

A description of the new tardigrade *Macrobiotus reinhardti* (Eutardigrada: Macrobiotidae, *harmsworthi* group) with some remarks on the oral cavity armature within the genus *Macrobiotus* Schultzze

ŁUKASZ MICHALCZYK¹ & ŁUKASZ KACZMAREK²

¹*Institute of Environmental Sciences, Jagiellonian University, Ingardena 6, 30-060 Kraków, Poland; e-mail: agnostic@poczta.fm.*

²*Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, A. Mickiewicz University, Szamarzewskiego 91 a, 60-569 Poznań, Poland; e-mail: l_kaczmarek@wp.pl.*

Abstract

Six moss samples collected in the Greek part of Cyprus contained tardigrades and their eggs, also adults and eggs of a new species, *Macrobiotus reinhardti* **sp. nov.** The new species belongs to the *harmsworthi* group and differs from the most similar *M. stellaris* Du Bois-Reymond Marcus in details of the egg shell and some morphometric characters. In this paper we also propose new terminology describing the oral (mouth) cavity armature within the genus *Macrobiotus* Schultzze, on the basis of Scanning Electron Microscopy investigation of two macrobiotid species. According to the new terminology, all groups of cuticular structures in the oral cavity should be described as bands of teeth.

Key words: Tardigrada, oral cavity armature, new terminology, teeth, taxonomy, new species, *Macrobiotus reinhardti* sp. nov., *harmsworthi* group, Cyprus

Introduction

Only two tardigrade species have previously been recorded from Cyprus: *Macrobiotus hufelandi* Schultzze and *Macrobiotus recens* Cuénot (Bertolani, 1975). We found a new species, *Macrobiotus reinhardti* **sp. nov.**, in moss samples collected from Cyprus.

A description, drawings and photomicrographs of the new species are provided in this paper, while other species found during this research will be described in a separate paper. The new species belongs to the *harmsworthi* group of species in the genus *Macrobiotus* which have three macroplacoids, a microplacoid and lay eggs usually without areolation between conical processes. Twenty-three species and one subspecies were listed by Pilato & Binda (2001) in this group.