Asplanchna girodi

de Guerne, 1888

Most likely ID: n.a.

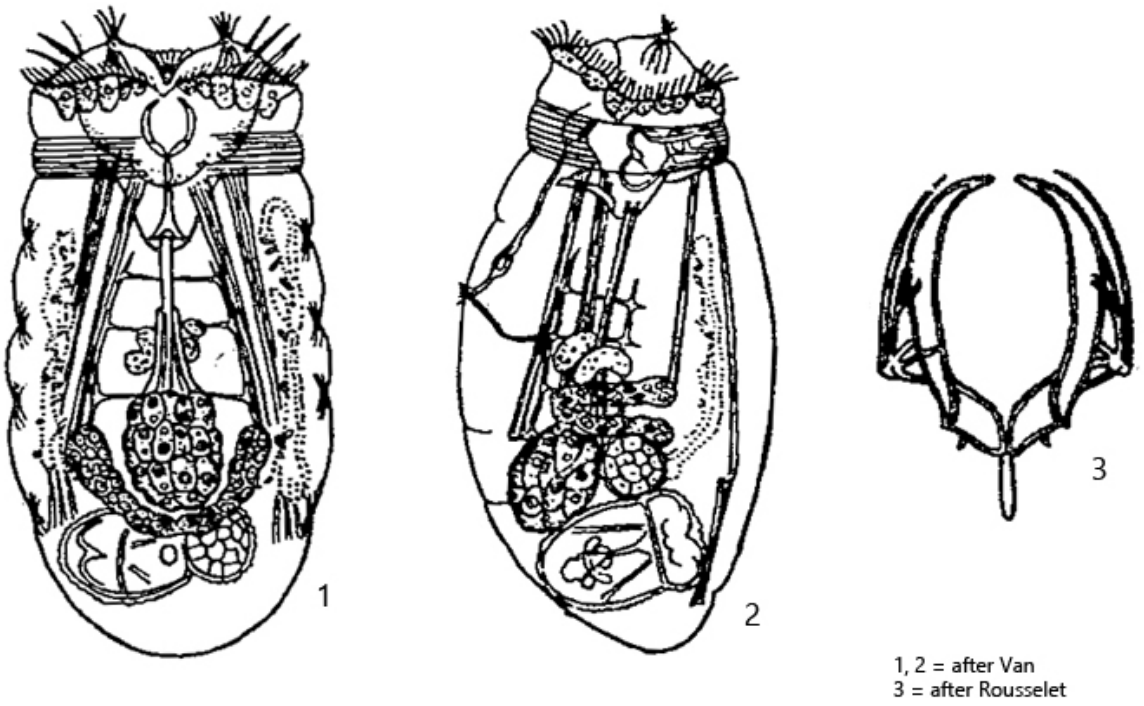
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: Mühlhalden pond, Pond of the waste disposal company Constance

Phylogenetic tree: *Asplanchna girodi*

Diagnosis:

- body sac-shaped, transparent and flexible
- well developed corona
- length 500–700 µm
- vitellarium horseshoe-shaped
- nucleoli of nuclei in yolk glands rounded (not lobed)
- jaws of trophi without teeth
- no apophysis at base of rami
- one cerebral eyespot
- foot absent
- intestine absent
- planktonic lifestyle



Asplanchna girodi

So far I have found *Asplanchna girodi* only in the pond of the waste disposal company in Constance, which is highly eutrophic. The species often occurs in parallel with *Asplanchna priodonta*. However, these two species can be easily distinguished by the shape of the vitellarium. In *Asplanchna priodonta* it is globular, whereas in *Asplanchna girodi* it is horseshoe-shaped. However, *Asplanchna brightwelli* also has a U-shaped vitellarium. Finally, to differentiate between these two species the trophi have to be investigated, which are smooth and without teeth in *Asplanchna girodi*, while a distinct teeth is present in the middle of the rami in *Asplanchna brightwelli*. In addition, there are clear apophyses at the basal end of the trophi in *Asplanchna brightwelli*. These are outwardly directed teeth at the basal end of the rami.

More images and information on *Asplanchna girodi*: Michael Plewka-Freshwater life-*Asplanchna girodi*

Fig. 1 a-c: *Asplanchna girodi*. L = 610 µm. Different focal planes of a freely swimming specimen. Obj. 20 X.

