

Notes on the Tardigrada of Thailand, with a description of *Macrobiotus alekseevi* sp. nov. (Eutardigrada, Macrobiotidae)

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Abstract

Ten tardigrada species were extracted from samples, collected in Thailand. One of them *Macrobiotus alekseevi* is new for science. It belongs to the *richtersi*-group of the genus *Macrobiotus*. The new species differs from all known species of this group mainly by the characters of the egg processes.

Key words: Tardigrada, *Macrobiotus alekseevi* sp. nov., *Calcarobotus filmeri*, *Macrobiotus furciger*-group, *Minibiotus*, *Doryphoribius*, *Diphascon*, *Astatumen*, Thailand

Introduction

Very little is known about the fauna of semiterrestrial tardigrades of Thailand. In the only published work (Pilato *et al.* 2004a) four species were reported from a single moss sample. In February 2003 Dr. V. R. Alekseev (Zoological institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg) collected three samples of fallen leaves from Thailand. All of these samples contained tardigrade specimens.

Material and methods

List of samples:

Sample 1. Phu Phan National Park (Sakon Nakhon province), mountain area, near the Khom Hom waterfall, fallen leaves with detritus in the dried bed of a little stream;

Sample 2. Nam-Nao National Park (Phetchabun province and Chaiyaphum province), near the park's headquarters, fallen bamboo leaves in a pit near a little stream;