

## ***Macrobotus siamensis* sp. n. (Eutardigrada, Macrobiotidae) from Thailand (Asia)**

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### **Abstract**

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

**Key words:** Tardigrada, *Macrobotus 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 *Macrobotus* 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 *Macrobotus furciger* Murray, 1906 was unclear at that time and the limits of variability of this species were uncertain. Recently *Macrobotus 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.