Macrobiotus polonicus, a new species of Tardigrada from Poland (Eutardigrada: Macrobiotidae, ‘hufelandi group’)

GIOVANNI PILATO¹, ŁUKASZ KACZMAREK², ŁUKASZ MICHALCZYK³ & OSCAR LISI¹

¹Department of Animal Biology “Marcello La Greca”, University of Catania, Italy; e-mail: pilato@mbox.unict.it
²Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, A. Mickiewicz University, Szamarzewskiego 91 a, 60-569 Poznań, Poland; e-mail: l_kaczmarek@wp.pl
³Institute of Environmental Sciences, Jagiellonian University, Ingardena 6, 30-060 Kraków, Poland; e-mail: agnostic@poczta.fm

Abstract

A new species of the ‘Macrobiotus hufelandi group’, Macrobiotus polonicus sp. nov., is described from Poland. It is very similar to M. persimilis Binda & Pilato, 1972 but differs from it by having two characteristic lateral gibbosities on the hind legs, a narrower buccal tube, more slender claws, less developed lunules of the hind legs with less evident marginal indentations and eggs with fewer processes slightly different in shape.

Key words: Tardigrada, ‘hufelandi group’, Macrobiotus polonicus sp. nov., Poland

Introduction

Until present about one hundred Tardigrada species are known from Poland (Dastych 1988). Macrobiotus polonicus sp. nov., found in Poland is described and figured in this paper. The new species belongs to a group of species in the genus Macrobiotus which have two macroplacoids, microplacoid and lay eggs without areolation between processes in the shape of short truncated cones terminated with a disc. Until now 25 species are known in the ‘hufelandi group’ (Dastych 2002).