First fossil of an oestroid fly (Diptera: Calyptratae: Oestroidea) and the dating of oestroid divergences

Pierfilippo Cerretti¹*, John O. Stireman, III², Thomas Pape³, James E. O’Hara⁴, Marco A. T. Marinho⁵,6, Knut Rognes⁷, David A. Grimaldi⁸

¹ Dipartimento di Biologia e Biotecnologie ‘Charles Darwin’, Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy, ² Department of Biological Sciences, Wright State University, Dayton, OH, United States of America, ³ Natural History Museum of Denmark, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark, ⁴ Canadian National Collection of Insects, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, ⁵ Laboratório de Morfologia e Evolução de Diptera, Departamento de Biologia, Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil, ⁶ Departamento de Ecologia, Zoologia e Genética, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Federal de Pelotas, Pelotas, RS, Brazil, ⁷ University of Stavanger, Faculty of Arts and Education, Department of Early Childhood Education, Stavanger, Norway, ⁸ Division of Invertebrate Zoology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, United States of America

* pierfilippo.cerretti@uniroma1.it

Abstract

Calyptrate flies include about 22,000 extant species currently classified into Hippoboscoidea (tsetse, louse, and bat flies), the muscoid grade (house flies and relatives) and the Oestroidea (blow flies, bot flies, flesh flies, and relatives). Calyptrates are abundant in nearly all terrestrial ecosystems, often playing key roles as decomposers, parasites, parasitoids, vectors of pathogens, and pollinators. For oestroids, the most diverse group within calyptrates, definitive fossils have been lacking. The first unambiguous fossil of Oestroidea is described based on a specimen discovered in amber from the Dominican Republic. The specimen was identified through digital dissection by CT scans, which provided morphological data for a cladistic analysis of its phylogenetic position among extant oestroids. The few known calyptrate fossils were used as calibration points for a molecular phylogeny (16S, 28S, CAD) to estimate the timing of major diversification events among the Oestroidea. Results indicate that: (a) the fossil belongs to the family Mesembrinellidae, and it is identified and described as *Mesembrinella caenozoica* sp. nov.; (b) the mesembrinellids form a sister clade to the Australian endemic *Ulurumyia macalpinei* (Ulurumyiidae) (McAlpine’s fly), which in turn is sister to all remaining oestroids; (c) the most recent common ancestor of extant Calyptratae lived just before the K–Pg boundary (ca. 70 mya); and (d) the radiation of oestroids began in the Eocene (ca. 50 mya), with the origin of the family Mesembrinellidae dated at ca. 40 mya. These results provide new insight into the timing and rate of oestroid diversification and highlight the rapid radiation of some of the most diverse and ecologically important families of flies. ZooBank accession number–urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:0DC5170B-1D16-407A-889E-56EED3FE3627.
Introduction

The spectacular episodes of ‘explosive’ diversification that have occurred scattered in the history of life have always fascinated evolutionary biologists. Radiations are even more intriguing when the resulting species diversity and abundance we observe today contrasts with a fossil record that is sparse or even entirely lacking. In this respect, the calypterate Diptera (e.g., tsetse, house flies, blow flies, and related groups) are a good example. Calypterate flies comprise one of the major clades of Schizophora, the latter representing the most rampant radiation of Diptera ever [1] and one of the largest radiations of insects within the Cenozoic [2]. For oestroids—the most diverse group within the calypterates—definitive fossils have been entirely lacking.

The approximately 22,000 extant species of calypterate flies [3] (about 14% of all flies) are abundantly represented in nearly all terrestrial ecosystems, from tropical forests, savannas, and deserts to the extreme High Arctic, often playing key roles in the environment as decomposers, parasites, parasitoids, vectors of pathogens, and pollinators [4]. Calypterate flies include some of the most common and well-known synanthropic scavengers on Earth such as the house fly (Musca domestica Linnaeus; Muscidae), the lesser house fly (Fannia scalaris Fabricius; Fanniidae), and the blue bottle flies (Calliphoridae; Calliphorini) such as notorious blood-feeders as the tsetse flies (Glossina spp.; Glossinidae) and the stable fly (Stomoxys calcitrans Linnaeus; Muscidae); as well as such economically important mammal parasites as the New World screw-worm fly (Cochliomyia hominivorax (Coquerel); Calliphoridae) and the human bot fly (Dermatobia hominis (Linnaeus, Jr.); Oestridae).

Calyptrates are currently classified into two superfamilies and one ‘grade’, which together contain 15 families: the Hippoboscoidea, comprising the Glossinidae and Hippoboscidae (louse flies and bat flies); the muscoid grade of families (‘Muscoida’; house flies and relatives), comprising the Fanniidae, Muscidae, Anthomyiidae, and Scathophagidae; and the Oestroidea, comprising the Calliphoridae (blow flies, probably non-monophyletic), Mesembrinellidae, Mystacinobiidae (New Zealand bat fly), Oestridae (bot flies), Rhiniidae (rhiniid flies), Rhinophoridae (woodlouse flies), Sarcophagidae (flesh flies), Tachinidae (parasitoid flies), and most recently the Ulurumyiidae (McAlpine’s fly [5]). Nearly all recent studies are in agreement that the Calyptratae are a monophyletic group, the emerging phylogenetic scheme being one with a basal Hippoboscoidea and a monophyletic Oestroidea nested within a paraphyletic muscoid grade [1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10] (but see Ding et al. [11] for an alternate hypothesis). Relationships within Oestroidea are complicated and not well resolved, with little agreement between morphology- and molecular-based studies [7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19].

The most recent phylogenetic analysis employing a relaxed molecular clock model suggests a calypterate origin near the K–Pg boundary, 66 million years ago (mya) [1], but there are few reliable calypterate fossils known so far: one stem-group anthomyiid (Proanthomyia minuta Michelsen) from Eocene Baltic amber (ca. 42 mya), which represents the oldest calypterate known so far [20]; a few tsetse flies in shales from the latest Eocene of North America and the Oligocene of Europe (40–35 mya) [2]; and a few crown-group representatives of Anthomyiidae [21], Muscidae [22], and Hippoboscidae [23] from Dominican amber, which are imprecisely dated within the Miocene at 20–15 my [24].

Putative oestroid fossils include five mineralized puparia in a piece of ironstone from the Late Cretaceous (70 mya) of Canada, described as Cretaformia fowleri McAlpine and originally attributed to the Calliphoridae sensu lato [25]. This fossil was later treated as an unplaced schizophoran [2, 26], but even this placement may be questionable because neither mouthparts nor posterior spiracles are recognizable and only the annulation of the wrinkled surface bears some resemblance to a cyclorrhaphan puparium. Tertiary fossils that have been tentatively assigned to oestroid families are listed in Table 1. These are mostly compression fossils of
larvae or adults that are currently assigned to Oestridae, Sarcophagidae, and Tachinidae [27]. However, these placements are best treated as speculative because no diagnostic characters conclusively support them [28, 29, 30]. It is worth noting that larvae of both Oestridae and Tachinidae are obligate endophages of living mammals and insects, respectively, with the free-living larval stage restricted to the short period when the mature larva leaves the host to pupate.

Table 1. Putative oestroid fossils of the Tertiary.

|                          | Eocene (56–34 mya) | Oligocene (34–23 mya) | Miocene (23–5 mya) | Undetermined Tertiary |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Oestridae                |                    |                       |                    |                      |
| Adipterites obovatus     |                    |                       | Upper Freshwater-Molasse Formation, Sarmatian (12.7–11.6 mya), Germany 47.7° N, 8.9° E |
| (Heer, 1864) (Lr) (Co)    |                    |                       |                    |                      |
| Oestridae                |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Agiebelia ignota         |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| (Townsend, 1921) (Lr) (Co) |                   |                       |                     |                      |
| Oestridae                |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Cuterebra ascarides      | Green River Formation, Bridgerian (50.3–46.2 mya), Colorado, USA 39.0° N, 108.0° W |
| (Scudder, 1877) (Lr) (Co)|                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Oestridae                | Green River Formation, Bridgerian (50.3–46.2 mya), Colorado, USA 39.0° N, 108.0° W |
| Cuterebra bibosa         |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| (Scudder, 1877) (Lr) (Co)|                    | Green River Formation, Bridgerian (50.3–46.2 mya), Colorado, USA 39.0° N, 108.0° W |
| Oestridae                |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Dermatobia hydropica     |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| (Scudder, 1877) (Lr) (Co)|                    | Green River Formation, Bridgerian (50.3–46.2 mya), Colorado, USA 39.0° N, 108.0° W |
| Oestridae                |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Novoberendtia baltica    | Baltic amber (?) (no further information available) |
| (Townsend, 1921) (Lr) (Am)|                       |                       |                     |                      |
| Tachinidae               |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Lithexorista scudderii   | Green River Formation, Bridgerian (50.3–46.2 mya), Wyoming, USA 41.6° N, 109.6° W |
| Townsend, 1921 (Ad) (Co) |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Tachinidae               |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Lithotachina antiqua     | Upper Freshwater-Molasse Formation, Sarmatian (12.7–11.6 mya), Germany 47.7° N, 8.9° E |
| (Heer, 1849) (Ad) (Co)   |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Tachinidae               |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Muscidites deperditus    | Chattian (28.4–23.0 mya), Germany 49.7° N, 8.2° E |
| Heyden & Heyden, 1866    |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| (Lr) (Co)                |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Tachinidae               |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Tachina sp. (?) (Co)     | Switzerland [no further information available] |
| (Am)                     |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Tachinidae               |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Vinculomusca vinculata   | Green River Formation, Bridgerian (50.3–46.2 mya), Colorado, USA 39.0° N, 108.0° W |
| (Scudder, 1877) (Lr) (Co)|                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Tachinidae               |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Undetermined Tachinidae  | Dominican mines (15–20 mya), Dominican Republic |
| (Eg) (Am)                |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| Sarcophagidae            | Baltic amber (?) (no further information available) |
| Sarcophaga sp. (?Lr)     |                    |                       |                     |                      |
| (Am)                     |                    |                       |                     |                      |

