

***Doryphoribius neglectus* sp. n. and *Parascon nichollsae* sp. n., new species of eutardigrades from Australia**

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Abstract

Two new species of tardigrades are described from Western Australia: *Doryphoribius neglectus* sp. n. and *Parascon nichollsae* sp. n.. The peculiar shape of the stylet furcae distinguishes *Doryphoribius neglectus* sp. n. from all the known species of the genus. As well, the new species differs from some of them in having a smooth cuticle, or in the number of macroplacoids, or in some characters of the claws. *Parascon nichollsae* sp. n. is the second species of the genus. It differs from *Parascon schusteri* Pilato & Binda, 1987 in characters of the bucco-pharyngeal apparatus and in having shorter claws.

Key words: Tardigrada, *Doryphoribius neglectus* sp. n., *Parascon nichollsae* sp. n., Australia

Introduction

Some years ago (1986) C. A. Nicholls kindly sent us a slide with a paratype of *Apodibius serventyi* Morgan & Nicholls 1986. In addition to it, also three specimens belonging to other species were present on the same slide. We recently examined them and noted that two of them belong to two undescribed species. We tried to contact both Nicholls and Morgan but we were not able to find their addresses; we also noted that no other paper on tardigrades has been published by these authors after 1990. This situation, in our opinion, justifies the description of the new species for the specimens present on the slide deposited in our collection and which might, otherwise, remain undescribed for many years. And it also justifies the description of a new species on only one specimen.