

Notes on some tardigrades from southern Mexico with description of three new species

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Abstract

Eight species of tardigrades are reported from southern Mexico (Chiapas: Selva El Ocote). Two of them (*Pseudechiniscus juanita* De Barros, 1939 and *Doryphoribius gibber* Beasley & Pilato, 1987) are new to Central America, three are new to science: *Pseudechiniscus gullii* sp. n., *Macrobiotus contii* sp. n. and *Minibiotus continuus* sp. n.

Key words: Tardigrada; south Mexico; *Pseudechiniscus gullii* sp. n., *Macrobiotus contii* sp. n.; *Minibiotus continuus* sp. n.

Introduction

The number of taxa (species and subspecies) of tardigrades recorded from the Neotropical zoogeographic region, *i.e.*, in Central and South America (South Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and Magallanes excluded) is small (183) when compared with that of the Palaearctic zoogeographic region (529), but the latter region has surely been studied more than the former. In this paper reports are given on 8 species from south Mexico (Chiapas), two of which are new to the studied area, and three new to science.

Material and Methods

Specimens and eggs were found in few small moss samples kindly collected in south Mexico (Chiapas: Selva El Ocote) by the entomologist Prof. Gino Gulli (July 2004). All specimens are mounted in polyvinyl lactophenol and deposited in the collection of M. G. Binda and G. Pilato (Dipartimento di Biologia Animale "Marcello La Greca", Università di Catania).