

***Astasia pygmaea* Skuja, 1939**

Most likely ID: n.a.

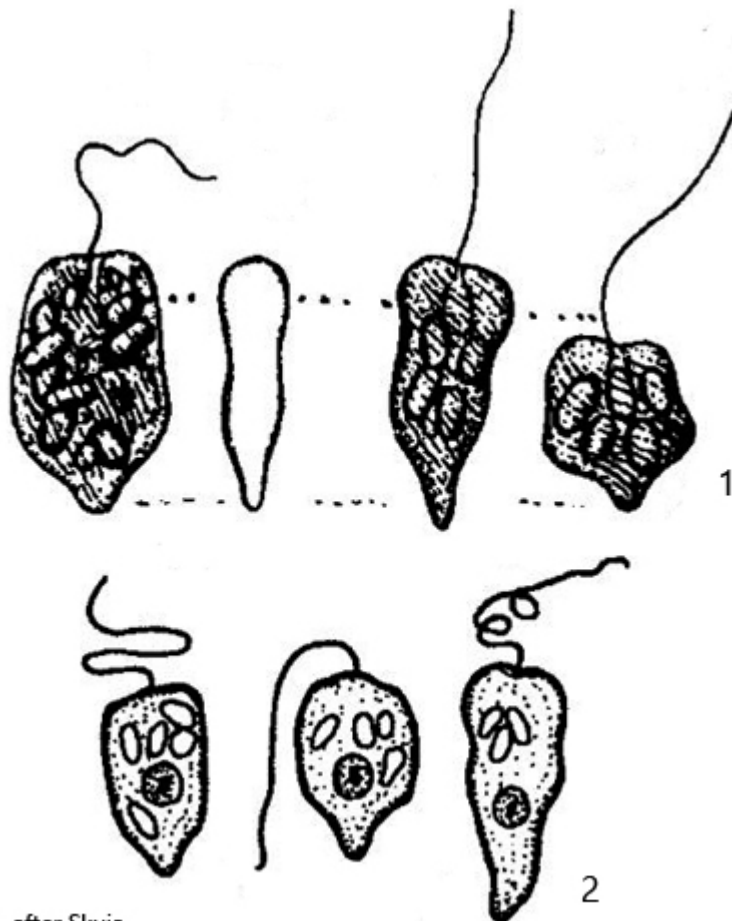
Synonym: n.a.

Sampling location: [Simmelried](#)

Phylogenetic tree: [Astasia pygmaea](#)

Diagnosis:

- body pear-shaped, somewhat flattened
- anterior end rounded
- posterior end abruptly tapered and rounded
- length 9–16 μm , width 7–9 μm
- flagellum of body length
- low euglenoid movement
- nucleus in mid-body or below cell equator
- paramylon grains oval or rod-shaped
- tight striation of pellicle



1 = after Skuja
2 = after Angeler et al.

Astasia pygmaea

So far I have only found *Astasia pygmaea* in the mud layer of the [Simmelried](#). The species can be recognized by its small size and compact shape. The posterior end often tapers abruptly and then appears cone-shaped (s. fig. 2 b), making the body pear-shaped.

Astasia pygmaea can be confused with the similar species *Astasia parvula* and *Astasia kathemerios*. However, the shape of *Astasia parvula* is never pear-shaped (broadly rounded posterior end) and *Astasia kathemerios* is twice as large and also not pear-shaped.