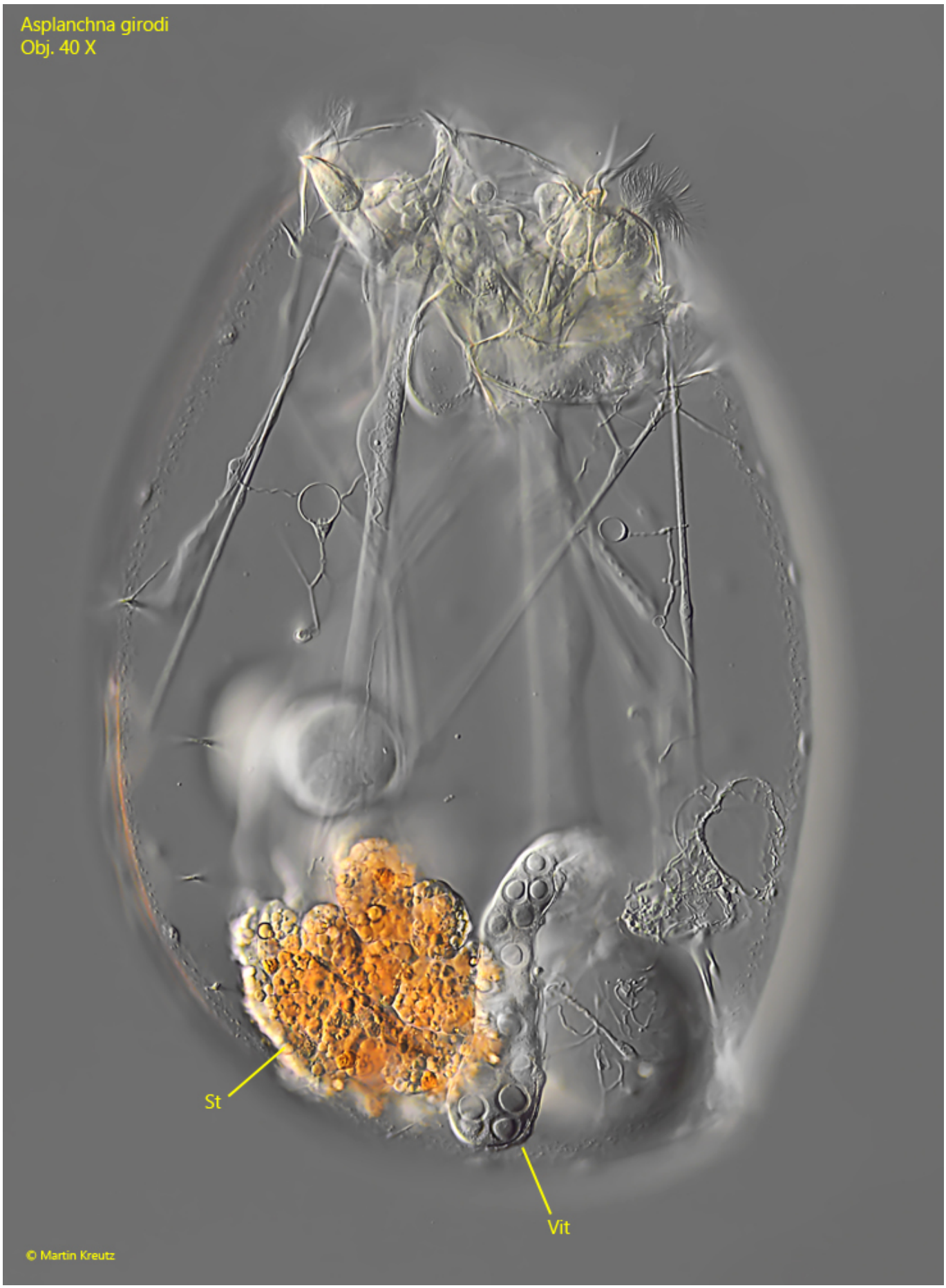


Fig. 2: *Asplanchna girodi*. L = 520 µm. A slightly squashed specimen. Note the U-

shaped vitellarium (Vit, only partly visible). Obj. 40 X.

