

***Echiniscus barbarae*, a new species of tardigrade from Cuba Island (Tardigrada: Heterotardigrada, Echiniscidae, ‘arctomys group’)**

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Abstract

A new heterotardigrade, *Echiniscus barbarae* sp. nov., is described from a moss sample collected in Cuba. This species belongs to the ‘arctomys group’, which contains many problematic species. The new species differs from the most similar species *Echiniscus limai* mainly by having cephalic, scapular and terminal dorsal plates not faceted. This paper is the first record of Tardigrada from Cuba.

Key words: Tardigrada, taxonomy, Echiniscidae, ‘arctomys group’, *Echiniscus barbarae* sp. nov., Central America, Cuba

Introduction

Only about 35 tardigrade species are reported from Central America but Tardigrada from Cuba are completely unknown (McInnes 1994). This paper contains a description of a new species, *Echiniscus barbarae* sp. nov., which belongs to the ‘arctomys group’, whose taxonomy is problematic and in need of revision.

Material and methods

Seven samples of moss and lichens were collected by Barbara Kaczmarek in Cuba in May 2001.

One sample contained 17 specimens (holotype and 16 paratypes) of a new species. Fifteen specimens were mounted on microscopic slides in Hoyer’s medium and 2 were prepared for SEM.