Haplohexapodibius utahensis new species of Calohypsibiidae (Eutardigrada) from North America

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Abstract

Haplohexapodibius utahensis is a new species of eutardigrade from North America (Utah). It differs from H. hermosillensis in having more evident peribuccal lobes, wider buccal tube, first macroplacoid different in shape, thinner and shorter claws.

Key words: Tardigrada, Calohypsibiidae, Haplohexapodibius utahensis sp. n., North America

Introduction

May (1948) described a new species of tardigrade from Mexico, Haplohexapodibius hermosillensis with two single, unbranched claws on each leg. Schuster & Grigarick (1965) reported this species from California. The only other report of this genus is by Word (1976). This author reports finding Haplohexapodibius from Alabama, but notes that it differs significantly from H. hermosillensis; he states “Claws were absent on the fourth pair of legs of all specimens collected in Alabama.” This fact would mean that his specimens belonged to Haplohexapodibius Beasley & Pilato 1987, not Haplohexapodibius.

Despite the sparse records of its occurrence, Haplohexapodibius hermosillensis stimulated thought on its relationship to other groups of tardigrades. Pilato (1969) instituted the family Calohypsibiidae to which assigned the genera Calohypsibius Thulin 1928, Parhexapodibius Pilato 1969, Hexapodibius Pilato 1969 and Haplohexapodibius May 1948. Afterwards, Beasley & Pilato (1987) described another genus of this family: Haplohexapodibius. Pilato (1973) redescribed H. hermosillensis based on Schuster and Grigarick’s specimens, and noted that in some specimens the claws of the fourth pair of legs bear a thin, straight spur that may be interpreted as a reduced secondary branch. Schuster et al.