Macrobotus sklodowskae sp. nov. (Tardigrada: Eutardigrada: Macrobotidae, richtersi group) from Cyprus

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Abstract

A new species, Macrobotus sklodowskae sp. nov. is described from moss samples collected in Cyprus. The new species belongs to the richtersi group and differs from the most similar M. gerlachae Pilato et al., 2004 mainly by having a bigger microplacoid with lateral wings and lacking a small cap-like structure on top of the egg processes.

Key words: Tardigrada, new species, taxonomy, Macrobotus sklodowskae sp. nov., M. gerlachae, M. vanescens

Introduction

Until now only eight tardigrade species were recorded from Cyprus: Echiniscus testudo (Doyère), Macrobotus dariae Pilato & Bertolani, 2004, Macrobotus hufelandi Schultze, Macrobotus marlenae Kaczmarek & Michalczyk, 2004, Macrobotus reinhardtii Michalczyk & Kaczmarek 2003, Macrobotus cf. richtersi Murray, 1911, Ramazzottius cf. oberhaeuseri (Doyère) and Milnesium tardigradum (Doyère) (Bertolani 1975; Michalczyk & Kaczmarek 2003; Kaczmarek & Michalczyk 2004; Pilato & Bertolani 2004). M. dariae was previously reported as Macrobotus recens Cuénot (Pilato & Bertolani 2004). In this paper we describe Macrobotus sklodowskae sp. nov. which was reported as M. cf. richtersi in our previous paper: Kaczmarek & Michalczyk 2004.

The new species belongs to the richtersi group which until now has consisted of fourteen species: Macrobotus alekseevi Tumanov, 2005, Macrobotus corgatensis Pilato et al., 2002, Macrobotus danielae Pilato et al., 2001, Macrobotus danielisae Pilato et al.,