

***Thulinus*, new generic name substituting for *Thulinia* Bertolani, 1981 (Tardigrada, Eutardigrada)**

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Abstract

Due to a homonymy with a genus of Trematoda described two years before, the name *Thulinia* Bertolani, 1981 cannot be used for a genus of tardigrades. Therefore, *Thulinus* nomen novum is proposed for a genus of tardigrades (Eutardigrada, Hypsibiidae), in substitution of *Thulinia*, junior homonym. The complicated taxonomic history of the genus *Thulinus* and especially of one of its species is discussed. The characteristics of the genus and the main distinctive characters of the species are also reported.

Key words: Tardigrada, Eutardigrada, *Thulinus*, *Thulinia*

A new genus of Hypsibiidae (Eutardigrada, Parachela) was erected about twenty years ago (Bertolani 1981) and dedicated to Gustav Thulin, a very good and too often neglected expert on tardigrades during the early part of the past century, who first approached the study of tardigrades from a phylogenetical point of view. Unfortunately, I did not note that two years earlier Gibson and Bray (1979) erected a new genus of Trematoda with the name *Thulinia*. The tardigrade genus *Thulinia* was erected on the basis of the presence of 12 peribuccal lamellae (Bertolani 1981). Subsequently, using scanning electron microscopy, Bertolani *et al.* (1999) emphasized that the buccal lamellae of *Thulinia* are partly fused together. The first time that peribuccal lamellae were used as a distinctive character for a genus was in Schuster *et al.* (1980), who separated the Hypsibiidae *Pseudobiotus* Nelson, 1980 (with about 30 irregular lamellae) from *Isohypsibius* Thulin, 1928 (without lamellae) and the Macrobiotidae *Minibiotus* Schuster, 1980 (with 10 papulae instead of 10 lamellae) from *Macrobiotus* C.A.S. Schultze, 1834 (with 10 lamellae). The presence of 12 lamellae in *Thulinia* was considered a distinctive character with respect to *Pseudobiotus* (with *Isohypsibius*-type claws like those of *Thulinia* but with about 30 irregular lamellae around the mouth opening, as previously stated) and to all other genera of Hypsibiidae (which always lack peribuccal lamellae). On the other hand, peribuccal lamellae are present in other families of Parachela (Macrobiotidae and Eohypsibiidae) and in all the genera of the order Apochela. The peribuccal lamellae of Apochela, even though probably homologous to those of Parachela, are quite different in shape and number with respect to those of Parachela. Within the Parachela, the peribuccal lamellae of Macrobiotidae are 10 in number, those of Eohypsibiidae 14 in number. Therefore, the presence of lamellae should be considered