

## A new species of Tardigrada (Eutardigrada: Macrobiotidae) from Iberian Peninsula and Canary Islands (Spain)

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### Abstract

*Minibiotus gumersindoi* n. sp. is described. This species was collected on a granite mountain range in Sierra de Guadarrama (Bustarviejo valley, Embalse de la Jarosa and Cercedilla, Madrid, Spain) and on a volcanic island in Parque Natural Caldera de Taburiente (La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain). This new species is characterized by a unique set of characters in the genus: the presence of large round pores in the body and a larger round pore at the distal part of each leg. New records of several known species, for Madrid, Canary Islands and/or the Iberian Peninsula are given.

**Key words:** *Minibiotus gumersindoi* n. sp., population variability, Canary Islands, Iberian Peninsula

### Introduction

*Minibiotus* Schuster, 1980, described 25 years ago (in Schuster *et al.* 1980), is a genus which contains terrestrial tardigrades found in mosses, lichens and occasionally in leaf litter (Claxton 1998; Guidetti *et al.* 1999, 2001a). Until its redescription by Claxton (1998), the validity of the genus *Minibiotus* was controversial, probably due to an unsatisfactory original description (Pilato 1982) and to lack of clear autapomorphies (Guidetti & Bertolani 2001b). In fact, within Macrobiotidae, the presence of peribuccal papulae represents the synapomorphy of an evolutionary line to which *Minibiotus* and *Minilentus* belongs to (Guidetti & Bertolani 2001b; Guidetti & Pilato 2003). Therefore, genus *Minibiotus* is characterized only by continuous (quantitative) characters, such as the level of stylet support insertion, the straightening bar length, the buccal tube width and macropalacoid row length (Claxton 1998; Guidetti & Bertolani 2001b). There have been 36 species of *Mini-*