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Macrobiotus kovalevi, a new species of Tardigrada from New Zealand (Eutadigrada, Macrobiotidae)

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Abstract

Three species of the family Macrobiotidae (Tardigrada) were extracted from mosses collected in New Zealand. One of them, *Macrobiotus kovalevi*, is new for science. It is similar to the species from the *harmsworthi* and *furciger-orcadensis* groups of the genus *Macrobiotus*. The new species differs from all known species of these groups by the structure of the buccal armature (very short medio-dorsal ridge and the absence of typically developed teeth) and the unique structure of the egg chorion. In the same sample *Macrobiotus* cf. *coronatus* De Barros and *Calcarobiotus* (*Discrepunguis*) sp. were found.

Key words: Tardigrada, *Macrobiotus kovalevi* sp.n., *Calcarobiotus* (*Discrepunguis*) sp., *Macrobiotus coronatus*, New Zealand

Introduction

In 1992 Dr. O.V. Kovalev (Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St.Petersburg) collected a few moss samples from New Zealand. One of these samples contained three species of the family Macrobiotidae: *Macrobiotus kovalevi* sp. n., *Macrobiotus* cf. *coronatus* De Barros and *Calcarobiotus* (*Discrepunguis*) sp.

Materials and methods

Tardigrades were extracted from dried moss samples. Tardigrade specimens were fixed with acetic acid or formaldehyde and then mounted in Faure fluid. All material was examined using phase-contrast and Nomarsky microscopy. The *pt* index is the ratio of the length of a structure to the buccal tube length expressed as a percentage (Pilato, 1981). Body length was measured from the anterior body margin to the end of the body, not including

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