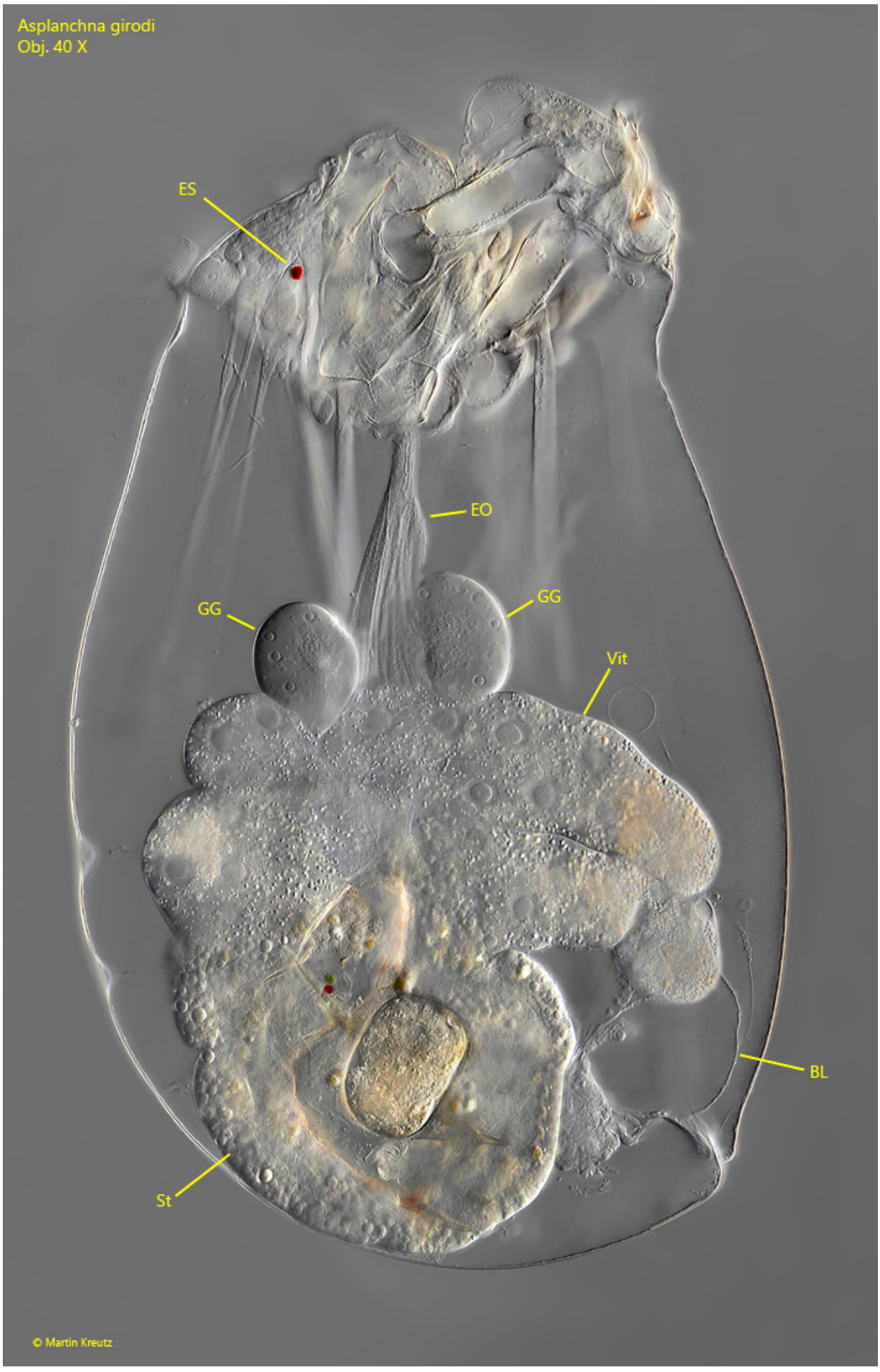

Asplanchna girodi
Obj. 40 X
ES
EO
GG
GG
Vit
BL
St
© Martin Kreutz

Fig. 3: *Asplanchna girodi*. L = 580 µm. A second slightly squashed specimen. BL = bladder, ES = cerebral eyespot, EO = esophagus, GG = gastric glands, St = stomach, Vit = vitellarium. Obj. 40 X.

