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576

Notes on some tardigrades from South Africa, with the description of *Diphascon* (*Diphascon*) *zaniewi* sp. nov. (Eutardigrada: Hypsibiidae)

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Abstract

Five species of eutardigrades are reported from South Africa. One of them *Diphascon* (*Diphascon*) *zaniewi* sp. nov. is new for science. It belongs to the *pingue* group but differs from all species of this group by having a very narrow buccal tube (0.9 µm [*ptd 4.9*]) and second macroplacoid is the same length as the first one. Besides, it differs from each species of the group in some other morphological characters. Other species reported here are: *Hypsibius maculatus, H. convergens, Macrobiotus* cf. *richtersi*, *Minibiotus intermedius*.

Key words: *Diphascon zaniewi* sp. nov., new species, Eutardigrada, new records, South Africa

Introduction

During the examination of mosses and lichens collected by Mr. Krzysztof Kaczmarek in South Africa we found five species of Eutardigrada. One of them *Diphascon* (*Diphascon*) *zaniewi* sp. nov. turned out to be new to science. Beside we found also *Hypsibius convergens* (Urbanowicz, 1925), *Hypsibius maculatus* Iharos, 1969, *Macrobiotus* cf. *richtersi* Murray, 1911 and *Minibiotus intermedius* (Plate, 1988).

Diphascon zaniewi sp. nov. belongs to the *pingue* group which groups very similar species with long and thin buccal tube, three macroplacoids, minute microplacoid and septulum in pharynx and smooth cuticle. Until now only one species of this group, *Diphascon pingue* Marcus, 1936 had been reported from Africa (McInnes 1994; Pilato & Binda 2001).

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