Abbreviations: Ad = adult, Am = amber, Co = compression, Eg = egg, Lr = larva. Data from Evenhuis [27], the Fossilworks website (http://fossilworks.org/bridge.pl?%3Ba=home (accessed July 7, 2016)) and from original descriptions.

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0182101.t001
Fossilisation of such larvae, which are free-living for such a short time, must be an extremely rare event. This improbability, along with the lack of diagnostic features, suggests that pre-Quaternary fossil larvae tentatively assigned to parasitic Oestroidea are misidentified.

The putative plano-convex dipteran egg attached to the pronotum of a leaf beetle (Chrysomelidae) preserved in Dominican amber [31, 32] is particularly interesting. Within Diptera, the plano-convex egg shape has evolved independently in at least five lineages of arthropod parasitoids: once in the Rhinophoridae, three times in the Tachinidae (Eutherini, Exoristinae, and Phasinae), and once in the Muscidae (Eginia Robineau-Desvoidy) [33, 34, 35, 36]. However, while the size, shape, and position of the object on the beetle’s body are suggestive of a tachinid egg, there are no other morphological clues to support or reject such a conclusion.

There are a few Quaternary (sub)fossils and copal inclusions of Oestroidea [27], but they are not discussed here because they have little bearing on oestroid evolution. Two genera in this category, Paleotachina Townsend and Electrotachina Townsend, were long thought to be Eocene fossils of Tachinidae (and were catalogued as such [27]) but were revealed as copal inclusions [37] and later assigned to the Muscidae and Sarcophagidae, respectively [30]. Not included in Table 1 are brief notes on Tachinidae and Calliphoridae in Dominican amber [31, 38] or the record (with photograph) of a specimen of Calliphoridae (possibly Chrysomya Robineau-Desvoidy) from ‘a piece of nearly colourless amber’ [39]. The material upon which these reports were based has not been further described or illustrated and cannot be evaluated until more detailed information is published.

The absence of unambiguous pre-Quaternary oestroid fossils necessitated the dating of oestroid lineages from tectonic or other geophysical events considered causative for patterns in current distributions, like the closure of the Transantarctic corridor (minimum age for dispersal of nasal bot flies into Australia [29]), the collision of the African and Eurasian plates (maximum age for diversification of the rhino and horse stomach bot flies [29]), and the submersion of the Isthmus of Panama and the existence of a Protoantillean corridor (vicariance dating for some flesh fly lineages [40]). Nevertheless, this approach is of limited use in dating clades [41] because it assumes that the distributions of organisms at the time these events were static and constrained by geophysical events, with little consideration for dispersal events and the widespread ebb and flow in distributions, which fossil data often indicates actually happened in most animal and plant taxa (probably in response to palaeoclimatic change) [42].

This paper describes the first unambiguous fossil of Oestroidea based on a perfectly preserved male fly discovered in amber from the Dominican Republic. We identify and characterize the specimen through digital dissection of its terminalia by CT scans, which provide morphological data for a cladistic analysis of the phylogenetic position of the fossil among extant oestroid lineages. We use the few known calyptrate fossils as calibration points for a preliminary molecular phylogeny (using 16S, 28S and CAD) to estimate the timing of major diversification events among the Oestroidea.

Results

Systematics

Order Diptera
   Superfamily Oestroidea
   Family Mesembrinellidae
   Genus Mesembrinella Giglio-Tos, 1893.
   Mesembrinella caenozoica sp. nov.
   Figs 1 and 2
Type material. Holotype male, a Dominican amber inclusion of Miocene age, housed in the American Museum of Natural History. Additional details are given under Materials and Methods.

Etymology. The specific epithet ‘caenozoica’ alludes to the name of the Cenozoic Era (from Greek kainos, meaning ‘new’, and zoe, meaning ‘life’), which covers the period from ca. 66 mya to the present day. The epithet should be treated as a Latin adjective.

Diagnosis. A medium-sized fly (body length: ca. 8.5 mm) (Fig 1A), readily distinguishable from extant mesembrinellids by the following combination of character states: prementum about 0.65–0.70 times as long as height of head; labella broad and about 4/5 as long as prementum; palpus sub-cylindrical, about as long as antenna (Fig 1A and 1B); proepisternal depression
Fig 2. Holotype of *Mesembrinella caenozoica* sp. nov., CT scan of the terminalia. (A) tergite 6, sytergosternite 7+8, epandrium and cerci in posterior view. (B) epandrial complex in posterior view. (C) epandrial complex and phallus in left
with pale, hair-like setulae; postpronotum with three setae arranged in a triangle; scutum with 3 (presutural) + 3 (postsutural) dorsocentral setae (Fig 1C); 3 katepisternal setae; metathoracic spiracular lappet without setae; general setulae of postpronotum, scutum and scutellum relatively long and suberect; posterolateral margin of lower calypter with long trichia; stem vein bare; vein R₄+₅ with fine setulae from base to about 2/3 of distance to crossvein r-m; abdominal tergite 3 with two long, erect median marginal setae and two lateral marginal setae (Fig 1A); setae on abdominal sternites normally developed and not arranged in two rows; abdominal tergite 6 broad, not indented posteriorly and not fused to syntergosternite 7+8 (Fig 2A); cerci long, narrow and evenly curved anteroventrally (Fig 2B–2D); lateroventral lobes of distiphallus well developed (Fig 2D and 2E); scale-like vestiture of lateroventral lobes of distiphallus not visible; narrow lateral projection of lateroventral lobes of distiphallus present; acrophallus well developed, sub-cylindrical (Fig 2C and 2D).

Description: S1 Text.

Morphological cladistic analysis

The heuristic tree searches using parsimony with equal weights yielded 30 most parsimonious trees (MPTs) (tree length: 258 steps; Consistency Index: 0.400; Retention Index: 0.754). All of these MPTs recovered the superfamily Oestroidea (clade A) and the family Mesembrinellidae (clade C) as monophyletic, both with a Bremer support value (BS) of 4 (strict consensus tree in Fig 3). Optimization of the character transformations performed on the favoured MPT (S1 Fig) revealed that mesembrinellid monophyly relies on one nonhomoplastic (56:1, spermathecae very elongated), and eight homoplastic apomorphies (8:1, prothoracic spiracle with drop-shaped dorsal opening; 10:1, postalar wall setose; 11:1, metasternal area setose; 12:1, coxo-pleural streak absent; 19:1, metathoracic spiracle large; 24:0, excavation of syntergite 1+2 extending to posterior margin; 31:1, bend of M characteristically broadly rounded; 33:1, hind surface of hind coxa setose). The first split divides the family Mesembrinellidae into two subclades: clade D including species formerly ascribed to subfamily Mesembrinellinae sensu Guimarães [43] (Table 2), and clade E including species formerly assigned to subfamilies Laneellinae (M. nigripes (Guimarães) and M. perisi (Mariluis)), Souzalopesiellinae (M. facialis (Aldrich)) (Table 2), plus M. patriciae Wolff and M. caenozoica sp. nov. The position of M. caenozoica as sister to M. facialis (clade F) is supported by one nonhomoplastic apomorphy (45:1, lateral projection of lateroventral lobe of distiphallus present) (see S1 Dataset).

