

Asciaporrectidae, a new family of Rotifera (Monogononta: Ploima) with description of *Asciaporrecta arcellicola* gen. et sp. nov. and *A. difflugicola* gen. et sp. nov. inhabiting shells of testate amoebae (Protozoa)

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Abstract

A new family of monogonont rotifers, Asciaporrectidae, is proposed for *Asciaporrecta arcellicola* **gen. et sp. nov.**, *A. difflugicola* **gen. et sp. nov.** and *A. hyalina* (Wulfert, 1939) **comb. nov.** for *Pleurotrocha hyalina*. The new family is characterized by its trophi organized for grasping, with long rod-shaped manubria bearing an axe-shaped head; unci lying in a plane perpendicular to the plane of the incus, with 2–3 large teeth and well developed subunci composed of 3–5 teeth; and the unci/subunci pivoting on the broad, not pointed tips of the flat rami. *Asciaporrecta arcellicola* **gen. et sp. nov.** has 3-teethed unci; rami tips straight cut off, slightly expanded outwardly; and right ramus bearing a series of small knobs on inner margin distally; inhabiting shells of live *Arcella discoidea* Ehrbg. (testate amoebae). *Asciaporrecta difflugicola* **gen. et sp. nov.** has 2-teethed unci; rami tips blunt, concave, reinforced and knobbed inwardly; inner margins of rami smooth; inhabiting shells of live *Difflugia* spp. (testate amoebae).

Key words: Rotifera, Asciaporrectidae, *Asciaporrecta*, new species, new family, hemiforcipate trophi, testate amoebae, *Difflugia*, *Arcella*

Introduction

Many rotifers are known to live in close association, whether synoecious, commensal or parasitic, with a large and diverse number of protist, plant and animal taxa (e.g. Budde 1924; May 1989; Wallace *et al.* 2006). Among the rotifers parasitizing protists, six are currently known to infest algal protists: *Ascomorphella volvocicola* (Plate, 1886), *Cephalodella volvocicola* (Zawadowsky, 1916), *C. edax* Hollowday, 1993, *Pleurata*