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Redefinition of *Holosticha* Wrzesniowski, 1877 (Ciliophora, Hypotricha)

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Holosticha Wrzesniowski, 1877 (*Z. wiss. Zool.*, 29: 267–323) is a large genus of urostyleid hypotrichs. So far it was a melting pot for all urostyleids with three frontal cirri, a midventral complex composed of cirral pairs only, transverse cirri, 1 left and 1 right marginal row, and with or without caudal cirri. Thus, more than 100 species, subspecies, varieties, or forms have been originally assigned (Berger 2001, Catalogue of ciliate names 1. Hypotrichs. Verlag Helmut Berger). A thorough revision yielded several interesting results. Type species (by subsequent designation by Borror 1972, *J. Protozool.*, 19: 1–23): *Oxytricha kessleri* Wrzesniowski, the junior synonym of *Trichoda gibba* Müller. Characterization (A = supposed autapomorphies): Adoral zone of membranelles bipartite in distal and proximal portion. Rearmost membranelles of proximal portion distinctly wider than remaining (A). Undulating membranes short and in parallel. Three enlarged frontal cirri. Buccal cirrus distinctly ahead paroral (A). Two frontoterminal cirri. Midventral complex composed of cirral pairs only. Number of transverse cirri equal or only slightly lower than number of midventral pairs. One left and one right marginal row. Anterior end of left marginal row composed of narrowly spaced cirri and distinctly curved rightwards (A). Caudal cirri lacking. Nuclear apparatus right of midline or scattered. Contractile vacuole near left body margin in or behind mid-body. Frontal-midventral-transverse cirral anlagen originate largely from right midventral cirri (A). Parental adoral zone of membranelles remains more or less unchanged for proter. Left marginal row anlage for proter originates de novo (A). Marine and limnetic. Consequently, only the following seven species can be included in *Holosticha* (basionyms are given): *Trichoda gibba* Müller; *Amphisia diademata* Rees; *Trichoda pullaster* Müller; *Holosticha foissneri* Petz, Song and Wilbert; *Holosticha heterofoissneri* Hu and Song; *Holosticha spindleri* Petz, Song and Wilbert; *Holosticha bradburyae* Gong, Song, Hu, Ma and Zhu. The many other species which do not show this highly characteristic combination of features have already been transferred to genera like *Pseudokeronopsis* and *Pseudoamphisiella* or they have to be classified in not yet established genera.

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