

First record of the genus *Dactylobiotus* Schuster, 1980 in Bulgaria (Eutardigrada: Murrayidae)

DILIAN GEORGIEV¹, LYUBOMIR KENDEROV²

¹Department of Ecology and Environmental Conservation, University of Plovdiv, Tzar Assen Str. 24, BG-4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria, email: diliangeorgiev@abv.bg

² Faculty of Biology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Dragan Tsankov blvd. 8, BG-1164 Sofia, Bulgaria, email: lubomir.kenderov@gmail.com

Abstract. The first find of a freshwater tardigrade in Bulgaria was reported: unidentified *Dactylobiotus* specimen from the hyporeal waters of Cherni Iskar River.

Key words: Tardigrada, aquatic, hyporheic.

The freshwater tardigrades of Bulgaria have never been studied. There is only one record from Ropotamo River of “*Hypsibius* sp.” by Cvetkov & Gruncharova (1977). Yankova *et al.* (2016) stated that “Many aquatic species (i.e., from the genus *Dactylobiotus*) could be found in the inland water basins of the country”.

In this short note, we report the first find of a representative of the genus *Dactylobiotus* from Bulgaria.

The specimen was collected by L. Kenderov on 13.11.2004 from the hyporeal waters of Cherni Iskar River downstream, Govedartsi village, Rila Mountains (N 42.285067° E 23.532971°, 1054 m altitude). The sample was taken out from 0.25m depth, from a stony riverbed. Some stygobionts were found together with the *Dactylobiotus* individual: *Lobohalacarus weberi* Romijn & Viets 1924 (Hydracarina), *Bryocamptus (Limocamptus) dacicus* (Chappuis 1923) and *Paracamptus schmeili* (Mrazek 1893) (Harpacticoida). Hydrochemical analysis of hyporheic waters shows normal conditions for an anthropogenically unpolluted small mountain river: high oxygen concentration (9.5 mg.dm⁻³) and saturation (91%), neutral pH (7.8) and low water temperature (8.2°C).

The material was stored in ethanol. Later it was deposited in the collection of D. Georgiev and mounted on a microscope slide in Hoyer's Medium.

According to the modern identification key of Kaczmarek *et al.* (2012), eggs are needed for accurate species determination. As we rely only on one preserved specimen, it can be classified to genus level. Our specimen morphologically fits the description of Pilato & Binda (2010) of genus *Dactylobiotus*: “Each pair of diploclaws is connected by a cuticular bar. The basal section of the diploclaw is a trapezoidal lamina. The secondary branch is clearly shorter than the primary branch and inserted near the base of the latter. The two branches form an almost right angle.

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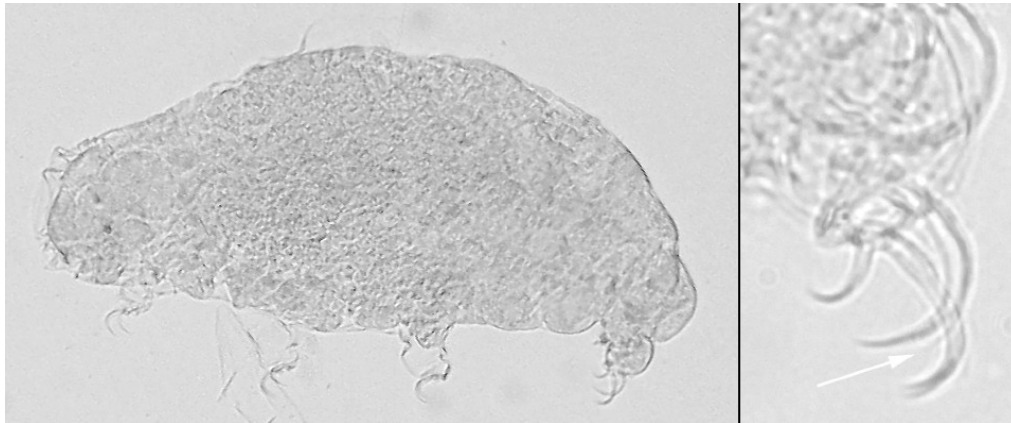


Fig. 1. *Dactylobiotus* sp. from the hyporeal waters of Cherni Iskar: general view (left, 20x) and claws IV with the accessory points shown by an arrow (right, 100x).

References

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