Molecular phylogenetic analyses and divergence time estimation

Overall, trees inferred via ML and Bayesian inference methods were similar in their reconstruction of clades (i.e., families/subfamilies), with relationships among major clades receiving, in general, low (< 50%) bootstrap support (bs; ML) and moderate (< 90%) posterior probabilities (pp; Bayesian) (Figs 4 and 5, S2 Fig, S3 Fig). Despite partial reliance on the notoriously inconclusive 28S ribosomal gene [17], our analyses reconstructed relationships largely consistent with those of previous studies employing considerably more data, but fewer taxa (e.g., [16, 17]). For example, overall relationships among families are largely consistent with Wiegmann et al.’s [1] phylogeny of the order Diptera, with a paraphyletic muscoid grade, Oestridae as sister to Sarcophagidae, and Tachinidae sister to a clade of Calliphoridae, with Rhinophoridae somewhat removed from this latter
Fig 3. Strict consensus cladogram of major lineages of Oestroidea from 30 most parsimonious trees under equal weights (length = 258 steps; C.I. = 0.400; R.I. = 0.754) generated in TNT 1.5, from analysis of the morphological dataset (S1 Dataset). Capital letters above branches indicate branches as discussed in the text. Numbers below branches indicate Bremer supports values (BS).

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0182101.g003
| ‘LUMPERS’ | ‘SPLITTERS’ |
|-----------|-------------|
| **Mesembrinella clade** | | |
| *M. abaca* (Hall) | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. aeneiventris* (Wiedemann) | | *Huascaromusca* |
| *M. andina* (Wolff, Bonatto & Carvalho) | | *Thompsoniella* |
| *M. anomala* (Guimarães) | | *Thompsoniella* |
| *M. apollinaris* Ségy | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. batesi* Aldrich | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. bellardiana bellardiana* Aldrich | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. bellardiana fuscicosta* Ségy | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. benoisti* (Ségy) | | *Eumesembrinella* |
| *M. bequaerti* (Ségy) | | *Huascaromusca* |
| *M. bicolor* (Fabricius) | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. bolivar* (Bonatto) | | *Giovanella* |
| *M. brunnipes* Surcouf | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. carvalhoi* (Wolff et al.) | | *Huascaromusca* |
| *M. cordillera* (Wolff & Ramos-Pastrana) | | *Huascaromusca* |
| *M. currani* Guimarães | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. cyanecincta cyanecincta* (Surcouf) | | *Eumesembrinella* |
| *M. cyanecincta pauciseta* Aldrich | | *Eumesembrinella* |
| *M. decrepita* (Ségy) | | *Huascaromusca* |
| *M. flavicura* Aldrich | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. lara* (Bonatto) | | *Huascaromusca* |
| *M. latifrons* Mello | | *Albuquerquea* |
| *M. obscura* (Wolff) | | *Huascaromusca* |
| *M. patriciae* Wolff | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. peregrina* Aldrich | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. pictipennis* Aldrich | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. purpurata* (Aldrich) | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. quadrilineata* (Fabricius) | | *Huascaromusca* |
| *M. randa* (Walker) | | *Eumesembrinella* |
| *M. semilava* (Aldrich) | | *Huascaromusca* |
| *M. semihyalina* Mello | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. spicata* (Aldrich) | | *Henriquella* |
| *M. townsendi* (Guimarães) | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. umbrosa* Aldrich | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. uniseta* Aldrich | | *Huascaromusca* |
| *M. volgelsangi* (Mello) | | *Huascaromusca* |
| *M. xanthorrhina* (Bigot) | | *Mesembrinella* |
| **Laneella clade** | | |
| *M. nigripes* (Guimarães) | | *Laneella* |
| *M. patriciae* Wolff | | *Mesembrinella* |
| *M. perisi* (Mariluis) | | *Laneella* |
| *M. facialis* (Aldrich) | | *Souzalopesiella* |

Comparison between classification schemes of the family Mesembrinellidae: ‘lumpers’ (grey column) vs. ‘splitters’ (white columns).
Fig 4. Bayesian phylogenetic reconstruction collapsed into clades at family and subfamily level of major lineages of Oestroidea from analyses of the combined (16S, 28S, CAD) dataset, generated in MrBayes (above branches left = Bayesian posterior probabilities; above branches right = maximum likelihood bootstrap support).

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0182101.g004
Fig 5. Bayesian inferred time-calibrated phylogeny of major lineages of Oestroidea from analysis of the combined (16S, 28S, CAD) dataset, generated in BEAST v. 2.4.0. The length of the light blue bars at nodes indicates 95% confidence intervals of node ages. Numbers indicate posterior probabilities. Time scale unit: 10 million years.

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0182101.g005
clade. On the other hand, relationships within Oestroidea depart to some extent from those of Kutty et al. [7] and Marinho et al. [15] (e.g., position of Mesembrinellidae and Tachinidae), and as in these previous studies, relationships among major oestroid clades (families and calliphorid subfamilies) are not always well resolved.

Major inferred relationships are summarized below:

1. Calyptratae: In ML and Bayesian trees (Figs 4 and 5, S2 Fig, S3 Fig), Hippoboscoidea are sister to the remaining taxa with substantial support (78% bs; 0.97 pp; constrained in the BEAST analysis), with Muscidae, Fanniidae, and Anthomyiidae + Scathophagidae (with or without Mystacinobiidae) forming a paraphyletic grade of muscoid families from within which the Oestroidea arose. Node age estimates have broad confidence intervals (Fig 5), especially for deeper nodes. The median estimated age of the Calyptratae (basal node) is 67.5 my (95% CI: 49.8–96.2 mya).

2. Oestroidea: Oestroid ‘backbone’ relationships are supported by generally high posterior probabilities in Bayesian analyses, but are weakly resolved in the ML analyses (Fig 4, S2 Fig). The superfamily itself is well-supported in Bayesian analyses, with the exception of the Mystacinobiidae, which in some analyses emerge as sister to Anthomyiidae + Scathophagidae. The family Oestridae always emerges as sister taxon to the Sarcophagidae, with this clade being either sister to all remaining oestroids (MrBayes; Fig 4, S3 Fig) or sister to all oestroids except Mesembrinellidae + Ulurumyiidae (BEAST; Fig 5). The age of Oestroidea (minus Mystacinobia) is estimated to be 48.2 my (37.1–66.5), that of Sarcophagidae + Oestridae is 40.7 my (27.0–58.3), and Sarcophagidae are estimated to be at least 23 million years old (myo) (11.4–38.0).

3. Tachinidae: Relationships among tachinid taxa largely mirror those recovered from recent analyses using much larger data sets [17]. Tachinid monophyly is supported (41% bs, 1.0 pp) and all analyses reconstruct the Polleniinae (Calliphoridae) as sister to Tachinidae (as in Winkler et al. [17]). Bayesian analyses (BEAST and MrBayes) support Rhinophoridae as sister to Tachinidae + Polleniinae (0.99 and 0.83 pp respectively) (Figs 4 and 5, S3 Fig), a relationship also recovered in the best ML tree (S2 Fig). The estimated age of Tachinidae is remarkably young for such a diverse family, at only 33.7 my (24.8–46.7).

4. Calliphoridae sensu lato: Relationships among the various clades of Calliphoridae s.l. vary among analyses, with the Bayesian trees indicating either a monophyletic clade of calliphorids minus Mesembrinellidae and Polleniinae (BEAST, 0.97 pp, Fig 5), or a grade of two major lineages, 1) Chrysomyinae and 2) all remaining calliphorids (MrBayes and ML analyses), which are paraphyletic with regard to the clade Rhinophoridae + (Tachinidae + Polleniinae); (Fig 4, S2 Fig, S3 Fig).

5. Mesembrinellidae: All analyses reconstruct Mesembrinellidae and Ulurumyiidae as sister taxa with medium to strong support (50% bs, 0.97–0.99 pp; Figs 4 and 5) (see also the morphology-based reconstruction in Fig 3). Relationships within Mesembrinellidae generally correspond to those obtained by Marinho et al. [19], which is not surprising given that analyses are based largely on the same data. *Mesembrinella nigripes, M. perisi* and *M. patriciae* form a clade (*Laneella* clade) sister to the remaining mesembrinellids (*Mesembrinella* clade). The age of the clade Mesembrinellidae + Ulurumyiidae is estimated to be 43.1 my (31.1–60.0), and the Mesembrinellidae themselves are estimated to be 38.8 myo (27.2–53.7).
Discussion

Morphological phylogeny of Oestroidea

Overall, the backbone relationships of oestroid families are poorly supported in our analysis. Although most families and subfamilies represented by at least two terminal taxa were reconstructed as monophyletic, the 30 most parsimonious trees vary widely in the reconstructed relationships among them (S1 Dataset). This ambiguity is apparent in the strict consensus cladogram of Fig 3, where a monophyletic Mesembrinellidae + Ulurumiidae (clade B; BS: 1) is sister to clade H (BS: 2), which includes all the remaining oestroid taxa as part of a large basal polytomy. Within clade H, families Sarcophagidae (clade I, BS: 2), Oestridae (clade O, BS: 6), Tachinidae (clade Q, BS: 3), and Rhinophoridae (clade S, BS: 4) are monophyletic (the Rhiniidae were represented by only one species and the Mystacinobiidae are monotypic), whereas the ‘Calliphoridae’ break into five clades as follows:

- Clade J—Helicoboscinae (Eurychaeta muscaria (Meigen));
- Clade K—Bengaliinae (Bengalia Robineau-Desvoidy, Auchmeromyia Brauer & Bergenstamm) (BS: 1);
- Clade L—Polleniinae (Pollenia Robineau-Desvoidy, Morinia Robineau-Desvoidy) (BS: 2);
- Clade M—Ameniinae (Amenia Robineau-Desvoidy, Catapicephala Macquart, Paramenia Brauer & Bergenstamm) + Aphyssurinae (Aphyssura Hardy) + Phumosinae (Euphumosia Malloch, Phumosia Robineau-Desvoidy) (BS: 2);
- Clade N—Chrysomyinae (Chrysomya) + Toxotarsinae (Toxotarsus, Sarconesia) + Luciliinae (Lucilia) + Calliphorinae (Calliphora) + Melanomyinae (Melinda) (BS: 2).