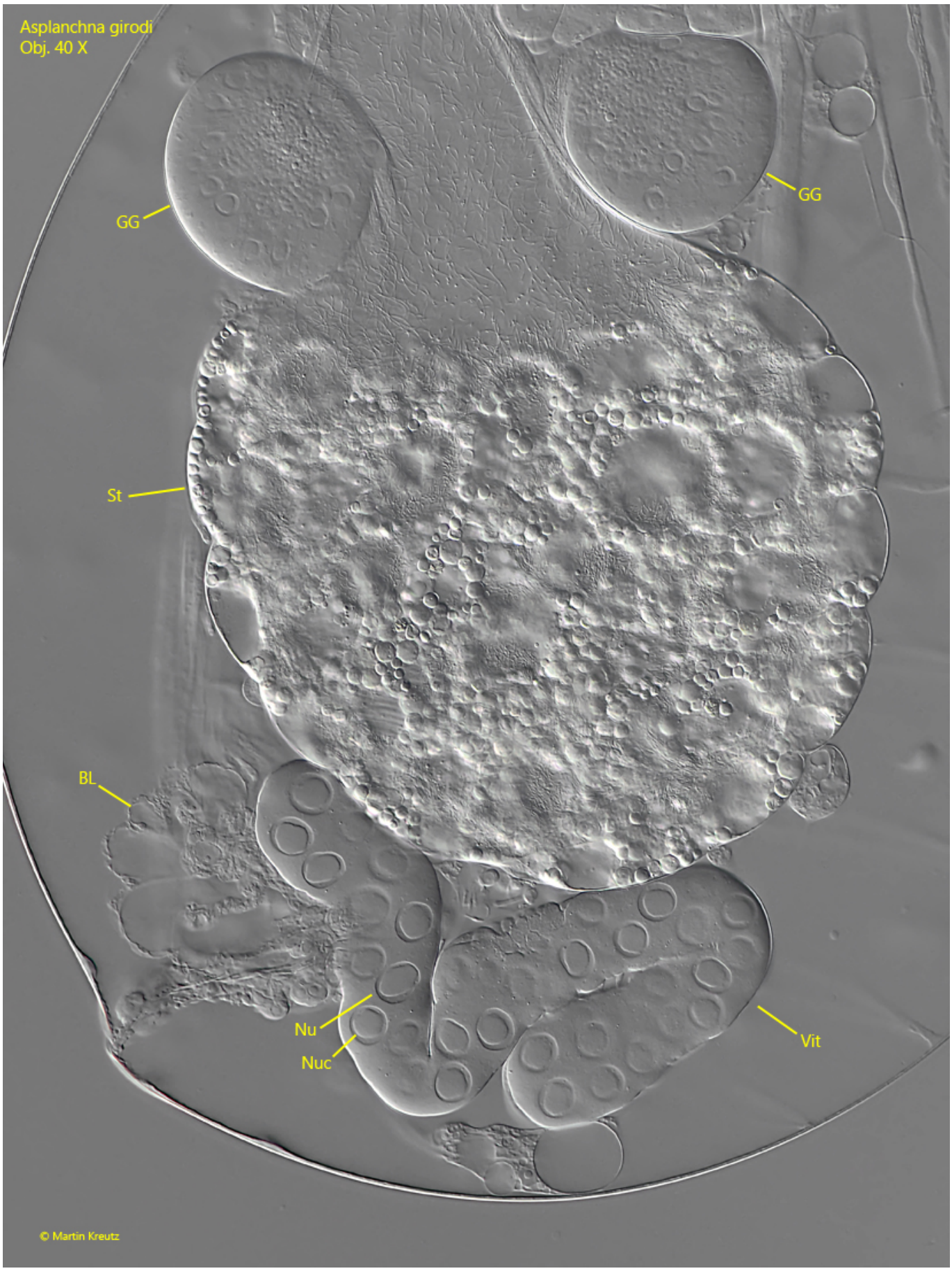


Fig. 4: *Asplanchna girodi*. A squashed specimen with a slightly deformed vitellarium (Vit). Note the large, rounded nucleoli (Nuc) in the nuclei (Nu) of the

vitellarium. BL = bladder, GG = gastric glands, St = stomach. Obj. 40 X.

