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## A new Tardigrade species, *Stygarctus keralensis* sp. nov. (Arthrotardigrada: Stygarctidae) from the intertidal zone of Southwest coast of India

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### Abstract

*Stygarctus keralensis* sp. nov. (Arthrotardigrada: Stygarctidae), is described from the intertidal sandy sediments of Vadakara beach, Kerala, Southwest coast of India. To a certain extent, this new species shows morphological similarity with *Stygarctus goubaultae* Renaud-Mornant, 1981, however it can be differentiated by some significant distinguishable characters like double looped seminal receptacle ducts and the presence of a bow shaped internal thickening in between the opening of seminal receptacles situated below the level of gonopore and above the anus; unsculptured body plates I-III; paired sub-cephalic pore/muscle attachment; shape and structure of caudal processes. Presence of minute spikes on third lateral processes in the new species is another unique character by which it can be easily differentiated from *S. goubaultae*.

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