

## Notes on some tardigrades from Central Africa, with the description of a new species of Hypsibiidae

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### Abstract

Eight species of African tardigrades are reported, including a new species. *Hypsibius multituberculatus* sp. n. has many small cuticular dorsal and lateral tubercles, two macroplacoids and septulum, and a cuticular bar-like thickening between the claws on the hind legs. Other species reported are *Echiniscus pusae*, *Macrobiotus iharosi*, *Macrobiotus vanescens*, *Macrobiotus ragonesei*, *Isohypsibius sattleri*, *Hypsibius dujardini* and *Milnesium tardigradum*.

**Key words:** Tardigrada, Hypsibiidae, *Hypsibius multituberculatus* sp. n., faunistic analysis, Africa

### Introduction, materials and methods

For some years we have been interested in the African tardigrade fauna, finding distinct differences between the North African and the South African faunas. In this note we report eight species from the Central Africa, including a new species.

Specimens and eggs were found in moss, lichen and liverwort samples collected in Guinea (Conakry) and in the Democratic Republic of Congo (North Kivu: outskirts of Mohanga and Lukanga) by Mr. Bruno Ragonese (July 1997). All specimens are mounted in polyvinyl lactophenol and deposited in the collection of M. G. Binda and G. Pilato (Dipartimento di Biologia Animale "Marcello La Greca", Università di Catania).

The used index *pt* is the percentage ratio between the length of a structure and the buccal tube length measured from the anterior margin of the stylet sheaths to the base of the pharyngeal apophyses (Pilato 1981).

We also examined the holotype and some paratypes of *Macrobiotus iharosi* Pilato, Binda & Catanzaro 1991, *Macrobiotus vanescens* Pilato, Binda & Catanzaro 1991, *Hypsibius ragonesei* Binda & Pilato 1985, and a paratype of *Hypsibius pradellii* Bertolani & Rebecchi 1996 kindly sent by the authors.