

Water Bears (Tardigrada) of the Bieszczady Mountains (Poland, West Carpathians)

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Abstract

Twenty-seven species of Tardigrada were found in 278 samples collected from the Bieszczady Mountains in April and May of 2001. Twelve were recorded for the first time from this region: *Astatumen bartosi* (Węglarska, 1959); *Calohypsibius schusteri* Nelson & McGlothlin, 1996; *Diphascion (Adropion) prosirostre* Thulin, 1928; *Echiniscus merokensis* Richters, 1904; *Echiniscus trisetosus* Cuénot, 1932; *Isohypsibius pappi* (Iharos, 1966); *Isohypsibius ronsisvallei* (Binda & Pilato, 1969); *Isohypsibius sattleri* (Richters, 1902); *Isohypsibius schaudinni* (Richters, 1909); *Macrobiotus crenulatus* Richters, 1904; *Macrobiotus macrocalix* Bertolani & Rebecchi, 1993 and *Murrayon hibernicus* (Murray, 1907). *C. schusteri* and *M. crenulatus* were new to the fauna of Poland, and *C. schusteri* and *I. ronsisvallei* were also new to the Carpathian fauna. Three other species *Echiniscus reticulatus* Murray, 1905, *Hypsibius dujardini* (Doyere, 1840) and *Pseudechiniscus suillus* (Ehrenberg, 1853) previously recorded from the Bieszczady Mts. were not confirmed in this study. A key to determine the known species from the Bieszczady Mts. is given. Taxonomical and zoogeographical remarks on these species are also given.

Key words: Tardigrada, The Bieszczady Mountains, Carpathians' fauna

Introduction

The Phylum Tardigrada (commonly named water bears) is a relatively small group of micrometazoans that contains more than 800 described species (Nelson & McInnes 2002). Approximately 100 have been reported from Poland (Dastych 1988). In the Polish Carpathians only tardigrades of the Tatra Mountains are well known, whereas research in the Bieszczady Mountains was fragmentary.