

## ***Macrobiotus polonicus*, a new species of Tardigrada from Poland (Eutardigrada: Macrobiotidae, ‘hufelandi group’)**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of the ‘*Macrobiotus hufelandi* group’, *Macrobiotus polonicus* **sp. nov.**, is described from Poland. It is very similar to *M. persimilis* Binda & Pilato, 1972 but differs from it by having two characteristic lateral gibbositities on the hind legs, a narrower buccal tube, more slender claws, less developed lunules of the hind legs with less evident marginal indentations and eggs with fewer processes slightly different in shape.

**Key words:** Tardigrada, ‘hufelandi group’, *Macrobiotus polonicus* sp. nov., Poland

### **Introduction**

Until present about one hundred Tardigrada species are known from Poland (Dastych 1988). *Macrobiotus polonicus* **sp. nov.** found in Poland is described and figured in this paper. The new species belongs to a group of species in the genus *Macrobiotus* which have two macroplacoids, microplacoid and lay eggs without areolation between processes in the shape of short truncated cones terminated with a disc. Until now 25 species are known in the ‘hufelandi group’ (Dastych 2002).