
Foreword

A. NEL

The Late Cretaceous and Early Cenozoic were two very important periods for the evolution of the class Insecta, because of the expansion and diversification of modern fauna in relation to the development of Angiosperms. By the Late Cretaceous to Early Cenozoic insects were already very diverse and dominated terrestrial palaeoenvironments. Thus, their study is very important for determining the exact impact on the ecosystems of the terminal event at the end of the Cretaceous. This challenge means increasing the current knowledge of Late Cretaceous and Paleocene - Early Eocene insect fauna. The recent discoveries of new and very diverse entomofaunas in amber from the Late Albian and Early Eocene of France are of crucial importance in this quest.

In this volume we present a series of papers on Cretaceous and Cenozoic entomofaunas, demonstrating the presence of representatives of several modern families of orders such as Psocoptera, Heteroptera, Hymenoptera, and Diptera in the very Early Cenozoic or the Late Cretaceous, with the oldest fossil records of Liposcelididae, Piesmatidae, Thaumastocoridae, Tingidae, and Formicidae families. These results strongly support the hypothesis of great antiquity for the majority of modern insect families, with their potential occurrence in the Cretaceous. The ecological relationships between plants and insects during the

Late Cretaceous and Early Tertiary were probably similar to those present today, suggesting a minor impact on insects of the alleged catastrophic event at the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary.

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