Notably, clade P reconstructs the Tachinidae (clade Q) sister to a clade composed by Rhiniidae + (Mystacinobiidae + Rhinophoridae) (clade R; BS: 3).

Mesembrinellid diversity and systematics, and the phylogenetic position of Mesembrinella caenozoica

Mesembrinellids are a small group of 38 extant species, traditionally classified into three subfamilies and nine genera [19, 43, 44] (Table 2, right column). However, this morphology-based generic and suprageneric classification, which is adopted by several authors, is largely unsupported by a hierarchical array of synapomorphies [45, 46, 47]. Moreover, recent and ongoing studies based on molecular data [19] do not corroborate monophyly of most of the non-monotypic nominal genera of this family. Accepting genera for which explicit evidence of monophyly is lacking, inevitably leads to taxonomic and nomenclatural instability. Coupling the recent results of phylogenetic analyses of the Mesembrinellidae with such a weak generic classification would trigger the redundant reassignment of several species to different genera, or the need to erect new monotypic genera to hold ‘non-fitting’ species, leading to a proliferation of names and confusion. For these reasons, we have chosen to adopt a more conservative classification scheme, as recently proposed by Vargas & Wood [48] and Moll [47], by lumping all the 38 valid species of mesembrinellids under the nominal genus Mesembrinella.

In the parsimony-based phylogenetic analysis the Dominican species is reconstructed within the Mesembrinellidae as sister to Mesembrinella facialis. Clade E (M. facialis + M. caenozoica) + (M. patriciae + M. nigripes + M. perisi) includes all the representatives of the former subfamilies Souzalopesiellinae and Laneellinae sensu Guimarães [43] plus M. patriciae (Table 2), which has been recently retrieved as sister to clade M. nigripes + M. perisi also on molecular grounds [19]. Clade E is sister to the other three mesembrinellid taxa analyzed, which were formerly classified in the nominal subfamily Mesembrinellinae sensu Guimarães [43] (Table 2). These results are in contrast to the morphological phylogenies of Toma &
Carvalho [45] and Bonatto [46], in which a monophyletic $M. \text{perisi } + M. \text{nigripes}$ (as *Laneella*) is the basal lineage of the Mesembrinellidae, and $M. \text{facialis}$ (as *Souzalopesiella*) is sister to all mesembrinellids except the clade $M. \text{perisi } + M. \text{nigripes}$, but the results largely agree with the recent and more comprehensive study of Moll [47]. The molecular phylogeny of Marinho et al. [19] also reconstructed $M. \text{perisi } + M. \text{nigripes } + M. \text{patriciae}$ as monophyletic and sister to the remaining Mesembrinellidae.

**Mesembrinellidae—Distribution and natural history**

All extant mesembrinellid species are restricted in distribution to the rainforests of the Neotropical Region, from southern Mexico (Yucatan) to northern Argentina (Buenos Aires), with no records from the Caribbean islands except for Trinidad and Tobago [43]. The ecology of these flies is poorly known, but adults are shade-loving and occur almost exclusively within forests with a closed canopy. Occasional observations of mesembrinellids in clearings have been made during cloudy or rainy days. They are silent and fast fliers—although females fly more like big muscids, i.e., not as swift and agile as other large oestroids—mostly attracted to fermenting fruit, decaying animal matter and bird faeces [43]. Females of all species display pseudo-placental macrolarvipary, depositing one, relatively large, late first instar larva at a time, which has been nourished by secretions apparently produced by the spermathecae [49].

The few attempts of *in vitro* rearing of a selection of species on both animal and plant material have mostly failed (TP, unpubl.), except for *Mesembrinella nigripes*, which was successfully reared from first instar to adult on a variety of animal substrates, including dead snails, which were suggested as a possible primary resource for this species by Guimarães [43]. In fact, the successful breeding of $M. \text{nigripes}$ on a diversity of decaying animal matter does not necessarily reflect its true breeding habits in the wild, but rather hints at a possible ancestral plasticity in this genus. This would be consistent with our phylogenetic reconstruction, according to which the mesembrinellids are sister to a macrolarviparous coprophage, the endemic eastern Australian *Ulurumyia macalpinei* Michelsen & Pape (see also the molecular phylogeny section).

According to Guimarães [43], mesembrinellids have two types of first instars that likely reflect different developmental strategies. The first instar of $M. \text{nigripes}$, $M. \text{facialis}$ and $M. \text{patriciae}$ is sub-conical or cylindrical in shape [19, 43] and has slender and pointed mouth-hooks, whereas first instars of other mesembrinellids (e.g., *M. abaca* (Hall), *M. aeneiventris* (Wiedemann), *M. batesi* Aldrich, *M. bellardiana* Aldrich, *M. benoisti* (Séguy), *M. cyaneicincta* (Surcouf), *M. latifrons* Mello, *M. peregrina* Aldrich, *M. purpurata* (Aldrich), *M. quadrilineata* (Fabricius), *M. randa* (Walker) and *M. semihyalina* Mello) are ovoid in shape and the mouth-hooks are dorsoventrally flattened and apically rounded (‘spatula-like’ of Guimarães [43]), a shape that is unusual among oestroid flies and would seem to indicate a special diet. Character states of larval $M. \text{nigripes}$, $M. \text{facialis}$ and $M. \text{patriciae}$ are possibly plesiomorphic with respect to those of the remaining mesembrinellids [43] (but see also Toma & Carvalho [45]).

Interestingly, the two other oestroid lineages that, according to our parsimony-based phylogenetic reconstruction, independently evolved a macrolarviparous reproductive strategy (Helicoboscinae and Ameniinae + relatives) attack dying or live land snails respectively [50, 51, 52, 53].

**Mesembrinella caenozoica—palaeoenvironment and extinction**

Fossils can reveal much about the palaeoclimatic and palaeoenvironmental conditions that prevailed at the time when the organisms lived, and can sometimes provide indirect information about the co-occurrence of species that are lacking from the fossil record. For example, the discovery of specialized fossil pollinators and phytophages indicates the presence of their
pollinizers or host plants respectively, in the same way as a diversity of fossil bloodsucking arthropods suggests a diversity of vertebrate hosts, or fossils of insects with aquatic life stages suggest the proximity of freshwater [54]. Paleo-environmental reconstructions [2, 31, 54] based on plant and animal inclusions of the Miocene Dominican amber deposits are of a diverse tropical rain forest ecosystem with clearings, ponds and streams of the sort that occurs there today. Coupling such reconstructions with the little we know about the ecology of extant mesembrinellids would suggest that M. caenozoica was also a stenotopic, silicolous and shade-loving species. The extinction of mesembrinellids from the Caribbean islands is noteworthy, and M. caenozoica is another instance among dozens, where a widespread clade, documented from the Caribbean through a species preserved in Dominican amber, has experienced a local extinction (or nearly so) (topic most recently reviewed in Grimaldi et al. [55]). Most such extinctions are of insect groups that presently exist in Central or South America [56], as is the case for Mesembrinellidae. One explanation for these extinctions involves insularity and the geological history of the Caribbean plate: as the Proto-Caribbean land mass drifted away from nuclear America and became insular, the biota of the various islands that today form the Greater Antilles became depauperate. However, factors other than insularity could have driven some of the extinctions through time, in particular the changing palaeoenvironmental conditions that occurred through the Late Miocene. The mesembrinellids may also have become extinct on the Caribbean islands more recently as a consequence of the Plio-Pleistocene cooling, which resulted in extensive habitat disturbance and drying [57]. The narrow ecological requirements of the mesembrinellids make them particularly sensitive to climate change, which is a major determinant of habitat loss and fragmentation.

Oestroid phylogeny: Faint light at the end of the tunnel?

