

## ***Astasia pygmaea* Skuja, 1939**

**Most likely ID:** n.a.

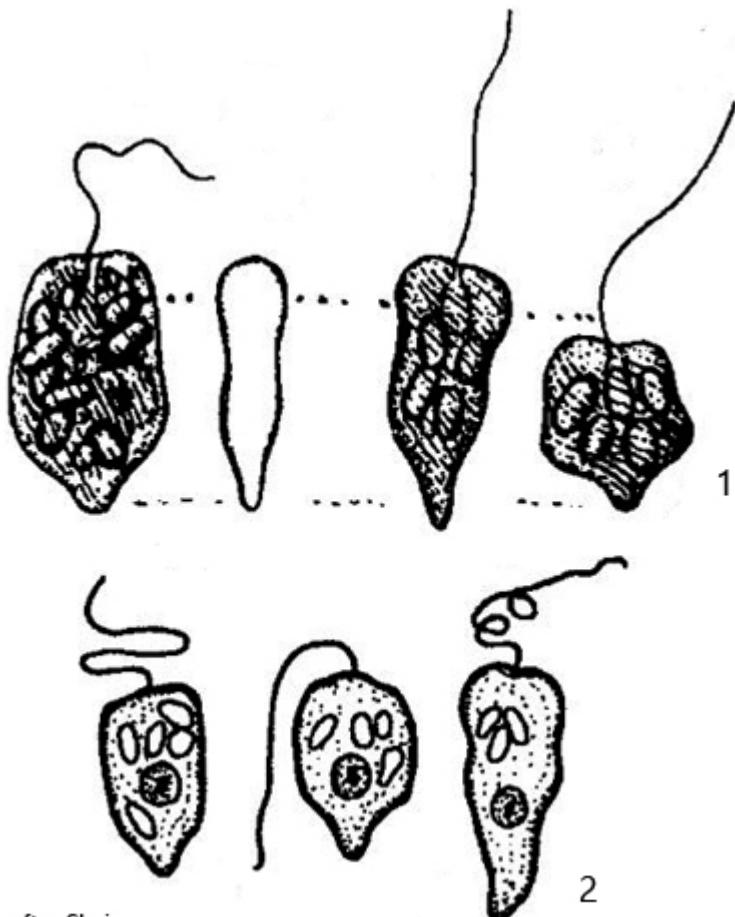
**Synonym:** n.a.

