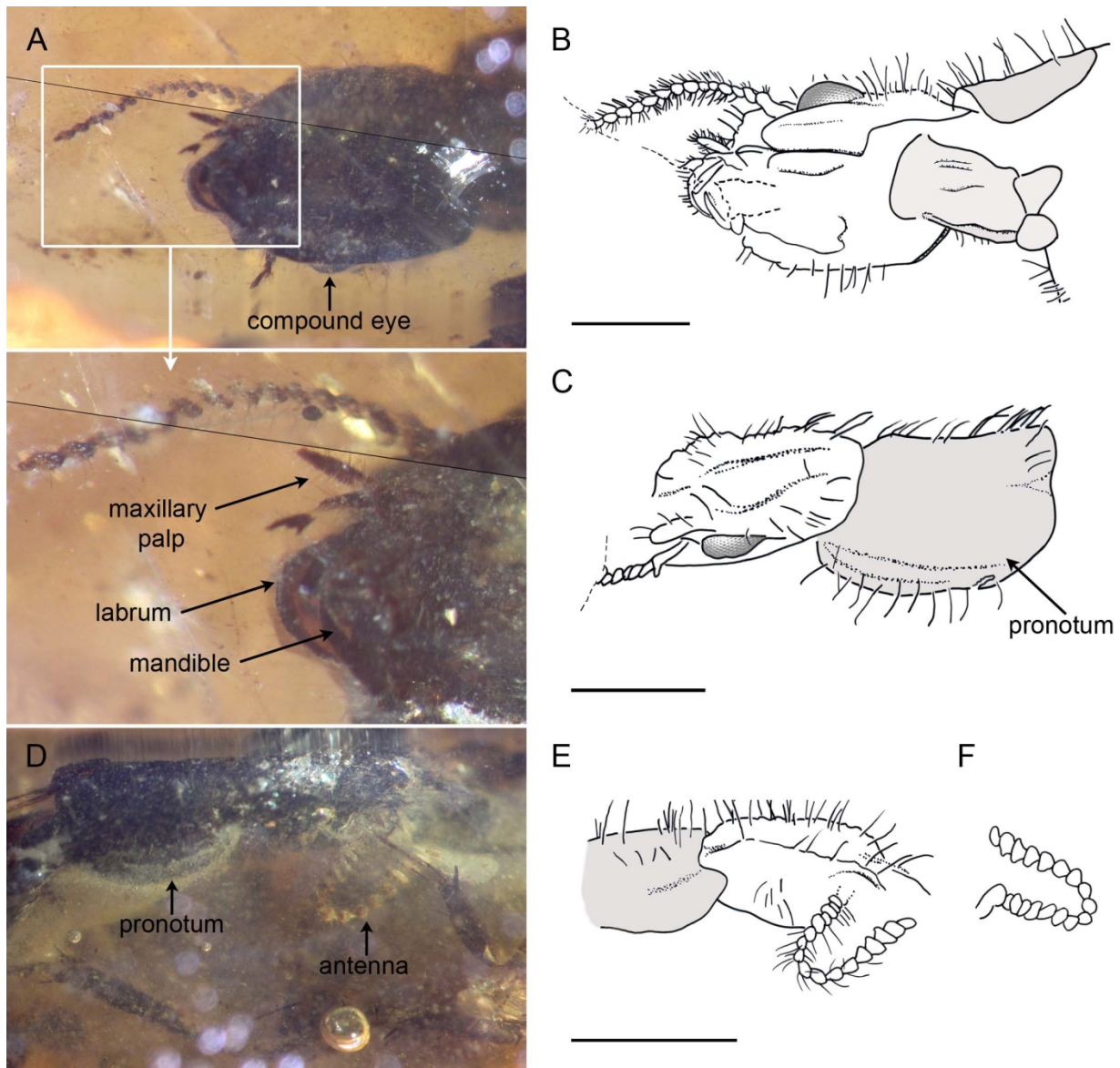
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519

520 **Fig. 1.** Photograph of the holotype (specimen MCNA 14936a) and paratype (specimen MCNA521 14936b) of *Ithytermes montoyai* gen. et sp. nov. in Peñacerrada amber. Scale bar: 2 mm.