Our phylogenetic analyses of Oestroidea are preliminary. The goal of our molecular analysis was not so much a focused effort to produce a robust phylogeny of the entire clade, but rather to employ available data to arrive at the best estimate of oestroid phylogeny, which served as a framework for roughly estimating ages of diversification for major lineages, based (in part) on this newly discovered oestroid fossil. In this light, we were surprised at how well these data recovered previously hypothesized clades (e.g., families, subfamilies) and how consistent many of the relationships were among different analyses (e.g., Mesembrinellidae + Ulurumyiidae; Rhinophoridae (Polleniinae + Tachinidae); Oestridae + Sarcophagidae). Still, higher ‘backbone’ relationships within the superfamily are not well resolved and differ among analyses, and a more intensive study employing many more loci will likely be needed to resolve them and produce a stable phylogenetic topology.

The estimated ages of key nodes in this study are largely consistent with other recent estimates of divergence times using a variety of molecular data sets, which have estimated the origin of Calyptratae at ca. 55 mya [1], 50.4 mya [11] and 60.4 mya [58]. Our estimate is similar, but somewhat older, at 67.5 my, indicating that calyptrates may date from before the K–Pg event. This similarity may stem partly from reliance on the same (few) fossil calibrations, although we are the first to include an undisputed oestroid fossil. Our results for the origin of Oestroidea (48.2 mya) and of the family Tachinidae (33.7 mya) are highly congruent with previous estimates (e.g., 56.0 and 33.2 mya [58], and ca. 40.0 and 30.0 mya [1]). A recent phylogenomic study of the insects as a whole [59] also suggests relatively recent phylogenetic origins for calyptrates and oestroids in the Upper Paleogene and Lower Oligocene, respectively. Remarkably, however, this study suggests that the split between Sarcophagidae and Tachinidae is approximately at the same depth as that between the apine genera Apis Linnaeus and Bombus Latreille (Hymenoptera: Apidae), if not younger. Regardless of the exact time of phylogenetic
origin, the Calyptratae have likely experienced multiple episodes of rapid radiation, diversifying into about 22,000 described (and many undescribed) species in a relatively short time [1]. It may not be a coincidence that the origin of the calyptrates is estimated to be around the Cretaceous-Palaeogene mass extinction event. The upheaval of existing ecological communities and the opening of new niches following such a massive extinction event may have facilitated the diversification of lineages and life histories in this ecologically plastic clade of flies, as has been suggested for mammals, passerine birds, and other taxa [60, 61].

The mesembrinellid clade (including Ulurumyia macalpinei) appears to be of late Eocene age (43 myo), with the Mesembrinellidae estimated as about 39 myo, substantially older than the fossil of M. caenozoica. Given the uncertainty about where the fossil taxon fits among other Mesembrinella species in our molecular phylogeny, it is difficult to ascertain where the fossil calibration constraint should be placed on the phylogeny. It is possible that constraining a subgroup to a minimum age of 15 my, rather than the whole family, could push our estimated node ages further back. The near-basal position of Mesembrinellidae within the Oestroidea, isolated from other lineages of Calliphoridae sensu lato, was suggested previously by Crosskey [50] and Pape [62], although the close association with Ulurumyiidae is a novel hypothesis.

Morphology and molecules have usually yielded markedly different phylogenetic reconstructions of the oestroid lineages, and this applies to our analyses as well. Two exemplar cases involve the sister group relationship of the Tachinidae and the monophyly/non-monophyly of the bot flies. All recent phylogenetic reconstructions based on multiple genes [16, 17, 63] converge in reconstructing the calliphorid genus Pollenia as sister to a monophyletic Tachinidae with strong statistical support. Remarkably, there are very few clues supporting this hypothesis on morphological or ecological grounds, except that larvae of both Pollenia and 'lower' tachinids [36, 64] appear to be parasites of soil-dwelling organisms (i.e., earthworms and larvae of litter-associated weevils, respectively) [64]. On the other hand, molecular-based reconstructions often fail in retrieving Oestridae as monophyletic ([16, 17] in part), ([18] in part), [19], despite strong support from morphological data [12, 13, 28, 29] (Fig 3). As remarkable exceptions, all analyses presented here agree in reconstructing the family Oestridae as monophyletic and, for the first time, Ulurumyia macalpinei as sister to Mesembrinellidae, with this clade in turn being sister to the remaining Oestroidea (or at least much of it, Figs 3 and 5).

This situation exemplifies the uncertainty and difficulty in reconstructing relationships among oestroid lineages. Disagreement among reconstructions could be attributed to a possible rapid diversification event of persistent lineages [1, 17]. However, our time-calibrated phylogeny suggests that oestroid diversification as a whole may have been relatively 'slow' but punctuated by multiple episodes of more rapid radiation throughout the Cenozoic (Fig 5). On the other hand, the early evolution of oestroids could have been a time of ‘evolutionary experimentation’ during which many early lineages went extinct, leaving a somewhat skeletal phylogeny with only a few surviving lineages that later diversified. Without a better fossil record, it is impossible to discern between these possible scenarios.

Phylogenetic trees inferred from multiple gene sequences are starting to converge into similar, more stable patterns [59, 65, 66, 67, 68], and this is true also for the oestroids despite the sparse and uneven taxon coverage [16, 17]. If we assume that the recent molecular data are better at recovering the true phylogeny of Oestroidea, then we are still left with the question of why the morphology is so misleading and what this suggests about character evolution in this group. Conversely, if we assume inferences from the morphological data are closer to the truth, why are molecular-based inferences less accurate? Presently, we have a limited set of morphological characters with which to infer the phylogeny of the Oestroidea and this is due to the slow pace of detailed morphological investigation in recent decades. For many clades there are only one or two supporting character states, which are often homoplastic (S1 Fig).
From this, it follows that very few additional characters, alternative homology assessments, or the use of different methods, might cause substantial topological changes to the inferred phylogenies. Also, there is no simple way to assess the complexity of morphological character evolution, except by their implied weights based on the number of homoplastic occurrences (but see [69]).

Differences between molecular- and morphology-based reconstructions of Oestroidea may seem unbridgeable, but the discovery of the first, undisputed oestroid fossil allows us to better establish the age and the ‘tempo and mode’ of diversification in these flies. Our results suggest that the K–Pg extinction event may have played a crucial role in boosting calyptrate diversification through the Cenozoic, as it did for the major radiations of birds, mammals and angiosperms.

Materials and methods

Amber inclusion

The amber inclusion was acquired from Mr. Jorge Martínez of Santiago, Dominican Republic, whose well-known workshop and business has provided Dominican amber inclusions for scientific study for decades. The mine source of the specimen is impossible to determine with certainty, since rough amber from various mines located north-northeast of Santiago [70] is usually mixed during processing in the workshops in Santiago. It is certain that the specimen is not copal (subfossilized resin that is only hundreds to thousands of years old, outcrops of which occur in eastern Dominican Republic in the vicinity of Cotui) because it is not reactive with organic solvents and is not the typical very light yellow colour of copal. The inclusion with the male holotype of *Mesembrinella caenozoica* sp. nov. is in the James Zigras collection, housed in the Division of Invertebrate Zoology at the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

CT-scan analysis

Scanning was done in the Microscopy and Imaging Facility (MIF) at the American Museum of Natural History, using a General Electric Phoenix v|tome|x-s nanotube high resolution computed tomography system with a tungsten target, an accelerating voltage of 90kV and a current of 200μA, at resolutions between 9 and 7.5 μm. 300ms exposures were taken at 0.2˚ intervals. Volumetric data was produced with GE Phoenix’s Datos Reconstruction 2.2.1 software using a cone-beam filtered back projection reconstruction algorithm. A beam hardening correction was applied. Volumetric data was exported as16-bit integer greyscale TIFF stacks. Image stacks were combined in the Fiji distribution of NIH’s ImageJ with the Pairwise 3D stitching plug-in. Imaging focused on the male terminalia, in order to visualize hidden but informative features of the phallus such as the dorsolateral processes, and the cerci. Data were rendered and animated using Volume Graphics Studio Max 2.2.6 software equipped with the Coordinate Measurement Module.

Morphological terminology

Morphological terminology follows Cumming & Wood [71], with minor differences as discussed in Cerretti et al. [35].

Morphological cladistic analysis

To evaluate the phylogenetic position of *Mesembrinella caenozoica* sp. nov. among extant Oestroidea a matrix was constructed of 74 morphological characters for 49 taxa (*S1 Dataset*),
mostly adapted from previous studies [12, 13, 14] with minor adjustments from our own studies. Oestroid diversity is represented by a sample of 45 species, including *M. caenozoica* described here, plus four muscoid outgroups (three Muscidae, one Anthomyiidae). The sample includes all oestroid subfamilies, except Paramacronychiinae (Sarcophagidae) (see S2 Text for a complete list of included taxa and depositories of material studied).

