

Milnesium katarzyna sp. nov., a new species of eutardigrade (Milnesiidae) from China

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Abstract

A new eutardigrade, *Milnesium katarzyna* sp. nov. is described from China. The new species differs from the most similar *Milnesium reticulatum* Pilato *et al.*, 2002 in lacking of gibbosities, stylet supports inserted in less caudal position, absence of eyes. *M. katarzyna* sp. nov. is similar to specimens of *M. tardigradum* from New Zealand which have reticular shallow depressions in the cuticle but is clearly different by lacking of eyes and narrower buccal tube ($pt = 21.7\text{--}26.6$ in the new species and $pt = 41.9$ in the specimens collected in New Zealand).

Key words: *Milnesium katarzyna* sp. nov., Milnesiidae, Tardigrada, Asia

Introduction

Until now only seven species of the genus *Milnesium* Doyère are known: *Milnesium brachyungue* Binda & Pilato, 1990 (Chile), *Milnesium dujianensis* Yang, 2003 (China), *Milnesium eury stomum* Maucci, 1991 (Greenland), *Milnesium reticulatum* Pilato *et al.*, 2002 (Seychelles), *Milnesium slovenskyi* Bertolani & Grimaldi, 2002 (known only from Cretaceous amber), *Milnesium tardigradum* Doyère, 1840 (cosmopolitan) and *Milnesium tetralamellatum* Pilato & Binda, 1991 (Tanzania). All the species except *M. tardigradum* are known only from their type localities (McInnes 1994; Pilato & Binda 2001; Pilato *et al.* 2002, Yang 2003).