

Monograph of the Hypotrichs (Ciliophora). Part 3. - A biodiversity study

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For non-taxonomists, revisions and monographs are often the main source of information about a group of organisms. Monographs are also appreciated by specialists because time-consuming searches about, for example, nomenclature, taxonomy, or ecology can be avoided. Further, the diversity of a higher taxon is thoroughly documented. Part 3 of the monograph of hypotrichs contains all genera which do not belong to the oxytrichids (Berger 1999), urostylids (Berger 2005), or the euplotine spirotrichs. According to Berger (2001; updated version, see <http://protozoology.com>) about 77 genera comprising circa 240 species are concerned. They belong to various higher taxa, for example, the Amphisiellidae, the Kahliellidae, the Strongylidae. On the assumption that 30–50% of the species are synonyms, species indeterminata, or species belonging to other higher taxa, about 120–170 valid species are known at present. The last detailed revision of hypotrichous ciliates (stichotrichs according to a new terminology) was published by Kahl (1932). A short review was provided by Borror (1972). The present project is planned over a three year period and comprises, inter alia, a critical inventory and monographic treatment of the available data since 1758 (the data about the genera treated are distributed in more than 1500 papers), morphological investigation of some species using live observation and silver staining, and investigation of cell division of some key species because morphogenetic data are often very useful for the analysis of phylogenetic relationships of hypotrichs (Berger & Foissner 1997). The financial support of the project by **APART** (Austrian Programme for Advanced Research and Technology; Project 10940) is greatly acknowledged.

References

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