522

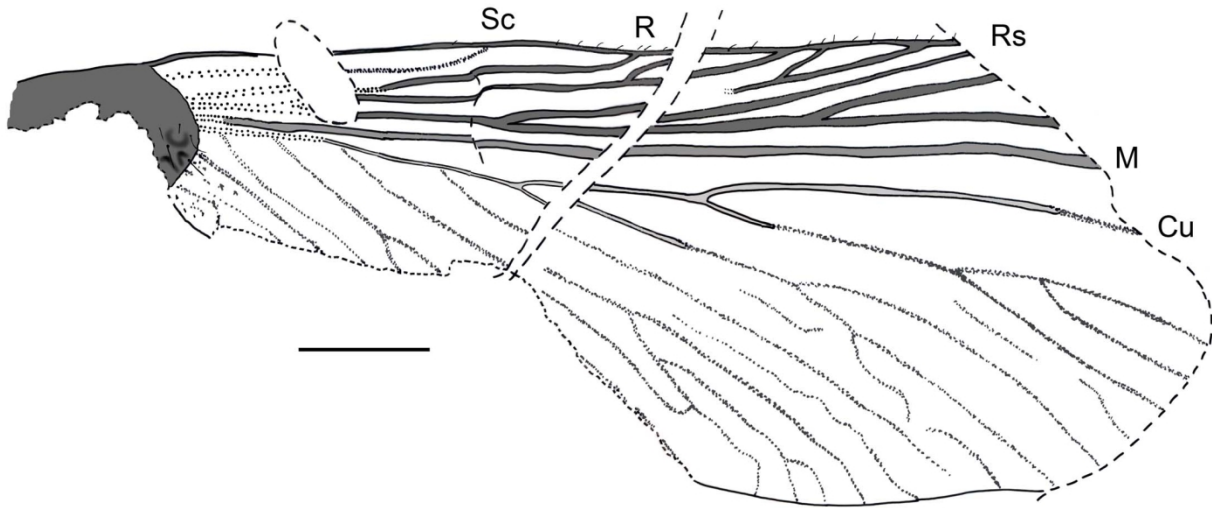


523

524 **Fig. 2.** Details of the holotype (subfigures A, B, C, specimen MCNA 14936a) and paratype  
 525 (subfigures D, E, F, specimen MCNA 14936b) of *Ithytermes montoyai* gen. et sp. nov. A,  
 526 microphotograph of head in ventral view showing details of left antenna and mouthparts  
 527 (magnified area). B, camera lucida drawing of head in ventrolateral view. C, camera lucida  
 528 drawing of head and pronotum in dorsolateral view. D, microphotograph of head and pronotum  
 529 in lateral view. E, camera lucida drawing of head and pronotum in lateral view. F, camera lucida

530 drawing of right antenna. Scale bars: A, B – 1 mm (both to the same scale); C, 1 mm; D, E, F – 1  
531 mm (all to the same scale).

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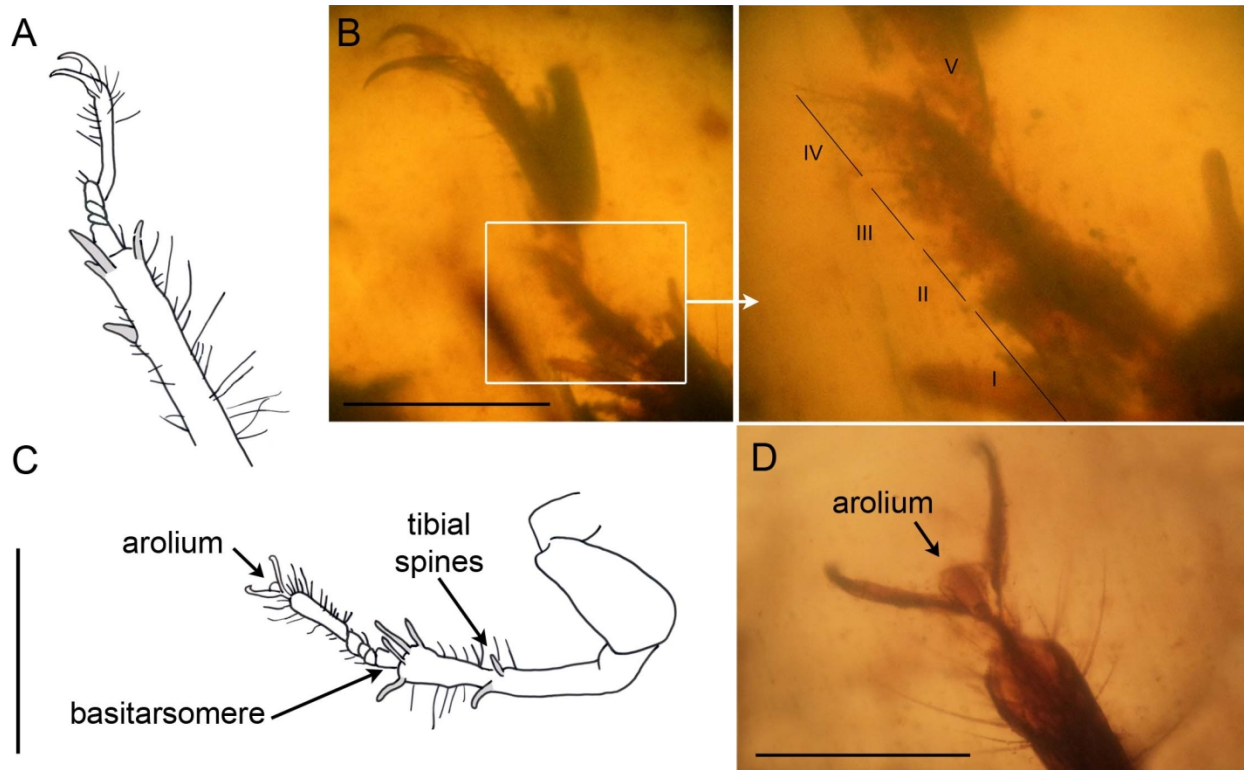


