

A new species of Tardigrada *Bryodelphax brevidentatus* sp. nov. (Heterotardigrada: Echiniscidae) from China (Asia)

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Abstract

A new heterotardigrade, *Bryodelphax brevidentatus* sp. nov. is described from moss sample collected in China. The new species is most similar to *Bryodelphax tatrensis* (Węglarska) but differs from it mainly by the different appearance of the dentate collar (different in shape and length of teeth), shorter cirri A and shorter claws.

Key words: Tardigrada, *Bryodelphax brevidentatus*, new species, China

Introduction

Until now, there are only 13 species known in the relatively small genus *Bryodelphax* (Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983, McInnes 1994, Yang 2002, Kaczmarek & Michalczyk 2004, Guidetti & Bertolani 2005) and most of them are known only from a very few localities. In this paper, a new *Bryodelphax* species from China is described and figured. The new species belongs to the group of species with a dentate collar on the fourth pair of legs and without ventral plates. This group contains *Bryodelphax alzirae* (Du Bois-Reymond Marcus), *B. amphoterus* (Durante Pasa & Maucci), *B. mateusi* (Fontoura) and *B. tatrensis* (Węglarska).