The data matrix was produced in Mesquite version 3.03 [72] (S1 Dataset). Cladistic analysis was conducted with TNT version 1.5 [73, 74]. Heuristic searches were run with the ‘traditional search’ option with the following parameters: General RAM of 1 GB, memory set to hold 1,000,000 trees, setting 1,000 replicates with tree bisection-reconnection (TBR) branch swapping and saving 1,000 trees per replicate. Multistate characters were treated as unordered and zero-length branches were collapsed. Inapplicable and unknown states were coded as ‘-’ and ‘?’, respectively, in Mesquite. Character state changes were optimized in WinClada version 1.00.08 [75]. The favoured tree was selected among the most parsimonious trees by calculating the total fit (command ‘fit’ in TNT) for every tree under a range of k-values (S3 Text), using the unambiguous transformation algorithm, and choosing one of the trees with highest fit. Bremer support values were calculated in TNT from 15,000 trees up to 10 steps longer than the shortest trees obtained from a ‘traditional search’, using the ‘trees from RAM’ setting. Consistency and retention indices were calculated in TNT.

Molecular phylogenetic analyses and divergence time estimation

Sequence data for 89 taxa was obtained either directly via PCR amplification of extracted DNA from collected specimens or through deposited sequence data from NCBI Genbank (see S2 Text). Most 28S and 16S sequences of mesembrinellids and some other oestroids were from Marinho et al. [15, 19], and most tachinid sequences, as well as a number of CAD sequences of other taxa, were from Winkler et al. [17]. For the newly obtained sequences, flies were collected by hand netting and 1–3 legs were removed from each specimen and placed in 95% ethanol shortly after collection. DNA extraction and isolation were performed with a Puregene® Tissue Kit (Qiagen Inc.) using standard methods (see [17]). PCR amplifications employed the primers 28SF and 28SR for the 5’ half of the 28S rDNA gene and 54F and 405R for the 5’ region of the CAD gene (‘CAD1’; see Winkler et al., [17], Moulton & Wiegmann [76]). PCR amplification protocols and conditions followed those outlined in Winkler et al. [17].

Sequences from each locus were aligned separately with MAFFT v.7 [77] via the online MAFFT server (http://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/server/), employing the G-INS-1 algorithm for CAD and the L-INS-I algorithm for 28S and 16S. A large unalignable intron of variable length in the centre of the fragment was trimmed from CAD [76]. Final sequence lengths were 1650 bp, 1615 bp, and 665 bp for 28S, CAD, and 16S respectively. In a few cases, concatenated sequences of different genes were from different congeneric species (see S2 Text). The full alignment is available through the online data repository TreeBASE (treebase.org).

A Maximum Likelihood analysis was performed using GARLI v2.01 [78]. The concatenated data set was partitioned by locus, and within CAD by codon position, and a separate GTR+I+F substitution model was defined for each partition, following the best partition and substitution model scheme given by PartitionFinder v1.1.1 [79], with all parameters estimated from the data. GARLI run was set as follows: 5 independent search replicates, 5x10⁶ generations and default options for automated stop. The hippoboscid *Glossina morsitans* Westwood was selected as outgroup. 100 non-parametric bootstraps of the data set were conducted using the original search parameters, except for the genthreshfortopoterm option, which was set to 10,000. Similar results were obtained in a RaXML-HPC v.8.2.8 [80] run conducted on XSEDE servers via the CIPRES web portal (v. 3.3) [81], with the same parameters.
Bayesian phylogenetic inferences were performed with MrBayes 3.2.6 [82] and using BEAST v. 2.4.4 [83], both also conducted on XSEDE servers via the CIPRES web portal (v. 3.3) [81]. MrBayes analysis was conducted with the same partition and substitution model scheme used in the ML analysis and the run was set as follows: 50x10^6 generations with two sets of 6 chains, sample frequency = 1,000 and burn-in set to 25% after checking for convergence. Node supports were assessed by analysing the posterior probabilities in the 50% extended majority-rule consensus tree. The BEAST analysis was set similarly to the MrBayes run and additional priors (for divergence time estimation) included a Yule coalescent model with parameters estimated with a gamma prior for relative birth rate, gamma shape parameters with exponential priors, and all rates with gamma distributed priors using default values of alpha and beta. The hippoboscoïds (*Glossina morsitans* and *Ornithoctona erythrocephala* (Leach)) were assigned as the outgroup (i.e., all other taxa were constrained to be monophyletic). A relaxed log-normal clock model was used to estimate divergence times [84, 85], with an exponential distributed mean prior (ucldMean.c; mean = 10) and a gamma distributed standard deviation. Four calibrations were used at four nodes in the tree, in each case using a log normal distributed prior for the estimated tmrca (time to most recent common ancestor), and all were assumed to define a monophyletic group. These calibrations included: 1. Phaoniinae (Muscidae) from 15–20 myo Dominican amber [22], used to constrain *Phaonia* Robineau-Desvoidy + *Cordiliuroides* Albuquerque (initial prior offset = 15); 2. *Glossina* Wiedemann (Glossinidae) from 35 myo Colorado shale [2], used to constrain *Glossina + Ornithoctona* Speiser (offset = 35); 3. *Protanthomyia* Michelsen (stem group Anthomyiidae) [20] from ca. 42 myo Baltic amber, used to constrain Anthomyiidae (offset = 42), and the current fossil *Mesembrinella* from 15–20 myo Dominican amber used to constrain the minimum age of Mesembrinellidae as a whole (offset = 15). Prior parameters for each of these distributions were estimated with log-normal hyper-prior distribution, beginning with M = 2.0, and S = 2.50. MCMC chain length was 50x10^6 generations with trees stored every 1,000 generations and parameters logged every 1,000 generations. A conservative burn-in frequency of 25% was used based on visual examination of tree likelihood convergence using TRACER. TreeAnnotator v2.4.0 was used to calculate the maximum clade credibility tree and posterior probabilities of nodes based on the 37 500 trees retained by the MCMC analysis.

Nomenclatural Acts

The electronic edition of this article conforms to the requirements of the amended International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, and hence the new names contained herein are available under that Code from the electronic edition of this article. This published work and the nomenclatural acts it contains have been registered in ZooBank, the online registration system for the ICZN. The ZooBank LSIDs (Life Science Identifiers) can be resolved and the associated information viewed through any standard web browser by appending the LSID to the prefix "http://zoobank.org/". The LSID for this publication is: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub: D808DBAD-EE10-466F-94E5-A4B536EE938A. The electronic edition of this work was published in a journal with an ISSN, and has been archived and is available from the following digital repositories: PubMed Central, LOCKSS.

Supporting information

S1 Text. Detailed description of *Mesembrinella caenozoica* sp. nov. with morphological remarks.

(DOCX)
S2 Text. Schizophoran taxa included in the morphological and molecular phylogenetic analyses.
(DOCX)

S3 Text. Total fit calculated for every MPT tree under a range of k-values.
(DOCX)

S1 Dataset. Nexus file containing the dataset matrix for the phylogenetic analysis and MP trees.
(TXT)

S1 Fig. Favoured most parsimonious tree of Oestroidea from analysis of the morphological dataset, with character states traced.
(PDF)

S2 Fig. Maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic reconstruction of major lineages of Oestroidea from analysis of the combined (16S, 28S, CAD) dataset, generated in GARLI. ML bootstrap values are shown above branches.
(TIF)

S3 Fig. Bayesian phylogenetic reconstruction of major lineages of Oestroidea from analysis of the combined (16S, 28S, CAD) dataset, generated in MrBayes. Posterior probability values are shown above branches.
(TIF)

Acknowledgments
We are grateful for the expert assistance of Mr. Henry Towbin, formerly of the AMNH MIF, for the CT scanning and rendering of scans of *S. caenozoica*. Thanks to Mr. Giuseppe Lo Giudice, formerly of the Sapienza Rome University for composing plates 1 and 2, to Dr. Daniel Whitmore (Natural History Museum, London, UK), Dr. Christine Lambkin (Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Australia) and an anonymous reviewer for critical revision of an early draft of the manuscript. PC is grateful to Dr. Paolo Audisio (Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy) for constant support.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization: Pierfilippo Cerretti, David A. Grimaldi.

Data curation: Pierfilippo Cerretti, John O. Stireman, III, Marco A. T. Marinho, David A. Grimaldi.

Formal analysis: Pierfilippo Cerretti, John O. Stireman, III, Thomas Pape, James E. O’Hara, Marco A. T. Marinho, Knut Rognes, David A. Grimaldi.

Funding acquisition: Pierfilippo Cerretti, John O. Stireman, III, David A. Grimaldi.

Investigation: Pierfilippo Cerretti, John O. Stireman, III, Thomas Pape, Marco A. T. Marinho, David A. Grimaldi.

Methodology: Pierfilippo Cerretti, John O. Stireman, III, Marco A. T. Marinho, David A. Grimaldi.

Project administration: Pierfilippo Cerretti.

