

***Astasia parva* Pringsheim, 1942**

Most likely ID: n.a.

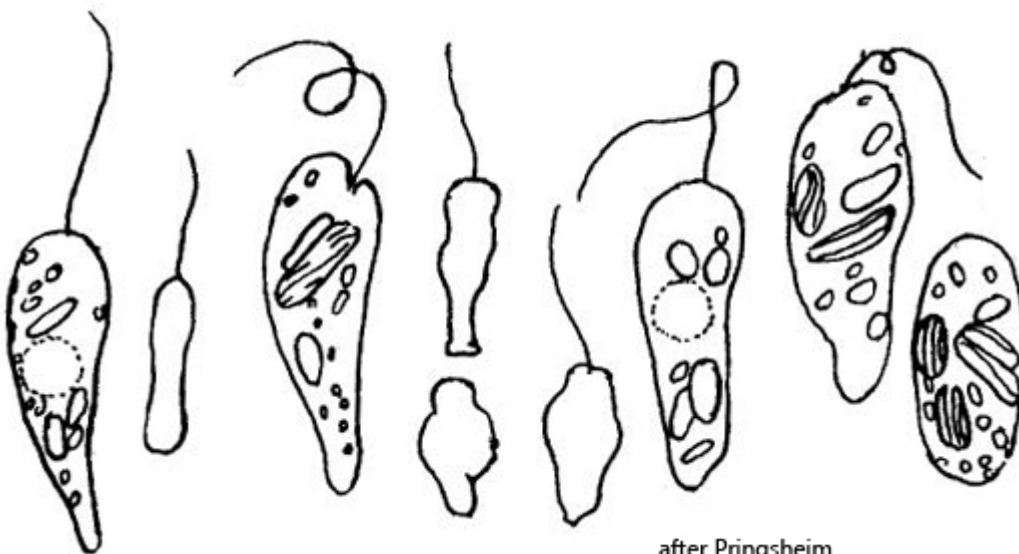
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Astasia parva](#)

Diagnosis:

- body club-shaped, pear-shaped or cylindrical
- anterior end rounded
- posterior end tapered and rounded
- length 22–25 μm , width 5–6 μm
- flagellum of body length
- flagellum emerges laterally in a depression.
- low euglenoid movement
- nucleus in mid-body or below cell equator
- paramylon grains elongated or rod-shaped
- striation of pellicle counterclockwise



after Pringsheim

Astasia parva

I found several specimens of *Astasia parva* in the [Simmelried](#) in April 2026. All specimens came from the upper layer of mud. This small species was first described by Pringsheim in 1942. It is characterized by a comparatively constant cell shape, which is essentially club-shaped (s. fig. 1 a-e). During swimming, this shape is only slightly altered. Only rarely does a metabolic transition to a more cylindrical form occur (s. fig. 1 g-j). The specimens in my population were all about 25 µm long, thus falling within the range given by Pringsheim.

The only deviation from Pringsheim's description of *Astasia parva* was that the paramylon grains in my population were rather round, ellipsoid, and often somewhat flattened (s. fig. 1 i). They were by no means rod-shaped. Nevertheless, I believe that this is *Astasia parva*, since the alternatives *Astasia clava* and *Astasia gomphonema* have different characteristics. Both form head-like widenings at the anterior end, which I was never able to observe in my population. In addition, *Astasia clava* is plumper and is said to be highly metabolic.

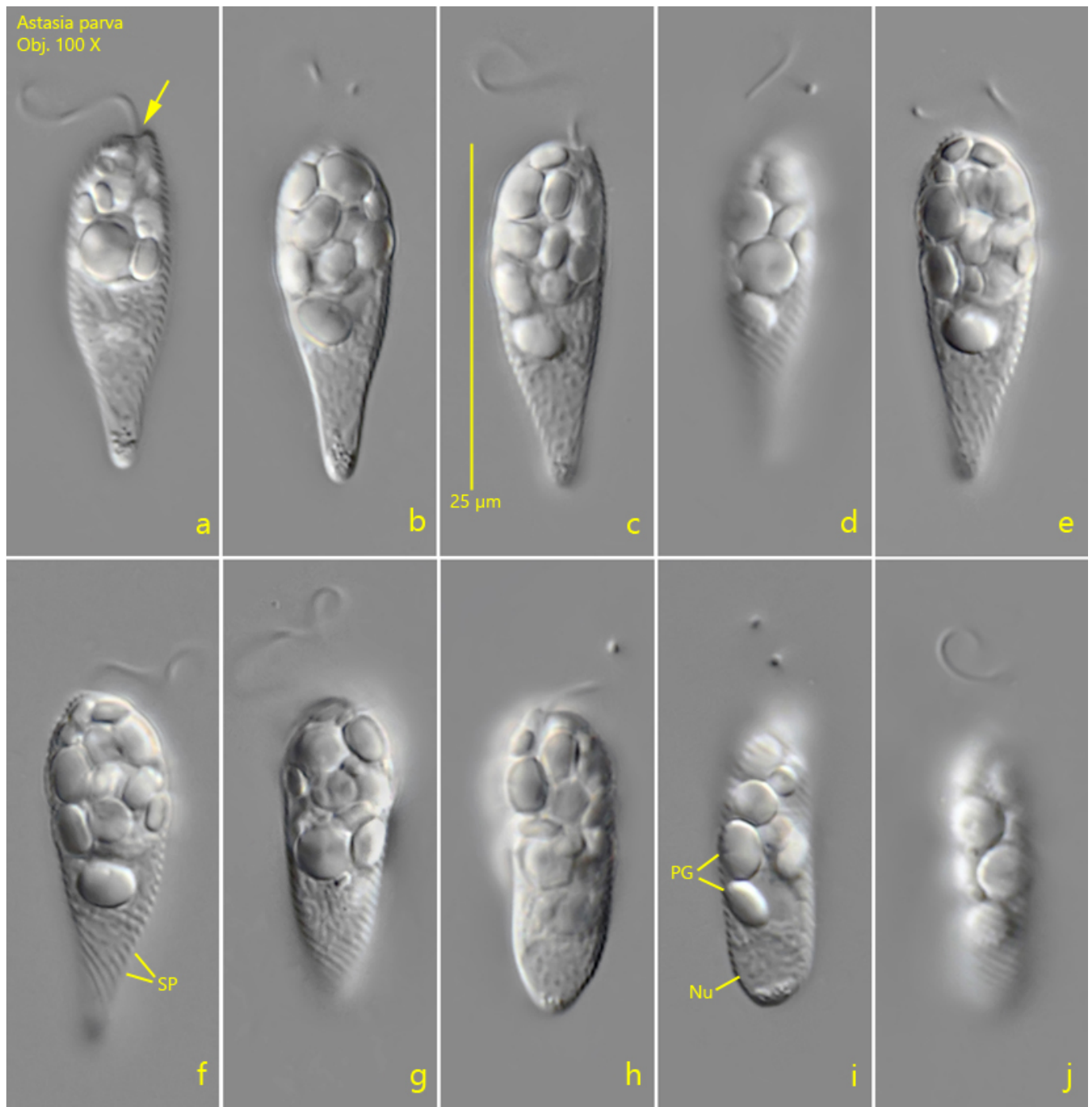


Fig. 1 a-j: *Astasia parva*. L = 25 μ m. A freely swimming specimen. Note that the flagellum arise laterally shifted in a depression (arrow). Nu = nucleus. PG = paramylon grains, SP = counterclockwise running striation of the pellicle. Obj. 100 X.