**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

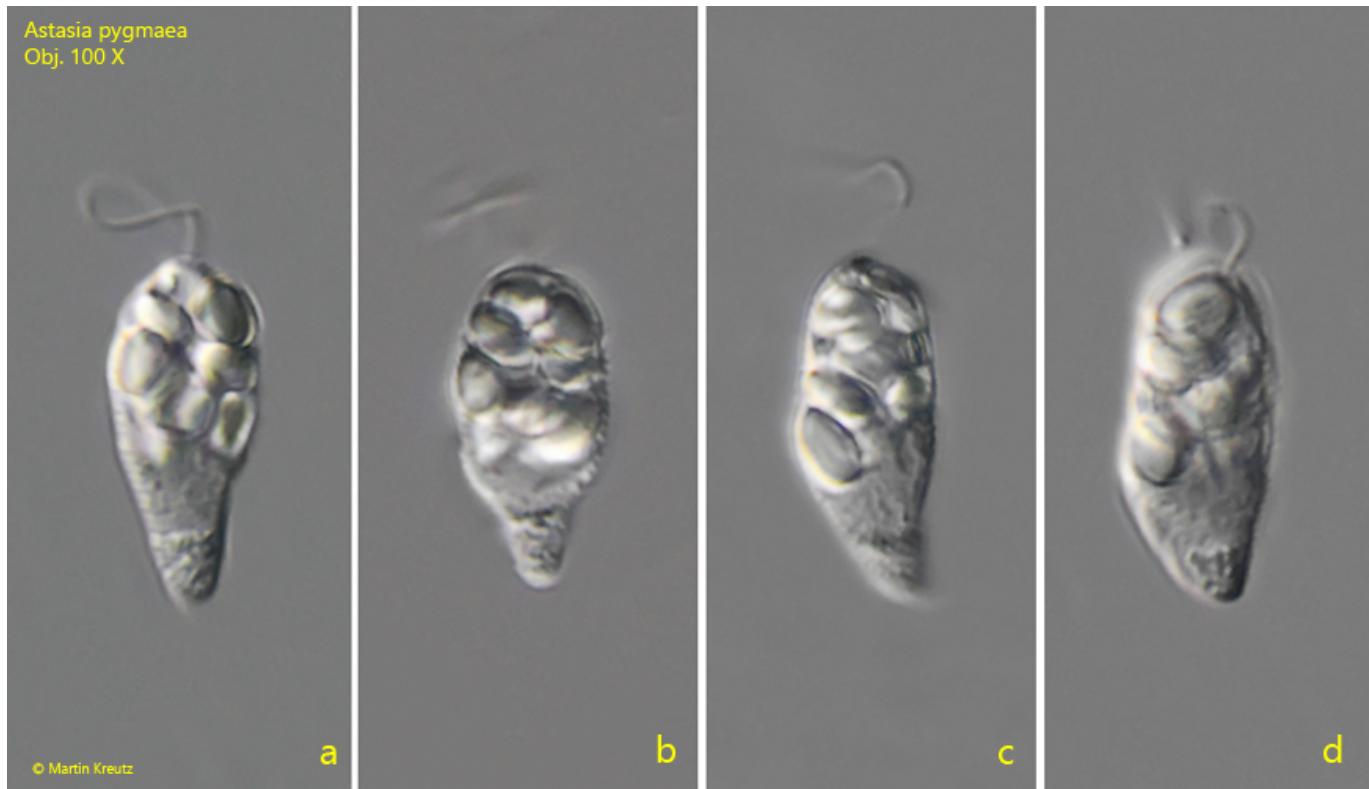


1 = after Skuja  
 2 = after Angeler et al.

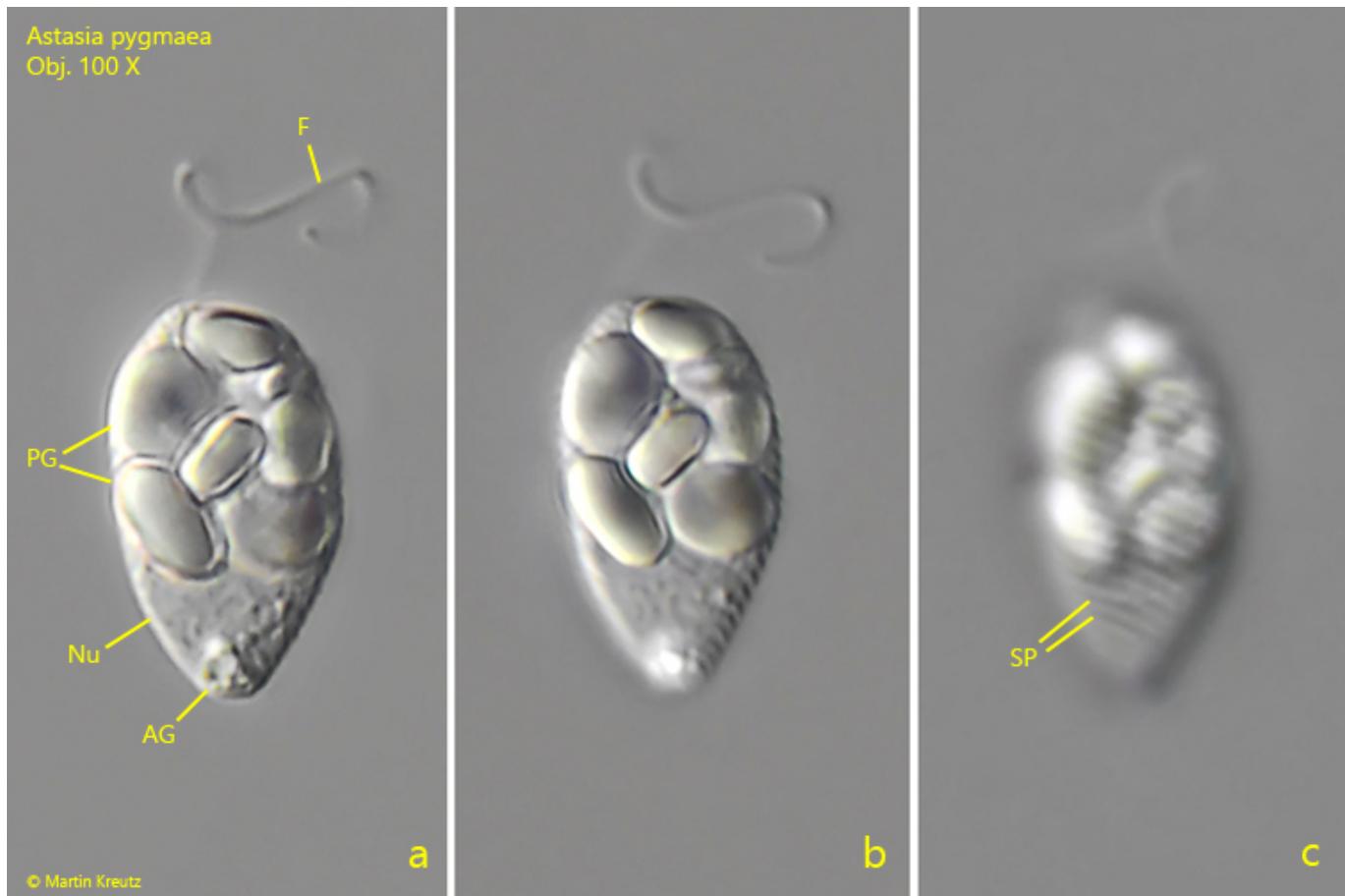
### Astasia pygmaea

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 kathermerios*. However, the shape of *Astasia parvula* is never pear-shaped (broadly rounded posterior end) and *Astasia kathermerios* is twice as large and also not pear-shaped.



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



**Fig. 2:** *Astasia pygmaea*. L = 14  $\mu$ 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.