Fig. 5: *Asplanchna girodi*. A second squashed specimen with focal plane on the vitellarium (Vit) and two embryos (EM) in different states of development. GG = gastric glands, St = stomach, TR = trophi. Obj. 40 X.

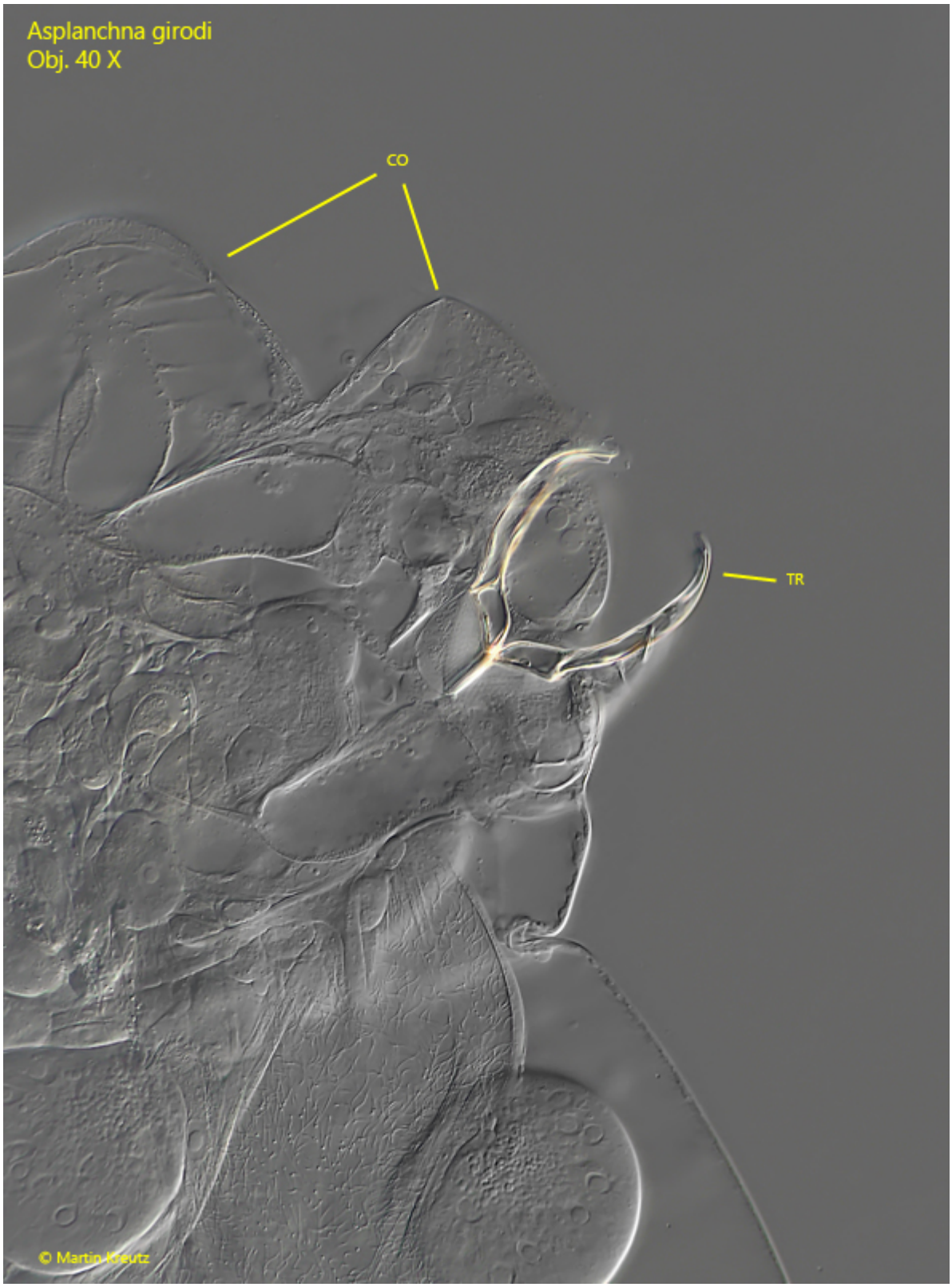


Fig. 6: *Asplanchna girodi*. The more strongly squashed specimen as shown in fig. 4. The corona (CO) is flattened and the trophi (TR) become visible. Obj. 40 X.

