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Macrobiotus sklodowskae sp. nov. (Tardigrada: Eutardigrada: Macrobiotidae, *richtersi* group) from Cyprus

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Abstract

A new species, *Macrobiotus 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, *Macrobiotus sklodowskae* **sp. nov.**, *M. gerlachae*, *M. vanescens*

Introduction

Until now only eight tardigrade species were recorded from Cyprus: *Echiniscus testudo* (Doyére), *Macrobiotus dariae* Pilato & Bertolani, 2004, *Macrobiotus hufelandi* Schultze, *Macrobiotus marlenae* Kaczmarek & Michalczyk, 2004, *Macrobiotus reinhardti* Michalczyk & Kaczmarek 2003, *Macrobiotus* cf. *richtersi* Murray, 1911, *Ramazzottius* cf. *oberhaeuseri* (Doyére) and *Milnesium tardigradum* (Doyére) (Bertolani 1975; Michalczyk & Kaczmarek 2003; Kaczmarek & Michalczyk 2004; Pilato & Bertolani 2004). *M. dariae* was previously reported as *Macrobiotus recens* Cuénot (Pilato & Bertolani 2004). In this paper we describe *Macrobiotus 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: *Macrobiotus alekseevi* Tumanov, 2005, *Macrobiotus corgatensis* Pilato *et al.*, 2002, *Macrobiotus danielae* Pilato *et al.*, 2001, *Macrobiotus danielisae* Pilato *et al.*,

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