Resources: Pierfilippo Cerretti, John O. Stireman, III, David A. Grimaldi.
Supervision: Pierfilippo Cerretti, David A. Grimaldi.

Visualization: Pierfilippo Cerretti.

Writing – original draft: Pierfilippo Cerretti, John O. Stireman, III.

Writing – review & editing: Thomas Pape, James E. O’Hara, Marco A. T. Marinho, Knut Rognes, David A. Grimaldi.

References

1. Wiegmann BM, Trautwein MD, Winkler IS, Barr NB, Kim J-W, Lambkin C, et al. (2011) Episodic radiations in the fly tree of life. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America 2011; 108: 5690–5695. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1012675108 PMID: 21402926

2. Grimaldi D, Engel MS. Evolution of the insects. Cambridge University Press, New York, New York; 2005.

3. Pape T, Blagoderov V, Mostovski MB. Order Diptera Linnaeus, 1758. In: Zhang Z-Q, editor. Animal biodiversity: An outline of higher-level classification and taxonomic richness. Zootaxa 2011; 3148: 1–237.

4. Marshall S. Flies: the natural history and diversity of Diptera. Firefly Books Ltd., Richmond Hill, Ontario; 2012.

5. Michelsen V, Pape T. Ulurumyiidae—a new family of calyptrate flies (Diptera). Systematic Entomology 2017. https://doi.org/10.1111/syen.12252

6. Kutty SN, Pape T, Pont A, Wiegmann BM, Meier R. The Muscoidea (Diptera: Calyptraeae) are paraphyletic: Evidence from four mitochondrial and four nuclear genes. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 2008; 49, 639–652. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2008.08.012 PMID: 18793735

7. Kutty SN, Pape T, Wiegmann BM, Meier R. Molecular phylogeny of the Calyptraeidae (Diptera: Cyclorrhapha) with an emphasis on the superfamly Oestroidea and the position of Mystacinobiidae and McAlpine’s fly. Systematic Entomology 2010; 35: 614–639. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-3113.2010.00536.x

8. Lambkin CL, Sinclair BJ, Pape T, Courtney GW, Skevington JH, Meier R, et al. The phylogenetic relationships among infraorders and superfamilies of Diptera based on morphological evidence. Systematic Entomology 2013; 38: 164–179. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-3113.2012.00652.x

9. Caravas J, Friedrich M. Shaking the Diptera tree of life: performance analysis of nuclear and mitochondrial sequence data partitions. Systematic Entomology 2013; 38: 93–103. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-3113.2012.00657.x

10. Kutty SN, Pont AC, Meier R, Pape T. Complete tribal sampling reveals basal split in Muscidae (Diptera), confirms saprophagy as ancestral feeding mode, and reveals an evolutionary correlation between instar numbers and carnivory. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 2014; 78: 349–364. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2014.05.027 PMID: 24910153

11. Ding S, Li X, Wang N, Cameron SL, Mao M, Wang Y, et al. The phylogeny and evolutionary timescale of Muscoidea (Diptera: Brachycera: Calyptraeae) inferred from mitochondrial genomes. PLoS ONE 2015; 10: e0134170. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0134170 PMID: 26225760

12. Pape T. Phylogeny of the Tachinidae family-group. Tijdschrift voor Entomologie 1992; 135: 43–86.

13. Rognes K. The Calliphoridae (blowflies) (Diptera: Oestroidea) are not a monophyletic group. Cladistics 1997; 13: 27–66. https://doi.org/10.1006/clad.1997.0031

14. Pape T, Arnaud PH Jr. Bezzimyia—a genus of native New World Rhinophoridae (Insecta, Diptera). Zoologica Scripta 2001; 30: 257–297. https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1463-6409.2001.00064.x

15. Marinho MAT, Junqueira ACM, Paulo DF, Esposito MC, Villet MH, Azeredo-Espin AML. Molecular phylogenetics of Oestroidea (Diptera: Calyptraeae) with emphasis on Calliphoridae: insights into the inter-familial relationships and additional evidence for paraphyly among blowflies. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 2012; 65: 840–854. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2012.08.007 PMID: 22926310

16. Singh B, Wells JD. Molecular systematics of the Calliphoridae (Diptera: Oestroidea): evidence from one mitochondrial and three nuclear genes. Journal of Medical Entomology 2013; 50: 15–23. https://doi.org/10.1603/ME11288 PMID: 23427647

17. Winkler IS, Blasczke JD, Davis DJ, Stireman J0III, O’Hara JE, Cerretti P, Moulton JK. Explosive radiation or uninformative genes? Origin and early diversification of tachinid flies (Diptera: Tachinidae). Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 2015; 88: 38–54. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2015.03.021 PMID: 25841383
18. Zhang D, Yan L, Zhang M, Chu H, Cao J, Li K, et al. Phylogenetic inference of calyptrates, with the first mitogenomes for Gasterophilinae (Diptera: Oestridae) and Paramacronychiinae (Diptera: Sarcophagidae). International Journal of Biological Sciences 2016; 12: 489–504. https://doi.org/10.7150/ijbs.12148 PMID: 27019632

19. Marinho MAT, Wolff M, Ramos-Pastrana Y, Lima de Azeredo-Espin AM, Amorim DDeS. The first phylogenetic study of Mesembrinellidae (Diptera: Oestroidea) based on molecular data: clades and congruence with morphological characters. Cladistics 2017; 33: 134–152. https://doi.org/10.1111/cla.12157

20. Michelsen V. Oldest authentic record of a fossil calyptrate fly (Diptera): a species of Anthomyiidae from early Coenozoic Baltic amber. Studia dipterologica 2000; 7: 11–18.

21. Michelsen V. First reliable record of a fossil species of Anthomyiidae (Diptera), with comments on the definition of recent and fossil clades in phylogenetic classification. Biological Journal of the Linnean Society 1996; 58: 441–451. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1095-8312.1996.tb01445.x

22. Pont AC, Carvalho CJB. Three species of Muscidae (Diptera) from Dominican amber. Studia dipterologica 1997; 4: 173–181.

23. Poinar GJr. Palaeoecological perspectives in Dominican amber. Annales de la Société entomologique de France (N.S.) 2010; 46: 1–2, 23–52. https://doi.org/10.1080/00379271.2010.10697637

24. Iturralde-Vincent MA, MacPhee RDE. Age and paleogeographic origin of Dominican amber. Science 1996; 273: 1850–1852. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.273.5283.1850

25. McAlpine JF. First record of calypterate flies in the Mesozoic Era (Diptera: Calliphoridae). Canadian Entomologist 1970; 102: 342–346. https://doi.org/10.4039/Ent102342-3

26. Grimaldi D, Cumming J. Brachyceran Diptera in Cretaceous ambers and Mesozoic diversification of the Eremoneura. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History 1999; 239: 1–124.

27. Evenhuis NL. Catalogue of the fossil flies of the world (Insecta: Diptera). Backhuys, Leiden; 1994.

28. Pape T. Phylogeny of Oestridae (Insecta: Diptera). Systematic Entomology 2001; 26: 133–171. https://doi.org/10.1002/syen.12080

29. Cerretti P, O'Hara JE, Wood DM, Shima H, Inclan DJ, Stireman JOIII. Signal through the noise? Phylogeny of the Tachinidae (Diptera) as inferred from morphological evidence. Systematic Entomology 2014; 39: 335–353. https://doi.org/10.1111/syen.12062

