



New records of and key to Tardigrada from Costa Rica

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Abstract

Moss samples collected near the research station “La Selva” on the edge of Costa Rican tropical rain forest has yielded three species of Tardigrada: *Hypsibius pallidus* Thulin, *Astatumen trinacriae* (Arcidiacono) and *Macrobiotus polyopus* Marcus. Another three unidentified species from the genus *Macrobiotus* were also found. All identified species are new for Costa Rica. A key to the identification of all known species from Costa Rica is given.

Key words: Tardigrada, Costa Rica, new records, identification, key

Introduction

The earliest known published account of the Tardigrada fauna of Costa Rica is Riggin (1963). Subsequently, two papers were published by Schuster & Grigarick (1966) and Mehlen (1969). Those three papers reported a total of 12 species in Costa Rica: *Echiniscus arctomys* Ehrenberg; *Echiniscus bigranulatus* Richters; *Echiniscus crassispinosus* Murray; *Macrobiotus areolatus* Murray; *Macrobiotus harmsworthi* Murray; *Macrobiotus occidentalis* Murray; *Macrobiotus richtersi* Murray; *Minibiotus intermedius* (Plate); *Hypsibius convergens* Urbanowicz; *Isohypsibius sattleri* (Richters); *Diphascion (Adropion) scoticum* Murray and *Milnesium tardigradum* Doyère. The present contribution reports three species new to Costa Rica and provides a key to all Coata Rican species.

Materials and methods

Samples of mosses were collected by Dr Z. Olszanowski in August 2000. All samples were collected on the edge of the tropical rain forest, near the ecological research station “La Selva”. Two samples (#1 and #2) were collected from the bark of a tree and one (#3) from a concrete wall.