

An opinion on the genus *Fujiscon* Ito, 1991 (Eutardigrada, Hypsibiidae)

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Abstract

The structure of the claws of the genus *Fujiscon* and the validity of this genus are discussed. According to the authors one can conclude that the claws of *Fujiscon* are of *Hypsibius* type with an evident septum between the common basal portion and the secondary branch. But such a septum is present also in other types of claws, and, in some cases, its presence is a variable character (in some species of some genera a septum can be present and well developed, or more or less evident, or absent in different claws of the same specimen). In conclusion, *Fujiscon* seems to be a non-valid genus because it does not differ from *Diphascon*.

Key words: Tardigrada, Systematic, *Fujiscon*

Introduction

The genus *Fujiscon* was instituted by Ito (1991) for the species *Fujiscon diphasconiellum* Ito, 1991. Its bucco-pharyngeal apparatus is identical to that of *Diphascon*; as regards the claws, Ito (p. 39) wrote: “claws of *Amphibolus* type; ...distinct basal tracts situated under the secondary claws. Claws divided into three tracts: primary branch, secondary branch and basal tract. Primary branches may be flexible”. He wrote also (p. 39): “This new genus, *Fujiscon*, resembles superficially *Diphascon* of the family Hypsibiidae, but *Fujiscon* is clearly belonging to the family Eohypsibiidae because of having three tracts in its claws”.

In other words, according to the description of the genus, the claws of the genus *Fujiscon* are of Eohypsibiidae type (= of *Amphibolus* type) but for the other characters this genus is similar to *Diphascon* that belongs to the family Hypsibiidae and whose claws are of *Hypsibius* type.