

## ***Hexapodibius christenberryae*, a new species of tardigrade from North America (Eutardigrada, Calohypsibiidae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of *Hexapodibius* is described: *Hexapodibius christenberryae*, from North America. It is the only known species of *Hexapodibius* having only two macroplacoids. The other five species of the genus known to date have three macroplacoids.

**Key words:** Tardigrada, taxonomy, Calohypsibiidae, *Hexapodibius christenberryae* sp. n.

### **Introduction, material and methods**

To the genus *Hexapodibius* five species have to be ascribed: *H. micronyx* Pilato 1969, *H. pseudomicronyx* Robotti 1972, *H. bindae* Pilato 1982, *H. boothi* Dastych & McInnes 1994, and *H. reginae* Vargha 1995. Ramazzotti & Maucci (1983) also transferred to this genus *Hypsibius (Calohypsibius) castrii* (Ramazzotti 1964) and *Parhexapodibius lagrecai* (Binda & Pilato 1969), but these species, having the hind legs with claws, are to be ascribed (Pilato 1982) to the genus *Parhexapodibius*.

All the above mentioned species of *Hexapodibius* have 3 macroplacoids.

In 1978 Deirdre Christenberry sent us a slide with one specimen of *Hexapodibius* collected by her and asked our opinion about the specific diagnosis. We expressed our opinion confirming that it was a new species. Christenberry did not describe the new species and unfortunately abandoned the study of tardigrades and the Auburn University (Alabama); the slide is still in our possession. We tried for a long time to find the new address of Christenberry but not even American colleagues, whom we asked, were able to find it. After so many years we think that it is not incorrect to describe the new species, and we have named it *Hexapodibius christenberryae*. Unfortunately, in the label of the slide there is no indication of the precise locality where the specimen had been collected, so we only know that it has been collected in North America (probably in Alabama).