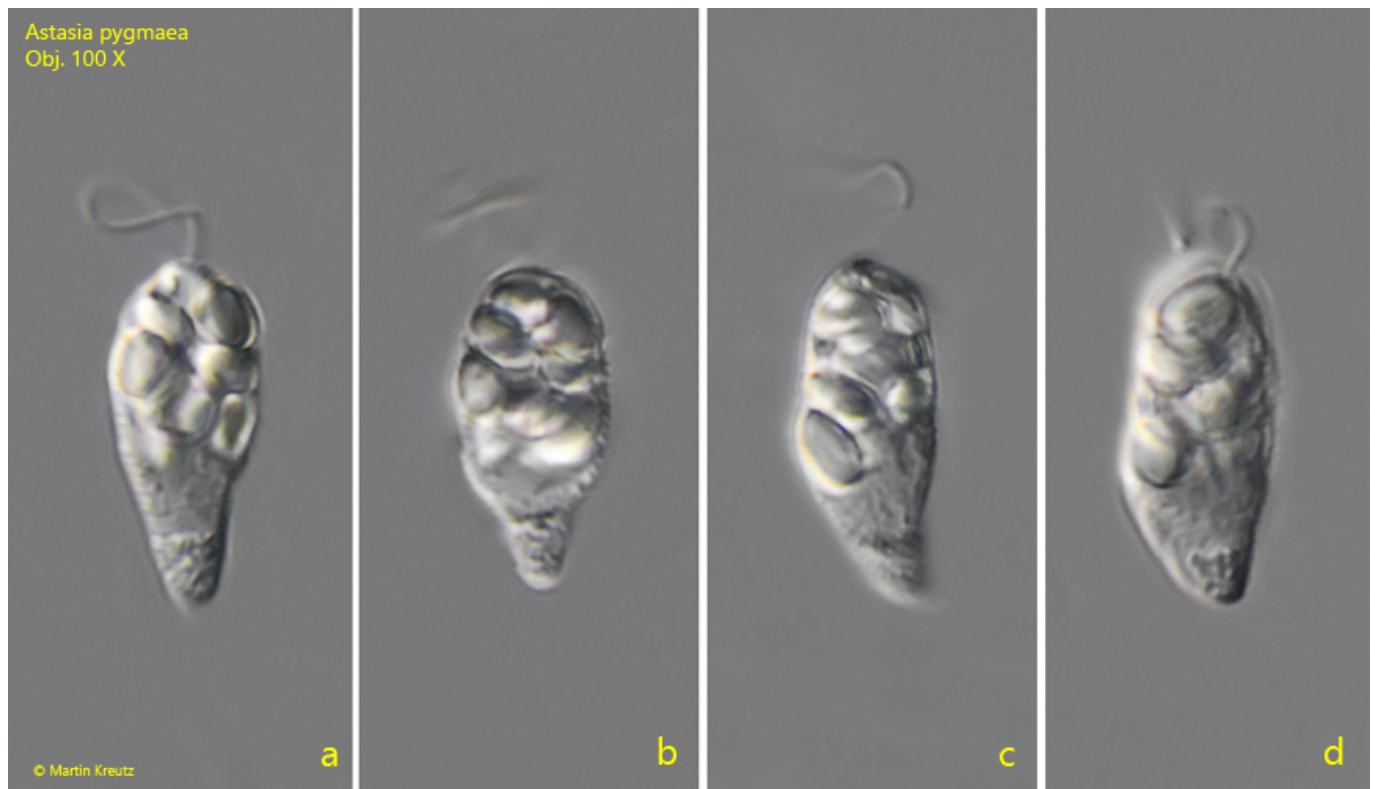


Fig. 1 a-d: *Astasia pygmaea*. L = 18 μ m. A freely swimming specimen. Obj. 100 X.

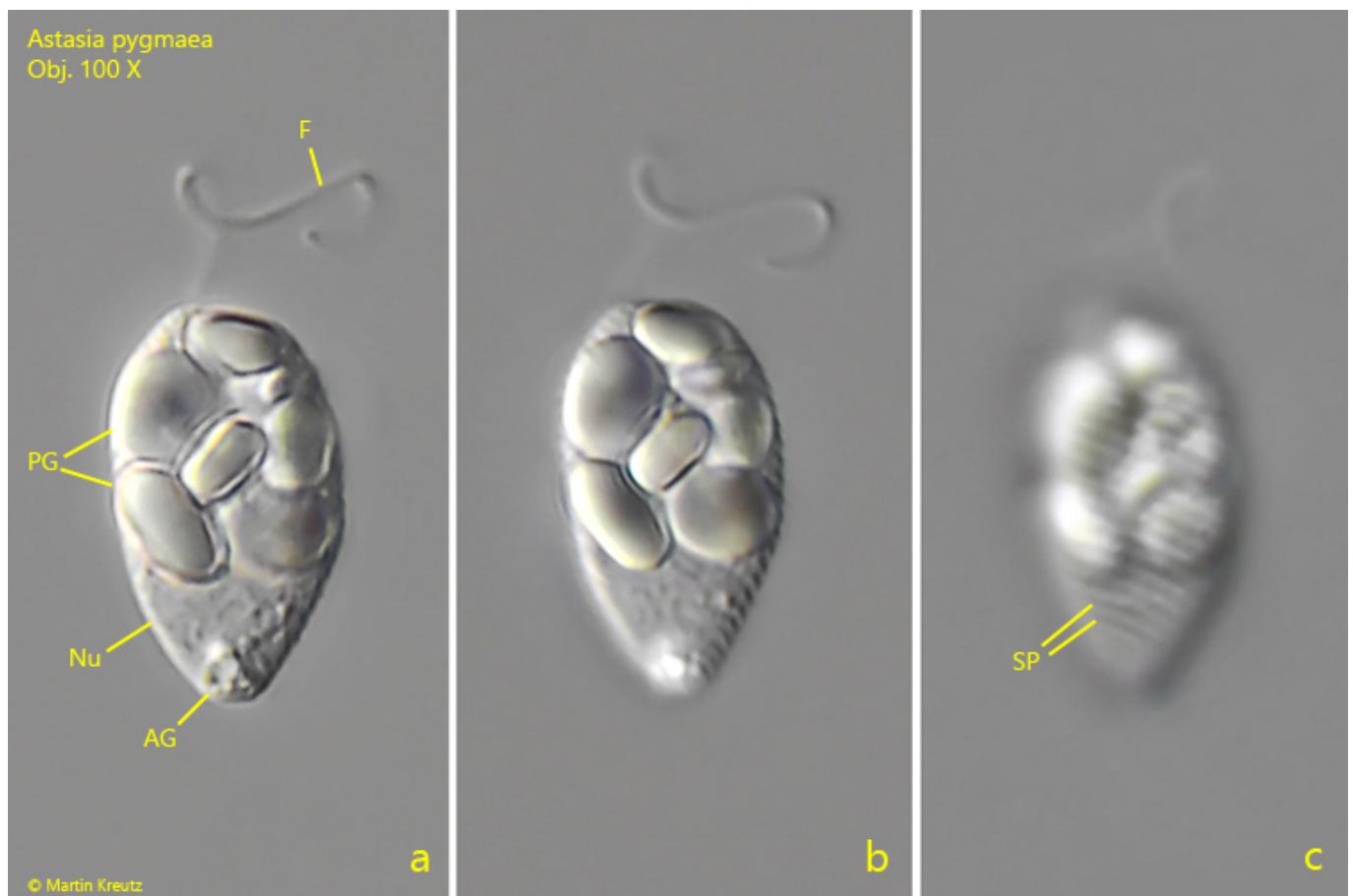


Fig. 2: *Astasia pygmaea*. L = 14 μ m. A second, slightly squashed specimen. AG = posterior accumulation of small paramylon grains, F = flagellum, Nu = nucleus, PG

= paramylon grains, SP = striation of the pellicle. Obj. 100 X.