Milnesium katarzynae sp. nov., a new species of eutardigrade (Milnesiidae) from China

ŁUKASZ KACZMAREK¹, ŁUKASZ MICHALCZYK² & CLARK W. BEASLEY³
¹Department of Animal Taxonomy & Ecology, Institute of Environmental Biology, A. Mickiewicz University, Szumarzewskiego 91 a, 60-569 Poznań, Poland; e-mail: kaczmar@amu.edu.pl
²Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Conservation, School of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK; e-mail: agnostic@poczta.fm
³Department of Biology, McMurry University, Abilene, Texas 79697, U.S.A; e-mail: beasleyc@mcmurryadm.mcm.edu

Abstract

A new eutardigrade, Milnesium katarzynae sp. nov., is described from China. The new species differs from the most similar Milnesium reticulatum Pilato et al., 2002 in lacking of gibbosities, stylet supports inserted in less caudal position, absence of eyes. M. katarzynae sp. nov. is similar to specimens of M. tardigradum from New Zealand which have reticular shallow depressions in the cuticle but is clearly different by lacking of eyes and narrower buccal tube (pt = 21.7–26.6 in the new species and pt = 41.9 in the specimens collected in New Zealand).

Key words: Milnesium katarzynae sp. nov., Milnesiidae, Tardigrada, Asia

Introduction

Until now only seven species of the genus Milnesium Doyère are known: Milnesium brachyungue Binda & Pilato, 1990 (Chile), Milnesium dujianensis Yang, 2003 (China) Milnesium eurystomum Maucci, 1991 (Greenland), Milnesium reticulatum Pilato et al., 2002 (Seychelles), Milnesium slovenskyi Bertolani & Grimaldi, 2002 (known only from Cretaceous amber), Milnesium tardigradum Doyère, 1840 (cosmopolitan) and Milnesium tetralamellatum Pilato & Binda, 1991 (Tanzania). All the species except M. tardigradum are known only from their type localities (McInnes 1994; Pilato & Binda 2001; Pilato et al. 2002, Yang 2003).