Macrobiotus siamensis sp. n. (Eutardigrada, Macrobiotidae) from Thailand (Asia)

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Abstract

An illustrated description of Macrobiotus siamensis sp. n. from Thailand is given. The new species belongs to the furciger group and differs from the most similar species, Macrobiotus sicheli Binda, Pilato and Lisi, 2005, mostly by the absence of eyes, smooth cuticle and longer egg processes.

Key words: Tardigrada, Macrobiotus siamensis sp. n., furciger-group, Thailand, Asia.

Introduction

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. Several specimens of Macrobiotus species belonging to the furciger-group were discovered in one of these samples. In Tumanov (2005) it was stated that this material possibly represents a new species, but it was not described as a valid new species to avoid possible synonymy. Taxonomical status of several populations attributed to Macrobiotus furciger Murray, 1906 was unclear at that time and the limits of variability of this species were uncertain. Recently Macrobiotus furciger was reinvestigated and deviated forms were redescribed as new species (Binda et al. 2005). Now it is possible to describe the material from Thailand as a new species.

Material and methods

Tardigrades were extracted from dried samples. Specimens were fixed with acetic acid and then mounted in Faure fluid.