533

534 **Fig. 3.** Camera lucida drawing of the right forewing of the paratype of *Ithytermes montoyai* gen.

535 et sp. nov., specimen MCNA 14936b.

536



537

538 **Fig. 4.** Details of the paratype of *Ithytermes montoyai* gen. et sp. nov., specimen MCNA 14936b.

539 A, Camera lucida drawing of right metatibial apex, metatarsus, and metapretarsus, lateral view.

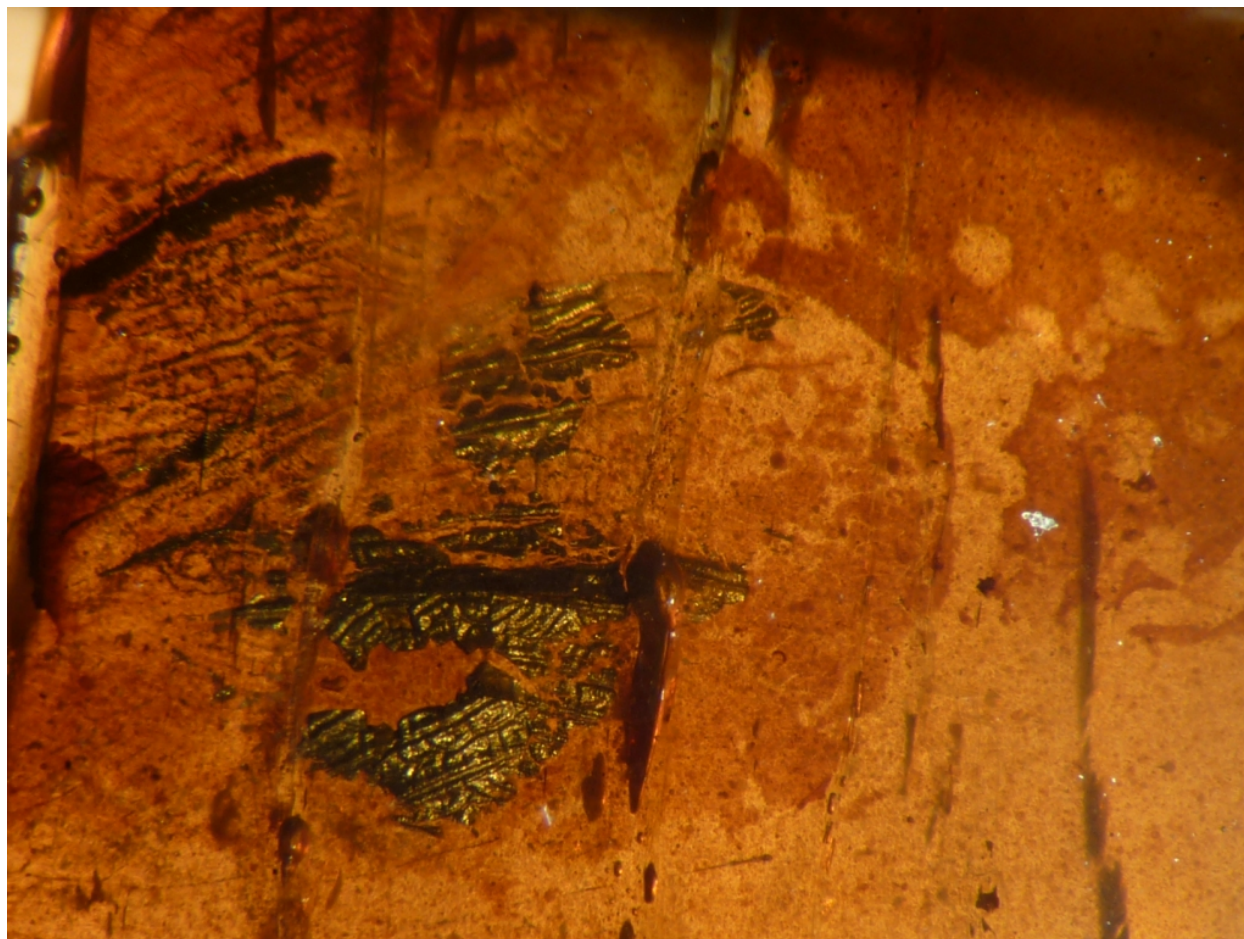
540 B, microphotographs of right metatarsus, and metapretarsus, lateral view. See detail of tarsal

