

**About two *Batrachorhina*-species  
included in Malagasy copal  
(Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)**

Francesco VITALI

**Summary** - The discovery of two sub-fossil specimens of *Batrachorhina (Coedomea) lateritia* (Fairmaire, 1894) and *Batrachorhina (Coedomea) nervulata* (Fairmaire, 1894) (Lamiinae, Pteropliini) included in Malagasy copal is reported. The latter species is considered an older synonym of *Batrachorhina (Coedomea) drappieri* Breuning, 1957 **nov. syn.**, whose type is recognised here.

**Résumé** - On donne la découverte de deux exemplaires sub-fossiles de *Batrachorhina (Coedomea) lateritia* (Fairmaire, 1894) et de *Batrachorhina (Coedomea) nervulata* (Fairmaire, 1894) (Lamiinae, Pteropliini) incluses dans le Copal Malgache. La deuxième espèce est reconnue synonyme de *Batrachorhina (Coedomea) drappieri* Breuning, 1957 **nov. syn.**, dont le type est à présent reconnu.

**Key-words** - Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae, Pteropliini, *Batrachorhina*, Madagascar, copal, sub-fossils, taxonomy.

## Introduction

The Malagasy copal is related (POINAR, 1992; POINAR & BROWN, 2002) to the ambrosia of *Hymenaea verrucosa* Gaertner, 1791, Caesalpinaceae, a perennial tree still existing today and widespread from the Eastern Africa to Asia through the Indian Ocean. Though several authors (SCHLEE, 1984; WUNDERLICH, 1986; POINAR, 1992; ANDERSON, 1997; DUBOIS, 1998) estimated that Malagasy copal could be datable from a few hundred to 4 Myr BP, carbon dating results (POINAR, 1999) have proved that it can be as young as 50 years old. This fact implies that the species included in copal, must be extremely similar or even identical to the current ones and they might also be considered in the study of the fauna of the Recent.

The two sub-fossil specimens investigated further in this paper constitute the first findings of cerambycids included in Malagasy copal after the species described by QUEDENFELDT (1885).

They belong to the genus *Batrachorhina* Chevrolat, 1842, widespread in Madagascar and the Oriental Africa. The systematics of this genus, already complicated and questioned in the past (11 synonyms more or less considered as sub-