**Tardigrades** (Tardigrada) are a common type of very small invertebrate animals, classified as protostomes (Protostomia). They inhabit various habitats, mainly aquatic or humid environments. There are over 1000 species of tardigrades known. Their body length ranges from 0.1 to 1.2 mm, cylindrical in shape, with a weakly defined head and 4 pairs of unsegmented trunk appendages, ending in claws or pads. Their bodies are covered with a delicate cuticle, which often has thickened granulations on the back and sides. They are transparent and colorless, but if they are pigmented, it is due to the color of the food they consume. They have smooth and striated muscles. Their body cavity is a mixocoel type. They can enter a state of cryptobiosis (a state of rest induced by unfavorable environmental conditions, which is immediately interrupted after the cessation of adverse conditions) at any stage of their life cycle, both in the egg stage and as adults. There are several forms of cryptobiosis among tardigrades: anhydrobiosis, cryobiosis, anoxybiosis, and osmobiosis. The scientific name comes from the term Tardigrado, meaning "slow walker," referring to their method of locomotion. Some species of tardigrades have survived exposure to cosmic radiation.