

***Macrobiotus huziori*, a new species of Tardigrada (Eutardigrada: Macrobiotidae) from Costa Rica (Central America)**

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Abstract

A new species, *Macrobiotus huziori* **sp. nov.** is described from moss samples collected in Costa Rica (Central America). The eggs of the new species have a unique, never described before, type of multi-level areolation which makes *M. huziori* **sp. nov.** easily distinguishable from all the known species. We also provide SEM pictures revealing the complex structure of the granulation on the legs (each granule consists of many smaller cones/granules).

Key Words: Tardigrada, Costa Rica, new species, taxonomy, *Macrobiotus huziori* **sp. nov.**, *M. areolatus*, *M. crenatus*, *M. csotiensis*, *M. richtersi* group

Introduction

Tardigrada fauna of Costa Rica is almost completely unknown. There have been only 16 species reported from this country so far (Kaczmarek 2003, Kaczmarek & Michalczyk 2004). In this paper a new species of the genus *Macrobiotus* Schulze collected in Costa Rica is described and figured.

Material and methods

Nine specimens of the new species and twenty of its eggs were found in two moss samples collected in Costa Rica in December 2002. Eight specimens and nine eggs were mounted on microscope slides in Hoyer's medium; one adult and eleven eggs were prepared for Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM).