

***Haplomacrobotus utahensis* new species of Calohypsibiidae (Eutardigrada) from North America**

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Abstract

Haplomacrobotus utahensis is a new species of eutardigrade from North America (Utah). It differs from *H. hermosillensis* in having more evident peribuccal lobes, wider buccal tube, first macroplacoid different in shape, thinner and shorter claws.

Key words: Tardigrada, Calohypsibiidae, *Haplomacrobotus utahensis* sp. n., North America

Introduction

May (1948) described a new species of tardigrade from Mexico, *Haplomacrobotus hermosillensis* with two single, unbranched claws on each leg. Schuster & Grigarick (1965) reported this species from California. The only other report of this genus is by Word (1976). This author reports finding *Haplomacrobotus* from Alabama, but notes that it differs significantly from *H. hermosillensis*; he states “Claws were absent on the fourth pair of legs of all specimens collected in Alabama.” This fact would mean that his specimens belonged to *Haplohexapodibius* Beasley & Pilato 1987, not *Haplomacrobotus*.

Despite the sparse records of its occurrence, *Haplomacrobotus hermosillensis* stimulated thought on its relationship to other groups of tardigrades. Pilato (1969) instituted the family Calohypsibiidae to which assigned the genera *Calohypsibius* Thulin 1928, *Parhexapodibius* Pilato 1969, *Hexapodibius* Pilato 1969 and *Haplomacrobotus* May 1948. Afterwards, Beasley & Pilato (1987) described another genus of this family: *Haplohexapodibius*. Pilato (1973) redescribed *H. hermosillensis* based on Schuster and Grigarick’s specimens, and noted that in some specimens the claws of the fourth pair of legs bear a thin, straight spur that may be interpreted as a reduced secondary branch. Schuster *et al.*