



15TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PROTISTOLOGY

30th July – 4th August 2017
Prague, Czech Republic



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Phylogeny of the curious hypotrichous family, Psilotrichidae (Protozoa, Ciliophora, Spirotrichea), with description of one new genus and one new species from Guam

Xiaotian Luo¹, Helmut Berger², Jie Huang³, William Bourland⁴

¹*Institute of Evolution and Marine Biodiversity, Qingdao, China*

²*Consulting Engineering Office for Ecology, Salzburg, Austria*

³*Key Laboratory of Aquatic Biodiversity and Conservation of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Hydrobiology, Wuhan, China*

⁴*Department of Biological Sciences, Boise State University, Boise, USA*

Hypotrich ciliates, a large group of mainly free-living protists with highly diverse cortical structures, are commonly found in a wide variety of habitats worldwide. Methodological difficulties and insufficient faunistic studies have limited our understanding of their true biodiversity and phylogeny. Psilotrichidae, Bütschli, 1889, a family of curious hypotrichs, is characterized by the long, sparse and undifferentiated cirri, a rigid cortex and oral primordium developing in a deep pouch as in “euplotids”. Members of Psilotrichidae have gone through a confused taxonomic history, and the phylogeny of the family is far from conclusive. In order to increase our understanding of the systematics and phylogeny of the family Psilotrichidae, morphological, morphogenetic and molecular studies from a wider range of isolates are needed. In the present study, we give description of two new psilotrichid species, sp. 1 and sp. 2, both of which were collected from Guam. The sp. 1 is characterized by the *Euplotes*-like body shape, three conspicuous ribs on dorsal side, on average a total of 31 cirri in three ventral, one postoral, and one right and one left marginal row, and the numerous flagellates with a red eye-spot. The pyriform/obconical sp. 2, is easily recognized by the table tennis racket-shaped appearance and the virid body due to the numerous flagellates. We also give first record of the 18S rRNA gene for both of the two genera. The two new sequences and the only available psilotrichid sequence, *Urospinula succisa* (Müller, 1786) Esteban et al., 2001, cluster in a highly supported clade (99% ML, 1.00 BI) in the phylogenetic trees, which is consistent the morphologic and morphogenetic features, and reveal the monophyly of the family Psilotrichidae.