

***Thulinius itoi* comb. nov. a new systematic position for *Isohypsibius itoi* (Tsurusaki, 1980) (Tardigrada: Eutardigrada: Hypsibiidae)**

ŁUKASZ KACZMAREK¹ & ŁUKASZ MICHALCZYK²

¹Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, A. Mickiewicz University, Umultowska 89, 61–614 Poznań, Poland

²Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Conservation, School of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK

Abstract

Thulinius itoi **comb. nov.** described by Nobuo Tsurusaki in 1980 as *Hypsibius (Isohypsibius) itoi* from interstitial habitat in Japan and transferred to the genus *Isohypsibius* by Ramazzotti and Maucci (1983) is re-examined and transferred to the genus *Thulinius* based on the morphology of bucco-pharyngeal apparatus.

Key words: *Thulinius itoi* comb. nov., *Hypsibius itoi*, *Isohypsibius itoi*, redescription, taxonomy, Tardigrada

Introduction

The genus *Thulinia* was established by Bertolani in 1981 and later renamed on *Thulinius* (Bertolani 2003). This genus is very similar to the genus *Pseudobiotus* and some confusion has been present in the literature some time ago. The genus *Thulinius* differs from the genus *Pseudobiotus* mainly by the presence of 12 instead of 30 peribuccal lamellae (see e.g. Nelson *et al.* 1999 and Bertolani 2003)

Hypsibius (Isohypsibius) itoi Tsurusaki, 1980 was described from interstitial habitat of a beach in Ishikari on the Japan Sea coast of Hokkaido (northern Japan). Ramazzotti and Maucci (1983) transferred the species to the genus *Isohypsibius* (based on drawings of the claw shape). In this paper we re-examine 4 paratypes of *I. itoi* and propose the new taxonomic position for this species.