



## ***Macrobiotus derkai*, a new species of Tardigrada (Eutardigrada, Macrobiotidae, huziori group) from the Colombian Andes (South America)**

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### **Abstract**

A new species, *Macrobiotus derkai* **sp. nov.**, is described from a moss sample collected in the alpine zone of Sierra Nevada del Cocuy Mts (NE Colombia). It differs from the most similar species, *Macrobiotus huziori* Michalczyk & Kaczmarek, 2006 mainly in the location of the second macroplocoid and in the dimensions of accessory points on the claws. Eggs of the new species have the same type of areolation as eggs of *M. huziori* but they differ from the latter in the size and number of processes. The differences between the new species and others having similar number and shape of plocoids are discussed. An identification key for these species is also provided. A round depression on the dorsal head cuticle is reported in Tardigrada for the first time. The results of a morphometric analysis of the new species are also given.

**Key words:** Tardigrada, Colombia, *Macrobiotus derkai* **sp. nov.**, *M. huziori* group, head cuticular depression, morphometric analysis

### **Introduction**

The knowledge on tardigrades of Colombia is relatively poor. There have been only 29 species reported from this country so far: *Echiniscus bigranulatus* Richters, 1907, *E. blumi* Richters, 1903, *E. quadrispinosus* Richters, 1902, *E. spiniger* Richters, 1904, *E. testudo* (Doyère, 1840), *E. wendti* Richters, 1903, *Pseudechiniscus novaezeelandiae* (Richters, 1908), *P. suillus* (Ehrenberg, 1853), *Milnesium tardigradum* Doyère, 1840, *Calohypsibius ornatus* (Richters, 1900), *C. verrucosus* (Richters, 1900), *Hypsibius arcticus* (Murray, 1907), *H. fuhrmanni* (Heinis, 1914), *Isohypsibius prosostomus* Thulin, 1928, *Ramazottius oberhaeuseri* (Doyère, 1840), *Diphascion (D.) chilense* Plate, 1888, *D. (A.) scoticum* Murray, 1905, *Macrobiotus annae* Richters, 1908, *M. areolatus* Murray, 1907, *M. echinogenitus* Richters, 1904, *M. harmsworthi* Murray, 1907, *M. hufelandi* C.A.S. Schultze, 1833, *M. islandicus* Richters, 1904, *M. cf. occidentalis* Murray, 1910, *M. richtersi* Murray, 1911, *M. rubens* Murray, 1907, *Minibiotus intermedius* (Plate, 1888), *Richtersius coronifer* (Richters, 1903) and *Murrayon pullari* (Murray, 1907) (McInnes 1994, Jerez Jaimes & Narváez Parra 2001).

In this paper, a new *Macrobiotus* species found in a moss sample from Colombia is described and figured. Moreover, the morphological variability of the new species is statistically evaluated.