

***Platicrista horribilis*, a new species of Tardigrada (Eutardigrada: Hypsibiidae) from Mongolia**

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Abstract

A new eutardigrade, *Platicrista horribilis* **sp. nov.**, is described from moss samples collected in Mongolia. This species differs from others of genus *Platicrista* mainly by having indented lunules on the IV pair of legs.

Key words: Tardigrada, *Hypsibiidae*, *Platicrista horribilis* sp. nov., Asia, Mongolia, taxonomy, new species

Introduction

To date only four species of the genus *Platicrista* Pilato, 1987 have been known (Kathman, 1990). The new species *Platicrista horribilis* **sp. nov.** is described and figures are provided in this paper. Three specimens were found in moss samples from Tehijn Cagan Nuur National Park, Northern Mongolia.

Material and Methods

Seventy-eight samples of moss and lichens were collected during the expedition of A. Mickiewicz University to Mongolia in July and August 2000.

Moss samples were put into small paper bags and allowed to dry slowly. Subsequently, in the laboratory, each sample was soaked in water for 6 hours. Then the water with the tardigrades and detritic particles was decanted and the supernatant was examined with a stereomicroscope. Three samples contained 3 specimens of a previously not described species of tardigrade. Specimens were mounted on microscopic slides in Hoyer's medium.