

Reporting Summary

Nature Research wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Research policies, see our [Editorial Policies](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a Confirmed

- ☒ ☐ The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- ☒ ☐ A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- ☒ ☐ The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.
- ☒ ☐ A description of all covariates tested
- ☒ ☐ A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- ☒ ☐ A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- ☒ ☐ For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F , t , r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted
Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.
- ☒ ☐ For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- ☒ ☐ For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- ☒ ☐ Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's d , Pearson's r), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection no software was used

Data analysis no software was used

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Research [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

not applicable

Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Sample size	no statistical method applied, not applicable
Data exclusions	no statistical method applied, not applicable
Replication	no statistical method applied, not applicable
Randomization	no statistical method applied, not applicable
Blinding	Describe whether the investigators were blinded to group allocation during data collection and/or analysis. If blinding was not possible, describe why OR explain why blinding was not relevant to your study.

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

Methods

n/a	Involved in the study	n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ Antibodies	☒	☐ ChIP-seq
☒	☐ Eukaryotic cell lines	☒	☐ Flow cytometry
☐	☒ Palaeontology and archaeology	☒	☐ MRI-based neuroimaging
☐	☒ Animals and other organisms		
☒	☐ Human research participants		
☒	☐ Clinical data		
☒	☐ Dual use research of concern		

Palaeontology and Archaeology

Specimen provenance	material at the MNHN, Paris - loan of material and photographs at the NHM, London; photographs at the Australian Museum of Natural History and at Lab Paleoentomology, Moscow - acknowledgements were provided
Specimen deposition	MNHN, Paris
Dating methods	not applicable
☒	Tick this box to confirm that the raw and calibrated dates are available in the paper or in Supplementary Information.
Ethics oversight	no ethical approval or guidance necessary - study on fossil insects

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Animals and other organisms

Policy information about [studies involving animals](#); [ARRIVE guidelines](#) recommended for reporting animal research

Laboratory animals	not applicable
Wild animals	specimens of insects already stored in the collections at the MNHN, Paris
Field-collected samples	not applicable
Ethics oversight	no ethical approval or guidance necessary - study on fossil insects

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.