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On the rotifer fauna of Disko Island, Greenland, with notes on selected species from a stagnant freshwater lake

MARTIN VINTHER SØRENSEN

Department of Evolutionary Biology Museum, University of Copenhagen, Universitetsparken 15, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark

Abstract

The rotifer fauna in Moraine Lake on Disko Island was investigated. 24 species were identified, of which 22 are new for Disko Island and three are new to Greenland. The new findings are presented in a species list that summarizes all records of rotifers from Disko Island, including several previously unpublished records. Furthermore, notes are given on the morphology of some selected species, including *Eothinia elongata*, *Mikrocodides chlaena* and *Resticula nyssa*.

Key words: Arctic, Rotifera, SEM, species list, trophi morphology

Introduction

Disko Island, located at latitude 70°N on the west coast of Greenland, offers an excellent opportunity for the study of Arctic Rotifera. A great diversity of marine, brackish- and freshwater habitats are present within a relatively small area, which provides easy access to numerous different sampling localities. The geologically young cretaceous landscape on the east coast is dominated by marine sediments with well-sorted quartz sand, which provides an optimal environment for the marine interstitial rotifer fauna (see Sørensen 1998). Marine periphytic rotifers can be found around most of the island and especially in the inlets along the coastline west of Godhavn/Qeqertarsuaq and on the south shore in the mouth of Disko Fjord, where dense vegetation of different littoral macroalgae such as *Chordaria flagelliformis*, *Devaleraea ramentacea*, *Fucus evanescens* and *Pilayella littoralis* occur. In these protected inlets the algae get frozen into the strong icefoot during November and December, which later in the winter protects them from damage by the sea ice. Brackish water rotifers can be collected in the numerous rock pools and ponds near the

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