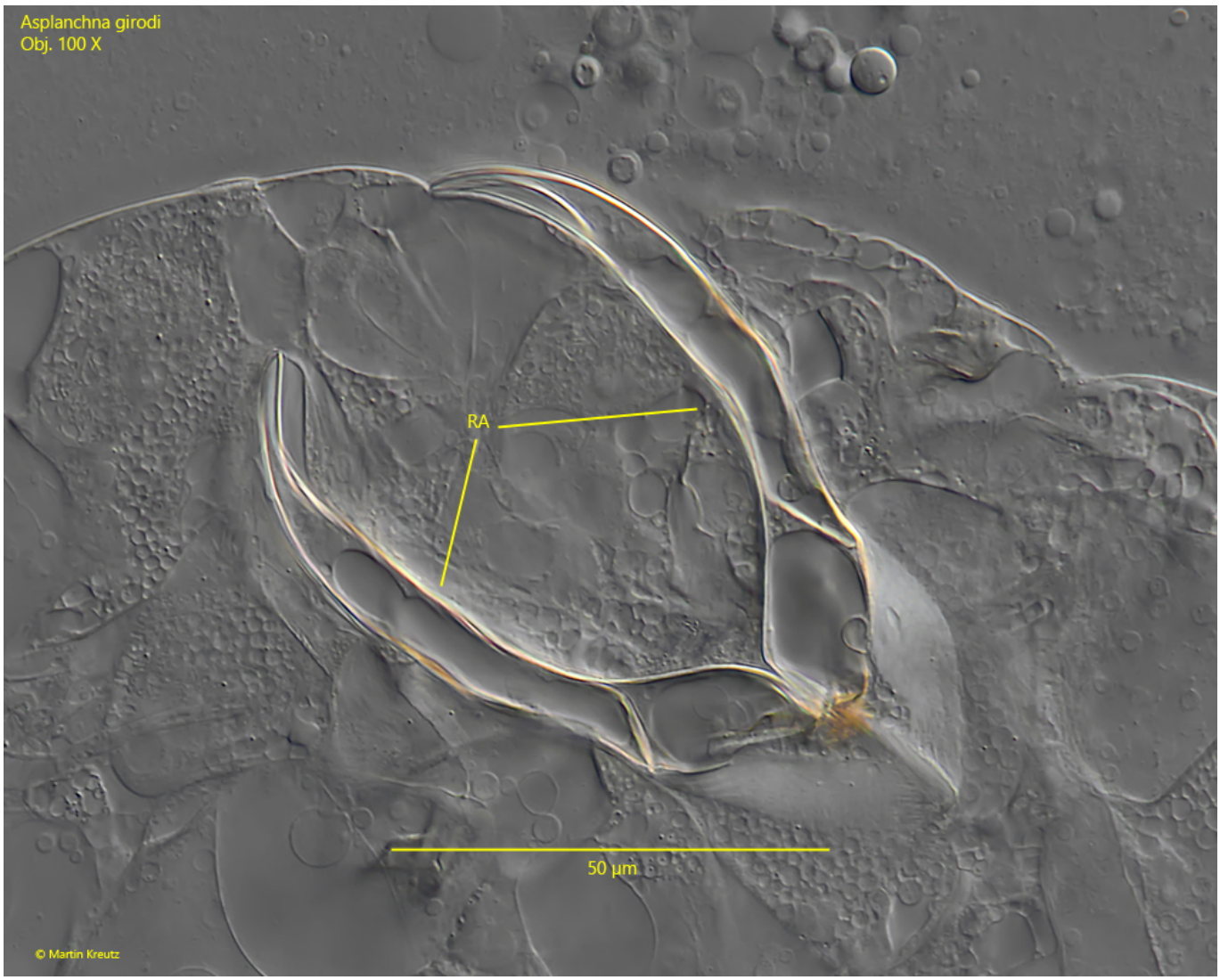


Fig. 7: *Asplanchna girodi*. The trophi in detail. The rami are smooth without any teeth. Obj. 100 X.

Fig. 8: *Asplanchna girodi*. L = 228 µm. A male specimen with a rudimentary digestive systeme (RDS). The testis (TE) is filled with sperm cells (SC). PE = penis.

Obj. 40 X.