541 segmentation in the magnified area. C, Camera lucida drawing of entire right midleg showing

542 stout femur and tibia, spination, and tarsal segmentation. D, microphotograph of arolium. Scale

543 bars: A, C – 1 mm (both to the same scale); B – 0.5 mm; D – 0.25 mm.

544



545

546 **Fig. 5.** Photograph of Indeterminate specimen CES 552 in El Soplao amber.

547

548 **Table 1.** Described Cretaceous amber termites (Isoptera).

Species	Locality	Age
<i>Melqartitermes myrrheus</i> Engel, Grimaldi & Krishna, 2007	Lebanon	Barremian
<i>Lebanotermes veltzae</i> Engel, Azar & Nel, 2011	Mdeyrij-Hammana, Lebanon	Barremian
Indeterminate (Engel et al., 2011)	Mdeyrij-Hammana, Lebanon	Barremian
Indeterminate (Engel et al., 2011)	Mdeyrij-Hammana, Lebanon	Barremian
Indeterminate (Engel et al., 2011)	Mdeyrij-Hammana, Lebanon	Barremian
<b><i>Ithytermes montoyai</i>, gen. et sp. nov.</b>	<b>Peñacerrada I, Spain</b>	<b>Albian</b>
<i>Cantabritermes simplex</i> Engel & Delclòs, 2010	Peñacerrada I, Spain	Albian

<i>Morazatermes krishnai</i> Engel & Delclòs, 2010	Peñacerrada I, Spain	Albian
<b>Indeterminate (herein)</b>	<b>El Soplao, Spain</b>	<b>Albian</b>
<b>Indeterminate (herein)</b>	<b>El Soplao, Spain</b>	<b>Albian</b>
<i>Aragonitermes teruelensis</i> Engel & Delclòs, 2010	San Just, Spain	Albian
<i>Anisotermes xiai</i> Zhao, Eggleton & Ren, 2019	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Archeorhinotermes rossi</i> Krishna & Grimaldi, 2003	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Dharmatermes avernalis</i> Engel, Grimaldi & Krishna, 2007	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Ginormotermes rex</i> (Engel, Barden & Grimaldi, 2016)	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Kachinitermes tristis</i> (Cockerell, 1917)	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Kachinitermopsis burmensis</i> (Poinar, 2009)	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Krishnatermes yoddha</i> Engel, Barden & Grimaldi, 2016	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Mastotermes monostichus</i> Zhao, Eggleton & Ren, 2019	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Mylacrotermes cordatus</i> Engel, Grimaldi & Krishna, 2007	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Proelectrotermes holmgreni</i> Engel, Grimaldi & Krishna, 2007	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Proelectrotermes swinhoi</i> (Cockerell, 1916)	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Tanytermes anawrahtai</i> Engel, Grimaldi & Krishna, 2007	Kachin, Myanmar	Cenomanian
<i>Lutetiatermes priscus</i> Schlüter, 1989	Bezonnais, France	Cenomanian
<i>Mastotermes sarthensis</i> Schlüter, 1989	Bezonnais, France	Cenomanian
<i>Santonitermes chloae</i> Engel, Nel & Perrichot, 2011	Archingeay, France	Cenomanian
<i>Syagriotermes salomeae</i> Engel, Nel & Perrichot, 2011	Archingeay, France	Cenomanian
Indeterminate (Engel et al., 2011)	Archingeay, France	Cenomanian
<i>Carinatermes nascimbenei</i> Krishna & Grimaldi, 2000	New Jersey, USA	Turonian
<i>Termitotron vendeense</i> Engel, 2014	Garnache 1, France	Turonian
Indeterminate (Engel & Delclòs, 2010)	Grassy Lake, Canada	Campanian