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Remarks on the *Macrobiotus polyopus* group, with the description of two new species (Eutardigrada, Macrobiotidae)

GIOVANNI PILATO

Department of Animal Biology "Marcello La Greca", University of Catania, Via Androne 91, 95124 Catania, Italy.

Abstract

Some problems are discussed concerning *Macrobiotus polyopus* Marcus, 1928 and its geographic distribution, and two new species are described: *M. insularis* **sp. n**. from Andaman Islands (attributed to *M. polyopus* by Maucci & Durante Pasa (1980)), and *M. ocotensis* **sp. n**. from southern Mexico. The validity of *M. mandalaae* Pilato, 1974 is confirmed. The hypothesis is advanced that also the Brazilian specimens recorded by de Barros (1942) do not belong to *M. polyopus* but to a different, probably undescribed, species.

Key words: Tardigrada, *Macrobiotus polyopus* group, *Macrobiotus insularis* **sp. n**., *Macrobiotus ocotensis* **sp. n.**

Introduction

According to Marcus (1928) *M. polyopus* has the following characters: colourless, body length up 300 µm; ventral lamina of the buccal tube short (not longer than twice the stylet sheaths); bucco-pharyngeal bulb with two macroplacoids; microplacoid absent; claws short and weak (he used the terms "kurz" and "zart"), with a common tract shorter than the secondary branch (Marcus wrote: "die gemeinsame Basis von Haupt- und Nebenast wesentlich kürzer als der Nebenast"); accessory points very thin (he used the adjective "feine"); diameter of eggs 65 µm including processes; egg processes large, conical and angular, with pointed distal extremities. Marcus (1928) wrote: "mit kantigen, breiten, distal spitz endigenden Ausschüssen", and he drew an egg with 18 processes around the circumference and 39 processes in the hemisphere.

De Barros (1942) attributed to *M. polyopus* specimens and eggs found together in a Brazilian moss sample; according to this author the eggs, defined "em forma de torre hexagonal", may be considered similar to those of *M. polyopus* but the specimens do not

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