30. Poinar GJr. Life in amber. Stanford University Press, Stanford; 1992.

31. Zhal PA. Golden window on the past. National Geographic 1977; 152: 422–435.
42. Donoghue MJ, Moore BR. Toward an integrative historical biogeography. Integrative and Comparative Biology 2003; 43: 261–270. https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/43.2.261 PMID: 21680431
43. Guimarães JH. A systematic revision of the Mesembrinellidae, stat. nov. (Diptera, Cyclorrhapha). Arquivos de Zoologia 1977; 29: 1–109. https://doi.org/10.11606/issn.2176-7793.v29i1p1-109
44. Wolff M. A new species of Mesembrinella (Diptera: Calliphoridae: Mesembrinellinae) from Colombia. Revista Colombiana de Entomología 2013; 39: 120–124.
45. Toma R, Carvalho CJB. Estudo filogenético de Mesembrinellinae com ênfase no gênero Eumesembrinella Towsend (Diptera: Calliphoridae). Revista Brasileira de Zoologia 1995; 12: 127–144.
46. Bonatto SR. Revisão e análise cladística de Mesembrinellinae stat. rest. (Diptera: Oestroidea). Ph. D. Thesis, Universidade Federal do Paraná. 2001. (unpublished).
47. Moll P. Análise Cladística e Biogeográfica de Mesembrinellidae (Diptera, Oestroidea). M.Sc. Thesis, Instituto de Biociências da Universidade de São Paulo, Departamento de Zoologia. 2014. (unpublished).
48. Vargas J, Wood DM. Calliphoridae (blow flies). In: Brown BV, Borkent A, Cumming JM, Wood DM, Woodley NE, Zumbado MA, editors. Manual of Central American Diptera. Vol. 2. NRC Research Press, Ottawa; 2010. pp. 1297–1304.
49. Meier R, Kotrba M, Ferrar P. Ovoviviparity and viviparity in the Diptera. Biological Reviews 1999; 74: 199–258. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-185X.1999.tb00186.x
50. Crosskey RW. A systematic revision of the Ameniinae (Diptera: Calliphoridae). Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History). Entomology 1965; 16: 33–140.
51. Ferrar P. Macrolarviparous reproduction in Ameniinae (Diptera: Calliphoridae). Systematic Entomology 1976; 1: 107–116.
52. Rognes K. The systematic position of the genus Helicobosca Bezzi with a discussion of the monophyly of the calyptrate families Calliphoridae, Rhinophoridae, Sarcophagidae and Tachinidae (Diptera). Entomologica scandinavica 1986; 17: 75–92. https://doi.org/10.1163/187631286X00125
53. Colless DH. Morphometrics in the genus Amenia and revisionary notes on the Australian Ameniinae (Diptera: Calliphoridae), with the description of eight new species. Records of the Australian Museum 1998; 50: 85–123.
54. Grimaldi D. Amber: window to the past. Abrams, New York; 1996.
55. Grimaldi D, Engel MS, Nascimbene PC, Singh H. Coniopterygidae (Neuroptera: Aleuropteryginae) in amber from the Eocene of India and the Miocene of Hispaniola. American Museum Novitates 2013; 3770: 1–20. https://doi.org/10.1206/3770.2
56. Hall JPW, Robbins RK, Harvey DJ. Extinction and biogeography in the Caribbean: new evidence from a fossil riodinid butterfly in Dominican amber. Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B 2004; 271: 797–801. https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2004.2691 PMID: 15255097
57. Richards PW. The tropical rain forest. Cambridge University Press, New York; 1999.
58. Zhao Z, Su T-J, Chesters D, Ho SYW, Zhu C-D, et al. The mitochondrial genome of Elodia flavipalpis Aldrich (Diptera: Tachinidae) and the evolutionary timescale of tachinid flies. PLoS ONE 2013; 8: e61814. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0061814 PMID: 23626734
59. Misof B, Liu S, Meusemann K, Peters RS, Donath A, Mayer C. et al. Phylogenomics resolves the timing and pattern of insect evolution. Science 2014; 346: 763–767. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1257570 PMID: 25378627
60. Meredith RW, Janecka JE, Gatesy J, Ryder OA, Fisher CA, Teeling EC. et al. Impacts of the Cretaceous terrestrial revolution and KPg extinction on mammal diversification. Science 2011; 334: 521–524. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1211028 PMID: 21940861
61. Claramunt S, Cracraft JL. A new time tree reveals Earth history’s imprint on the evolution of modern birds. Science Advances 2015; 1: e1501005. https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.1501005 PMID: 26824065
62. Pape T. A phylogenetic analysis of the woodlouse-flies (Diptera: Rhinophoridae). Tijdschrift voor Entomologie 1986; 129: 15–34.
63. Nelson L, Lambkin CL, Batterham P, Wallman JF, Dowton MP, Whiting MF, Yeates DK, Cameron SL. Beyond barcoding: A mitochondrial genomics approach to molecular phylogenetics and diagnostics of blowflies (Diptera: Calliphoridae). Gene 2012; 511: 131–142. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gene.2012.09.103 PMID: 23043935
64. Winkler IS, Stireman JOIII, Moulton JK, O’Hara JE, Cerretti P, Blaschke JD. Progress towards a molecular phylogeny of Tachinidae, year two. The Tachinid Times 2014; 27: 11–14.
65. Philippe H, Lartillot N, Brinkmann H. Multigene analyses of bilaterian animals corroborate the monophyly of Ecdysozoa, Lophotrochozoa, and Protostomia. Molecular Biology and Evolution 2005; 22: 1246–1253 https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msi111 PMID: 15703236
66. Dunn CW, Hejnol A, Matus DQ, Pang K, Browne WE, Smith SA, et al. Broad phylogenetic sampling improves the resolution of the animal tree of life. Nature 2008; 452: 745–749. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature06614 PMID: 18322464

67. Philippe H, Derelle R, Lopez P, Pick K, Borchielini C, Boury-Esnault N, et al. Phylogenomics revives traditional views on deep animal relationships. Current Biology 2009; 19: 706–712. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2009.02.052 PMID: 19345102

68. Regier JC, Shultz JW, Zwick A, Hussey A, Ball B, Wetzer R, et al. Arthropod relationships revealed by phylogenomic analysis of nuclear protein-coding sequences. Nature 2010; 463: 1079–1083. https://doi.org/10.1038/nature08742 PMID: 20147900

69. Bowser JH, Yuchen A, Tanner F, Meier R. Deciphering the evolutionary history and developmental mechanisms of a complex sexual ornament: the abdominal appendages of Sepsidae (Diptera). Evolution 2013; 67: 1079–1080. https://doi.org/10.1111/evo.12006 PMID: 23550756

70. Grimaldi D. The age of Dominican amber. Amber, Resinite, and Fossil Resins. In: Anderson KB, Creling JC, editors. American Chemical Society Symposium Series 617, Washington D.C. 1995. pp. 203–217. 10.1021/bk-1995-0617.ch011

71. Cumming JM, Wood DM. Morphology and terminology. In: Brown BV, Borkent A, Cumming JM, Wood DM, Woodley NE, Zumbado MA, editors. Manual of Central American Diptera. Vol. 1. NRC Research Press, Ottawa; 2009. pp. 9–50.

72. Maddison WP, Maddison DR. Mesquite: A modular system for evolutionary analysis, Version 3.03. 2015. Available from: http://mesquiteproject.org (accessed on 19 July 2016).

73. Goloboff PA, Farris JS, Nixon KC. TNT, a free program for phylogenetic analysis. Cladistics 2008; 24: 774–786. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1096-0031.2008.00217.x

74. Goloboff PA, Catalano SA. TNT version 1.5, including a full implementation of phylogenetic morphometrics. Cladistics 2016; Forthcoming. https://doi.org/10.1111/cla.12160

75. Nixon KC. Winclada, Version 1.00.08. Published by the Author, Ithaca, NY; 2002.

76. Moulton JK, Wiegmann BM. Evolution and phylogenetic utility of CAD (rudimentary) among Mesozoic-aged Eremoneuran Diptera (Insecta). Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 2004; 31: 363–378. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1055-7903(03)00284-7 PMID: 15019631

77. Katoh K, Standley DM. MAFFT Multiple Sequence Alignment Software Version 7: Improvements in performance and usability. Molecular Biology and Evolution 2013; 30: 772–780. https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/mst010 PMID: 23329690

78. Zwickl DJ. Genetic algorithm approaches for the phylogenetic analysis of large biological sequence datasets under the maximum likelihood criterion. Ph.D. Thesis, The University of Texas Austin, Austin, TX, 2006. Available from: https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/handle/2152/2666

79. Lanfear R, Calcott B, Ho SYW, Guindon S. PartitionFinder: combined selection of partitioning schemes and substitution models for phylogenetic analyses. Molecular Biology and Evolution 2012; 29: 1695–1701. https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/ms202 PMID: 22319168

80. Stamatakis A. RAxML Version 8: A tool for phylogenetic analysis and post-analysis of large phylogenies. Bioinformatics 2014; 30: 1312–1313. https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btu033 PMID: 24451623

81. Miller MA, Pfeiffer WT, Schwartz T. Creating the CIPRES Science Gateway for inference of large phylogenetic trees. Proceedings of the Gateway Computing Environments Workshop (GCE) 2010; 1–8. https://doi.org/10.1109/GCE.2010.5676129

82. Ronquist F, Teslenko M, van der Mark P, Ayres DL, Darling A, Höhna S, et al. MrBayes 3.2: efficient Bayesian phylogenetic inference and model choice across a large model space. Systematic Biology 2012; 61: 539–542. https://doi.org/10.1093/sysbio/sys029 PMID: 22357727

83. Bouckaert R, Heled J, Kühnert D, Vaughan T, Wu C-H, Xie D, et al. BEAST 2: A Software Platform for Bayesian Evolutionary Analysis. PLoS Computational Biology 2014; 10: e1003537. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003537 PMID: 24722319

84. Drummond AJ, Ho SY, Phillips MJ, Rambaut A. Relaxed phylogenetics and dating with confidence. PLoS Biology 2006; 4: e88. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.0040086 PMID: 16683862

85. Lepage T, Bryant D, Philippe H, Lartillot N. A general comparison of relaxed molecular clock models. Molecular Biology and Evolution 2007; 24: 2669–2680. https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msm193 PMID: 17880241