

ZOOTAXA

1564

**Annotated checklist of the rotifers (Phylum Rotifera),
with notes on nomenclature, taxonomy and distribution**

HENDRIK SEGERS



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Abstract

Phylum Rotifera comprises about 2030 known species classified in three main groups, the marine Seisonida (3 species), the Monogononta (1570 species) and the unique, exclusively parthenogenetic Bdelloidea with 461 clonal species. Here I present an annotated checklist of the taxon, giving the global distribution of the valid species. This checklist contains over 3,000 available names at the genus- and species-group level, including valid names and a non-comprehensive list of synonyms. A number of taxonomic and nomenclatural suggestions following from the review is presented. Suggestions include several new synonyms and two *nomina nova*: *Dissotrocha kostei* for *Dissotrocha aculeata* Koste, 1996 non Ehrenberg, 1838 (*stat. nov.*, ex. *Dissotrocha hertzogi aculeata*) and *Lepadella zigzag* for *Lepadella bractea* Myers, 1934 non (Ehrenberg, 1838). This contribution also describes features of an on-line, global names database of the Rotifera, on which this checklist is based.

Key words: biodiversity, biogeography, Rotifera

Introduction

In recent years science has witnessed a rapid evolution from print to electronic media in the production of taxonomic resources. This inevitable evolution (see Godfray, 2002) is fostered by a large number of initiatives like the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF, <http://www.gbif.org/>), the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS, <http://www.itis.usda.gov/>), Species2000 (<http://www.sp2000.org>), and Universal Biological Indexer and Organizer (uBIO: <http://www.ubio.org>), to name a few. Even long-established resources like the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999; see <http://www.iczn.org/>) are turning towards the World Wide Web, (e.g., with the ZooBank initiative: <http://www.zoobank.org/>; Polaszek, 2005) notwithstanding the obvious difficulty the ephemeral character of electronic media pose to a stable scientific nomenclature.