

A new species and five new records of the family Echiniscidae (Tardigrada) from China

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Abstract

A new species of the genus *Pseudechiniscus*, *Pseudechiniscus papillosus* **sp. nov.**, is described and figured in this paper. This new species differs from the other species of the genus *Pseudechiniscus* by plate sculpture that consists of many papillae-like projections. Four new records of *Echiniscus* species and one new record of a *Pseudechiniscus* species are also reported in this article: *Echiniscus cheonyoungi* Moon & Kim, *E. melanophthalmus* Bartoš, *E. nepalensis* Dastych, *E. trisetosus* Cuénot and *Pseudechiniscus asper* Abe Utsugi & Takeda.

Key words: Tardigrada, taxonomy, *Pseudechiniscus papillosus* **sp. nov.**, new records, China

Introduction

A total of ten species of the genus *Echiniscus* have been reported from China since Rahm reported tardigrade fauna of China for the first time in 1936. Rahm (1936–1937a, b; 1937) reported 5 species of *Echiniscus* from China: *E. blumi* Richters, *E. columinis* Murray, *E. crassispinosus* Murray, *E. testudo* (Doyère) and *E. wendti* Richters. Beasley and Cleveland (1996) reported *E. limai* da Cunha & Ribeiro and *E. scabrospinosus* Fontura from Yunnan Province of China. Beasley (1999) described a new species *E. clevelandi* from Yunnan Province of China. Li and Wang (2005) reported *E. canadensis* Murray and *E. japonicus* Morikawa from Shaanxi Province of China.

So far only three species of the genus *Pseudechiniscus* have been reported from China. Rahm (1937) described *P. sinensis* from Hebei Province of China. Rahm (1936–1937a, b; 1937) and Bartoš (1963) reported *P. suillus* (Ehrenberg) from China, and Bartoš (1963) described *P. jiroveci* from Guangdong Province of China.

In the summer of 2005, the authors collected three hundred and sixty samples of moss growing on rocks at an altitude of 3,700–3,767 m a.s.l. from Mount Taibai, the highest peak of the Qinling Mountains, which is located in the central part of Shaanxi Province. A