

## Remarks on *Macrobotus furciger* Murray, 1906 and description of three new species of the *furciger* group (Eutardigrada, Macrobiotidae)

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### Abstract

*Macrobotus furciger* Murray, has been considered a probable cosmopolitan species. The authors examined specimens named *M. furciger* from two subantarctic areas from New Zealand, and from South Africa and noted that in the subantarctic area two species are present: *M. furciger* and a new species here described and named *Macrobotus aradasi* sp. nov. The specimens from New Zealand belong to a different species here described and named *Macrobotus divergens* sp. nov., and the specimens from South Africa belong to a third new species here described and named *Macrobotus sicheli* sp. nov. The authors also hypothesize that the records of *Macrobotus furciger* from Andamane Islands and from Europe may refer to different species.

**Key words:** Tardigrada; *Macrobotus furciger* group, *Macrobotus furciger*, *Macrobotus aradasi* sp. nov., *Macrobotus divergens* sp. nov., *Macrobotus sicheli* sp. nov.

### Introduction

*Macrobotus furciger* Murray, 1906 is considered a probable cosmopolitan species (Dastych, 1984); it was described from a subantarctic archipelago (South Orkneys) with the name *M. furcatus*, but Murray changed the name in 1907. The species is recorded from some Antarctic and subantarctic areas (Murray, 1906, 1910; Richters, 1908; Jennings 1976a, 1976b; Dastych 1984, 1989; McInnes, 1995; McInnes & Ellis-Evans, 1987; Usher & Dastych, 1987; Miller *et al.*, 1988); Europe (Marcus, 1928; De Coninck, 1939; Iharos, 1947; Weglarska, 1959; Maucci 1986; Dastych, 1988; Biserov, 1991; Maucci 1991); North America (Argue, 1972); South America (Marcus, 1939; Ramazzotti, 1964; Mihelcic, 1971/72); South Africa (Binda, 1984); Andaman Islands (Maucci & Durante Pasa 1980); New Zealand (Horning *et al.*, 1978).