

## ***Diphascon (Diphascon) dolomiticum*, a new species of Hypsibiidae (Eutardigrada) from Italy**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of eutardigrade, *Diphascon (Diphascon) dolomiticum* sp. n., is described. It has three macroplacoids and microplacoid; claws short and stout; hind legs with basal margin indented; internal and external claws on the first three pairs of legs almost of the same length; anterior claws on the hind legs longer than the posterior claws.

**Key words:** Tardigrada, Hypsibiidae, *Diphascon (Diphascon) dolomiticum* sp. n., Italy

### **Introduction**

In a moss sample collected in Passo del Grostè (Trento) two specimens of Hypsibiidae (Eutardigrada) were found belonging to the subgenus *Diphascon*. These two specimens have three macroplacoids, microplacoid, and hind legs with indented basal margin. The comparison with the species of the subgenus having these characters convinced us to attribute these specimens to a new species, *Diphascon (D.) dolomiticum* sp. n., which is described and figured in this paper.

### **Materials and Methods**

The specimens were found in a moss sample on grassland collected in Passo del Grostè (Trento) at 2450 m a.s.l. in September 1988 by R. Bertolani. They are mounted in polyvinyl lactophenol; the holotype is deposited in the Binda and Pilato collection (Department of Animal Biology “Marcello La Greca”, University of Catania), the paratype in the Berto-