



## A new Batillipedidae (Tardigrada, Arthrotardigrada) from Argentina

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**Abstract.** A new species of marine tardigrade, *Batillipes acuticauda* sp. n., has been found in midlittoral sand sediments collected at Monte Hermoso beach (Buenos Aires province, Argentina). The new species differs from all other members of Batillipedidae by its combination of caudal apparatus, lateral processes and toe patterns. It is the first description of an arthrotardigrade from Argentina.

**Key words:** *Heterotardigrada*, *Batillipes*, *South America*, *taxonomy*

### Introduction

Knowledge of marine tardigrades from Argentina is virtually nil. Just a single note reported four juvenile specimens from two beaches in Buenos Aires Province (Rossi & Claps, 1983); they were assigned to *Batillipes mirus*, but the identity of this species in the Southern Hemisphere has been called into question (Kristensen & Mackness, 2000).

While in Brazil Cavalcanti-da-Rocha *et al.* (2013) were able to cite 27 marine species in 19 genera of tardigrades, the lack of knowledge of Argentinean tardigrade fauna probably is but a consequence of disinterest by local zoologists.

Six species of *Batillipes* were cited from Brazil (Cavalcanti-da-Rocha *et al.*, 2013): *B. annulatus* de Zio, 1962, *B. dicrocercus* Pollock, 1970, *B. lesteri* Kristensen and Mackness, 2000, *B. mirus* Richters, 1909, *B. pennaki* Marcus, 1946, and *B. tubernatis* Pollock, 1971. We here describe a new species, *Batillipes acuticauda* n. sp., found in Monte Hermoso beach, Argentina (38°59'33" S 61°15'55" W).

### Material and methods

The specimens were collected from sand samples taken with 2.5 cm diameter plastic corers, fixed with 4 % formalin, sieved through a 50 µm mesh (Giere, 2009), sorted under a stereomicroscope, permanently mounted with glycerol, and examined by phase contrast microscopy. Dimensions are given in µm and as percentage to body length units (U) (Rho *et al.*, 1999). Measurements of sensory structures were taken, when possible, on the right appendage. The type series is deposited in the Colección Nacional de Invertebrados, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia” (In-MACN), Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### Results

#### Taxonomic accounts

#### Family BATILLIPEDIDAE Ramazzotti, 1962

#### Genus *Batillipes* Richters, 1909

Type species: *Batillipes mirus* Richters, 1909, by monotypy.