

***Minibiotus weglarskae*, a new species of Tardigrada (Eutardigrada: Macrobiotidae) from Mongolia**

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Abstract

A new eutardigrade, *Minibiotus weglarskae* **sp. nov.** is described from a lichen sample collected in Mongolia. This species is similar to *Minibiotus bisoetus* (Horning *et al.*) in having ten transverse bands of irregularly shaped pores around the body but differs from it by having a narrower buccal tube, much shorter macroplacoid row length and much shorter claws. The microplacoid of the new species is round and solid whilst that of *M. bisoetus* is lens-shaped and not solid.

Key words: *Minibiotus weglarskae* **sp. nov.**, *Minibiotus bisoetus*, *Minibiotus floriparus*, Tardigrada, new species

Introduction

The genus *Minibiotus* Schuster, Nelson, Grigarick & Christenberry contained only a single species, *Minibiotus intermedius* (Plate) until 1988 when the second species, *Minibiotus maculartus* Pilato & Claxton, was added to the genus (Schuster *et al.* 1980; Pilato & Claxton 1988). The last few years have seen many new species described, as researchers have begun to differentiate members of this group of Macrobiotids by their antero-ventral mouth surrounded by papulae, narrow buccal tube with either a single or a double curvature, short ventral support, short placoids and short macroplacoid row length (Claxton 1998). Michalczyk & Kaczmarek (2003) reported twenty-six previously described species in the genus and this figure has now risen to thirty-five. In this paper the new species, *Minibiotus weglarskae* **sp. nov.**, is described and figured.