

First records of two Heterotardigrada (Tardigrada) species in Slovakia

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Currently, ninety-five species and subspecies of Tardigrada are known in Slovakia (DEGMA et al., 2004). During sampling of moss-dwelling tardigrades in various regions of Slovakia, two additional species have been found on this territory for the first time. This brings the current number of Tardigrada species and subspecies reported in Slovakia to 97.

All specimens were identified using keys and descriptions by PETERSEN (1951), RAMAZZOTTI & MAUCCI (1983) (and the English translation by BEASLEY, 1995), DASTYCH (1988) and BINDA & PILATO (1993). Specimens were mounted in Hoyer's medium and deposited in the author's collection (Department of Zoology, Comenius University, Bratislava). Distribution data for each species are given as continents only. Nomenclature of mosses is assumed according to KUBÍNSKA & MIŠÍKOVÁ (1998).

Echiniscidae Thulin, 1928

Echiniscus cf. reticulatus Murray, 1905

Material examined: N Slovakia, the Malá Fatra Mts, N slope of Stoh Mt. (49°13' N, 19°05' E), 1,280 m a.s.l., 20.V.1998, 3 specimens in the moss *Ctenidium molluscum* (Hedw.) Mitt. in yield of a spring.

Distribution: Europe, Africa, Asia, N America and S America (DASTYCH, 1988; MCINNES, 1994).

Remarks: Beyond tiny ventral granulation (0.1 µm), all specimens correspond with the species description in RAMAZZOTTI & MAUCCI (1983), DASTYCH (1988) and BINDA & PILATO (1993). Published distribution in former Czechoslovakia (MCINNES, 1994) is based on a record in the Polonina Runa Mts (Ukraine) (BARTOŠ, 1941).

Testechiniscus spitsbergensis (Scourfield, 1897)

Material examined: N Slovakia, the Malá Fatra Mts, in the same sample as *Echiniscus cf. reticulatus*, 35 specimens (one larva); western part of E Slovakia, Slovenský Raj Mts, Stratená (48°52' N, 20°19' E), 855 m a.s.l., 3.VII.2000, 1 specimen in the moss *Tortella tortuosa* (Hedw.) Limpr. on a rock; the same site and date, 960–965 m a.s.l., 4 specimens in the moss *Ctenidium molluscum* on a rock; the same site and date, 6 specimens (one larva) and one exuvium with 4 eggs in the moss *Ditrichum flexicaule* (Schwägr.) Hampe on a rock; the same site, 24.VII.2003, 3 specimens and one exuvium in the moss *Ditrichum flexicaule* on a rock; the

same site and date, 12 specimens (one larva) and one exuvium with 4 eggs in the moss *Tortella tortuosa* on a rock; the same site and date, 16 specimens (three larvae) and one exuvium in the moss *Distichium capillaceum* (Hedw.) B. S. G. on a rock.

Distribution: Europe, Asia and N America (MCINNES, 1994).

Remarks: *Testechiniscus spitsbergensis* belonged to the group of seven related species (together with *Echiniscus clavisetosus* Mihelčič, 1958, *E. marinellae* Bartoš, 1935, *E. melanophthalmus* Bartoš, 1936, *E. menzeli* Heinis, 1917, *E. rosaliae* Mihelčič, 1951 and *E. spinuloides* Murray, 1907) from which the rest were subsequently synonymized (CUÉNOT, 1932; PETERSEN, 1951; DASTYCH, 1973; RAMAZZOTTI & MAUCCI, 1983; MAUCCI, 1985). All specimens in the examined material tally with the species description in PETERSEN (1951), RAMAZZOTTI & MAUCCI (1983) and DASTYCH (1988). Specimens from the Slovenský Raj Mts slightly differ from those from the Malá Fatra Mts by having shorter dorsal appendages C^d and D^d (D^d more often in shape of small teeth), by frequent presence of dorsolateral teeth B' (specimens from the Malá Fatra Mts without visible appendage B'), more frequent small teeth above base of external claws of fourth legs and by having slightly lower number of teeth in dental collar of the fourth legs (usually 4–5 at the Stratená site, while 6–7 at Stoh Mt., but the range in number of teeth overlaps at both sites) and these teeth are slightly more separated from each other.

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